Population Awareness among Post Graduate Students in Haryana

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Abstract

The study aimed at finding the awareness of post graduate students toward population education. The present study was conducted on 180 post graduate students of different institutions of district Panipat (Haryana). A self developed questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. It was revealed from the study that (i) majority of the post graduate students (i.e.92.2%) felt that population education is the urgent need of the society; (ii) 84.4% post graduate students believed that population education helps in alleviating the problem of food security, clothing and basic living standard.
KEYWORDS: Population Awareness, Post Graduate Students

Introduction

Population education is an educational programme which provides the study of the population situation in family, community, nation and the world with the purpose of developing rational and responsible attitudes and behaviours towards that situation. It provides the study of population phenomenon in order to make the students take feasible decisions towards problems arising out of population explosion. The population education needs to be imparted in classrooms effectively by the teachers with adequate awareness about population education. Population education is not only the need of the present generation but also for the future generation as it has a great impact on the future. The literal meaning of population is “the whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region” (Webster’s dictionary).

At the beginning of 19\textsuperscript{th} century, India’s population stood at 23.8 crore (Census 1901) and it has witnessed a four-fold increase in India’s population which stood at 84.3 crores in 1991 (Census 1991) and reached 1.21 crore in 2011 against 36 crores in 1951. Growing population has an impact on socio-economic development, environment and quality of life of our citizens.

In India Sex Ratio was okay till the time of Independence, thereafter it has declined regularly. Sex Ratio is a term used to define number of females per 1000 males. According to Census of India 2011, Indian sex ratio has shown some improvement in the last 10 years. It has gone up from 933 in 2001 to 940 in 2011 census of India.

Haryana has the lowest sex ratio of 879 females per 1000 males. The state of Kerala with 1084 females for every 1000 males has the best sex ratio in India. It has shown a tremendous improvement in the last 10 years. Kerala and Pondicherry are only two places in India where total female population is more than the male population.

One of the major problems faced by our country is the rapid increase in population. It is a known fact that population explosion has a great consequences on the national development of a country. In recent years population growth has become one of the most crucial human problems. As one of the most populous countries, second to China, with a population of about 940 million, India accommodates 15 % of the world on 2.4%
of the world total quota of land. The population is growing annually at a rapid of 2.5% and every seventh person in the world is an India’s today. Population education must be imparted in school, colleges and at the University level. It enable the students to be aware of the process and consequences of the population growth on the quality of their lives and the environments the child gets an opportunity to investigate and explore the interaction between population and their environment, population characteristics, the meaning and nature of the process. The students also know the causes and consequences of population increase of local, national and global level. Kavita (2002) studied the attitude of school students about population related issues and found that school students have low level of knowledge but administration of self instruction guidelines was found to be effective in increasing the knowledge of students towards population related issues. Monika (2013) studied that teachers from both rural and urban area have equal knowledge about the population awareness. Female demographers were found to be highly conscious about population education and had more positive attitude towards population education than male demographers. Also the attitude score of parents, demographers and teachers were found to be positively related to their educational qualification (Goel and Manak 1997). Panda (1986) conducted “a study of population Awareness among the post-graduate students.” The findings indicated that male students showed a greater degree of awareness towards Population Education than the female students. There is no significant difference between students from large families and small families. The female students have less desire for large number of children. Science students are more aware about population problem than the non-science students. They prefer lesser number of children in the family. The students from small family choose large number of children in their future families. Renu Joshi (1994) studied “Awareness about population problem among science and arts student teachers” and she found that the mean difference of population problem awareness between science and arts student teachers was significant. Sunil Verma (2007) had undertaken study “Attitude of Post Graduate students towards population education of Kurukshetra”. He found that there is significance difference in attitude towards population education between the post Graduate boy and girl students of science stream.

**Impact of Population Explosion**

Increase in population always has a great impact on the development of the country and this result in many consequences like poverty, hunger, malnutrition recurrent health problems and diseases, unemployment, low quality of life collectively. It also affect the quality of environment and result in various environment related problems like air Pollution, Water Pollution, Food security, Soil pollution, noise pollution etc. The population explosion has adversely affected the quality of life. There is urgent need to take appropriate measure to control population growth and to ensure high standard of living. Population education inculcates the population awareness among students and educates the students about population.

**Factors responsible for Population Explosion**

There are some basic factors of population growth. Population size is influenced by natality (Birth Rate), mortality (Death Rate), emigration, immigration of individuals. According to ABC News, India currently faces approximately “33 births a minute, 2,000 an hour, 48,000 a day, which calculates to nearly 12 million a year”.
Death Rate has declined in the last few decades due to advancement in medical technology which is also responsible for further increase in population. This development is good for the economy and society of India, but strictly in terms of population, this advancement has further enhanced the increase in population. Emigration and immigration also influence the population growth but the growth rate is not much influenced by these factors.

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\begin{align*}
\text{Population Increase} & \quad \text{Population Decrease} \\
+ \text{Natality} & \quad - \text{Mortality} \\
\text{(Birth Date)} & \quad \text{(Death Rate)} \\
+ \text{Immigration} & \quad - \text{Emigration}
\end{align*}
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Problem Stated
“POPULATION AWARENESS AMONG POST GRADUATE STUDENTS IN HARYANA”

Objectives of the study:
The present investigation was taken to realize the following objectives:
1. To study the awareness of Post-graduate students towards population.
2. To study the role of modern technology like mass media towards population awareness.
3. To see the relationship between population education and small family norms.
4. To find out the effectiveness of Seminars/Conferences on Population Education organized by the colleges/institutes.

Delimitation of the study
(1) This study was confined only to the 180 post-graduate students.
(2) This study was confined only to the post-graduate Student of Panipat District in Haryana

Methodology
The main objective of the study is to study the awareness of post-graduate students towards population education selected from the different P.G. colleges of Panipat district. In order to comply with the objectives, the study was designed using the normative method. Therefore in this survey research method, self-prepared questionnaire was used as a device for data collection. The researcher calculated only percentage and frequencies for the analysis and interpretation of data.

Selection of Sample
For the present study the investigator selected the P.G. Colleges of Panipat district as his field of investigation and 180 Post-graduate students were selected from different P.G. Colleges of Panipat district on random basis.
Results and Discussion
A majority of post graduate students indicated that population education will help in understanding the programme of family planning.
1. Parents of majority of post graduate students had varied level of academic qualifications. Majority of post graduate students belonged to service class parents family.
2. Most of the respondents (i.e. 93.3%) indicated that population education creates positive attitude towards small family norms.
3. A majority of post graduate students (i.e. 85.6%) were of the view that every citizen of the country should understand the population problem and majority of the respondents (i.e. 92.2%) felt that population education is the urgent need of the society.
4. Most of the post graduate students (83.3%) indicated that population education can be more effective through a modern technology like mass media etc. and 86.7% of the respondents were of the view that population education is the most effective method of solving the population problems.
5. A majority of the post graduate students (i.e. 81.1%) felt that Seminars/Conferences on Population Education should be organized at least once in a academic year in the colleges/institutes.
6. Most of the respondents (i.e. 84.4%) were agreed that if population is controlled, there will not be problems of food, clothing and living space for individuals and also majority of the students (i.e.87.8%) felt that population education is not only the need of the parent generation but for the future generation.
7. A majority of the post graduate students (i.e. 85.6%) were of the view that early marriage is one the main cause of population growth and it adversely effect on the standard of living.
8. A majority of the respondents were not in the favour of item no.16 i.e. “the larger the population, the better is the security of a country.”

Conclusion
This study emphasizes the need of developing positive attitude towards population education among the post-graduate students to solve the problem of population explosion in our country. The findings of the study show that the post-graduate students are having greater positive attitude towards population education. Therefore, teacher and educational planners should arrange special awareness programmes in the form of camps, community visits and also should introduce the population awareness topic in the curriculum, which may highlight the benefit of late marriage, planned family, small family, birth control etc. The main objective of population education is to enable the parents, students, and teachers to realize the problem, which arises and of population explosion in the country. It affects all the spheres of life like social, economic, political etc. It affects the quality of life of individual, society, country and ultimately of the world. The parents, students and teachers should realize that population control is a must for preserving health and welfare of the members of the family, to ensure economic stability and assure good prospects for the younger generations that the Indian families of today and tomorrow should be small and compact. At initial stages the concept of population should be included in the form of health education, sex education, by which mass education awareness will be created from the grass root level.
References:


