Need and Relevance of Population Education at school level in the Present Indian Context

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Abstract

India is developing Country. Due to population explosion we are still lagging behind in every field in the world as compare to other developed nations. Most of the Indian are living below the poverty line. They are deprived from those facilities which are essential for survival. It can be removed by controlling population. In this regard population education can play an important role. Therefore, at every level of education it should be compulsory. Being a teacher educator it is our responsibility to suggest government to include population education in curriculum as a compulsory subject because this is a need of hour.


1. Introduction : Our first Indian Prime Minister was in an assembly, where an old man grabbed his feet during speech and he asked him “you used to say earlier when the India would get freedom we all people would rule and nobody would suffer”. Now we are independent but we don’t have even bread to eat and don’t have resources to meet the essential needs for survival, what kind of independence is this, to this he replied, it is this independence only, which gives you freedom to ask question to your PM, while you couldn’t do so during British rule. Certainly PM’s reply was appropriate according to that time but when we have completed over 67 years of independence we are still lagging behind in every field in the world as compare to other developed nations. The political, social, economical conditions of the country have not as improved as it was expected. What is the reason behind this? The data of population implies that the real reason behind this is population explosion.

Population Explosion: The population of India on 1 March 2011 was 121,01,93,422 (or 1,210,193,422). India is second largest populated country in the world. Population growth rate is very high in India. If the population of India continues to grow at this rate then the population of India would be larger than China by the year 2043.

Following data prove the fact –

a) In every 1.5 second one child is born in India.

b) Population growth rate in India is 2.13% in every year, which is the highest population growth rate in the world (Source : Census of India 2001, Sahitya Bhawan Publication Agra).

c) Every sixth man in the world is an Indian.
d) India has 2.4% land of the world on which 16% population of the world lives.
e) More than 5 crore people are not able to earn one dollar per day.

Indian Government has provided the following data on aftermath of population explosion – 1 crore 30 Lakh people are increasing every year in our population, for which it is necessary to manage 1 Lakh 20 thousand schools, 3 laks 72 thousand 5 hundred teacher, 25 lakhs 9 thousand houses, 18 crore 87 lakh 44 thousand metric cloth, 1 crore 25 lakh 45 thousand 3 hundred quintal grains and 40 lakhs jobs in every year (Source: Kushwaha, K.S., Shiksha Ka Etihas Evam Samasaimk Samasyayein)

1 crore 30 lakhs People Increasing Every Year

Population Explosion: Additional Resources Required Every Year

It is very different to manage additional resources, required every year. The high population rate of India has resulted in impecunious and poor standard of living among the people of India. In 2007 India hold the 126th position on “United Nations’ Human Development Index”. The index takes into consideration the social, educational and health conditions of the nations.

CENSUS REPORT

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (Million s)</td>
<td>238.4</td>
<td>252.09</td>
<td>251.32</td>
<td>278.98</td>
<td>318.16</td>
<td>361.09</td>
<td>439.23</td>
<td>548.16</td>
<td>683.33</td>
<td>846.42</td>
<td>1028.74</td>
<td>1210.19</td>
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Decadal growth of Indian population (1901–2011)

Provisional data from the census was released on 31 March 2011 (Updated 20 May 2013).

Population | Total: 1,210,193,422  
            | Males: 623,724,248  
            | Females: 586,469,174

Literacy | Total: 74.04%  
         | Males: 82.14%  
         | Females: 65.46%

Density of population | per km²: 382

Sex ratio | per 1000 males: 940 females

Child Sex ratio (0–6 age group) | per 1000 males: 914 females

Problems due to Population Explosion: Population of our country has increased and it has also increased the requirements of people but resources are limited. Population explosion is affecting the lives of the people and creating so many problems.

- After independence there is great increase in the agricultural produce but the no. of consumer too have increased. As a result it is not possible for each and every individual to arrange a meal two times a day.
- Water level is decreasing day by day and therefore it is difficult to fulfill the requirements of the people for the water and the rivers and ponds are getting...
polluted due to population explosion. If the population continue to increase at this rate the consequences would be disastrous.

- Every human being needs cloths to cover his body and to meet this requirement our government has established several textile mills but the population is so large that each individual can’t get cloths according to their requirements.
- As the population increased the numbers of houses too have increased even then the houses are being divided into many parts as a share of family members. We don’t have extra land for the construction of new houses.
- Due to population explosion land is being divided into small pieces. If population will continue like this, a day will come when man cannot get land to sit on.
- Many types of diseases have increased due to population explosion Government has opened so many new hospitals even then every body cannot get proper treatment. Hospitals are also very crowded.
- It is necessary that every one should be educated. Now days only those countries are prosperous where people are educated. Government has opened so many primary schools in rural and urban areas. Many private schools are also playing an important role in order to provide education; even then, these schools are very few in numbers for increased population.
- Every one wants job for survival. Government and private sectors have opened so many companies, mills, factories for providing jobs even then it is very difficult to get job for each and every one. Unemployment is increasing at a alarming rate. Due to unemployment different types of crime have increased in the society.
- Population explosion has also affected transport. It is very different to travel in trains and buses due to rush. Roads are very crowded therefore, so many meet with an accidents.
- Fuel is an essential thing for human being. Wood, coal, liquid – Petroleum Gases are essential for cooking. Petrol and diesel are necessary for driving scooter, motor and engine. Electricity and Coal is essential for factories but due to population explosion these resources are decreasing. We have to consider this issue very seriously.

**Affect of Population Explosion on Environment:** Environment is the sum total of our surroundings. Our life depends up to population free environment. Due to population explosion pollution has increased and it has affected the environment.

Water is essential for our survival. Water problem is increasing due to population explosion. It is very difficult to get clean drinking water because rivers, ponds and other water resources are getting polluted and water level is decreasing.

We cannot survive without air but gradually this air is also getting polluted. Dust particles, smoke and other dangerous gases are polluting atmosphere. Many types of diseases are increasing because of the polluted air. Trees and plants absorbs this polluted air but due to population explosion, jungles are being destroyed if all this continues for a long time it would be difficult to inhale fresh air.

We get edible things from land. To meet the demand of the increased population we use chemical manures and pesticides therefore land is getting polluted.
Due to population explosion noise pollution is at its height.

**Causes of Population Explosion:**

i) Birth rate is very high in our country while death rate is low.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Birth Rate</th>
<th>Death Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>48.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>27.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>22.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Widening gap between birth rate and death rate**

(Source : Jansankya Shiksha ka Prar Shiksha Mein Samayojan, Saksharta Niketan Prakshan, LKO.)

(ii) Child – marriage is also one of the causes of population explosion.

(iii) People desire to have son rather than a daughter, they consider only their son to be a proper heir to their property, that is why women continue to give birth to many baby-girls till they are blessed with baby boy. So there should be equal division of parent’s property between sons and daughters. Government has made law in this regard but implementation is difficult in the present social context.

Many illiterate people think that children are the gift of god. They neglect family planning that is why population is increasing. Most of the illiterate people think if the more children they have the higher their income would be. Children can be seen as an economic resource in developing countries as they can earn money. Poor families cannot bring up their children properly.

Many superstitions, traditions are also responsible for increasing population.
**Population Education** : Population Education is an educational programme which develops ideal and responsible attitude and behavior among the students in the context of population status of the family, nation, and the world. Population Education provides data about population and methods for controlling population. Education provides message that family should be small, educated, and healthy. Sons and daughters are equal. Boys and girls should get married at proper age. Parents should understand their responsibilities. They should marry their children at proper age. Environment and atmosphere should be good and healthy, income and development resources should be increased. There should be awareness about reproductive rights of women, abortion, age of marriage, and equality with men. Population Education can help in an overall socio-economic development with improvement in the quality of life.

**Role of Population Education in controlling Population at different level** : It is true that conditions are unfavourable today but our thinking should be positive. We have to put effort and make them favourable in order to achieve our goal. We all can contribute directly or indirectly in controlling population. For this we have to bring change in our mentality. Education can play an important role in this direction. Schools are appropriate place for providing population education, where we can teach about population explosion and control. For this we have to include population education in the curriculum from primary level. Population explosion is affecting ecological balance of our country as well as our economy. At primary level we can teach population education as a separate subject or we can adopt interdisciplinary approach. At this level we should teach population education through different interesting methods like puppet exhibition, posters, charts, poem, stories, essay, models, etc. In my opinion interdisciplinary approach would be better at this stage. At secondary level we can adopt interdisciplinary approach as well as single subject approach. Students of B.Ed can also contribute in this area. At least one related teaching material aid of population education should be prepared by every B.Ed students which should be distributed to different, secondary and higher classes.

**Conclusion**: According to today's needs we should include population education as a compulsory subject in our school curriculum at every level of education and the minimum qualifying marks should be 60% then students will pay more attention towards population education. Along with this, government should take strong steps in this direction. Population education policy should be result oriented, emphatic, and fruitful. More and new researches should be conducted in this area. Government should give preference to those couples who have only one child because at present population explosion is the root cause of all problems. Today the main aim of education should be to control population along with an all round development of child because resources are limited hence all round development of child does not take place. If we want our country to be prosperous, rich, and developed we should control population.

**References**:

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