



e- Brochure Released on the Occasion of



Department of Economics
Mahatma Gandhi School of Economics & Commerce



ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR
(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT)
SILCHAR- 788011, CACHAR, ASSAM, INDIA



प्रोफेसर दिलीप चन्द्र नाथ
Prof. Dilip Chandra Nath



Vice-Chancellor

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MESSAGE

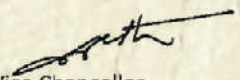
I am happy to know that Department of Economics, Assam University is going to bring out e-brochure on awareness on the impact of COVID-19 on Population Dynamics, especially, on the issues related females to commemorate the 32nd World Population Day, July 11, 2020. The population dynamics is a complex process. The current world population is 7.8 billion according to the most recent United Nations estimates, where in India shares about 17 per cent. World Population day is an annual event, observed on July 11 every year, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. This year World Population Day aims at spreading awareness of women's and girls' needs for sexual and reproductive health and vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Population growth is supposed to be one of the leading concerns of India. The COVID-19 pandemic is a major demographic event in India and worldwide.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put many of the world's activities at a stand-still. Each day brings in a new set of staggering data points on the number of infected, recovered and casualties. It is observed the discrepancies and the disparities in the published reports on COVID-19. Population Scientists have been working strenuously behind the scenes to forecast the spread and growth of the virus since breakdown of COVID-19 based on such data.

Globally, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is similar for men and women. But the mortality rate of men is significantly higher than that of women. As people struggle to access reproductive and non-COVID health care services, the lockdown will lead to millions of unwanted pregnancies globally especially in developing countries like India. COVID-19 lockdown and containment measures can disrupt life saving health services such as child birth care, putting millions of pregnant mothers and their babies at great risk. Immunization and family welfare programmes are also at risk. Many countries including India are expected to experience "baby boon". It is expected to decline of life expectancy abruptly during 2020 as it had been observed during Spanish flu (1918-20) pandemic.

I hope this effort of awareness programme will be fruitful one, making people to understand population issues under sudden outbreak of corona virus. Further, this will inspire academicians to study the demographic consequences of COVID-19 e.g., on fertility, mortality, health and migration.

Dae : 06.07.2020


Vice Chancellor



Message

It is a great pleasure to know that the Department of Economics, Assam University, Silchar, is observing the “World Population Day” on 11th July, 2020, through the publication of an e-brochure. It is indeed a laudable effort since such publications contribute towards enhancing public awareness about vital issues such as world population growth and its myriad implications. I congratulate the Department and its faculty for highlighting these problems in these challenging times.

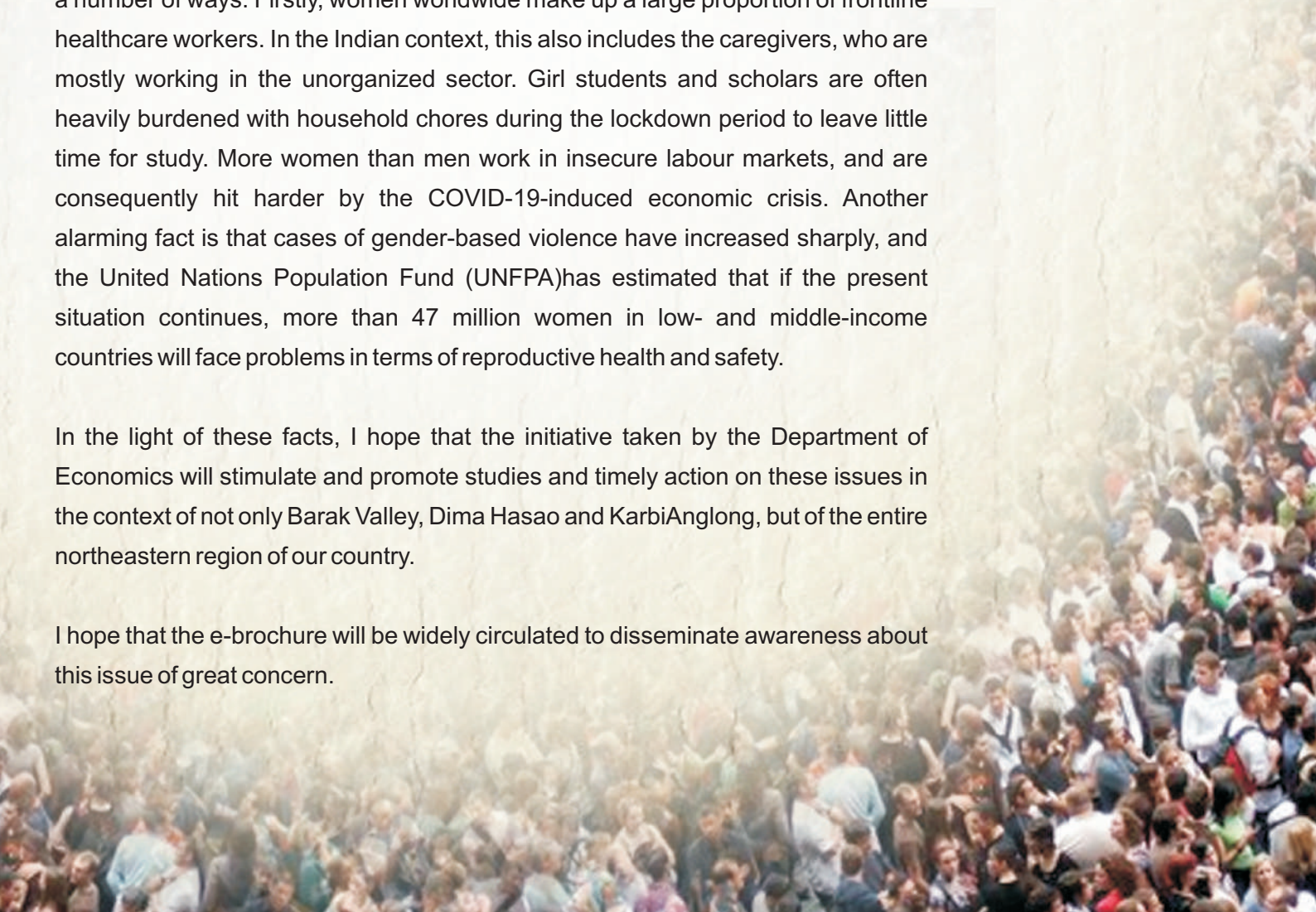
The “World Population Day” was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, as a follow-up of the “Day of five billion” in 1987. Since then, this day reminds us every year of the urgency to focus our attention on various aspects of population growth. The challenges of a burgeoning world population are not simply about the increasing numbers, these are also concerned with the rights that the growing populace enjoy or are being deprived of, and the basic amenities they have access to. Keeping this in mind, World Population Day calls for global attention to a specific aspect of population issues every year. This year, it exhorts the world community to focus on “Putting the brakes on COVID-19: how to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now”. Thus, it attempts to raise global awareness about the fact that the COVID-19 crisis is affecting women more in a number of ways. Firstly, women worldwide make up a large proportion of frontline healthcare workers. In the Indian context, this also includes the caregivers, who are mostly working in the unorganized sector. Girl students and scholars are often heavily burdened with household chores during the lockdown period to leave little time for study. More women than men work in insecure labour markets, and are consequently hit harder by the COVID-19-induced economic crisis. Another alarming fact is that cases of gender-based violence have increased sharply, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has estimated that if the present situation continues, more than 47 million women in low- and middle-income countries will face problems in terms of reproductive health and safety.

In the light of these facts, I hope that the initiative taken by the Department of Economics will stimulate and promote studies and timely action on these issues in the context of not only Barak Valley, Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong, but of the entire northeastern region of our country.

I hope that the e-brochure will be widely circulated to disseminate awareness about this issue of great concern.



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Contributory Notes/ Resumes from Faculty ,
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World Summits on Holistic Development Sideline Population Growth Problems

World Population Day, 11th July is observed every year all over the world to emphasise and re-emphasise the urgency and importance of population issues. The Day of Crossing Five Billion Mark of world population in 1987 generated renewed interest in and awareness about population related problems and prospects as the postscript of Malthusian orientation of the same and the near population explosion situation experienced and averted by European counties in 1960s. The two prominent schools of thoughts on the size and growth of world population continued with their line of arguments, one in favour of the benefits of having larger size of population and the other against it in a new larger frame work including the question of sustainability and preservation of environment. Both of these Schools have strong arguments to defend their grounds but generally exhibit a weak perception about the basics of demography that the world population has not been increasing uniformly everywhere.

The World Summits such as Rio Declaration on Environment and Development(1992); Sustainable Development(2002); Social Development (2015,2016); the International Conference on Population and Development (1994); the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (1995); the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (2000) etc and the latest of these the United Nations' pledge "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development(2015) and The Sustainable

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Development Goals Report (2019) -all these World Summits and Reports have categorically emphasised and set universal goals of eradication of poverty & hunger, good health & wellbeing, quality education, gender equality, provisions for sustainable basic amenities, sustainable growth and environment etc to achieve within a time frame through universal partnership. However, the direct link between these and the size and growth of population has neither been deliberated upon nor explored in those World Summits and Reports to suggest policy decisions at global level for the scientific control and management of world population despite of the fact that each of the said goals has direct linkage with the size and growth of population of a Nation in particular and the world as a whole.

While it is true that 'one size fits all' population policy generation at the world apex level for all the nations of the world is not possible in view of heterogeneity inherent, it is possible to categorize all nations into three broad categories - nations which are experiencing very fast growth rate of population amidst



Demographic Dividend in India: A Great Leap Forward for Global Economic Stability

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poverty but have been suffering from boiling frog syndrome such as African Sub Saharan nations, Middle East and South-east Asian Countries as first category, nations with near zero and negative growth rate of population such as European and High Income OECD countries as second category and lastly nations with sustainable low growth rate of population such as countries of middle income and medium Human Development level. The world premier organisations and Institutions like United Nations, World Health Organisation, World Bank etc should adopt separate policy decisions for these three categories of nations to set goals for population control as complementary measures for meeting the targets of SDGs.

The planet Earth particularly the lesser world characterized by low income, chronic poverty, malnutrition, ill health, unemployment etc has been steadily becoming smaller and smaller relative to its size of population. This is evident from the statistics that while the arable land per capita of the world has fallen from 0.362 hec in 1962 to 0.192 in 2016; the corresponding figures for Least Developed countries are 0.427 hec and 0.18 hec respectively; in case of India the corresponding figures are more worrying at 0.339 hec in 1961 and 0.118 in 2016. Picture is similar in case of average landmass per 1000 population.

It is long overdue that nations like India which are already overloaded with population show restraint and take stringent policy measures to contain population to thwart Malthusian catastrophe and environmental disaster taking place in very near future.

India is on demographic transition phase accommodating most of the youngest populations of the world. Many of the developed nations including China, Japan and USA are reeling towards aging population trajectory. With current median age of 28 in India compared to 37 in China and USA, 45 in Japan and some European countries, the global demographic situation is moving towards unequivocal path of strengthening India towards a strong nation. As per the World Bank estimate 62.5% of Indian population is in the age group of 15-59 years with 40% of working-age population of young group and 10% of working-age population of older age group in 2019 compared to 25% and 16% in China. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), defined demographic dividend as "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)". Further it is estimated by UNFPA that the window of demographic dividend opportunity will be available till

2055 in India. This posed a critical challenge for India to build capacity and skill formation to transform the growing young population in to human capital.

The higher working age population with concomitant decline in dependency ratio will lead to higher economic growth followed by more economic activities with emphasis on diversification in India. There are expectations that Covid-19 could be 'blessing in disguise' for Indian industries. India can emerge as a potential alternative choice for cost-efficient and quality products. There are possibilities of large scale foreign investments in the country in near future in the manufacturing sector. This will lead to shift in pattern of global dependency paradigm towards India for the sustenance of major economic powers in the coming years. This implies more responsibility of India to support for the cause of global economic sustainability through enhanced productivity and also by greater mobility of young population. With gradual



Slowdown of Population Growth in India and its Implications

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decline in global dependency on China due to intrinsic factors and geopolitics, India will emerge global leader in the coming days. Moreover China has also entered the phase of aging population with declining working age population.

However the recent phenomena of the plight of millions of migrant labourers remind the necessity of manpower planning for skill formation and up-gradation with more focus on employment generation in the rural sector in India. The narrative of Atmanirbhar Bharat as pronounced by the Government at the centre aimed at blending of strengthening indigenous industry base in India to empower local economy and linking the same with the global. It does not mean disconnecting globalisation rather strengthening domestic economy to face global competition. The innovation and technology up-gradation will ensure the quality of indigenous product in India. The five pillars of self-reliance, viz, Economy, Infrastructure, Governance, Democracy and Demand will definitely serve as foundation to the self-reliant Bharat in achieving the goal of new India. To reap the benefit of demographic dividend, a mission mode approach needs to be corroborated with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' with focus on sustainable development goals. More emphasis should be given on human capital formation.

Population in India is undergoing some significant changes over the last few decades. The major worry may now shift from quantity to quality of the total population. Though India is a country with robust population, expected to reach 134 crores by 2021 and we can't encourage further rampant rise in this number but at the same time, it also can't be denied that to sustain the present/targeted pace of development we always need some reasonable amount of working population. Such sustainable amount of population is called as optimum population in a country—more of which eat up the investable surplus for further economic growth and even less of that cripples the growth by limiting the manpower supply. Population growth in India has been slowing in recent decades from an annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent during 1971-81 to an estimated 1.3 per cent as of 2011-16. All major states have witnessed a marked deceleration in population growth during this period; the slowdown in states with historically high population growth such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana is particularly noteworthy. Population is now growing at below 1 per cent annually in the southern states as well as West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam and Himachal Pradesh. This trend is likely to continue as the figure for 2021-31 & 2031-41 are less than one and below 0.5 respectively. Such a scenario is currently observed in Germany and France. This situation deserves a thorough scrutiny of our population dynamics and some policy suggestions to carry forward our growth process with best utilization of our population. It has been found that the key factor contributing to such change is the TFR¹ (Total Fertility Ratio). TFR in India is gradually falling since mid-1980s: halved from 4.5 in 1984 to 2.3 in 2016. This is no doubt, a very positive aspect of India's population trend and indicates that the country has entered into demographic transition phase of having more share of working age population i.e. 20 - 59 years (the so-called demographic dividend phase).



It is further projected that the working age population in India will grow roughly by 9.7 million and 4.2 million per year during 2021-31 and 2031-41 respectively. But this stage is very critical for us because of two reasons: (i) The growth process should not suffer due to short supply of productive human resources at any stage. Already in 13 out of 22 major states (comprising 90% of total population) of India the TFR is well below the RLF² (Replacement Level of Fertility) figure of 2.1. In fact TFR has reached as below as 1.6-1.7 in states like Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Even high fertility states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh etc. are experiencing falling TFR and expected to stabilize at below 1.8 by 2031. (ii) The tremendous amount of productive age group population that the country is going to enjoy for some time will be converted into old age population after 39 years once the 'demographic dividend phase' is over. The demographic dividend of today will become demographic responsibility tomorrow. Every year, because of low birth rate very few amount will enter into the 'working age group' from 'school going age group' but more would move out from 'working age group' to 'old age group'. So, we need to make best utilization of our demographic dividend so long it is available and scale out economy at such an height that after thirty nine years we are left with sufficient fund to invest largely on health facilities and old age benefits. Countries like Germany, France and U.S. have enhanced the retirement age where the 'healthy life expectancy at 60 years' has been found to have an increasing trend. Britain, China, Japan and Australia are also going to do the same. Many Asian economies — Japan, South Korea, China — were able to make best use of their 'demographic dividend' phase very successfully and lift their economy at a very high level. Japan experienced this phase from 1964 to

2004. During the first 10 years, it grew by double digit in 5 years, 8% in two years and above 5% in 3 years. Chinese economy entered this stage in 1994 and reaped full benefit of this phase. In the eighteen years since 1994, only in two years her growth rate came down below 8%. Now China is a \$ 13 trillion economy. It is our turn now, hope we will proceed very judiciously, would not allow any disruption in the smooth movement of our economy and set example before the world. If we can do so, then we would be able to relish in the future with lesser effort like other developed countries are doing now, as we would be having huge resources which will make our economy self-reliant, sustainable and auto-progressive. On the contrary, life would be harder to

manage then, because our resource would be less but our dependent population would be more. Once the opportunity of 'demographic dividend' is lost it would be lost for ever in country's lifetime.



Population Control and Social Policy

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Believing in the wrath of God through mechanisms of plague, epidemic and pandemic that visits the earth to periodically reduce the surging population of human being, Robert Malthus was more interested in discovering the cause of population growth in increasing real wages of workers and their tendency to beget more children. Neo-Malthusians have enlightened us with various solutions of sterilisation, use of condoms and other measures of family planning - both voluntary and forced ones. While population growth may be considered a liability that encroaches upon the limited rural and urban resources, Arthur Lewis did treat the unlimited supply of labour from the countryside as a source of capital accumulation through low-labour-cost-financed-industrialisation in urban Sector – population as asset.

Till the population dividend rewards, explosion in population ought not to constitute a problem. When opportunities to harness this dividend do not exist, the liability demands a solution. Family planning measures and artificial and natural cuts on fertility becomes urgent. In underdeveloped Countries like India, where ethos of taking care of elderly still survives, more than one child is still considered an investment in old-age insurance. Given the infant mortality still high, particularly among poor and disadvantaged ones, begetting more than one

child is an attempt to cushion the risk of being left alone in future on the part of households. This fact is to be acknowledged. An alternative indirect way of dissuading households in procreating more siblings is to give them guarantees of old-age care, assistances and insurance. While infant mortality is to be reduced on a war footing through universal but effective health care assistance to make a dent on fertility, much of the success would ever depend on the universalisation of old-age pensions and insurance - a proactive inclusive social policy of the government. It's the long term solution of population explosion. On the assumption of increasingly literate, modern and urbanised households with the passage of time, the disincentive of procreation can only be created on the strength of incentives of old-age care, assistance, pension, protection and security – in short, the developmental social policy. The national slogan ought to be: family planning of households and social policy of the government in a private-public participation format of governance.



World Population Day 2020

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World population day is one of the most important awareness days celebrated annually on every 11th of July. This was established by the governing council of the United Nations Development Program in 1989, inspired by public and academic interest when the world's population reached 5 billion (in 1987). The international focus shifted on to exploding population and hence the aim of celebrating the world population

day is to spread awareness about the issues relating to global population dynamics and the importance of reproductive health.

According to UNFPA, this year World Population Day 2020 will focus on-“Putting the brakes on COVID-19: how to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now”. The focus is on raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health of women and also on their vulnerabilities associated with the lockdowns and complete disruption of public life during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted individuals, cultures and economies throughout the world. However, neither all nations nor all segments of society of nations are equally affected. For example, women who constitute the largest share of health care staff among the frontline COVID warriors are excessively exposed to the pandemic. Supply chains across the globe are being disrupted, affecting contraceptive supply and also causing increasing risks of unintended pregnancy. Sexual and reproductive health services are being sidelined as countries are on lock-down and health systems are struggling to cope up with treatment of non-covid diseases – the primary focus being on treatment and control of the covid19 pandemic. Furthermore, media reports across the globe clearly suggest that domestic violence and crime against women is on the rise.

The developing world is dominated by informal labour markets. The women engaged in informal and insecure labour markets are hit harder by COVID-19's economic effects. In the informal economy, nearly 60 percent of women worldwide are at an increased risk of poverty during 2020-21. As a result of school closures and increased needs of the elderly, the work of women in unpaid care has increased.

To sum up, this year's specific themes and angles of World Population Day 2020 include,

The overall UNFPA response to COVID-19. The global response plan outlines how the organization is responding to the pandemic worldwide.

The impact of COVID-19 on the “Three Zeros.” Whether your country faces challenges of gender-based violence, child marriage and female genital mutilation, or making contraceptive services more

available and accessible, this recently issued analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic's potential for exacerbating problems, such as unintended pregnancies, including those among adolescents.

Adolescents and youth. The pandemic has interrupted school and community-based services.

Challenges for women and girls in humanitarian settings. Through the United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies, programmes, departments and funds issued appeals to assist the vulnerable communities in humanitarian settings.

Maternal health. How the pandemic creates additional barriers to pregnant women who need antenatal care or safe-delivery services.

How COVID-19 affects older people. The impact of COVID-19 may be especially overwhelming in countries with shares of their populations who are older. This is to advocate for older persons' participation in the policy arena, and for their voices to be heard in preparedness and response to a crisis in which they are the most affected.

Census. Countries intending to carry out their 2020 censuses face enormous obstacles in counting people at a time when data are critically important for policymakers. This Technical Brief describes some of the implications.

Emerging Infectious Diseases and Vulnerability of Human Population

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The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected lives and livelihoods of people all over the world. The emergence of such human infectious diseases is not new and, unfortunately, would not be the last one either. In fact scientists are of the opinion that there would be many more infectious diseases, and some might be even more dangerous for humans. What is more worrisome is that there is an increase in the rate of emerging infectious diseases

(EIDs) over time. The researchers have found that one new infectious disease emerges in the humans in every four months, and majority of them transmit to humans through wildlife and livestock.

The main drivers of EIDs have their roots in anthropogenic factors like high population growth rate, increasing human need and greed all of which manifest through – land use changes, clearing of forests, encroachment on natural ecosystems, expansion of human settlements and livestock, and climate change. All these are providing the pathogens and viruses present in the natural habitat opportunities like never before to transmit through wildlife and domestic animals through the biophysical environment to affect people causing zoonotic diseases. As noted by the United Nations Environment Programme, 60% of EIDs during 1940-2004 are zoonotic and 72% of the zoonoses originated in the wildlife.

Vulnerability of human population to EIDs is likely to increase in future because of different factors like further changes in land use and more encroachment into the wildlife, demographic changes like increase in population density and ageing, increase in number and concentration of livestock due to higher demand, global climatic changes etc. The increase in the number and frequency of extreme weather conditions like heat waves, floods, drought, cyclones etc. can accentuate the incidences of EIDs by altering the environmental conditions that can affect the survival, reproduction, abundance, and distribution of pathogens, vectors, and hosts, as well as the means of disease transmission. It is expected that outbreaks of such diseases may become more frequent as climate continues to change.

The spread and persistence of human infectious diseases will depend to a great extent on the characteristics of the host such as population size and density which is going to increase in future particularly in the developing countries. The poor who are already suffering from poverty, unemployment, hunger, congested living condition, poor health and sanitation will be more vulnerable. This will pose new challenges for the governments as well because the diversion of public resources to fight these diseases is likely to reduce expenditure on education and general healthcare services. This may have unintentional affect of turning the so-called demographic'dividend' into a 'liability' due to loss in human capital.

INDIA'S MIGRANT CRISIS: WAKE UP CALL FOR POLICY

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One of the most poignant images associated with the Covid19 pandemic in India is the sight of migrant workers walking hundreds of kilometres across the length and breadth of the country to reach home post the lockdown. This humanitarian crisis, however, is not the fallout of a sudden health shock that has gripped the nation; rather it is the manifestation of deep seated fissures in the Indian labour market linked to the neglect and exploitation of migrant workers. The Population Census of 2011 puts the number of internal migrant workers in India at 51 million. However, most experts believe that this is a gross underestimation as the official data fails to capture the entire stream of work-related migration. This is because a sizeable chunk of migrant workers in India comprise of the seasonal/circular migrants who migrate to towns and cities for temporary work during lean season and again return to their place of origin. Since Population Census and other official surveys such as NSSO only enumerate people who have resided in a location for at least six months, these circular migrants slip out of the enumeration process. As a result, no official records are available regarding the scale of such migration. This perhaps explains the crisis that unfolded in our cities in the post lockdown situation as the Governments both at the Centre and States had no clue about the actual number of migrants living in our cities (unofficial estimates peg the figure at 140 million). Research shows that short term migrants in India constitute the poorest rung of society with very little physical and human capital. They work in the informal sector and often face exploitation from contractors and employers. Government in destination areas are oblivious of their existence as they are not a part of the vote bank. The migrant crisis is a wakeup call for policy makers to pay attention to this huge chunk of the Indian population who comprise the backbone of the urban informal economy. The pandemic has brought to the fore the need for ensuring minimum social security for migrant workers in terms of access to food, housing , drinking water, health care, skill formation and education. The government needs to design a comprehensive migrant policy for targeting, identifying and delivering social security programs to the migrant workers who are our 'nowhere people'.



Contributory Notes/ Resumes from Faculty , Department of Commerce, Assam University

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We have had enough discussions over the elements and negative implications of the imbalance in population growth of either side of which India and China and Italy and Spain could be the examples.

An increasing trend of preferring to have single child in many industrialized countries could be a matter of another concern from many angles. A lot of discussions has taken over the implications of it over industrial and economic development of the countries concerned. A glance over the matter suggests that comparatively a lesser discussion has taken place over the social implications of population control towards reducing it.

In the countries like India a good number of joint families, despite not being able to have financial soundness, have ensured to bag sufficient points in their bag on the count of happiness index largely because of the support of family members at times of need.

However the changing pattern of having lesser number of children, preferably one, is leading the society towards having such micro families which due to their consumerism fascination will be missing the support and solace from their close blood relatives.

This is imperative because the time is not far when a substantial size of population will be such where the husband and wife both will happen to be the only single child of their respective parents. The first such generation however, can still look for some support from their cousins because their parents did have their

brothers and/or sisters in many cases. But the gen next will largely be deprived of this and barring some 'fortunates', whose grandparents might not have stuck to the norm of single child, others would not have even the cousins, what to say of having full brother or sister, leading to a society where the dependence of the people will naturally be more on governments, NGOs, social, cultural and religious organizations etc. for counselling, psychological support and stress release.

The policy makers, academicians, social activists, religious luminaries and administrators will need to put their heads, separately and also in unison to be ready to face the challenges thrown by the society which largely is composed of 'singles'.

In order to substantiate the above contention, the assessment of good many Indian defence experts can be cited as per which the Chinese soldiers can't match the zeal and commitment of their Indian counterparts owing to many reasons, most of them being single child of their parents and thus precious one.

India's Youth as Asset

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On July 11 every year, we observe "**World Population Day**". This day was affirmed as the International Population Day by the governing council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989. The idea behind celebrating the World Population Day is to make people aware of their population structure and how the same can be managed and utilized efficiently and effectively. If the population of any country is appropriately transformed into "Human Resource" then only it will be the greatest asset of the said country. For this, an exact idea about the population structure (demography) is an utmost essentiality.

The WHO population report predetermined that India, with its present fertility rate, would bypass China's population in the next few years. In fact, the UN report says that India will be the world's most populated

country by 2027. By 2050, India's population may rise by another 273 million. In general, rising population is often considered as menace. However, a few demographical parameters needed to be examined before we can reach to any such conclusion. To the contrary, India is having the advantage of a large share of young people in its total population compared to developed countries and many populous countries. A country with a majority of youths is an obvious strength that should not be treated as a weakness. India has the leading youth population in the globe that is estimated to boost further in the coming decades. 70% of India's population is less than the age of 35. Youths are the problem solver and can move the nation forward. They can come forward in nation-building, leadership and achieving sustainable development.

While observing the ongoing COVID – 19 pandemic situation, it is now becoming apparent that countries with a large share of the aging population are in a worse position in combating the pandemic, whereas, youth are in general, less susceptible to diseases and debilities. Compared to some western countries, India is having a beneficial footing, having only about 6.18% of the population above 65 years of age. Off course, demography is one of the many factors that affect the vulnerability of the population to COVID-19 deaths, some others being the strength of the healthcare system and the base level of health in the general population. These two aspects needed to be addressed properly by the policymakers of India.

It can be observed from various reports and reviews that demographic factors are playing a crucial role in the pace and process of economic growth and development. India's changing demographics are creating a strong urge for economic growth; hence, the policymakers have to utilize this potential demographic opportunity successfully. Challenge for the Indian planner is to utilize this huge youth population effectively with the highest efficiency. If it can be done in an appropriate way, economic development can be achieved sustainably. The need of the hour is to train this huge man power with the right educational infrastructure, satisfactory employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities to develop their skills.

To commemorate
the World Population Day,
11th July, 2020,
We take the Pledge together
to work in complete harmony
to make this world
a beautiful place to live in for all

Designed by: Mr. Gautam Dutta, Assistant Professor,
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