

Population Trends India

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India is the second most populous country in the world. Its current estimated population of 886 million is greater than the combined populations of Africa and the Near East. India has only 2.3 percent of the world's land area but more than 16 percent of the world's population.

Fertility in India has been slowly declining. The total fertility rate declined from about 6 children in the 1960's to an estimated 3.7 children in 1992. During the same period, the crude birth rate declined from 42 to 45 births per 1,000 persons to 30 births per 1,000 persons. Fertility varies widely among the states of India (figure 1). The 1988 total fertility rate (TFR) in Kerala of 2 children per woman was below the replacement level. In contrast, in the four most populous northern states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, comprising almost 40 percent of the Indian population, the average TFR exceeded 5 children per woman (IRG, 1991a, p. 26).

In spite of the decline in fertility, India's population is concentrated in the younger ages with 36 percent under age 15 (figure 2). Also, the 1991 census results indicated that the average annual growth rate for the 1981-91 decade (2.1 percent) had not fallen significantly from the growth rate for the previous decade (2.22 percent) (IRG, 1991b, p. 21). About 161 million people, more

than the combined population of the United Kingdom, Netherlands, and France, were added to the

population during the 1981-91 decade. Currently, India's population is growing at an estimated rate of

Figure 1.
Total Fertility Rate, by Major States: 1988
(Births per woman)

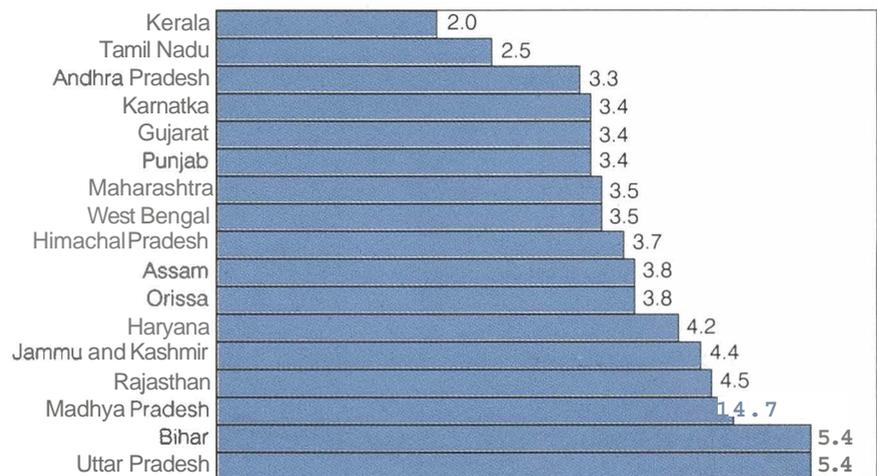
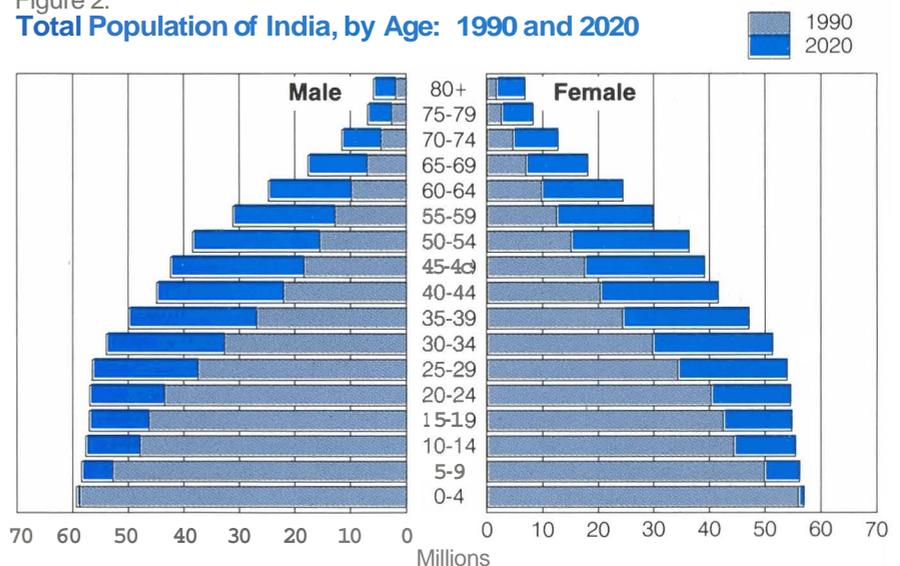


Figure 2.
Total Population of India, by Age: 1990 and 2020



1.9 percent annually. At this rate, it will double in 37 years. Even with a projected decline in fertility to 2.3 children in 2020, it will surpass a billion by the turn of this century and will almost double before it is stabilized (World Bank, 1989, pp. 94-95).

The overall level of mortality in India has improved substantially. An Indian born today can expect to live about 58 years compared with only 27 years in 1921-31 (Davis, 1951). Current estimates show that life expectancy for females (58.1) exceeds that for males (57.3) by less than a year. Substantial declines in infant and child mortality during the 1960's and 1970's contributed to the large increase in life expectancy. The current level of infant mortality of 83 infant deaths per 1,000 births is relatively high but has been reduced by almost 45 percent from the level of about 150 infant deaths in 1961-70 (Adlakha and Kirk, 1974).

Contraceptive Prevalence

In 1951, India became the first developing country to establish a family planning program, but its efforts remained limited until 1966. In 1967, when the program was revitalized, the couple protection rate (CPR) was only 4 percent (IDFW, 1991, p. 236). Since then, contraceptive prevalence has increased but shows an uneven trend (figure 3). According to official statistics, by March 1991, 44 percent of all couples (63 million out of 145 million) were "effectively protected" (Kapoor, 1991, p. 1).

The increase in effective protection is due mostly to sterilization. In 1990, more than two-thirds of all couples effectively protected (43 million out of 61 million) had been sterilized. Among sterilization clients, most are female. In recent

Figure 3.
Percent of Couples Effectively Protected, by Method: 1971 to 1990

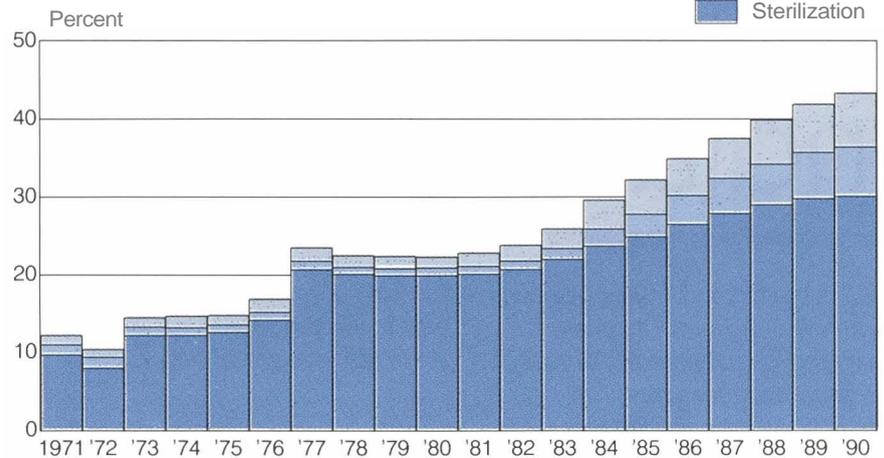
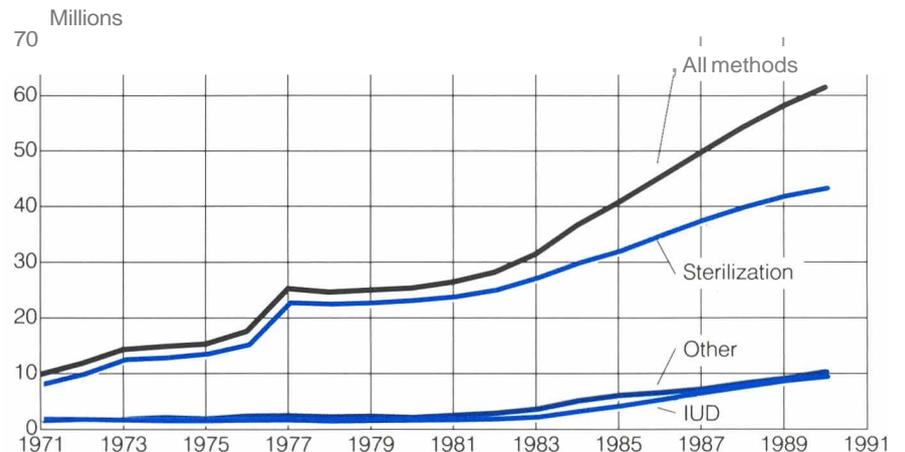


Figure 4.
Number of Couples Effectively Protected, by Method: 1971 to 1990



years, use of the IUD has increased, but in 1990, only 6.3 percent, or fewer than 9 million, of all couples were using the IUD. Another 10 million were using other modern methods (figure 4). Although official data indicate substantial progress in the use of family planning methods, analyses of the Indian data show that the crude birth rate has declined less than one might expect on the basis of the reported increase in CPR. One reason for this is that sterilized couples, constituting almost 70 percent of the effectively protected couples, are relatively older and al-

ready have borne several children before becoming sterilized. According to the 1988-89 survey of Family Planning Practices in India, the average age of the wife of all sterilized couples was 33.5 years (30 years at the time of acceptance), and sterilized couples on average had over 3.5 living children, compared with between 2.4 and 2.7 living children for couples using other modern methods (figure 5) (ORG 1990, p. 93).

In 1990, according to official statistics, there were about 143 million married women of childbearing age, 15 to 44 years, and by the

Figure 5.
Average Number of Living Children of Family Planning Users, by Method: 1988

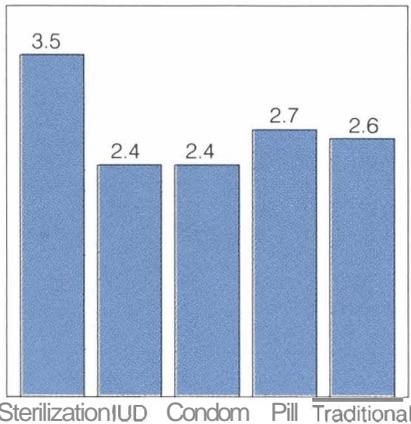
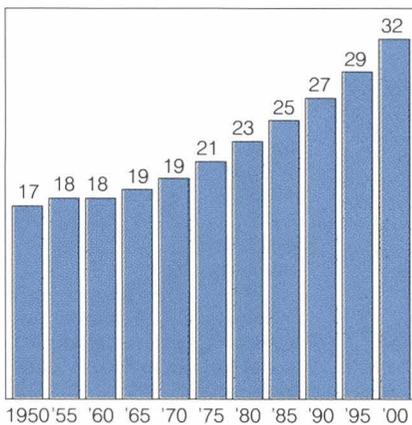


Figure 6.
Trends in Urbanization: 1950 to 2000

Percent of total population



end of the current decade they will increase by 37 million. If the CPR were to remain at the 1990 level, India would need to add another 16 million users by 2000. If India were to achieve its target of 60 percent users by 2000, then the number of users would have to nearly double, from 61 million in 1990 to 108 million in 2000. Sustained political commitment and large financial input would be needed to achieve such an increase.

Realizing that a low fertility goal may not be achieved through

emphasis on sterilization, the government's new "action plan" for re-vamping the family planning program calls for a shift in emphasis. Younger couples with high fertility potential will be vigorously encouraged to adopt spacing methods. Women would have a wider choice of contraceptives, including a gradual introduction of NORPLANT and injectables (IMOH, 1992).

Urbanization

India is becoming more urbanized, as its urban population is growing at a faster rate than its total population (figure 6). In 1950, a little more than 17 percent of India's population lived in urban areas. Now 28 percent is urban (U.N., 1991). Between 1950 and now, India's urban population increased fourfold, from 63 million to 248 million. By 2020, India will add another 377 million people to its urban population, more than the combined current population of the United States and Japan.

Bombay, Calcutta, and Delhi are among the 14 current mega-cities (cities with population of 8 million or more) in the developing world. These cities together account for 13 percent of India's urban population. India's urban population is spread among 3 mega-cities, 20 other cities of at least 1 million population, and numerous other cities and towns.

Age Composition

Currently, India has a relatively young population; 56 percent of Indians are under age 25 and 36 percent are under age 15. Because of anticipated reductions in fertility, the proportion of children under 15 will decline steadily and will reach 26 percent in the year 2020. Yet, the number of children under 15 will rise from 317 million to 344 million in

2020. The population in working ages, 15 to 64, will grow faster than the total population and will increase by 354 million between now and 2020. During the same period, the number of women of childbearing ages will increase from 218 million to 342 million.

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- This report, written by Arjun Adlakha, was prepared with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development. More detailed information can be obtained on request from the Chief, Center for International Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

Table 1.
Population Indicators, for India: 1980 to 2020
(Population in thousands)

Indicator	1980	1990	1992	2000	2020
POPULATION					
Total country	692,394	852,656	886,345	1,018,105	1,320,746
Urban	159,943	230,217	248,177	328,848	624,713
Rural	532,451	622,439	638,168	689,257	696,033
Male, total country					
All ages	359,458	441,175	458,257	524,702	674,211
0 to 14	142,886	159,568	163,314	173,662	175,667
6 to 12	64,933	70,682	73,385	80,294	81,491
13 to 18	47,997	56,464	56,786	63,786	68,743
15 to 44	159,678	208,926	218,426	254,834	319,624
15 to 49	174,575	227,335	237,836	280,210	362,062
15 to 64	204,426	265,578	277,916	329,184	456,485
65+	12,146	16,029	17,027	21,856	42,060
Female, total country					
All ages	332,936	411,481	428,088	493,403	646,534
0 to 14	132,734	149,967	154,058	165,124	168,328
6 to 12	60,014	66,133	69,073	76,273	78,138
13 to 18	44,500	51,779	52,272	60,226	65,867
15 to 44	147,379	191,249	199,747	234,519	302,918
15 to 49	161,200	208,699	218,015	257,723	341,999
15 to 64	188,952	245,844	257,189	305,591	432,469
65+	11,250	15,670	16,841	22,688	45,737
Married females					
15 to 49	128,296	167,897	176,006	209,170	281,014
15 to 19	15,405	18,447	18,779	21,237	23,678
20 to 24	26,042	34,013	34,790	36,690	45,942
25 to 29	23,875	32,328	34,203	38,968	50,693
30 to 34	20,142	28,180	29,846	37,060	48,444
35 to 39	17,173	22,644	24,340	30,878	43,660
40 to 44	14,197	17,814	18,900	25,106	36,323
45 to 49	11,462	14,471	15,148	19,231	32,274
DEPENDENCY RATIO					
Both sexes	76.0	66.7	65.6	60.4	48.6
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)					
Both sexes	52.5	56.8	57.7	61.4	69.2
Male	52.9	56.5	57.3	60.6	67.5
Female	52.1	57.1	58.1	62.3	71.1
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 births)					
Both sexes	116.4	86.7	82.6	65.8	34.5
Male	113.9	86.2	82.2	66.2	36.3
Female	119.0	87.3	83.0	65.5	32.7
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE					
Fertility rate per woman	4.7	3.8	3.7	3.0	2.3

Note: Dependency ratio is the ratio of persons under age 15 and over age 65 to those ages 15 to 64 years.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research, International Data Base.

Table 2.
Couples Effectively Protected, by Method of Family Planning: Selected Years

Method	Percent currently protected			Percent distribution of protected couples		
	1970-71	1980-81	1989-90	1970-71	1980-81	1989-90
All	10.4	22.8	43.3	100	100	100
IUD	1.4	1.0	6.3	13	4	15
Sterilization	8.0	20.1	30.1	77	88	70
Othermodern	1.0	1.7	6.9	10	7	16
CHILDLESS WOMEN: 1991						
Percent of ever-married women aged 45 to 49						
.....	4.4					

Source: IDFW, 1991, table E.I.; and IRG, 1984, table C6.

Table 3.
Average Age of Users of Selected Methods: 1988
(Married women aged 15 to 49)

Method	Average age
Pill	28.5
IUD	27.8
Condom	28.0
Sterilization	33.5

Source: ORG, 1990, table 7.15.

Table 4.
Fertility Rates
(Per 1,000 women)

Age	1971	1980	1990
15 to 19	119	93	82
20 to 24	291	260	241
25 to 29	288	240	204
30 to 34	227	172	125
35 to 39	152	103	68
40 to 44	69	47	32
45 to 49	33	21	12
Total			
fertility rate per woman	5.9	4.7	3.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research, International Data Base.