

1.2 INDIA IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM: CENSUS 2001

The Millennium Census (2001) of India is the first census of the twenty first century and of the third millennium; it provides benchmark data on the state of human resources in India, their demography, and economic and social structure. The population of India at 00:00 hours of 1st March, 2001, stood at 1,027,015,247 comprising of 531,277,078 males and 495,738,169 females; this was 15 million more than the projections made by the Technical Group on Population

Households (No)	193,579,954
Population (No)	1,028,610,328
Sex ratio (rate/1000)	933
Population (percent in the age group 0 to 6 years)	16
Sex ratio (rate/1000) (0 to 6years)	927
Population of Scheduled Castes (SC) (%)	16.2
Population of Scheduled Tribes (ST) (%)	8.2
Literacy rate (%)	64.8
<i>Males (%)</i>	75.3
<i>Females (%)</i>	53.7
Total workers (No)	402,234,724
<i>Males (%)</i>	68.4
<i>Females (%)</i>	31.6
Work participation rate (%)	39.1
Type of workers	
<i>Main workers (%)</i>	77.8
<i>Marginal workers (%)</i>	22.2
Category of workers	
<i>Cultivators (%)</i>	31.7
<i>Agricultural labourers (%)</i>	26.5
<i>Household industry workers (%)</i>	4.2
<i>Other workers (%)</i>	37.6

Source: Registrar General of India

Projections in 1996. Profile of India in 2001 as seen from Census 2001 is given in Table 1.2.1.

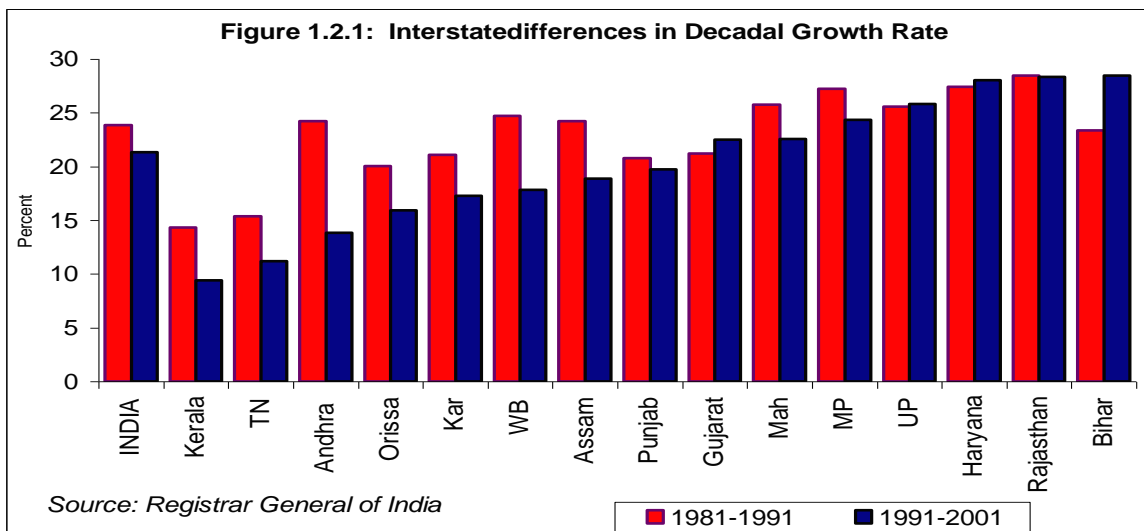
India is a vast and varied subcontinent. There are 35 states and Union Territories, 593 districts and 5470 Taluks. There are 5161 towns and 638,588 villages in the country. There are wide variations in the size, population density, urbanization, socioeconomic, demographic, nutritional and health indices not only between states (Annexure 1.2.1) but also between districts in large states. Uttar Pradesh continues to be the most populous state with 16.2% of India's population living there. The next most populous states are Maharashtra and Bihar

followed by West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. The smallest state (excluding the union territories) in terms of population is Sikkim. More than 50% of the total population of India lives in the seven most populous states of India (Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh). Density of population defined as the number of persons living per square kilometer, helps to identify population concentration in different states. India has population density of 324 persons per square kilometer; there has been a steep rise in population density in the last century (77/km² in 1901 to 324/km² in 2001. West Bengal has the highest population density (904) followed by Bihar (880) and Kerala (819) and Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest population density (13) (Annexure 1.2.2).

Growth of population: 1991-2001

The population of India, which at the turn of the twentieth century, was only around 238 million increased by over four times to reach 1027 million by 2001. The population grew by one and half times in the first half of the twentieth century, while in the next fifty years it recorded a three-fold increase. In absolute terms, the population of India during the decade 1991-2001 increased by a 180.6 million (Annexure 1.2.2), more than the estimated population of Brazil, the fifth most populous country in the world.

The decadal growth rate has declined from 23.9% for 1981-91 to 21.3% for 1991-2001 (Annexure 1.2.3). The decadal growth rate in a majority of the states has shown a decline. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have attained replacement level of fertility and Andhra Pradesh has shown a remarkable fall in fertility and decadal growth rate during the 1990s. Only Bihar has shown a substantial increase in the decadal growth rate (Figure 1.2.1). The National Population Policy has set the goal that the country will achieve the replacement level of fertility by 2010. If this were achieved, the 2001-2011 will witness a very steep decline in decadal growth rate.



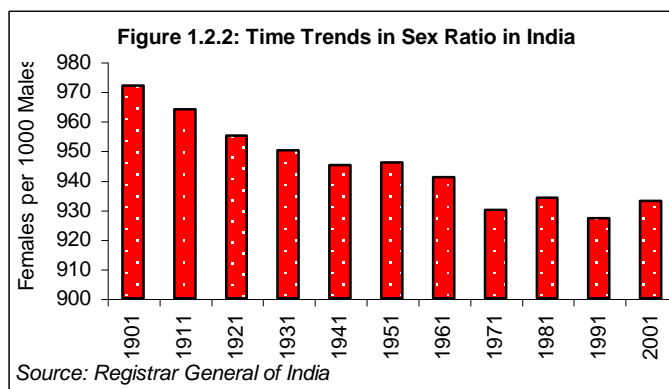
In India, the proportion of children in the age group of 0-6 years decreased from 18% in 1991 to 15% in 2001. A fairly strong positive relationship exists between percentage of child population in the age group 0-6 years and the level of fertility. In 1991 only four states/Union Territories had child population less than fourteen %; in 2001 the number of the states and Union Territories with child population less than 14% is sixteen. This is indicative of a fairly wide spread fall in fertility across many states/Union Territories.

The Malthusian assumption that population growth will lead to overcrowding, poverty, undernutrition, environmental deterioration, poor quality of life and

increase in disease burden has been challenged in the last few decades. The East Asian countries have shown that population can be a major resource for economic growth. India currently faces a window of opportunity during demographic transition when there is increase among younger, better-educated, well-nourished and healthy population. If the country successfully faces the challenge of providing education, appropriate employment with adequate remuneration, promoting healthy life styles, improving access to and utilization of available social services it is possible for the country to achieve rapid economic growth and improvement in quality of life.

Sex ratio

Sex Ratio (defined as the number of females per thousand males) is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society. Census 2001 recorded that sex ratio for



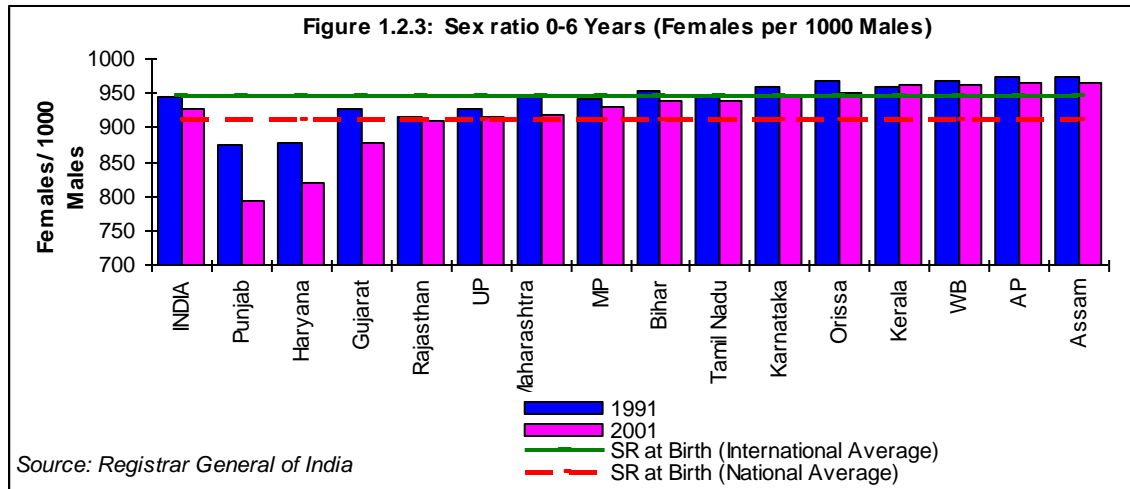
India as a whole, was 933. Over the last century there has been decline in the sex ratio (Figure 1.2.2). Among the states, Kerala has registered the highest sex ratio (1058) and Haryana the lowest (861). There is a decline in the sex ratio between 1991-2001 in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Sikkim, Maharashtra and Goa. District map of India for sex ratio is shown in Annexure 1.2.4. The reasons for this continued decline in sex ratio is as yet not clearly identified. However, it is well recognised that the adverse sex ratio is a reflection of gender disparities which have to be combated.

Sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years

The sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years is an important indicator of the future trends of the sex composition of population in the country. Census of India, 2001 reported a child sex ratio for the country as a whole as 927 girls per thousand boys, which is lower than 945 recorded at the 1991 Census.

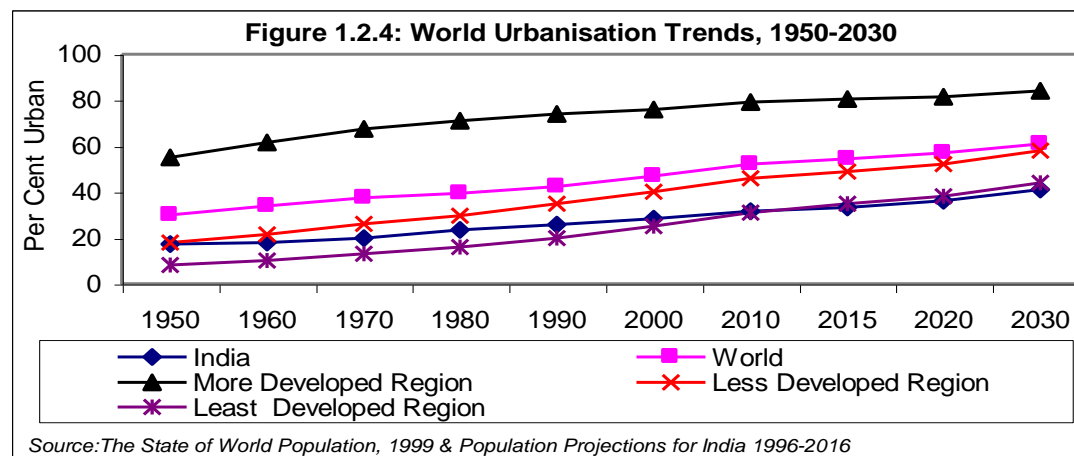
Child population and child sex ratio in different states is shown in Annexure 1.2.4. The child sex ratio in certain states like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh are inordinately low and a cause of serious concern (Figure 1.2.3). Even within the same state there are substantial interdistrict variations in child sex ratio (Annexure 1.2.5 to 1.2.8). There had been speculation as to whether female infanticide, sex determination tests and selective female foeticide are, at least in part responsible for this. The Government of India has enacted a legislation banning the prenatal sex determination and selective abortion while female infanticide is a cognizable

offence. However, unless there is a change in social attitudes, these legislations cannot achieve the desired change. Intensive community education efforts to combat these practices, especially in pockets from where female infanticide and foeticide have been reported, are being taken up.



Urbanization

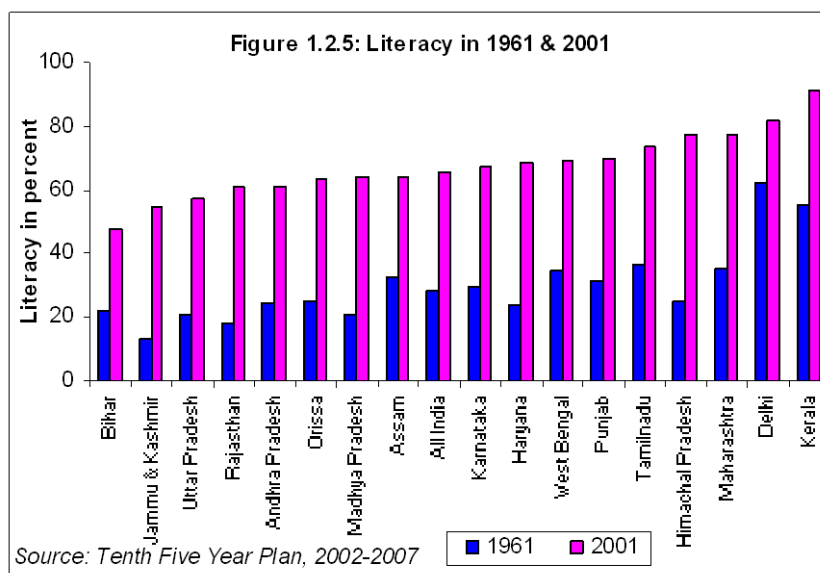
Time trends in urbanization are shown in Figure 1.2.4. Available projections for India suggest that the trend of increasing urbanization will continue in the next few decades. There are substantial interstate differences in urbanization. It is expected that in most of the states urbanization is likely to continue over the next few decades. It is projected that India may have five or more mega cities in the next decade.



Rapid urbanisation over the last fifty years has resulted in steep increase in urban population. It is noteworthy that urban India contributes nearly half of the GDP. Ongoing accelerated economic growth is expected to further increase growth of urban population. In spite of all the developmental efforts the demand

for urban basic services like safe drinking water supply, sanitation including management of solid and liquid waste and urban transport has by far outstripped the availability. The need for improvements in the urban infrastructure has not been fully met and there has been a perceptible deterioration in urban environment. The challenging task is to meet the felt needs for urban basic services and development of urban infrastructure to cope not only with the existing population but also the expected increase over the next decade, minimise environmental deterioration in sanitation (soil and water), air pollution and minimise ill effects associated with altered life style. Urbanisation does bring about some opportunities for rapid improvement because there will be increase in access to employment, education, information, communication and health care .By appropriate utilisation of all these it may be possible to rapidly improve quality of life of the urban population so that cities are transformed into engines of social and economic change and human development. The increasing connectivity between urban and rural area can create an urban - rural economic and social continuum to improve quality of life of both urban and rural population. This when coupled with the current efforts to improve employment opportunities in rural areas and providing urban amenities in rural areas may in the long run halt the urban migration and its adverse effects.

Literacy Status



Education is a critical input in human resource development. During the current phase of demographic transition there is a respite from growing numbers of children and so the country has embarked on a mission to ensure universal primary education. According to Census of India literacy rate in 2001

was 64.8%. Time trends in last five decades in sex-wise enrolment of children in primary, upper primary and secondary schools are given in Table 1.2.2. Literacy rate has increased in all the states in last four decades (Figure 1.2.5). There are wide interstate differences in literacy rate. Kerala, Delhi, Goa and Mizoram have a literacy rate of 80 % and above where as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa has literacy rate of below 65 % (Annexure 1.2.9). There are huge interdistrict variations in literacy rate also. The gender gap is evident in

literacy rate. According to Census of India 53.7 % females were literate as compared to 75 % males who were literate (Annexure 1.2.10).

With increasing number of children completing primary education, efforts are under way to improve enrolment in upper primary and secondary schools (Table 1.2.2). In addition, there is emphasis on vocational training and technical education so that these children and adolescents will have the necessary

knowledge and skills needed to get appropriate employment with adequate emoluments.

Access to safe drinking water

Millions of people in the country suffer from water-borne diseases on account of lack of access to safe drinking water. As per the Census of India, if a household has access to drinking water supplied from

Table 1.2.2: Sex-wise enrolment by stages from 1950-51 to 2004-05 (Figures in million)									
YEAR	Primary(I –V)			Middle/Upper Primary(VI-VIII)			Sec./Sr. Sec./Inter/Pre-Degree(IX-XII)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1950-51	13.8	5.4	19.2	2.6	0.5	3.1	1.3	0.2	1.5
1955-56	17.1	7.5	24.6	3.8	1	4.8	2.2	0.4	2.6
1960-61	23.6	11.4	35	5.1	1.6	6.7	2.7	0.7	3.4
1965-66	32.2	18.3	50.5	7.7	2.8	10.5	4.4	1.3	5.7
1970-71	35.7	21.3	57	9.4	3.9	13.3	5.7	1.9	7.6
1975-76	40.6	25	65.6	11	5	16	6.5	2.4	8.9
1980-81	45.3	28.5	73.8	13.9	6.8	20.7	7.6	3.4	11
1985-86	52.2	35.2	87.4	17.7	9.6	27.1	11.5	5	16.5
1990-91	57	40.4	97.4	21.5	12.5	34	12.8	6.3	19.1
1991-92	58.6	42.3	100.9	22	13.6	35.6	13.5	6.9	20.4
1992-93	57.9	41.7	99.6	21.2	12.9	34.1	13.6	6.9	20.5
1993-94	55.1	41.9	97	20.6	13.5	34.1	13.2	7.5	20.7
1994-95	60	45.1	105.1	22.1	14.3	36.4	14.2	7.9	22.1
1995-96	60.9	46.2	107.1	22.7	14.8	37.5	14.6	8.3	22.9
1996-97	61.4	46.8	108.2	22.9	15.2	38.1	15.3	8.7	24
1997-98	62.3	48	110.3	23.6	15.9	39.5	16.1	9.3	25.4
1998-99	62.7	49	111.7	23.9	16.5	40.4	16.6	10.1	26.7
1999-00*	64.1	49.5	113.6	25.1	17	42.1	17.2	11	28.2
2000-01*	64	49.8	113.8	25.3	17.5	42.8	16.9	10.7	27.6
2001-02*	63.6	50.3	113.9	26.1	18.7	44.8	18.4	12.1	30.5
2002-03*	65.1	57.3	122.4	26.3	20.6	46.9	19.5	13.7	33.2
2003-04*	68.4	59.9	128.3	27.3	21.5	48.7	20.6	14.4	35
2004-05*	69.7	61.1	130.8	28.5	22.7	51.2	21.7	15.4	37.1

*Provisional; Source: Selected Education Statistic 2004-05

a tap, hand-pump/tube well within or outside the premises, it is considered having access to safe drinking water. The 1991 Census reported that 62 % of households in India have access to safe drinking water. This is a considerable improvement over the corresponding level of 38 % in 1981. The accessibility to safe drinking water was quite low in Kerala (much of Kerala's drinking water requirements are met from wells) and in parts of the North East. District map for safe drinking water developed by IIPS using Census data is given in Annexure 1.2.11. Independent studies and reports show scarcity of drinking water in about half of the villages in India. What is even more distressing is the fact that despite heavy investment this gap has been increasing over the years. The Tenth Plan

envisaged that focused attention will be given to effective implementation of intervention in this sector to achieve the goals set. Despite good monsoons and high priority accorded by the Government for the programme (funds, focused attention) of augmenting the supply of drinking water, the goal of providing potable drinking water to all has not been achieved.

Sanitation

Deterioration in environmental sanitation due to poor sewage and solid waste collection and disposal is one of the main reasons for prevailing high morbidity levels in the country. As per the 1991 Census, less than one fourth of households in the country had a toilet facility within the premises of the residence. The proportion was less than 10 % for rural households and around 64 % among the urban households. There are substantial inter-state variations in access to toilet facilities. At one end is Kerala with 51 % of the households having access to toilet facilities; at the other end is Orissa with less than 10 % of households with similar access. District map showing percentages of households with toilet facility developed by IIPS using Census 2001 data is given in Annexure 1.2.12. During the Tenth Plan major efforts were made to improve sanitation both in urban and rural areas, but goals set have not been fully met.

Way forward

The Tenth Plan was formulated taking into account all the finding from Census 2001 The Plan aimed at making the best of the opportunity, at the start of the new millennium, to build upon the gains of the past and address the weaknesses that came in the way of improving quality life. Many of the ambitious economic and social goals set in the Tenth Five Year Plan could not be fully achieved. However, the progress during the last five years has been impressive. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan indicates that the country has resolved to build on the growth momentum built up earlier and focus on ensuring inclusive growth and reduction in disparities. It aimed at strengthening policies and strategies that have worked well and learning from past failures. The major thrust was on strengthening / modifying policies and institutions based on past experience, keeping in mind the changes that have taken place in the India and the world. Its major goals were to accelerate economic growth, reduce poverty and bridge the gaps in access to essential goods and services so that there is improvement in quality of life.

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