

## **NECESSITY OF POPULATION CONTROL ACT IN MODERN INDIA**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The population explosion is the very burning issue before every country in the world. It's also considered as a global, economic and social problem. It requires an immediate response as it is a serious issue at the global level. Over population is an enemy for any society and causes crisis for the next generation. It is bigger challenge for India as well. The current population density of India in 2024 is 438.58 people per square kilometer. India's population is equivalent to 17.78 percent of the total world population. Approximately 67,385 babies are born every day in India, which is nearly one sixth of the world's daily births. The increasing population leads to unequal distribution of income and inequality among the people. This explosion needs to not be managed properly as it has many dangerous effects on food, employment, per capita income, environment etc. Our fundamental rights are also violated due to population explosion. It is also a greater barrier in providing welfare schemes to people. As we all know that healthy environment is life support system, without healthy environment, we cannot presume of life on the planet but right now, due to population explosion, neither we can inhale pure air nor can we drink fresh water. The Indian government has implemented various initiatives, including family planning programs and incentives for smaller families to manage population growth. Government also gives slogans time to time to raise awareness about population among the people for example- "Hum Do Hamare Do" and "Chhota Parivar- Sukhi Parivar". Senior Advocate of the Apex court, Aswani Upadhyay filed a P.I.L. for controlling population explosion but situation of population control is getting worse to worsen. It is the time, we must take strict measures to control it.

Along with population control we also have to focus on developing quality of population more than the quantity to make our country a developed country and to become the "Vishwa Guru". Population is defined on the basis of two factors i.e. quantity and quality. If any country is having population less in quality and high in quantity, then it may become burden to the country and if any country is having population high in quality and less in quantity then surely it becomes blessing to the nation.

### **WHAT IS POPULATION EXPLOSION?**

The term "population explosion" means rapid increase in the population in an area consisting of human beings. An increase in population is directly related to the increase birth rate.



**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** “At the beginning of human evolution more than two million years ago, the natural resources were over abundant as compared to human needs. Between 1891 and 1921, the rate of population growth in India was low. In these 30 years, the population increased by 1.26 crore.

Since 1981, the population has been increasing at a rapid rate. Between 1951 and 1961, the population increased rapidly. It is called the period of population explosion. The decadal growth rate during 1981-91 was recorded 23.87 percent as against 24.66 percent during the previous decades. (1971-81). Currently, despite overtaking China, India’s population growth is slowing. The total fertility rate is below the replacement level of 2.1 for the first time according to the national family health survey. The current population of India is 1,454,180,397 as of Tuesday, October 1, 2024 based on world meter’s elaboration of the latest United Nation’s data. India population is equivalent to 17.78 percent of the total world population.”

### **CAUSES OF POPULATION EXPLOSION**

There are various causes of population explosion, some of them read as under:

- a. “Death rate has gone down due to modern medical facility.
- b. Early marriage
- c. Illiteracy
- d. Poverty
- e. Religious causes”

### **EFFECTS OF POPULATION EXPLOSION**

There are various effects of population explosion some of them read as under

- a. “The competition for resources
- b. Increasing pollution in the environment
- c. Lack of energy
- d. Reduction of natural resources
- e. Increasing unemployment
- f. Mental health issues.”

### **POPULATION EXPLOSION & CLIMATE CHANGE**

Population growth and environmental degradation are two of the greatest concerns in our era, as both are seen to be problems of local and global importance. The relationship between population and the environment is a significant issue due to its impact on chances for achieving sustainable development especially in developing countries. The population explosion will affect India’s environment and natural resources in irreparable way and will limit the progress of the next generation. India is the primary group of population explosion, there has been



an explosion year by year, which is making it difficult to provide resources to every person living in this country. With growing population, requirement for space, shelter and commodities have exerted enormous pressure on the environment and forests. Natural grasslands have been converted into farmlands. Wetlands have been drained and arid lands have been irrigated. Thus, the natural resources have been depleted and the landscapes have undergone drastic changes.

### **PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BEFORE ENACTMENT OF LAW**

Before the enactment of law, it is the duty of Legislature to step on grass root level and observe the public problems and real facts of society. If our legislature before enacting any law, steps on the grass root and observe the real public problems and real facts of society and then make a law then only the law can be successfully implemented otherwise the law will be only limited to the law books and will never be implemented in the society. In our country, there are few laws which are made without observation of society such as dowry act, corruption act etc. These laws were not implemented to the society. Government should raise awareness among public in the society about ill effects of the Act. As Indian society is a male dominated society and majority of the people want to have a boy child. In such circumstances there are chances of increase in abortion rate to avoid the birth of the girl child. It will also affect the gender ratio of boy to girl in the society. So, it is ideal to first aware and educate people about the ill effects of the act before it's enactment.

### **OUTLOOK OF U.N.O.**

According to the latest UN world population 2024 report, "India ranks number 1 in the list of top 10 most populated countries in the world. Under article 22 of social progress and development resolution of 1969, clearly mentioned that any couple has a right to decide the number of children they want to have. UNO estimates India's population to reach 1.67 billion in 2050 before settling at 1.53 billion in 2100."

### **OUTLOOK OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

According to Article 21, Right to live in healthy environment is part of right to life. Healthy environment is life support system, without healthy environment, we cannot presume of life on the planet. The increasing population leads to unequal distribution of income and inequalities among the people. Widened unimaginable population size may lead to the failure of the government to provide the basic facilities to people. The most part of the population remain deprived of basic necessities of life like food, shelter and clothes. Thus, population rise is an avoidable evil.

### **OPINION OF APEX COURT ON POPULATION CONTROL**

Apex court Advocate Aswani Upadhyay filed P.I.L. in Apex Court regarding law to control population expansion but the Apex court dismissed the P.I.L. and said that it is a policy matter to be decided by the government in case of necessity.

## **CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION**

At the beginning of human evolution, more than two millions years ago, the natural resources were over abundant as compared to human needs. However, when human population increased, more and more food and resources for shelter, space and commodities were required, which exerted enormous pressure on the environment. It is also a greater barrier for providing fundamental rights and DPSP (welfare scheme) to the people. There is importance of population only when population is having high in quality and less in quantity. If we control population explosion then India will develop fast. Currently, there is an urgent need to have two child national policy and to achieve this goal, the central and state governments should encourage this policy by providing free education, medical aid, legal aid, giving preference in admission to reputed educational institutes, tax rebate, concessional house loan and by providing proper opportunity in government sector schemes. However, before enactment of population control Act, Govt. should raise awareness among public in the society about ill effects of the Act. As Indian society is a male dominated society and majority of the people want to have a boy child. In such circumstances there are chances of increase in abortion rate to avoid the birth of the girl child. It will also the gender ratio of boy to girl in the society. In the end, it is my humble suggestion that for making India a developed country, population control is essential by adopting majors such as public awareness, better health and education and better environmental conditions. If population explosion of our country gets controlled then surely our country will be in the list of developed countries and will become the “Vishwa Guru”.

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