

## PATTERN OF POPULATION GROWTH IN RURAL INDIA: 2011

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### ABSTRACT

Growth of population refers to, the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time. The number of births, deaths and migration are the three components, which play a vital role in increasing or decreasing a country's population growth rate. In this study, decadal growth rate has been taken to study the growth process of the rural parts of the country. India's 68.84 per cent of total population lives in rural areas. The present work is based on secondary source of data, which is taken from Census of India, 2011. The study revealed that, the decade of 2001-2011 recorded a decline in the proportion as well as in the growth rate of rural population. This decline is mainly contributed by the economically developed states, with a few exceptions. In comparison to the states, the union territories showed a totally different pattern of growth of rural population. Various factors have lent a helping hand in curbing the ever increasing growth of rural population, during this period.

**KEYWORDS:** Rural, Population, Growth, India

### INTRODUCTION

Growth is an incessant progression as the population of a country tends to peripatetic from one place to another either inside the nation or outside it. "Growth of population refers to the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time" (Chandana, 1988). The net change in the growth of population entails a change in between two given points of time is described as the *growth rate of population* (Ahir et. al. 2008).

In other words, growth of population is the increase or decrease in number of individuals in a particular area, in a given time period. It can be expressed either in absolute numbers or in percentage. Growth of population could be positive or negative. The *number of births* (fertility), *deaths* (mortality) and *migration* are the three components, which play a vital role in increasing or decreasing a country's population growth rate. Therefore, growth rate of a country is a result of the numbers of births and deaths recorded, during a period of time and as well as the number of people migrating to and from a particular country (James and Subramanian, 2003).

India appended nearly 181million people in absolute numbers, in 2001- 2011, which is slightly lower than the total population of Brazil – the 5<sup>th</sup> most populous country in the world (Census of India, 2011). The decade of 2001-2011, except 1911-1921, has actually toted up lesser population, compared to previous decades (Census of India, 2011). This census recorded 1.64 per cent average exponential annual growth rate of population, which is the lowest average exponential annual growth rate recorded since 1961 (Perianayagam and Goli, 2012), and the latest decade has also registered the sharpest decline in decadal growth rate of population, i.e., from 21.54 per cent in 1991-2001 to 17.72 per cent, during 2001-2011. India's growth rate is falling because of decline in fertility rates than the death rates (Dyson, 2001). As per the census 2011, 68.84 per cent population of Indian lives in rural areas and remaining 31.16 per

cent, reside in urban areas. The growth rate of rural population is 12.25 per cent in 2001-2011, which recorded a decline of 5.58 per cent from the previous decade of 1991-2001 (18.10 per cent), while urban areas recorded an increase of 0.32 per cent i.e. from 13.48 per cent in 1991-2001 to 13.80 per cent in 2001-2011. Growth rate of rural population has decreased at a faster rate than urban growth rates during 2001-2011. Some southern states showed less growth rates in comparison to north central states (Kulkarni, and Alagarajan, 2005). It is also evident that poorer states added more population and hence recorded high growth rates (Bhattacharya, and Sakhivel, 2004) irrespective of rural and urban areas. The states of Empowered Action Group (E.A.G.), namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, only Odisha state recorded growth rate below the national average growth rate both in rural and urban areas. Wide disparity has been witnessed in both rural and urban growth rates of the country (Chandna, 1992).

## METHODOLOGY

In this work, decadal growth rate has been taken to study the growth process of the country and to calculate the decadal growth rate; following formula has been used:

$$g = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{P_1} \times 100$$

Here, g = decadal growth rate

P1 = population of the base year (2001)

P2 = population of the present year (2011)

## OBJECTIVES

Following are the objectives of this study:

- To study the growth pattern of rural population of India during 2001-2011 period
- To explicit the reasons behind such particular pattern of growth of rural population

## DISCUSSIONS

India is a country which is dominated by the rural society, as its 68.84 per cent of total population lives in rural areas. Furthermore, major proportion of rural population is engaged in agriculture activities. The decade of 2001-2011 recorded a decline in the proportion as well as in the growth rate of rural population which is a good sign for the sake of country's developmental process. In the year of 2001, growth rate of rural population was 18.10 per cent which fallen down to 12.25 per cent in 2011. The growth rate of rural population decreased by 5.85 per cent in the period of ten years i.e., from 2001 to 2011, which is a great achievement for the country. Table 1 exhibits the growth rate of rural population that 16 states and 6 union territories out of total 28 states and 7 union territories, recorded growth rate of rural population less than the national average growth rate of rural population of 12.25 per cent. Four states namely, Kerala (-25.89 per cent), Goa (-18.51 per cent), Nagaland (-14.55 per cent) and Sikkim (-4.99 per cent) recorded negative growth rate of rural population while out of total 7 union territories, 5 union territories recorded negative growth rate of rural population and these are - Chandigarh (-68.53 per cent), Lakshadweep (-58.02 per cent), NCT of Delhi (-55.64 per cent), Daman & Diu (-40.12 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (-1.19 per cent).

**Table 1: India Growth Rate of Rural Population: 2011**

State	Rural Growth Rate
Kerala	-25.89
Goa	-18.51
Nagaland	-14.55
Sikkim	-4.99
Andhra Pradesh	1.73
Tripura	2.22
Tamil Nadu	6.61
Karnataka	7.39
West Bengal	7.68
Punjab	7.75
Manipur	9.14
Gujarat	9.31
Haryana	9.85
Maharashtra	10.36
Uttarakhand	11.51
Odisha	11.77
<b>India</b>	<b>12.25</b>
Himachal Pradesh	12.65
Assam	15.47
Mizoram	17.40
Chhattisgarh	17.78
Uttar Pradesh	17.97
Madhya Pradesh	18.42
Rajasthan	18.96
Jammu & Kashmir	19.42
Jharkhand	19.58
Arunachal Pradesh	22.56
Bihar	24.25
Meghalaya	27.17
<b>Union Territories</b>	
Chandigarh	-68.53
Lakshadweep	-58.02
Nct of Delhi	-55.64
Daman & Diu	-40.12
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-1.19
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7.70
Puducherry	21.33

**Source:** Calculated from Census of India: 2001 and 2011

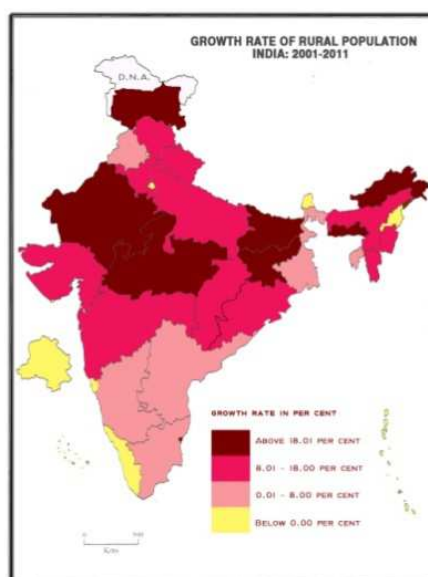
On the other hand, 12 states and 1 union territory recorded growth rate of rural population above 12.25 per cent which is India's average growth rate of rural population in 2011. These 12 states are those states which are known as BIMARU and E.A.G. states of India. BIMARU and E.A.G. states are characterised with high fertility rates hence represents the cause of high growth rate of rural population in India. Other states which registered high growth rate of rural population are from north eastern region of the country. Pondicherry is the only union territory which registered high growth rate of rural population among 7 union territories of India. A map (figure 1) has been prepared and categorised as follows:-

- Relatively High Growth Rate Of Rural Population (Above 18.01 per cent)
- Moderate Growth Rate Of Rural Population (8.01 – 18.00 per cent)

- Relatively Low Growth Rate Of Rural Population (0.01 – 8.00 per cent)
- Negative Growth Rate Of Rural Population (Below 0.00 per cent)

#### **Relatively High Growth Rate of Rural Population (Above 18.01 Per Cent)**

7 states and 1 union territory has recorded relatively high growth rate of rural population which is above 18.01 per cent. Madhya Pradesh (18.42 per cent) and Meghalaya (27.17 per cent) has recorded lowest and highest growth rate of rural population in this category respectively. Other than Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya, states which contributed in this category are- Rajasthan (18.96 per cent), Jammu & Kashmir (19.42 per cent), Jharkhand (19.58 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (22.56 per cent), and Bihar (24.25 per cent). 1 union territory which registered relatively high growth rate of rural population is Puducherry, with 21.33 per cent. These states are characterised with high birth rate, high natural growth rate, high proportion of scheduled tribe populations in comparison to their total population of the state, and have low urbanisation levels during 2011. These states are less developed states of the country in context of technology and economic development. States which recorded high growth rate of rural population are mostly located at the border areas of the country such as Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan sharing its border with Pakistan, Bihar with Nepal, Arunachal Pradesh with China and Meghalaya with Bangladesh. So this fact predicts the infiltration of neighbouring people into these states of India.



**Figure 1: Growth Rate of Rural Population of India 2001-2011**

#### **Moderate Growth Rate of Rural Population (8.01 – 18.00 Per Cent)**

11 states of India contributed medium growth rate of rural population during 2001-2011. India's average growth rate of rural population, which is 12.25 percent, falls in this category. Manipur (9.14 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (17.97 per cent) registered lowest and highest growth rate of rural population respectively in this category. 9 other states which contributed in this category are - Gujarat (9.31 per cent), Haryana (9.85 per cent), Maharashtra (10.36 per cent), Uttarakhand (11.51 per cent), Odisha (11.77 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (12.65 per cent), Assam (15.47 per cent), Mizoram (17.40 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (17.97 per cent). All these states have birth rate and natural growth rate below the country's average birth rate and natural growth rate but still these states have these factors near to the average figures.

This category has highest number of states which exhibits that, the India's rural population growth rate is growing moderately. One more thing to be noted here is that, not a single union territory of the country has contributed in this category.

#### **Relatively Low Growth Rate of Rural Population (0.01 – 8.00 Per Cent)**

This category has added least number of states and union territories, which are 7 in number. State of Andhra Pradesh has the lowest growth rate of rural population and Punjab has the highest growth rate of rural population, which is 1.73 per cent and 7.75 per cent, respectively. The only union territory which registered growth rate in this category is Dadra & Nagar Haveli, with 7.70 per cent growth rate of rural population, during 2001-2011. Tripura (2.22 per cent), Tamil Nadu (6.61 per cent), Karnataka (7.39 per cent) and West Bengal (7.68 per cent) are the other states which are contributed in this category. All these states are embodied with low birth rate, low natural growth rate, low proportion of scheduled tribe and scheduled caste population in comparison to their total population of the state. Moreover, these states have urbanisation levels above the country's average urbanisation level of 31.16 per cent.

#### **Negative Growth Rate of Rural Population (Below 0.00 Per Cent)**

4 states and 5 union territories have registered growth rate of rural population, in negative during 2001-2011. Among states Kerala registered highest negative growth rate, while Sikkim registered lowest negative growth rate of rural population during 2001-2011, with -25.89 percent and -4.99 percent, respectively. Other than these states, Goa and Nagaland also contributed in this category with -18.51 percent and -14.55 percent growth rate of rural population respectively. In case of union territories following union territories recorded negative growth rate of rural population- Chandigarh (-68.53 per cent), Lakshadweep (-58.02per cent), NCT of Delhi (-55.64 per cent), Daman & Diu (-40.12 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (-1.19 per cent). All the 4 states have witnessed an abrupt increase in their urbanisation, during this period which halts the growth of rural population. Moreover, these states and union territories have high literacy rate even among their rural females. In case of union territories, these have excessively high urbanisation levels hence; have negative impact on their rural population growth.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

It can be concluded that, growth rate of rural population in India is decreasing gradually. Many states and union territories registered negative growth rate of rural population, during this period. The states of southern India along other states like Sikkim and Nagaland recorded major decline in their growth rate of rural population. Union territories of the country also recorded decreasing trend in growth rate of rural population during 2001-2011. Central, northern, eastern and western parts recorded growth rate of rural population medium to high range while only southern part registered low to negative. States which recorded high growth rate of rural population are mostly located at the border areas of the country such as Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan sharing its border with Pakistan, Bihar with Nepal, Arunachal Pradesh with China and Meghalaya with Bangladesh. This decline is mainly contributed by the economically developed states with a few exceptions like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana. Southern parts of the country extended a helping hand in curbing growth of rural population in a great extent. In comparison to the states of the country, the union territories showed totally different patterns of growth of rural population.

It is to be expected that during next decade i.e. 2011-2021, India will show more decline in its rural growth as its growth rate of urban population is increasing day by day. Behind this phenomenon the major reason could be

classification, de-classification and re-classification of various areas, especially from rural to urban. It will be interesting to witness next trends of growth rate of the country.

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