

## **A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT STATES**

---

Dr. Sanjay A. Pandya\*

### **ABSTRACT**

*The state of Bombay was split in to present of Gujarat and Maharashtra on 1 May, 1960. Gujarat and Maharashtra have completed of fifty years of their establishment. Gujarat and Maharashtra are one of the most prosperous states of India. Gujarat and Maharashtra have achieved many milestones in various sectors after their participation. Population is a human resource. Human resources stand for both means and the end. The economic development depends upon the human capacity to use the natural resources. The tendency of watching population growth as a deterrent factor can be seen in the writings of most economists. There is a greater population pressure in India as compared to other nations. . Because 17.5% of the world's population lives in India, against which, India has only 2.42% of the total land of the world. On the other hand, the median age in India is 26.9 years, so there is a large scope of demographic dividend. Considering all these, the trends of population of the two important states of India, Maharashtra and Gujarat have been discussed. "The present paper has been prepared by using secondary data. The most reliable sources have been used for this.*

**KEYWORDS:** Human Resource, Population Growth, Population Pressure, Demographic Dividend.

### **Introduction**

The state of Bombay was split in to present of Gujarat and Maharashtra on 1 May 1960. Gujarat and Maharashtra have completed of fifty years of their establishment. Since inception of the states, the structures of their economy have been changing significantly. Not only the State's GSDP and Per Capita GSDP have increased, but it has shown all signs of a developed and urbanised economy. The States have maintained their high rank in key economic indicators among the Indian States. Gujarat and Maharashtra are one of the most prosperous states of India. Gujarat and Maharashtra have achieved many milestones in various sectors after their participation. Gujarat and Maharashtra are highly industrialized state and both state's economy have been able to achieve higher growth rate than the national average. It is widely accepted that both states are always one of the star performers when it comes to overall economic growth.

### **Research Problem**

Population is a human resource. Human resources stand for both means and the end. The economic development depends upon the human capacity to use the natural resources. Moreover, the ultimate goal of economic development is to increase human well-being. Economic development is not possible without the participation of the human resources. However, "the tendency of watching population growth as a deterrent factor can be seen in the writings of most economists. The assumption of 'the stable economics' of some classical economists was also such that considered that the rate of production growth would not be able to meet the rate of population growth. As a result, the growth of the wages will stop at a life expectancy level and the pace of economic development will also stop. John Stuart Mill also

---

\* Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, India.

was of the opinion that the population growth makes the reforms of the agricultural sector worthless."<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, it is a historical fact that the population growth has become a driving force for rapid economic development in many countries of Europe. At presently the model of population in India is such that it is considered and discussed as a demographic dividend rather than a negative impact.

However, it is also true that India is a very populated country and the population is increasing at a very high rate. The total geographical area of India is 3.28 lakh square kilometres. By that, India is ranked as the seventh largest countries in the world. (The first six ranks are: Russia, Canada, China, US, Brazil and Australia.) About 17.5% of the world's population lives in India. Against which, India has only 2.42% of the total land of the world. Whereas, the America alone holds 7% of the world's geographical area against 6% of the world's population. This shows that there is a greater population pressure in India as compared to other nations. On the other hand, the median age in India is 26.9 years. Considering all these, the trends of population of the two important states of India, Maharashtra and Gujarat have been discussed.

### Objectives

The chief objectives as well as subsidiary objectives of the present paper are as under:

- To present statistical scenario of the census of Gujarat, Maharashtra and of the entire country from the year 1961 to 2011.
- To present the status of the population and the population growth rate of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- To acquire idea of the density of population of Gujarat -Maharashtra and the entire country.
- To examine the status of the sex ratio of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- To present a statistical scenario of literacy of Gujarat - Maharashtra and the entire country.
- To present the details of urbanization of Gujarat-Maharashtra and the entire country.
- To derive significant demographic conclusions.

### Research Methodology

"The present paper has been prepared by using secondary data. "Secondary data means data are already available i.e., they refer to the data which already been collected and analysed by someone else. Secondary data may either published data or unpublished data." <sup>2</sup> The most reliable sources have been used for this.

**Table 1: Silent Features of Population of India**

S. No.	Census Year	Total Population (in crores)	Growth of Population in numbers (in Crores)	Decennial % increase	Density Per sq.km.	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Urban ization
1	1961	43.92		21.64	142	941	28.3	17.97
2	1971	54.82	10.9	24.8	177	930	34.45	19.91
3	1981	68.33	13.51	24.66	216	934	43.57	23.34
4	1991	84.34	16.01	23.86	267	927	52.21	25.73
5	2001	102.87	18.53	21.54	325	933	64.84	27.81
6	2011	121.09	18.22	17.7	382	943	73.00	

Source : (i) Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India  
(ii) Statistical Abstract of India (Various Years)

**Table 2: Silent Features of Population of Maharashtra State**

S. No.	Census Year	Total Population (in crores)	Growth of Population in numbers (in Crores)	Decennial % increase	Density Per sq.km.	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Urban ization
1	1961	3.96		23.60	129	936	35.1	28.20
2	1971	5.04	1.08	27.45	164	930	45.8	31.20
3	1981	6.26	1.22	24.54	204	937	55.8	35.00
4	1991	7.89	1.63	25.73	257	934	64.9	38.70
5	2001	9.69	1.8	22.73	315	922	76.9	42.40
6	2011	11.24	1.55	16.00	365	929	82.3	45.20

Source : (i) Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India  
(ii) Statistical Abstract of India & Maharashtra State (Various Years)

**Table 3: Silent Features of Population of Maharashtra State**

S. No.	Census Year	Total Population (in crores)	Growth of Population in numbers (in Crores)	Decennial % increase	Density Per sq.km.	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Urban ization
1	1961	2.06		26.88	105	940	31.47	25.77
2	1971	2.67	0.61	29.39	136	934	36.95	28.08
3	1981	3.41	0.74	27.67	174	942	44.92	31.10
4	1991	4.13	0.72	21.19	211	934	61.29	34.49
5	2001	5.07	0.94	22.66	258	920	69.14	37.36
6	2011	6.04	0.97	19.3	308	919	78	42.6

Source : (i) Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India  
(ii) Statistical Abstract of Gujarat -2014 ( Various Years)

### Total Population and Decennial Growth of Population

As per details from the table-1, India had population of 43.92 Crores in the year 1961. The total population growth in that decade was 21.64 percent. In 1971, the population of India was 54.82 Crores, and the total population growth during that decade was 24.8 percent. Which means the population has increased to 10.9 crores during that period? In 1981, India had the population of 68.33 Crores and the total population growth in that decade was 24.66 percent. Which means the population increased by 13.51 crores during that period? In 1991, India had the population of 84.34 Crores; the total population growth in this decade was 23.86 percent. Which means the population increased by 16.01 crores during that period? In 2001, India had the population of 102.87 Crores and the total population growth during that decade was 21.54 percent. Which means the population increased by 18.53 crores during that period? In 2011, India has population of 121.09 Crores and the total population growth in that decade was 17.7 percent. Which means the population increased by 18.22 crores during that period?.

As per details from table 2, Maharashtra had population of 3.96 Crores in the year 1961. The total population growth in this decade was 23.60 percent. In 1971, population of Maharashtra was 5.04 Crores and the total population growth during that decade was 27.45 percent. The population increased by 1.08 crores during that period. In 1981, Maharashtra had population of 6.26 Crores and the total population growth in that decade was 24.54 percent. The population increased by 1.22 crores during that period. In 1991, Maharashtra had the population of 7.89 Crores and the total population growth in this decade was 25.73 percent. The population increased by 1.63 crores during that period. In 2001, Maharashtra had the population of 9.69 Crores and the total population growth during that decade was 22.73 percent. The population increased by 1.80 crores during that period. In 2011, Maharashtra had the population of 11.24 Crores and the total population growth in that decade was 16.00 percent. The population increased by 1.55 crores during that period.

As per details from table 3, Gujarat had population of 2.06 Crores in 1961 and the total population growth in that decade was 26.88 percent. In 1971, Gujarat had population of 2.67 crores; the total population growth in that decade was 29.39 percent. The population increased by 0.61 crores during that period. In 1981, Gujarat had population of 3.41 Crores; the total population growth in that decade was 27.67 percent. The population increased by 0.74 crores during that period. In 1991, Gujarat had population of 4.13 crores; the total population growth in that decade was 21.19 percent. The population increased by 0.72 crores during that period. In 2001, Gujarat had population of 5.07 crores; the total population growth in that decade was 22.66 percent. The population increased by 0.94 crores during that period. In 2011, Gujarat had population of 6.04 crores; the total population growth in that decade was 19.3 percent. The population increased by 0.97 crores during that period.

### Density

Population density (in agriculture: standing stock and standing crop) is a measurement of population per unit area or unit volume; it is a quantity of type number density. It is frequently applied to living organisms, and most of the time to humans. It is a key geographical term. Human population density increases to 50 per km<sup>2</sup> (129 per sq. mile). This includes all continental and island land area, including Antarctica. If Antarctica is also excluded, then population density rises to over 55 people per km<sup>2</sup> (over 142 per sq. mile). According to the 1961 census, density of India was 142 persons per sq.km. In 1971, the density increased to 177. In 1981, 1991 and 2001 the density increased to 216, 267 and 325 respectively. Density of population as per last census 2011 is 382 persons per sq.km. In India according to the 1961 census, Maharashtra's population density was 129 persons per sq.km. In 1971, the density

increased to 164. In 1981, 1991 and 2001 the density increased to 204,257 and 315 respectively. Density of population as per last census 2011 is 365 persons per sq.km. in Maharashtra. According to the 1961 census, Gujarat's population density was 105 persons per sq.km. In 1971, the density increased to 136. In 1981, 1991 and 2001 the density increased to 174,211 and 258 respectively. Density of population as per last census 2011 is 30 persons per sq.km.

In Gujarat, the population density is much higher in both the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is because World Development Report-2002 indicates that the density of the world's population was 47 per square kilo meter in the year 2001. It was highest in South Asia i.e. 283 person per square kilo meter. Whereas the lowest population density was 20 in Europe and Central Asia. This statistical data indicates that the density of population in these two states and across the country is much higher. The high population density affects the growth and natural resources.

### **Sex Ratio**

Sex Ratio is defined as the number of female per thousand male. It is an important and useful indicator to assess of deficit of men or women in a given population at that particular point of time. In India, Sex Ratio is imbalance for long time, with the time it imbalance more. It is ideal condition of population that in which 1000 men against 1000 women. From 1901 to 2011, Sex ratio is changed with the time. In 1901, the sex ratio was 972 was decline and it became 940 in 2011 census. Indian sex Ratio has shown some improvement in last 10 years. It has gone up from 933 in 2001 to 940 in 2011 census of India. But notable thing is that in 0-6 year's age group, which is naturally born in last decade, sex ratio of India is decline from 927 to 914. But it is also important that there should be more or remarkable improvement is essential from 0-6 age group and sex Ration as a whole.

According to the census of 2011, the sex ratio is low in all the states of India (excluding Kerala 1084 and the Union Territory Pondicherry 1037). The sex ratio is low in both states of this study. It has a tendency to decline over a period of time. The Sex ratio in Maharashtra was 936 in 1961 which has dropped to 929 in 2011. Sex ratio has decreased from 940 to 919 in this period in Gujarat State. In the case of the age group of 0-6 years, the condition of sex ratio is more serious. The child sex ratio is 918,890 and 894 in India, Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively. This indicates that the situation of the sex ratio is deteriorating in both the states as well as in the country. Gujarat and Maharashtra are two of the leading states in the Indian economic and industrial development, per capita income-urbanization, literacy etc. Therefore, these types of changes in the sex ratio in these states are causes of concern. The imbalance of the male female ratio may lead to anarchy in the structural system of society and may also spread disorder in the social system.

### **Literacy Rate**

"A person who can read and write a simple message in any language with understanding is considered literate." Literacy rate is one of the key indicators of the economic situation in any country. Human Capital's contribution is considered one of the key factors in accelerating the process of development. It is from this perspective very important that the literacy ratio increased. As increased literacy rate leads to enhancement of a country's human capital. India faces some big challenges like unemployment, poverty and unequal distribution etc. Literacy provides better employment prospects and gives a higher socio-economic status too. Increased literacy rate also leads to decreased population growth rate and so a country's resources better shared among less people. India has a very young population; (median age of India is 24 years and 65% of India's population is of the age group 15-64 and 30% of population being under the age of 15, it can be inferred that India's population is very young) So literacy will play a vital role in turning the young population into potential human capital.

Literacy rate of India is 74.04% in 2011. India's literacy rate at the time of independence was only 14%, over the years literacy rate has been increasing, but with varied rates in different states of the country. Both states Maharashtra and Gujarat well above national average in all the census 1961 to 2011. There is also a concern for female literacy rate (65.46%) which is much below the male literacy rate (82.14%) in 2011. Both states Maharashtra and Gujarat have below female literacy rate in all the census, 1961 to 2011.

Gujarat is ranked 17TH in terms of literacy ratio in the country. Whereas the rank of Maharashtra is 12<sup>th</sup> in terms of literacy in India. As compared to other area of development, both the states are far behind other states of the counties.

### Urbanization

Urbanization is the process where people migrate from a rural area to an urban area. As a result, the population of the cities increases. However, the process of development becomes faster due to urbanization. Urbanization is considered as an important part of development because urbanization helps in development and per capita income. Urbanization helps in accelerating the economic growth and increases the level of per capita income. The many countries of the world have had such kind of experience. Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. Urbanisation is taking place at a faster rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%.<sup>5</sup> This count increased to 28.53% according to 2001 census, and crossing 30% as per 2011 census, standing at 31.16%.<sup>[6][7]</sup> According to a survey by UN State of the World Population report in 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas.<sup>8</sup> As per World Bank, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050.<sup>9</sup> "Cities are engines of growth because they "manufacture" wealth. This is literally true as most manufacturing occurs in urban locations. That is why rich economies are predominantly urban, and those economies that are largely rural are relatively poor. The transition from a poor economy to a rich one depends on the transition of the majority of the population from being rural to urban."<sup>10</sup> In the 11th Five Year Plan it was estimated that in the next 20 years, India's growth will become a growth engine of the urban growth. At present, the population of Indian cities is contributing 58% of national income. This is estimated to reach 70% by 2030. Gujarat and Maharashtra are among the most urbanized states of India. Maharashtra (45.23%) is third and Gujarat (42.58%) is fourth most urbanized states (Tamil Nadu (48.51%) being first and Kerala (47.72%) being second most urbanized states of the country) where of most of the states' population lives in towns and cities.

### Median Age of Gujarat and Maharashtra

The median age is the age which divides the population into two equal halves, i.e., there are as many people older than the median age as there are people younger than it. A low median age suggest that a countries population has more young people than older people. The median age in India is 24 years. Maharashtra and Gujarat have 26 and 25 median age respectively. An average median age of the both these states are more than that of the country. Maharashtra's median age is more than that of Gujarat.

### Important Findings

- The population growths in Maharashtra, Gujarat as well as in the entire country have been high. And at the end of every decade, more and more number of people have been added.
- The population growth rate has decreased in percentage over a period of time. Maharashtra has been successful in reducing the population growth rate and there can be seen the numerical decline in the population in the last decade.
- The geographical area of a state or a country does not increase. Therefore, with the increase in the population, the density too increases. Thus, there can be seen the increase of density in both the states of the study and the country. The population density in India is much higher as compared to the global density.
- There has been a continuous decline in the proportion of sex ratio of the country and in Gujarat and Maharashtra. The sex ratio is very low in the age group of 0-6 years.
- The literacy rate in the country and states has increased steadily. However, according to 2011 census, the literary ranks of Gujarat and Maharashtra in the country are 17th and 12th respectively. Which is far behind compared to Kerala and other states? These states are considered very low in terms of the states having image of developed states. There is very less female literacy in these states.
- In terms of urbanization, both states are leading in the country.
- Median age is useful to accelerate economic growth in the states of the study and the entire country.

### Conclusion

Gujarat and Maharashtra are two of the leading states of India. Both the states (that are otherwise leading in terms of development) are just average in terms of many parameters such as population, sex ratio, literacy, rate of population growth, female literacy. The peculiarities of both states are almost same but there are many areas where both the states have to undertake many tasks as compared to Kerala and many other states.

**References**

- 1 Trivedi H.K. & Shah Ramesh B., "*Vikashshil Rashtronu Arthshastra*", University Granth Nirman Board, Gujarat Rajy, Ahmadabad, 2004, Page-29.
- 2 Kothari C R & Garg Gaurav, " Research Methodology-Methods and Techniques" third Addition, New Age International (P) limited Publishers, New Delhi, Page-107.
- 3 Matt Rosenberg Population Density. Geography.about.com. March 2, 2011. Retrieved on December 10, 2011. (Population density From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia )
- 4 "National Literacy Rate Grows to 69 %", , Indian Economy, Pratiyogita Darpan, 2017, Page-89-90.
- 5 Kamaldeo Narain Singh (1 January 1978). Urban Development In India. Abhinav Publications.
- 6 ISBN 978-81-7017-080-8. Retrieved 13 June 2012.
- 7 Business Standard (15 June 2012). "Victims of urbanization: India, Indonesia and China". Rediff.com.Retrieved 15 June 2012.
- 8 Datta, Pranati. "Urbanisation in India" (PDF). Infostat.sk. Retrieved 13 June 2012.
- 9 (8)"Urbanization in India faster than rest of the world". Hindustan Times. 27 June 2007. Retrieved 13 June, 2012.
- 10 Business Standard (15 June, 2012). "Victims of urbanization: India, Indonesia and China". Rediff.com. Retrieved 15 June 2012
- 11 Atanu Day on Inda's Economic Development, (Urbanization and Development of India. The following is an article by me that appeared in ISB's in-house magazine *insight* June 2008 issue.)