

Remedial Measures for Tackling the Problems of Population Growth in India

The long-term objective of India's National Population Policy in 2000 is to achieve population stability by 2045. To check the population growth three types of remedial measures can be adopted.

Economic Measures

It is not so easy to follow. These measures include:

1. Economic Development

The population problem in India can be solved through rapid economic growth.

Experience in Europe and America has shown that as the rate of economic growth increases, standard of living improves and it automatically leads to decline in population growth rate. Therefore, rapid economic development is needed to control population.

2. Redistribution in Occupational Structure

For economic and other reasons, the family size of those employed in industrial sector is smaller than the family size of those employed in agricultural sector. If industrial sector can be developed enough then this sector can absorb the over burden of the population in the agricultural sector. However, in the case of India, the contribution of industry to the national income has increased due to industrialization during the plan period but the occupational structure has not changed much. The village people are afraid of migrating to the urban areas as they think that the expenditure will become unaffordable for them. So, rapid urbanisation is necessary to attract the village population toward cities.

3. Equal Distribution of National Income

Cooperation of workers in industrial and agricultural sector is required for the improvement of the rate of economic development. It is only possible to get their active co-operation if they can enjoy the lion's share of the increased national income. This will help them to maintain a good standard of living which will lead to declining birth rates and it will ultimately reduce the population growth rate.

Social Measures

Religious prejudices, the misconception that the sons only can keep the name of the heredity etc. are some causes for the rapid population growth rate in India. A few ways can be suggested to get rid of this

1. Mass Education

It is possible to eradicate prejudice from the minds of the people through vast and rapid expansion of public education. The public can realize that small families are happy families, more children increase poverty. There is a need to increase public awareness on these issues by sending well trained welfare worker and showing them documentary pictures. It is needed to raise public awareness being unmarried is not a matter of condemnation, and to marry at an older age is not bad.

2. Women Education and Liberation

Educated independent women do not like more children. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the economic, social and political status of women. If freedom is given to the pregnant women to take the decision about the child birth, the birth rate is bound to decrease.

3. Raising the Minimum Age Limit of Marriage

At present the minimum age limit for marriage is 21 for boys and 18 for girls. But the law is not being followed properly. Besides, many are unaware of this law. If this minimum age limit can be increased then the birth rate can be controlled because after certain age the fertility declines. The child marriage still prevalent in rural India. Strict legal steps should be taken against it

Population Policy Measures

Some important policies are

1. Extensive publicity about family planning projects

Extensive publicity about the family planning programme should be done through newspaper television etc. among the public

2. Encouragement and Discouragement

To reduce population growth, parents of a small family should be provided with various government benefits. In order to discourage parents of more children, they may be criticised by the society or a tax can be imposed on them by the state.

3. Establishment of Family Centres

Family centres in rural and urban areas can be set up to provide family planning counselling and health facilities can be provided to the public through clinics. The centres can distribute birth control materials and thus the birth rate can be controlled.

In a country like India, it is very difficult to control the population growth. So all measures related to economic, social and population policy can be taken to reduce this population growth.