

## **NORTH-EAST INDIA**

### **GROWTH OF POPULATION**

Growth of population is the change in the number of people living in a particular area between two given points of time. The net change between two points of time is expressed in percentage and is described as the growth rate of population.

### **TREND OF POPULATION GROWTH IN NORTH-EAST INDIA**

The most remarkable demographic feature of North East India is very rapid growth of its population. At the beginning of the 20th century, the total population of North East India was 4271978 (1901), which increased to 10260371 in the mid of the 20th century (1951) and recorded an increase of about two and a half times, while in the latter half of the 20th century (1951-2001), the population of the region increased to 38409793 and 44980294 in 2011 which showed an increase of about 3.71 times.

In the demographic history of North East India, the decadal growth of the population is always higher in comparison to that of the nation as a whole. The growth rate between the period 1901-1941 was recorded as 101.73% as against 33.67% for the nation as whole. During the period 1941-1981, the growth rate in the region was 187.20 %, whereas the growth rate for the nation in that period was 114.44 %. On the other hand between the period 1981-2011, the growth rate in the region was recorded as a decline growth rate 81.72 % while the corresponding figure for the nation as a whole was 77.10%.

The average growth rate of population during the decade of 1901-1911 was 1.70% whereas the growth rate for the nation as a whole 0.56%. Even during the period 1911-1921, the average annual growth rate of population in the region was 1.72%, when the country witnessed -0.03%. During the period 1921-1931 North East India recorded an average annual growth rate 1.79% where the whole country recorded 1.04%. During that period due to influx of large number of land hungry immigrant peasants from erstwhile East Bengal especially to flood plain of Assam and Tripura, the region recorded high growth of population.

### **SPATIAL VARIATION IN POPULATION GROWTH**

The most important aspect of the population trend of the region is marked difference in the spatial growth. During the first decade of the 20th century (1901-1911) among the seven states of the North East India, Nagaland recorded the highest decadal growth rate (46.07%) followed by Tripura (32.83%), Manipur (25.83%), while other states recorded less than 20% growth rate.

During the period of 1911-1921, Tripura recorded the highest growth rate (32.59%) followed by Assam 20.47%, Manipur 10.98% and other states recorded less than 10 growth rate. The growth rate is comparatively low during 1921-1931. Mizoram recorded the highest growth

rate (26.42%) followed by Tripura (25.62%), Assam (19.91%), Manipur (16.03%), Meghalaya (13.83%) and Nagaland (12.62%).

Tripura again emerged at the top recording 34.14% growth rate during 1931-1941. The other states like Mizoram (22.81%), Assam (20.40%) and the rest states recorded below 20% of the growth rate. On the other hand, during the period of 1941-1951 Mizoram reached the top of the population growth recording 28.42% followed by Tripura, Assam, Manipur while other states recorded less than 10% decadal growth rate of population.

Similarly, the average annual growth rate during the period of 1901-1951 (first half of the 20th century, Tripura recorded highest growth rate (11.46%), while other states recorded Assam 7.36%, Nagaland 6.44%, Mizoram 6.36%, Manipur 6.05%, Meghalaya 5.02%. While the data of population were not available during this period.

## **CAUSES OF POPULATION GROWTH IN N-E INDIA**

### **1. Decline in the Death Rate:**

The fall in death rates that is decline in mortality rate is one fundamental cause of population growth in N-E India. Owing to the advancements in medicine, man has found cures to the previously fatal diseases. The new **inventions in medicine** have brought in treatments for most of the dreadful diseases. This has resulted in an increase in the life expectancy of individuals. Mortality rate has declined leading to an increase in population.

### **2. Rise in the Birth Rate:**

Medicines of today can boost the reproductive rate in human beings. There are medicines and treatments, which can help in conception. Thus, science has led to an increase in birth rate. This is certainly a reason to be proud and happy but advances in medicine have also become a cause of overpopulation.

### **3. Migration:**

Every year huge amount of people migrates from our neighbouring countries especially from Bangladesh and this is one of the major causes of population growth in the region.

### **4. Improvement of Medical Science:**

Owing to modern medications and improved treatments to various illnesses, the overall death rate has gone down. The brighter side of it is that we have been able to fight many diseases and prevent deaths. On the other hand, the medical boon has brought with it, the curse of overpopulation.

### **5. Lack of Education:**

Illiteracy is another important cause of overpopulation. Those lacking education fail to understand the need to prevent excessive growth of population. They are unable to understand the harmful effects that overpopulation has. They are unaware of the ways to control population.

**6. Lack of family planning** is commonly seen among the illiterate people of north-east. This is one of the major factors leading to overpopulation. Due to ignorance, they do not take to family planning measures, thus contributing to a rise in population.