

**PAPER: 603**

**UNIT 1: 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Table: Trend of Population Growth in North East India

Census Year	Population	Average annual growth rate in Percentage	
		North East India	India
1901	4271978		
1911	5058699	1.70	0.56
1921	6005043	1.72	-0.03
1931	7172512	1.79	1.04
1941	8618116	1.85	1.33
1951	10260371	1.76	1.25
1961	14500572	3.52	1.96
1971	19582296	3.05	2.22
1981	24751604	2.37	2.20
1991	31547314	2.46	2.14
2001	38409793	1.98	1.95
2011	44980294	1.59	1.64

Fig: Showing the Trend of population growth in North-East India (1901-2011)

The table reveals that during 1921-1941 the growth rate in the region was 1.85% in comparison to the nation as a whole 1.33%. After the next decade (1941-1951) also the annual growth of population in the region was far above the country's average, where North East India recorded about 1.76% and the whole nation 1.25%.

In North East India, the peak of the annual growth rate of population was recorded during 1951-1961 (3.52%). The alarming growth rate of population has never been experienced by the region in its demographic history which is the result of not only high fertility but due mainly to immigration

After this peak though the region recorded notable decline in the growth of population but was always above the country's average. For example during the period 1961-1971 the average

annual growth rate in the region was 3.05% as against the country's growth rate 2.22% which is proceeds through a decline trend and recorded 1.59% during 2001-2011.

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD OF POPULATION GROWTH**

After the Independence the rate of population growth in North East India was higher. The high rate of increase is primarily due to the influx of the immigrants from inside and outside of India in different places of North East India.

During the first decade of Post-Independence period (1951-1961), North East India recorded tremendous growth of population. In this period Tripura recorded highest average annual

growth rate 5.96% followed by Nagaland (5.62%), Mizoram (3.06%), Assam and Manipur (3.04%) and Meghalaya (2.42%).

The growth rate even more spectacular during 1961-1971. In this period Nagaland reached at the top of population growth in the region (3.40%) annual growth rate followed by Arunachal Pradesh (3.34), Manipur (3.24%), Tripura (3.14%), Assam (3.04%), Meghalaya (2.76%), and Mizoram (2.24%).

Interestingly, during the next decade (1971-1981), the average annual growth rate of population in Nagaland and Mizoram shot up to 4.15% and 4.06% respectively followed by Arunachal Pradesh (3.05%), Meghalaya (2.82%), Tripura (2.81%), while Manipur and Assam recorded a decline growth rate of population.

It is to be noted that, during the period of 1981-1991 and 1991-2001, the highest growth rate of population again recoded by Nagaland with an average annual growth rate 4.55% and 5.09% respectively. But during the period of 2001-2011 Nagaland recorded a negative average annual growth rate (-0.04%), while Meghalaya recorded highest population growth rate (2.54%) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (2.33%), Mizoram (2.06%).

Table: State wise trend of population growth in North East India (1951-2011)

State	Population							Average annual growth rate				
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	1991-2001	2001-11
Arunachal Pradesh		336558	467511	631839	864558	1098328	1382611		3.34	3.18	2.42	2.33
Assam	8028856	10837329	14625152	18041248	22414322	26638600	31169272	3.04	3.04	2.19	1.74	1.58
Manipur	577635	780037	1072753	1420953	1837149	2294480	2721756	3.04	3.24	2.60	2.24	1.72
Meghalaya	605674	769380	1011699	1335819	1774778	2306540	2964007	2.42	2.76	2.88	2.65	2.54
Mizoram	196202	266063	332390	493757	689756	889690	1091014	3.06	2.24	3.40	2.56	2.06
Nagaland	212975	369200	516449	774930	1209546	1990275	1980602	5.62	3.40	4.55	5.09	-0.04
Tripura	639029	1142005	1556342	2053058	2757205	3191880	3671032	5.96	3.14	2.99	1.47	1.40
North East India	10260371	14500572	19582296	24751604	31547314	38409793	44980294	3.52	3.05	2.45	1.98	1.59
India	361088090	439234771	548159652	683329097	846302688	1028737690	1210193422	1.98	2.24	2.16	1.97	1.64

## 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 causes 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.