



**POPULATION GROWTH - A BOON OR BANE:
AN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Edited by
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POPULATION GROWTH - A BOON OR BANE: AN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

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**IMPACT OF POPULATION ON IRRIGATION WATER AND
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**



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Abstract

Growing population coupled with sustainable developmental efforts has an increasing stress on water resources. The improper distribution over time and space of water resources and their alternation through human use and overutilization are sources of water crises in many parts of the world. All these result in intensifying the

pressure on water resources leading to chaos, dispute among users and too much pressure on the environment. So this paper has concentrate on impact of population on irrigation water and agricultural development.

Keywords: *Irrigation, population, Agriculture, development in India.*

Introduction

Water is indispensable for sustaining life and environment. With the population explosion and modern life style, pressure on water resource is increasing day by day. We are heading towards water crisis as there is every likelihood that it will become a scarce commodity, otherwise, which is consider to be always available in abundance and free gift of nature. In the economic development of a country especially an agriculture country like India, soil and water plays an important role. India is blessed with good rainfall and water resources, still the scarcity is felt everywhere not only for agriculture but also for drinking purpose. The average annual rainfall is about 1150mm compared to world average of about 840mm. the sunshine is also favorable to take crops throughout year, but the every-growing population demand the optimum utilization of fixed land and water resource of country.

India's population stands at 1.27 bn and is estimated to rise at a steady pace to reach 1.6 bn by the year 2050. (According to the World Bank estimates) Even though food grain production has increased significantly over the years, there is a need for the production to increase even further in order to meet the ever growing demand created with this population increase. Given the fact that land and water are limited resources, this would require an improvement in the productivity of crops. Additionally, of all the economic sectors, agriculture is the one where water scarcity has greatest relevance. Agriculture claims 70 percent of the global freshwater and nearly 90 percent of its consumptive use. According to the UN FAO, in 2010, irrigation & livestock accounted for 91 percent of water withdrawal in India, which is well above the global average. India has 18 percent of the world's population with only 4 percent of the usable water resources and is expected to face the brunt of looming water scarcity crisis. **With the need to increase productivity while saving water, modern irrigation technique will play a key role for the future of Indian agriculture.**



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