



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

Edited by  
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## IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON ENVIRONMENT

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### **Abstract**

Human beings evolved under the conditions of high mortality and high fertility rates over the period of time. The rapid increase of human Population is anything pressure on environment. Due to industrialization, resources are depleted and continue to pollute the environment many

parts of the world also suffer from shortage of food and water due to rapid growth of population need of an hour to arrest the growth population without affecting environment  
**Keywords:** Demographic transition, longevity, mortality, land fragmentation.

Human beings evolved under conditions of high mortality due to famines, accidents, illnesses, infections and war and therefore the relatively high fertility rates were essential for species survival. In spite of the relatively high fertility rates it took all the time from evolution of mankind to the middle of the 19th century for the global population to reach one billion. The twentieth century witnessed an unprecedented rapid improvement in health care technologies and access to health care all over the world; as a result there was a steep fall in the mortality and steep increase in longevity. The population realized these changes and took steps to reduce their fertility but the decline in fertility was not so steep. As a result the global population has undergone a fourfold increase in a hundred years and has reached 6 billion.

### **Demographic Transition**

Demographers refer to these changes from stable population with high fertility and mortality to a new stability in population due to low fertility and mortality patterns as demographic transition. Demographic transition occurs in four phases; of these the first three phases are characterized by population growth. In the first phase there is a fall in death rate and improvement in longevity; this leads to population growth. In the second phase there is a fall in birth rate but fall is less steep than fall in death rates and consequently there is population growth. In the third phase death rates plateau and replacement level of fertility is attained but the population growth continues because of the large size of population in reproductive age group. The fourth phase is characterized by fall in birth rate to below replacement level and reduction in the proportion of the population in reproductive age group; as a result of these changes population growth ceases and population stabilizes. Experience in some of the developed countries suggest that in some societies even after attainment of stable population there may be a further decline in fertility so that there is a further reduction in the population- so called negative population growth phase of the demographic transition. Different countries in the



Published by  
**L'ORDINE NUOVO PUBLICATION**  
crppublication@gmail.com  
www.nuovopublication.com

ISBN 938678290-1

