

Assesment of Sustainable Development Goals and Population in Punjab

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Abstract:

The rising population poses challenges especially to developing country such as India, in terms of resources and necessities. India becomes the most populated country in the world. The rising population puts pressure on resources and services, leading to environment degradation, poverty and inequality in India but Punjab has witnessed a significant decrease in its population growth rate in recent decades. This decrease in population growth presents both challenges and opportunities for the state's pursuit of sustainable development. The purpose of the study is to analyze the population growth and sustainable development goals in Punjab. The population growth of 0 – 14 years has a negative effect on sustainable development, while 15-64 years have positive effect on sustainable development. The study evaluated that the challenges in sustainable development goals progress and dynamics of population in Punjab.

Keywords: Dynamics Population, SDGs, Population growth, Degradation.

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly adopted, in September 2015, the post2015 development agenda named 'Transforming the World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' as the plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. The scope and the ambition of the Agenda are reflected in terms of its 17 Goals and 169 targets. Sustainable development may be defined as the development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is argued that it is crucial to harmonize three core elements - economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection - to achieve sustainable development (United Nations, 2015). These elements are interconnected and all the three are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies. Surprisingly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations is silent about the fourth and the most important dimension of sustainable development - the population dimension. It is well known that pervasive poverty, environmental degradation and hazards, the use of natural resources, and economic and social development are closely linked to population growth, distribution and structure. It is also recognized that unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are depleting natural resources and causing environmental degradation, while reinforcing social inequity and poverty. It is therefore important to recognise the interrelationship between population, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection - the three dimensions of sustainable development. In the context of sustainable development, it is imperative that the population dimension is explicitly recognized in all strategies of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

The population dimension of sustainable development is not just about the implications of population growth on economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. It is also about the

implications of the changes in population age structure resulting in demographic dividend and population ageing and mobility - urbanization and migration. These dimensions are central to any development process and, therefore, have direct bearings on the realization of Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets as identified in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The rapid population growth and economic development in country are degrading the environment through the uncontrolled growth of urbanization and industrialization, expansion and intensification of agriculture, and the destruction of natural habitats. One of the major causes of environmental degradation in India could be attributed to rapid growth of population, which is adversely affecting the natural resources and environment. The growing population and the environmental deterioration face the challenge of sustained development without environmental damage.. Punjab's population growth rate has been consistently declining over the last decade. The statistics of civil registration system (CRS) show that the annual addition to population in Punjab fell by 50 percent from 2011 to 2020. The population growth in Punjab was over 3.23lakh but in 2020, the figure fell 1.51 lakh. The state contributed 2.37 percent to India's population in 2001, but this fell to 2.29percent in 2011. The per capita income for the state is higher than the national average. Punjab is at the top amongst the eight high income states in the country (Punjab Vision 2030). The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2017-18 is 5 lakh crores. Punjab's development model is considered to be the most equitable model among the states. With its focus on equity, Punjab has achieved one of the lowest percentage of families under poverty line (BPL).

Objectives of the study

The objective of study to examine population growth and sustainable development in Punjab.

Research Methodology

The study is based on secondary data .data has been collected from various websites, journal articles and research papers.

Population growth and sustainable development in Punjab:

The UN sustainable development goals haven put in place. The SDGs also called global goals are a universal call to all the nations on the planet to end poverty, protect our planet from hazardous substances, and make the world a place where prosperity prevails. Punjab stands at the 12 rank amongst all the states in India when it comes to implementing sustainable development goals Punjab. It has scored a total score of 68 with a score of 100 on 22 indicators. Punjab has elevated from category of performance in 2018-19 to the category of front runner in 2020-21. Though the composite score has shown considerable improvement, but the ranking of state has remained the same at 12.

Punjab SDG-wise index score 2020-21

| SDGs | SCORE |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| SDG 1: No Poverty | 69 |
| SDG 2: Zero Hunger | 73 |
| SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being | 77 |
| SDG 4: Quality Education | 60 |
| SDG 5: Gender Equality | 45 |

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| SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation | 66 |
| SDG 7: Affordable and clean Energy | 100 |
| SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth | 57 |
| SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | 69 |
| SDG 10: Reduced Inequality | 68 |
| SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | 91 |
| SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production | 71 |
| SDG 13: Climate Action | 51 |
| SDG 15: Life on Land | 48 |
| SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions | 76 |

The above table shows that for SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) Punjab is ranked 1 among States and for SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy) State is ranked 1 along with 14 other states. State has shown progress in 7 SDGs i.e. SDG 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), 7 (affordable & Clean Energy), 10 (Reduce Inequality), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). State's performance has declined in 7 SDGs i.e. SDG 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 16(Peace and Justice Strong Institution). On SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) there is no change in this field.

Major Achievements

The major achievement of Punjab reduction in Under 5 Child Mortality-23 achieved the SDG Indicator · Institutional Deliveries are 98.5%. Gender Parity Index for Higher education (18 23 years) is 1.35. Nearly 100 % schools have basic infrastructure (electricity, drinking water). 94.11 % of industries complied with CPCB norms is 94.11%. 100 % targeted habitations connected by all weather roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY). 100% of Bio-Mass Waste treated to total quantity of BMW generated

| Indicator | SDG Index Composite | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Score3.0 (2020- 2021) | Score Surge |
| Percentage of seats held by women in Panchayat Raj Institutions | 100 | 73 |
| Labour Force Participation Rate (%) (15 years-59 years) | 39 | 26 |
| Unemployment rate (%) 15-59 years | 83 | 19 |
| Under 5 mortality rate per 1000 live births | 100 | 15 |
| Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)(per 100000 live births) | 129 | - |

As shown in the above table, the Maternal Mortality and under 5 mortality rate is 129/ lakh live births and 100/1000 live births which show that Malnourishment and Anemia among children & women is high despite being a food rich state. The data shows that 77.66% persons provided employment as a percentage of persons who demanded employment under MGNREGA. Learning Outcomes of students in grade III, V, VIII and X achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in terms of nationally defined learning outcomes is 61.6. Female Labour Force participation ratio (15-49 age) is 0.26.

Decrease in Population Growth and Sustainable Development in Punjab

Punjab is fast losing its youth to this lure of migration. While earlier, the youth used to go abroad for higher education after graduation, today, the children are leaving on a large scale after class XII, and they have no intention of coming back. There has been a steep decline in boys joining colleges—the girls outnumber them. As a result of this, the number of Punjabi youths, especially from the rural areas, entering the services, has gone down drastically. Punjab has witnessed a significant decrease in its population growth rate in recent decades. This decrease presents both challenges and opportunities for the state's pursuit of sustainable development. Punjab's total fertility rate (TFR), which indicates the average number of children born per woman, has declined from 3.4 in 2001 to 1.6 in 2021. This signifies a significant shift towards a smaller family size. Several factors contribute to this decline, including increased female education, improved access to family planning services, and changing social norms. A smaller population can lead to a shrinking workforce in the long run, potentially impacting economic growth and the availability of skilled labor. As the population ages, the dependency ratio (ratio of dependents to working population) increases, putting strain on social security systems and healthcare resources. On the other hand, Migration of youth from rural areas to urban centers in search of better opportunities can lead to rural depopulation, affecting agricultural productivity and infrastructure development in rural areas.

Government Initiatives:

The Punjab government has recognized the changing population dynamics and launched the Punjab Population Policy 2017. This policy aims to Stabilize population growth through promoting family planning and empowering women, Invest in education and healthcare to improve the quality of life for all citizens, Promote sustainable development by focusing on resource conservation and environmental protection.

Conclusion:

The decrease in population growth in Punjab presents both challenges and opportunities for achieving sustainable development. A smaller population can lead to a shrinking workforce in the long run, potentially impacting economic growth and the availability of skilled labor. As the population ages, the dependency ratio (ratio of dependents to working population) increases, putting strain on social security systems and healthcare resources. Punjab stands at the 12 rank amongst all the states in India when it comes to implementing sustainable development goals Punjab. It has scored a total score of 68 with a score of 100 on 22 indicators. To achieve the SDG agenda on time by accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs in Punjab, by implementing effective policies, the state can navigate this transition and build a prosperous and sustainable future for its citizens.

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