

## A STUDY OF POPULATION AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TOWARDS SMALL FAMILY AND POPULATION EDUCATION

**Dr. Shalini Yadav\***

### ABSTRACT

*The world population has already crossed the 7 billion mark. India's population is also increasing at the rate of 1.4 percent every year. We have crossed 1.21 billion marks already 2 years back. Every year we add an Australia in our country's population. Whether we are aware of this fact of population increase or not. To know this fact this study has been conducted on a sample of 1000 students and 400 high school teachers of Haryana. Population Awareness Tests- Level A and Level b (Hindi version) were administered. Results indicated that most of the teachers and as well as students were found to have moderate level of population awareness. The students as well as teachers have highly favourable attitude towards small family and population education.*

### INTRODUCTION

On 31st Oct. 2011, the population of the world has touched the 7 billion mark and by 2013 it has crossed 7.2 billion marks and it is estimated that by 2050 it will touch the mark of 9.6 and by 2100 it will touch 10.9 billion marks. About 78 million people are added to the world population every year. 5 children take birth every second in the world. According to an U.N. projection the world population would stabilize at about 10.2 billion by 2085. It is estimated that most population growth will take place in less developed countries, whose numbers are projected to rise to 7.9 billion in 2050. The population of poor countries like Afghanistan, Burundi, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Niger, East Timor and Uganda are projected to at least triple by mid century. By 2050 half of the population of the world will reside in India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the democratic republic of Congo, Ethiopia, America, Bangladesh and China. It is further estimated that there would be no change in the population of the developed countries even after 37 years in 2050. It will remain the same.

The world can be divided into three categories on the basis of population growth rate. There are countries which have higher growth rate than the world average (Asian countries); then there are countries with a zero growth rate (Scandinavian countries). There are countries with a negative growth rate

(Luxemburg and Hungary). Asian countries account for about 59% of the total world population. Six of the most populous countries in this region are Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Pakistan.

In India the situation is also alarming. We have reached 1, 21, 07, 26, 932 (121.07 crore) mark by 2011. Our country, one of the ten most populous countries, accounts for 17.5% of the total world population with 2.4% of world's total land area and with a high dependency ratio of 42%. If the present growth rate of 1.4 (in last five years) continues the population of the country will be 1.7 billion by 2060. About 1.8 crore people are added in country's population every year. Every year we add an Australia (Haryana) in terms of human numbers. With a wide gap between birth rate and death rate our country's population is increasing very rapidly. Though, there is a slight decline in our growth rate, the goal of national reproductive rate of one which is consistent with a birth rate of 21% at national level, seems remote, going by the present birth rates and trends.

This population explosion is giving rise to a number of problems. It is one of the greatest barriers to economic growth and social well being of the nations. What would such totals for India and the world mean in terms of the alleviation of poverty, the status of women and children, and the sustainability of developmental programmes.

\*Asstt. Prof., Rao Abhay Singh College of Education, Saharanwas, Rewari (Haryana)



To what degree we are consuming today the very capital required to achieve decent standards of living for future generations?

Considerable progress in the area of population control had been recorded between the sixth and eleventh plans but this had to be stepped several folds, given the magnitude of the problem. From 1950 to 2013 more than 12 crore births have been averted at a cost of Rs. 343 per birth.

Haryana came into existence on Nov. 1, 1966 after the bifurcation of Punjab. It is covering an area of 44,221 sq. km. According to the census of 2011 its population is 25253081 (2.09%) of the total population of the country with a decadal growth rate of 28.06%. Its population is also increasing at an abnormal rate.

There seem to be three possible ways to deal with this problem:

- A. Persuasion with the help of mass media.
- B. Operations (family planning ways and means).
- C. Education.

The government has been doing the persuasion work with the help of T.V., Radio, Posters, family planning workers and other means. In the area of sterilization, I.U.D. and contraception enough money has been spent. Persuasion and operation table have not been able to achieve the desired goals. Education is superior to both these methods. Indeed to plan families is more important for younger generation than for those who have already made their contribution to our demographic profile. The govt. policy on health and family welfare has also stated that "steps should be taken to see that youths get population education as part of their normal courses of study". The govt. has emphasized the need to introduce "population values" in the educational system. It is essential that the younger generation should grow up with an adequate awareness of the population problem and a realization of their responsibility in this regard. We must realize that it is not only a clinical problem and the operation table is not the sole remedy. We need to create an intellectual atmosphere, so that people voluntarily take to family planning methods. And such a climate can

only be created through education. Education will not be worthwhile at all, if it does not bring about an all round consciousness about the various problems facing the country, and most certainly the problem of increasing numbers is the most urgent. It is high time that teachers, educators and educational administrators and planners realize their responsibility in the context. And most certainly population awareness is a continuing problem and must be taken as such. Both, today and tomorrow as well as the day after are involved. Therefore, our target population should flow right from the nursery classes through the primary, middle, secondary and college levels right into adulthood.

### **POPULATION AWARENESS**

By population awareness is meant the knowledge and awareness about the different aspects of population like demographic aspect, population and resources, population and environment. What impact this growth of population will have on our national life.

### **POPULATION EDUCATION**

It may be defined as the study of the three variables, namely demographic landscape, population and environment/ ecology, with the purpose of developing rational attitude, values and behavior among the people. In other words it can be regarded as an educational programme which provides for the study of the population phenomenon so as to enable the students to take rational decision towards problems arising out rapid population growth.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- A) The main objectives of the study are:
- i) To assess the degree of population awareness in the Haryana school students.
  - ii) To assess the degree of the population awareness in the Haryana school teachers.
  - iii) To study the attitude of school students towards small family and population education.
  - iv) To study the attitude of school teachers towards small family and population education.

**B) Subsidiary objectives:**

- i) To make a comparative study of the population awareness of male and female school students.
- ii) To make a comparative study of the population awareness of rural and urban school students.
- iii) To make a comparative study of the attitude of rural and urban students towards small family and population education.
- v) To make a comparative study of the attitude of male and female school teachers towards small family and population education.

400 Teachers (200 male & 200 female) from high schools of Rewari and Gurgaon District were taken in the sample.

**TOOLS**

- 1. Population Awareness Test(Level A) meant for school students. By B.S. Parakh and D.P. Jain of N.C.E.R.T., Delhi.
- 2. Population Awareness Test (Level B) meant for Teachers. By D.P. Jain & B.S. Parakh.
- 3. Attitude scale for measuring attitude towards small family and population education by Sodhi and Sharma.

**HYPOTHESES**

In order to carry out the study with clarity and arrive at testable conclusions the hypotheses are stated in null form in the following ways:

- i) The school students in Haryana do not have proper population awareness.
- ii) The school teachers in Haryana do not have proper population awareness.
- iii) The attitude of school teachers is not favorable towards small family and population education.
- iv) The male and female students do not differ significantly in their awareness regarding population.
- v) The male and female students do not differ significantly in their attitude towards small family and population education.
- vi) The male and female school teachers do not differ significantly in their attitude towards small family and population education.
- vii) The urban and rural students do not differ significantly in their population awareness and also in their attitude towards small family and population education.

After selecting the sample the data were collected. Scoring was done and analysis of data was done by using the following statistical techniques. Mean, S.D., 't' value, percentage, correlation, graph etc.

**FINDINGS**

**A. POPULATION AWARENESS OF STUDENTS:**

Three categories of students were formed on the basis of the means and standard deviations of their population awareness scores by doing plus and minus of the S.D. from the Mean. The categories were like the following:

**SCORE RANGE**

Poor population awareness 40-60

Moderate population awareness 61-75

High population awareness 76-95

- 1. Most of the students (68.60 percent) fall in moderate category of population awareness.
- 2. 15.40 percent students possess a very low level of population awareness.
- 3. 16 percent students have exhibited high level of population awareness.
- 4. 65.625 percent male students have been found to have moderate level of population awareness.
- 5. Almost equal number of male students 17 percent and 17.375 percent have been placed in poor and high categories of population awareness respectively.
- 6. 80.50 percent girl students possess moderate level of population awareness.

**PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY**

**Method:** Descriptive survey method of research has been used.

**Sample:** 1000 students(500 girls and 500 boys) of IX and X class of the

**Schools from two districts-** Gurgaon and Rewari of Haryana. The students are from both the areas- rural and urban.

7. 9 percent girls are in poor category of population awareness whereas 10.50 percent fall in high category. That is to say that nine percent of the girls have poor knowledge of population phenomena whereas ten and a half percent possess a very high knowledge of population dynamics.
  8. If we compare boys and girls, we find that in the poor category of population awareness the percentage of boys (17 percent) is greater than that of the girls (9 percent).
  9. In the category of moderate population awareness, the percentage of girls, (80.50) is greater than (65.625) of the boys.
  10. In the high category of population awareness, the boys have fared well. Their percentage (17.375) is greater than that (10.50) of the girls.
  11. If we analyse the population awareness position of the students district wise, we find that the highest percentage of students in the high category of population awareness is from Gurgaon district. A contradictory finding is also there when we see that the highest percentage of students in the poor category comes from Gurgaon district (Exactly equal 22 percent in poor and 22 percent in high).
  12. Majority of the students from the district Rewari fall in moderate category.
  13. A greater percentage of girls from Gurgaon district have high level of population awareness. Their knowledge of population dynamics is greater than that of the girls from Rewari district.
  14. In the matter of different components of population awareness, we find that in some of them significant differences have been found in male and female students.
- In the case of the urban and rural students it is found that the urban students have higher population awareness as compared to rural students. 50.96 percent of urban students have high population awareness whereas 49 percent of rural youths have high population awareness. In moderate category of population awareness too, the urban students have shown better results in comparison to rural students (51.36 urban and 48.64 rural).
- In poor category of population awareness we find that the percentage of rural students is greater than that of the urban students (57.75 rural and 42.25 urban).

## **B. POPULATION AWARENESS OF TEACHERS:**

Like those of the students three categories of teachers were formed in the matter of population awareness. The findings are:

1. Most of the teachers (68 percent) fall in the moderate category of population awareness.
2. 14.75 percent teachers have a very poor amount of population awareness.
3. 17.25 percent teachers have high level of population awareness.
4. Sex wise, too, we find that most of the teachers both male and female have moderate level of population awareness (66.50 percent males and 69.50 percent females).
5. In the high category of population awareness both male and female teachers are almost equal in percentage (17 percent male and 17.50 percent female).
6. 16.50 percent male teachers and 13 percent female teachers have poor level of population awareness.
7. No significant difference exists in the population awareness of male and female teachers. The value of  $t_{.088}$  is not significant at any level of significance.
8. District wise, it has been found that the teachers from Gurgaon district (20 percent) are at the top in high population awareness category. 14.50 percent teachers from Gurgaon district are in poor category of



population awareness. In high category the percentage of Rewari district is 14.50. in poor category of population awareness 14.75 percent teachers are there almost equal percentage of both the districts Rewari 15 and Gurgaon 14.5.

9. Most of the teachers (68 percent) possess moderate level of population awareness. Here, the district wise sequence is Rewari (70.50) Gurgaon (65.50).
- 10 On the whole female teachers have shown better performance in the matter of population awareness than their male counterparts.
- 11 In different components of population awareness, except in the area of family life education (FLY) (t-value 2.288, significant at .05 level), no significant differences have been observed. In family life education (FLY) area female teachers have shown better awareness than male teachers.

#### **ATTITUDE OF SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS SMALL FAMILY AND POPULATION EDUCATION**

Mostly the students are in favour of small family. They also favour the idea of teaching population education to the students. 41.57 percent girls are having highly favourable attitude towards the concept of small family. They are of the view that in today's time small family is the ideal family. Prosperity and happiness can only be there if the size of the family is kept small. 42.33 percent of the girls are having a moderate view regarding the concept of small family.

16.10 percent girls have very low scores in this area. They do not favour the idea of small family. They are of the view that large the size of the family, larger amount can be earned by the members of the family.

54 percent girls are having highly favourable attitude towards the introduction of population education in the school curriculum. They are of the view that the subject of population education should be taught to the students at the school stage.

37.20 percent female students are having moderate attitude towards population education.

8.80 percent of the girls do not favour the idea of population education.

On the whole we see that the attitude of the female students towards small family and population education is quiet good. The younger generation is more keen to have a very small number of children. Even the girls of today who are more career minded prefer only one child male or female. They are of the view that the subject of population education should be introduced as early as possible in the school curriculum.

53 percent of the male students are having highly favourable attitude towards small family. 47.72 percent boys have highly favourable attitude towards the introduction of population education. 34.05 percent boys have moderate attitude towards small family. 41.17 percent of the boys have moderate attitude towards the concept of population education. 12.95 percent (approximately 13%) of the boys do not have favourable attitude towards small family. Also 11.11 percent boys do not favour population education to be introduced in the mostly the students favour the concept of small family. They are also in favour of introducing the subject of population education in the school curriculum.

#### **Attitude of Teachers towards small family and population education**

40.23 percent of female teachers have highly favourable attitude towards small family concept. 41.76 percent have shown moderately favourable attitude whereas 18.01 percent of the female teachers have shown least favourable attitude towards small family.

As regards their attitude towards population education 54.72 percent female teachers are having highly favourable attitude towards population education. 35.70 percent are having moderately favourable attitude whereas 9.58 percent female teachers are having least favourable attitude towards population education. In the case of the male teachers we find that 45.72 percent are having highly favourable attitude; 43.28 percent are having moderately favourable attitude whereas 11.00 percent have shown least favourable attitude towards population education.

There is no significant difference between the attitudes of male and female school teachers towards small family concept. Both the groups have almost similar attitude, though the Mean value of the attitude scores of the male teachers in the case of small family is somewhat higher.

Regarding the attitude towards population education male and female teachers differ significantly. Female teachers have more favourable attitude towards population education in comparison to male teachers. So the null hypothesis that the male and female teachers do not differ significantly in their attitude towards small family and population education is accepted partially and it is rejected partially. In their attitude towards small family both the groups do not differ but in their attitude towards population education both groups differ significantly.

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