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Indian population in transition.

Author: Saxena GB**Source:** New Delhi, Commercial Publications Bureau, 1971. 242 p.

Abstract: This book focuses on the transition of population in India in the 20th century (no data are available regarding the size of population in ancient or medieval India). The recent history of Indian population growth can be divided into 2 periods: before 1921 and after 1921. Total growth during 1901-1921 was about 5% or an average of 1% per annum. Population actually declined in the period 1911-1921 because of natural calamities (famine, epidemics). During the period 1921-1961 however, population increase was an alarming 75%, or a net addition of 188 million, or an average of 47 million per decade. This population increase was attributed to the absence of natural calamities which claimed the lives of many prior to 1921 and kept population at a low level. Rapid population growth characterized the post 1921 period. The 1951-1960 decade had the highest population growth rate. More important had been the huge absolute increment in population size. During this 1951-1960 decade, 78 million people were added to the population, more than 6 times the population of Australia and New Zealand in 1960. The decline in mortality during this period gave way to population explosion, and with it, food shortages, overcrowding, overall scarcity, and social unrest. This book describes in detail the components of population growth in India. The analysis is based on data collected from Indian Census reports. The first chapter deals with the program needs and problems of Indian demographic research and training, and discusses briefly the history of the development of demography and population policy in India. The next 2 chapters discuss the organization of Indian census and civil registration. The remaining chapters examine trends in Indian population growth and various population components (birth, death and fertility rates, migration, and future trends in fertility and mortality and their implications).

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