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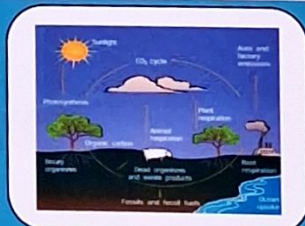
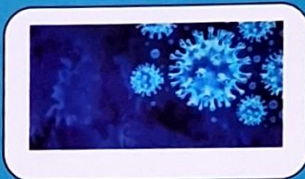
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- Dr. R. V. Bhole

'Ravichandram' Survey No-101/1, Plot
No-23, Mundada Nagar, Jalgaon

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Dr. B. N. Paul, Dr. C.J. Kadam, Prof. T. A. Jahagirdar, Dr. Naresh Pinamkar
Dr. C. V. Panchal, Dr. Nisar Syed, Mr. Santosh P Mane



Address
'Ravichandram' Survey No-101/1, Plot, No-23,
Mundada Nagar, Jalgaon (M.S.) 425102

डॉ. नरेश पिनामकर सर

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On

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30	Nutritional and Nutraceutical significance of finger millet (Eleusine coracana L.Gaertn): A Review. S. V. Hajare, A. A. Kulkarni, S. A. Kulkarni	90-94
31	Advantages of Strength Training In Competitive Swimming Dr. Gopal Moghe	95-96
32	Financial Technology Dr.Dhalgade A. B.	97-99
33	Lockdown Impact on Biodiversity and Environmental Pollution Dr. M. S. Pentewar	100-101
34	A Study of Equity Returns of Bajaj Finance to the Shareholders– A Case Study Dr. Shrinivas S. Jagtap	102-104
35	Protection of Environment: Duty and Responsibility in Modern Era Joshi Shubhada Ramesh, Dr. Survase Pradnya Annarao	105-106
36	Article-The Effect of Natural and Man-Made Disasters in India Waghmare Bhagyashri Bhima	107-108
37	Impact of GST on Various Sectors of Indian Economy Mr. Vinod Dhondiram Late	109-110
38	Solid Waste Management by Amravati Municipality Corporation before and during Global Pandemic Scenario: A case study to understand Strategy and Policy for Solid waste management during COVID 19 Pandemic Dr Pratibha Mahalle, Dr Gajendrasingh Pachlore, Dr Anil J Gour	111-113
39	Environmental Impact of Technology Saima Firdaus Mohammed Yaseen, Dr. Pradnya Survase	114-116
40	Impact of Environmental Covid 19 Effect on Indian Industrial Development Rahul Ramesh Godbole, Mahesh Mahadev Kapale, Rajani Philip Shinde	117-118
41	Impact of Covid-19 on Indian Economy Rahul Ramesh Godbole, Mahesh Mahadev Kapale, Rajani Philip Shinde	119-121
42	Impact of COVID-19 on Customers of Health Insurance Sector Bhavnani Girish Tarachand, Dr. Sambhaji Shivaaji Jadhav	122-127
43	Impact of Environment on Health R. M. Mahindrakar, R. V. Suryawanshi	128-129
44	Job Satisfaction of Women In Education Sector Varma Priya Parashramji, Dr. Sambhaji S. Jadhav	130-132
45	Role in the studies characterization of physico-chemical parameters of water sample in Mukhed Area. Dist. Nanded Maharashtra. Ambulgekar U. V.	133-135
46	Spatio-Temporal Changes In Cropping Pattern In Beed District Dr.Deshmukh S.B.	136-137
47	Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic and Environment Assessment Dr. Hashmi Irshad Mohiuddin	138-140
48	Impact of Population Growth on Environment in India Dr. Naresh V. Pinamkar, Dr. Ajit M. Mulajkar	141-143
49	Access to Water Supply and Sanitation – A Human Right Ms. Tanvi Thakkar, Ms. Savina R. Crasto	144-147
50	Study On Agriculture Water Resource Management In India Yedatkar R. B., Naik AP	148-151
51	The Variety of Themes and Subjects of Hardy's Poetry Dr.Dwijendra Nath Burman	152-154
52	Industry 4.0 and its Impact in India Dr. Prakash Ratanlal Rodiya	155-159
53	Impact Of Environment On Health Dr Vidya N Jadhav	160-161
54	Thermodynamic properties of aqueous solution of Isoniazid at different temperatures. S. B. Ingole, C. D. Thakur, D. P. Kamble, Y.P. Sarnikar, A. G. Shankarwar	162-163
55	Road Transportation : "Constructive Economical Means V/s Destructive ecological ends" Miss Pradnya V. Dseshpande, Dr. Avinash V. Talmale.	164-167
56	COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis and the Way Forward for India Dr. Surajkumar S. Prasad	168-169
57	Ayurvedic Remedies of Typhoid Fever Dr. Rajeshwar Kshirsagar, Mr. Vikas Gawande, Mr. Kaluram Khillare, Mr. Chetan Pawar	170-172
58	Recovery of Adsorbed Metal ions from the Granular Activated Carbon Dr.Vrushali Ravindra Kinbhikar	173-175
59	A Study of Irrigation Facilities and Gross Cropped Area in Hingoli District (M.S.) Dr. Vajinath Kantiram Chavan	176-178
60	Synthesis of Radiolabeled ¹⁸ F-Fluoropropyl quinoline-5,8-diones under no-carrier-added (NCA) condition. Dr. Sachin U Kalme	179-180
61	Impact of Air Pollution on Environment and Health: A Review Milind Kashinath Patel, Anil Gokul Beldar and Rajendra Vitthal Patil	181-183

Impact of Population Growth on Environment in India.

Dr. Naresh V. Pinamkar¹ Dr. Ajit M. Mulajkar²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya, Nilanga
Email: nareshpinamkar@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor & Head Department of English, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya, Nilanga
Email: ammulajkar@gmail.com

Introduction:

India is basically known as a country of villages. With over seven lakh villages at the time of independence, India was one of the major rural based countries. Agriculture is still the basic vocation of more than 55% population in India. Thus the rural dominance still exists in the context of India. Since the economic reforms in 1991, the overall economic structure has changed in India. The economic reforms created a platform for the faster economic growth and development through industrialization and privatization. This scenario attracted the rural human resource towards urban areas for their employment. However, many people from rural backgrounds migrated to different urban cities in the last two-three decades. This has created a huge pressure on the urban infrastructure in the past few years. At the same time, the population growth is observed in both rural and urban areas. The ever increasing population and urbanization has posed serious questions in front of the policy makers in the recent past. Population has been a major concern for Asian countries like India and China. Both the countries share more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the global population. The growth in population is causing multiple hurdles in the path of economic development especially in case of India. Population growth creates pressure on agriculture, potable water resources, health facilities, education facilities and overall socio-economic structure of the country. These problems are increasing day by day and hence there is an urgent need to address them and find long term solutions. The present research article is an attempt to focus light upon the problems of population growth and urbanization and its impact on environment from Indian point of view.

Objectives:

Following are the basic objectives of the paper-

1. To study the population profile of India.
2. To study the impact of population growth on environment in India
3. To study the urban profile of India.
4. To discuss the impact of urbanization on environment in India.

Research Methodology:-

The researchers have used analytical method of research. The research is based on demographic and social data. The data is mainly collected from secondary sources like books, journals and reports of different institutions. The data is presented in the form of tables, charts and diagrams etc.

Review of Literature:-

Dr. Nagdeve in his article has emphasized on the issues related with population growth and its impact on environment, employment, urbanization, land and forests, agricultural produce and natural resources. The study reveals a heavy growth in India's population in the middle years after independence. It is also focused that the excessive exploitation of the natural resources is going to harm the environment in the long run (Nagdeve, 2019). Dr. C.K. Lakshmana in his research article has focused on the reasons and trends of population growth in India especially in the post Independence era. The outbreak of population has given birth to too many problems like urban poverty, social imbalance, increase in crime etc. (Lakshmana, 2014).

In their article entitled as Urbanization, Population and Environment in India: A Review, Urbanization in India has been comparatively fast and uncontrolled related to many developing nations. It is more oriented to population growth than economic growth, has consistent increase pattern with stage of acceleration. In India, both has a complex relation with environmental and make it unsustainable by rapid motorization, generation of waste and waste water in huge quantity, emission of greenhouse gases, contamination of natural resource, loss of forest and agriculture land etc. (Solanki, 2017).

The primary causes of environmental degradation in India are attributed to the rapid growth of population in combination with economic development and overuse of natural resources. Major environmental calamities in India include land degradation, deforestation, soil erosion, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity. Economic growth and changing consumption patterns have led to a rising demand for energy and increasing transport activities. Air, water and noise pollution together with water scarcity dominate the environmental issues in India (Chopra, 2016)

India's Population Profile:

Table 1: Population of India and its growth, 1891-2011
 (Population figures in millions)

Year	Total Population	Decadal growth	Absolute per cent	Average annual exponential growth rate (in per cent)
1891	235.9	-	-	-
1901	238.4	1.1	1.1	0.11
1911	252.1	5.7	5.7	0.56
1921	251.3	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.3
1931	279.0	27.7	11.0	1.04
1941	318.7	39.7	14.2	1.33
1951	361.1	42.4	13.3	1.25
1961	439.2	78.1	21.5	1.96
1971	548.2	109.0	24.8	2.20
1981	683.3	135.1	24.7	2.20
1991	843.4	160.1	23.8	2.14
2001	1028.8	185.2	21.3	1.93
2011	1210.3	181.5	20.4	1.80

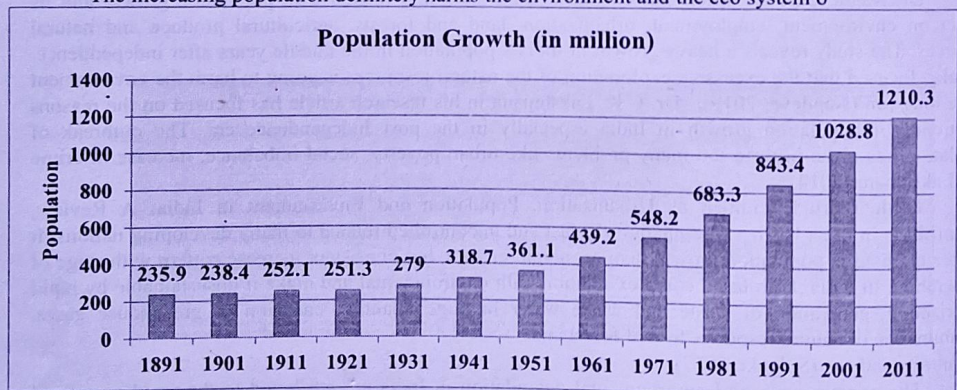
Source: (Premi, 2011)

The above table shows a definite growth in India's population over the last century. However this growth was very moderate in the initial period i.e. from 1891 to 1931. The population grown in this period was mere 43.1 million in a span of 40 years. But since 1931 there was a rising trend in the population. A significant growth of population is observed in the span of 40 years i.e. from 1931 to 1971. The total population of the country rose up from 279 million in 1931 to 548.2 million in 1971, which was almost double of what it was in 1931. So it can be said that the growth rate of population in the country was faster than the earlier period. Obviously, the rapid industrialization, urbanization and improved medical facilities in both, urban and rural areas were some of the reasons behind this rapid population growth. However, the population went on increasing in the post LPG era, which started in 1991. A significant growth in the population was observed after 1971. The decadal growth in population is very high in the last four decades. A growth of 109 million to a growth of 181.5 million in the last four decades is a worrying factor. However, the absolute per cent growth in population in the four decades after 1971 was declining from 24.8% in 1971 to 20.4% in 2011.

Chart 1: Population Growth in India

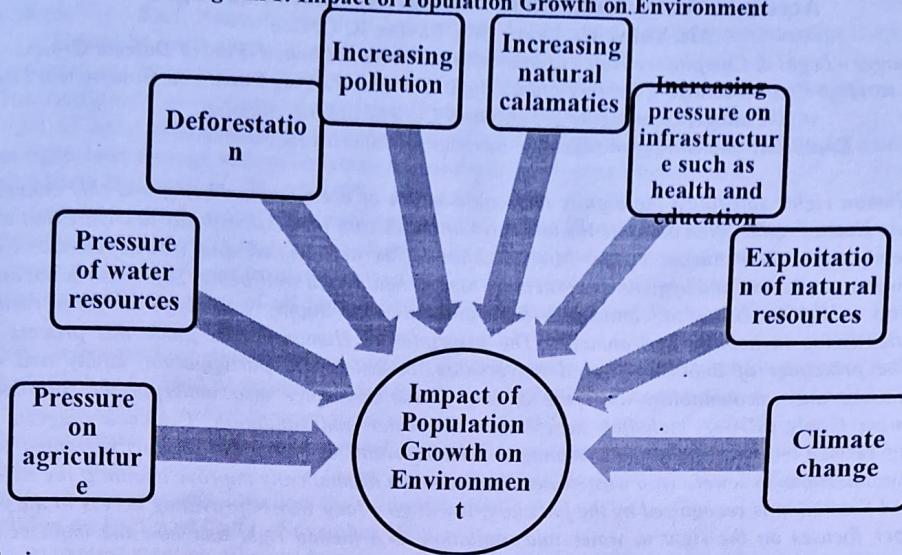
Impact of the Population Growth on Environment:

The increasing population definitely harms the environment and the eco system o



if any country. The increasing demand for physical and infrastructural development is motivating industrialization, transportation, technology and pollution at large. The increasing population is also putting a lot of pressure on different aspects such as agriculture, water resources, urban infrastructure, livelihood and sanitation etc. the following diagram depicts the impact of population growth on environment especially in Indian context.

Diagram 1: Impact of Population Growth on Environment



Conclusion:

Mother Nature has always given abundant resources to man but due to his greedy nature, he has exploited mother nature in a very bad manner. Population control is therefore a need of the hour not only to sustain the environment but also to pass the environmental heritage to our future generations. It is thus, very essential to control the artificial development at the cost of environment. Today, in the global pandemic situation of covid-19, mankind has realized the significance of trees and oxygen. Similarly it is the time to understand the limitations of the natural resources and take necessary action to control the population in India. Many social reformers from Dhondo Keshav Karve to Raghunath Karve have given their invaluable contributions in birth control movements in the last century. But it is the prime duty of the state to take affirmative actions regarding population control so that the environment can be preserved for the future generations. Production of agricultural food-grains, water resources and availability of residential land are under extreme pressure due to increasing population. Therefore, it is the time to take strict actions regarding population control and environment protection.

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