

SCENARIO OF SOCIO-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT OF N.E. INDIA

Dr. Mahananda Pathak

The total number of people inhabiting a particular area at a given time is called the population of that area. If the birth rate in an area exceeds the death rate, there is an increase in population. Of course migration of people to and from an area also affects population growth. When population increases very rapidly and the progress of a country begins to slow down then it is called population explosion. But in the technological advances in the fields of health services, transport service, education and other areas have succeeded in making our lives easier and more comfortable.

The population growth in a particular region is determined by the number of people that are added to the population. The population growth in any given area depends on two factors -

- i) The ratio of birth to death
- ii) Migration of people

I The ratio of Birth to death:
Advances in medical science have made a direct impact on population growth. Many diseases which were previously fatal and caused epidemics have now been brought under control. This has brought the death rate down. As a result of the advances in medical science the birth rate has gone up. The outcome is a growth in population. According to the 2011 census reports there were 26 births and 8 deaths per 1,000 Indian in a year.

II Migration of people: People prefer to migrate to a place where there is an agreeable climate, law and order, satisfactory educational, medical and transport facilities and where there is

no scarcity of food. People from neighboring countries, Nepal and Bangladesh, as well as people from other parts of India have migrated to Assam over a period of time. The high rate of growth of the population of certain districts in Assam is due to this factor.

Population growth has wide-spread effect on the socio-cultural environment of a place as well as on its infrastructure related to

1. Health Services
2. Transport Services
3. Educational Services

Actually, Man is a social behavior and normally lives on organized society. Regions inhabited by human have their own distinct environments. People belonging to different religions, tribes and beliefs live together in a country with each group following its own laws and customs. The socio-cultural environment of a particular society is made up of religions, languages, educational practices, traditions, laws, literature and art of the people who inhabit the area.

1. Health Services:

In Assam, a number of hospitals have been established in rural areas. However, this improvement is not sufficient to cater to the needs of the entire rural population. In urban areas private hospitals have been established in addition to the government run hospitals. The rural hospitals are understaffed and poorly equipped in comparison to the urban hospitals and this has resulted in a rush of patients from the rural to the urban areas.

The health services have not been able to keep pace with the demands of the increasing population. This can be illustrated by the following examples:

a) The number of people suffering from fatal diseases such as cancer and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been steadily increasing.

b) Even through advanced technology is available for diagnosis and treatment of diseases they are not of affordable price to many.

c) The lack of adequate medical facilities, widespread use of spurious drugs has resulted in death of patients.

2. Transport Services:

There has been tremendous development in all means of transport where it is by surface modes (water, road or rail) or by air. The result of the increase in vehicular traffic, be it two-wheeler or four wheeler, has led to a number of problems. Chief among these are:

a) An increase in the number of traffic accidents.

b) Air pollution caused by gases from automobile exhausts.

3. Educational Services:

In 1986 the National Education Policy laid down certain regulatory guidelines related to the importance of the right to education, (Ref.: The New Education Policy in India, P.D. Shukla, 1989, Sterling Publisher Pvt. Patna. Page No. 93) they are:

a) Primary education should be compulsory for all and should be free of cost.

b) Proper facilities for pursuing higher education should be available.

c) Vocational and technical education should be easily accessible to all.

Educational institutions, both private and state run, have been established in rural and urban areas to provided education at various levels. Efforts are being made to provide similar facilities in Assam as

well. The efforts have been successful at the primary stage but the effect of population growth is being felt in the field of higher education. Let us look at a few examples.

i) There is a heavy rush of students seeking admission in engineering and medical colleges.

ii) An increasing number of students are seeking admission in institutes of higher education outside Assam.

A number of students drop out of the educational system when they fail to get admission to institutes or courses of their choice.

Earth needs our support to support us. We look forward to your active role. Learn to reduce your burden and convince others too!

Conclusion:

When you understand something, you love it

When you love something, you will protect it

When you protect something, you conserve it

When you conserve something, you learn from it

Our Moto:

Think globally, Act locally, Work personally

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♣ Professor of Physics, Barbhag College & Popular Science writer of North-East India