

Population, Socio-Economic Impacts, Climate Change And the Sixth Five Year Plan

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Abstract

Bangladesh is one of the populous countries of the world. The huge population of the country is not only responsible for the socio-economic problems of Bangladesh but also it is responsible for the nationwide and in the broader sense the worldwide climate change. As a result, Bangladesh is frequently affected by different natural calamities like Sidr, Ila etc. The result of the study will hopefully contribute to the upliftment of the country's economy. The 6th five year plan aims at ensuring growth –employment-poverty reduction linkage by focusing on labour intensive urban and rural manufacturing production, based on domestic and export markets and organized services.

Key words: Tax (Fine), subsidy (incentives), women education, 6th five year plan.

1. Introduction

It is time to talk about 7 billion people of the world and 0.16 billion people of Bangladesh. The study aims at reshuffling the economy by developing the human resource and by restricting the rapid growth of population. The paper primarily concentrates on the following matters:

1. To identify the affected areas by overpopulation.
2. To measure the negative impacts of overpopulation.
3. To measure the hazards of the affected areas chosen in the study.
4. To examine the government initiatives in solving the population problem.

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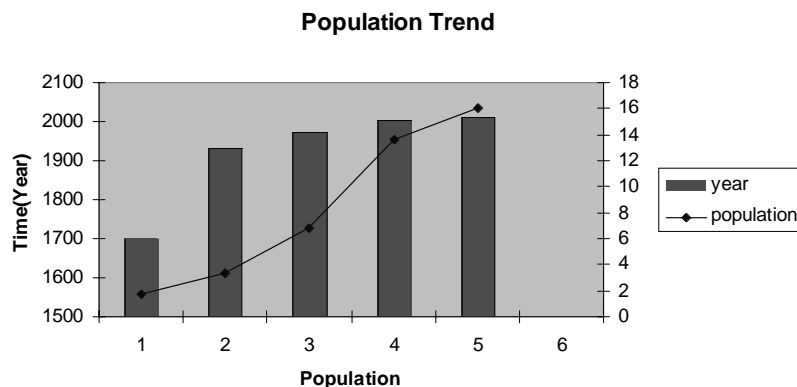
5. To invent a way of making the population into human resource and provide some suggestions to the policymakers of the country.

Bangladesh is posited to be a middle income country by 2021. The sixth five year plan is going to set a total of 16 core targets for economic growth, employment, poverty reduction, human resources development, gender balance and environmental protection.

2. Present population scenario of Bangladesh

According to the joint venture of UNFPA and “The Daily Star” newspaper, the total population of Bangladesh up to 31st October 2011 is 16 crore, whereas the total area of Bangladesh is only 147570 square kilometers. In other words, only .028% of the world area is occupied by Bangladesh, but an unbelievable 2.289% of the world population is living in Bangladesh. So there exists an imbalance between the size of population and the amount of the total area of the country. As the workforce of the country is not educated technically enough and as lack of skills exists there, so they are treated as the disguised unemployed persons and these guys are a bane for Bangladesh. So the population of the over-populated countries should either be made educated or its growth should be checked by controlling the birth rate with the joint collaboration of the foreign research institutes. But the paper encourages the government of Bangladesh to control the birth rate programs in respect of which were taken by the government in different times and which is also under the consideration of “**vision-2021**”. The paper suggests that the government about a rigorous policy of controlling the birth rate. This suggestion applies to all developing and under developed countries of the world that have huge population lack resources. This paper provides suggestions

Figure : population trends in Bangladesh (in crore)



to control the population growth by adopting a tax-subsidy policy along with educating the nation giving priority to women education.

The horizontal axis indicates population and the vertical axis shows the different times in Bangladesh. In 1700, 1931, 1974, 2005, 2011 the population of Bangladesh was 1.7, 3.4, 6.80, 13.6 and 16.0 crore, respectively. It is crystal clear that trends of population growth of Bangladesh is geometric and if it continues, no development project is possible to be implemented in Bangladesh. A country considers its population as a burden when it crosses the absorbing capacity of the country. For example, Bangladesh covers only .023% of the world area, whereas she covers 2.89% of the world population. In other words, the position of Bangladesh is 90th and 7th on the **** of area and population density respectively. This paper is intended to find a solution of over-population and it suggests that controlling the birth rate is the most effective policy.

The population trend of Bangladesh shows that the country's population has been rising at an increasing rate. Its huge and growing population is considered by many as a bane for the nation in the sense that the population is responsible for some negative socio-economic impacts and in a broader sense they are responsible for the worldwide climate change. Already some coastal areas of Bangladesh are being affected by natural calamities like Sidr, Ila etc. that hit the country in 2007 and 2009, respectively. Earlier in 2000, a devastating flood caused a colossal damage to the southern parts of the country like Jessore, Chuadanga, and Sathkhira under Khulna division.

3. Literature review

By making health care and birth control devices for all, China achieved an unprecedented birth rate decline. Since 1979, the country has taken a different tack. She started the one child policy in 1979 believing that population growth is still hindering modernization; the Chinese government instituted the world's most restrictive family planning program. Material incentives and penalties are now offered to encourage all parents to bear only one child.

According to John Ratcliffe of UC Berkeley's school of public health: some of China's post 1979 economic policies undercut both guaranteed employment and old- age security. This has thrown rural families back on their own labour resources, so that large families especially boys- have once again become a family economic asset.

While in some African countries low population density has been an obstacle to sustainable agricultural development, in many countries much higher population densities would make more difficult tasks of social and economic restructuring

necessary to eliminate hunger. 21% of the world population is concentrated in China and it is 2.89% in Bangladesh. China faces serious social and economic problems due to overpopulation and so in Bangladesh.

Overly populated regions lead to degradation of land and resources, pollution and detrimental living conditions. Citizens who did have more than one child could either be taxed an amount up to 50% of their income or punished by loss of employment or other benefits (Hilali 10). The overpopulation of Bangladesh is also responsible in the degradation of soil that causes a decline of grain production because of frequent cultivation (Bosak, j. k., Ali., Islam, M.N. Alam, M.j. B. 2009).

4. Problems Faced by the affected areas of Bangladesh (socio economic impacts)

The project will be conducted on some of the areas affected by natural calamities like Sidr, Ila and above all on the southern part of Bangladesh. The countries consider their population as an asset because of earning remittance by exporting the manpower. Remittance may also be earned in the form of brain drain. But their expectations do not coincide with the practicality. Every year a huge amount of manpower is coming back from abroad because of lack of education and efficiency. In last 2.75 years about 30000 manpower was exported to Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh and at the same time manpower of 50000 was returned to Bangladesh. Not only for Bangladesh, it is the common scenario for most developing countries. As land and some other factors of production are fixed in supply, the productivity of labor will continue to fall after a certain level, and it may be even negative and cause disguised unemployment.

More population requires more vehicles and more vehicles result in more road accidents. It is seen from the field level survey that about 1200-1500 auto bikes operate in a small city like Pabna. Not only the road accidents but also other socio-economic unrests like kidnapping, eve-teasing, terrorism and campus violence are frequently happening and going on in full swing throughout the country.

Again excess printing of books required for educating the huge population have twofold effects:

1. It incurs high unproductive costs.
2. It requires cutting down of trees that make a deforestation situation. As a result different natural calamities are taking place.

“Population grows at a geometric rate and food grains grow at an arithmetic rate” was stated by famous English economist Thomas Malthus in 1798 and if it is so Bangladesh will face a chaos situation within the shortest possible of time.

Bangladesh is losing 1% agricultural land each year that incurs a loss of Tk. 15000 crore. As there is huge unemployment in the country and the unemployed youths are creating social unrest (i.e., kidnapping, eve-teasing, terrorism and so on) throughout the country and these incidents are going on in full swing.

5. Climate change

Methane is an important greenhouse gas with a global warming potential of 25 over a 100- year period, i.e. methane emission will have 25 times impact on temperature than carbon dioxide emission of the same mass over the following 100 years and this methane gas is emitted from the production activities. The more cropping intensity of land, the more will be the potentiality of the emission of methane gas, but more production of crops is needed due to the huge population of the nation. Methane has a large effect for a brief period, whereas carbon dioxide has a small effect for a long period (over 100 years).

The earth's methane concentration has increased by about 150% since 1750 and it accounts for 20% of the total radiative forcing from all of the long- lived and globally mixed greenhouse gases.

So the worldwide production should be lessened, otherwise emitting of methane gas from excess production cannot be kept under control. Along with higher per capita income, the vision 2021 projects a development scenario, where citizens will have a higher standard of living, better education, having social justice with more equitable socio-economic environment, and the sustainability of development will be ensured through better protection from climate change and natural disasters.

6. Sixth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh

It is being said that if the targets of Sixth Five Year Plan are achieved, the socio-economic environment of the country will transform it from a low- income country to the first stages of a middle- income country. The productivity will be improved through adaptation of new technology based on strategic partnership with foreign investment and implantation of better information and communication technology. The access of the poor to essential services like health, education, nutrition, water supply and sanitation will be substantially expanded along with effort to increase access to key production inputs like irrigated water, fertilizer, electricity, rural roads and institutional finance. The sixth five year plan will support equitable opportunities for women in all sections of the society with an objective of integrating them better into the social and economic sphere.

Through a far-reaching redistribution of land and food, assurance of old-age security to achieve 8 percent growth by 2015 the government will emphasise on manufacturing and organized services. Increasing the growth rate to 8 percent by the end of the plan period will require the investment rate to increase from 24% of GDP of 32%. Massive investment will be needed in power and transport along with improved efficiency and demand management practices and through energy trade with neighbours. About population, health and nutrition, the plan provides importance to equity and gender balance in the distribution of health care services, strengthening private sector role and ensuring accountability as well as strengthening partnerships with NGOs. Every aim of the sixth five year plan is welcome. But for implementing those objectives, population should be highly emphasized and most restricted policy of controlling birth rate should be taken into consideration.

7. Human resource

Population can be made a human resource by qualifying them. The quantity of population is not considered; rather they should be developed in their quality. Bangladesh has huge population but they are good for nothing. They should be perfectly educated. Every year huge students are getting A+ or golden A+ in S.S.C and H.S.C examinations. But they are not examined properly. These students are entering in the university with a lagging of educational qualification. The nation cannot proceed with the eye watched brilliant students.

In other sense, the remittance the nation is expecting from the manpower is nipped in the bird. So a nation like Bangladesh has a huge potentiality of earning remittance by qualifying the population. The government can establish techno based university with the collaboration of foreign research institutions. We can the export this manpower to overseas and earn the foreign currency.

But we cannot educate the whole nation perfectly. That's why the developing country like Bangladesh should concentrate on the quality of population, not quantity of population. That's why controlling population is indispensable for Bangladesh and it is a crying need to make them qualified.

8. Solution to overpopulation

The affected countries can consider the following two solutions

1. Short term solution (side effect exist)
2. Long term solution (No side effect)

8.1. Short term solution

The country can take one child policy by imposing tax (fine) on more than one child. At this stage the parents from most of the Asian countries will feel

fascination to male child and their fascination may come true because of the advancement of technology. Parents can abort female child by the application of ultrasonography and it will create a problem faced by China.

It is seen that after the declaration of one child policy in China a huge number of (250000) female children were aborted. As a result, China faced a shortage of marry- ready girls and it is the side effect of short term solution. In these circumstances the paper suggests the government to adopt a dual policy of tax and subsidy i.e., the subsidy should be given in monetary terms to one female child bearing parents.

As this is the burning question of the country, so the paper encourages the government to give the subsidy to one female child bearing parents and imposing tax on more than one child.

Implementing of one child policy may cause several obstacles:

1. Political unrest among different political parties.
2. Religious superstitions.

The above mentioned obstacles may be overcome by political negotiations among different parties and solution of population problem should not be considered as a political interest of a single party rather it should be considered a problem as a whole for the country and everyone should launch a massive campaign in favour of controlling population irrespective of political party, religion, caste, colour and creed.

8.2. Long term solution (No side effect)

The government can launch family planning among the people and it is only possible by educating the nation especially the females that will create awareness among them. The government also should provide job facility to females already taken by some developing countries like Bangladesh, India, Srilanka etc.

In fact Bangladesh has not enough time to wait for controlling population within 10 or 15 years, rather she should do it within the shortest possible of time. That's why our present work is suggesting short term policy.

8. Conclusion

As population is one of the major problems of Bangladesh, so the Government of Bangladesh should concentrate on this issue. But it's a matter of great regret that after the liberation of Bangladesh no constructive discussion is being held in Jatio Sangsad about population. The present government has kept some of the population related issues under "vision- 2021". But the policy should be different and it should be implemented by the proper procedures.

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