Unit -1: Demography and Development

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The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is a demographic measure that represents the number of live births occurring in a given population within a specific period, usually per 1,000 people. It's calculated by dividing the number of live births by the total population and then multiplying by 1,000.

Merits of Crude Birth Rate:

Simple Calculation: CBR is easy to calculate and understand, making it a straightforward measure of fertility in a population.

Useful for Comparison: It allows for comparison of birth rates between different populations, regions, or time periods, providing insights into population growth trends.

Indicator of Population Dynamics: CBR serves as an important indicator of population dynamics, particularly in understanding the potential for population growth or decline.

Policy Planning: It helps policymakers in planning healthcare, education, and other social services by indicating potential future demands based on population growth rates.

Demerits of Crude Birth Rate:

Doesn't Account for Population Structure: CBR does not consider the age or sex distribution of the population, which can lead to misleading conclusions, especially in populations with different age structures.

Doesn't Consider Fertility Patterns: It does not take into account factors such as fertility rates among specific age groups, which can vary significantly within a population.

Not Adjusted for Population Size: CBR does not adjust for differences in population size between regions or countries, which can affect comparisons.

Affected by Migration: CBR can be influenced by migration patterns, as migrants may have different fertility rates compared to the native population, potentially skewing the measure.

Despite its limitations, Crude Birth Rate remains a valuable indicator for understanding overall fertility levels and trends within a population, but it should be interpreted alongside other demographic measures for a more comprehensive analysis.

Crude Birth Rate of India since 1947

The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) of India has varied over the years due to factors such as socioeconomic changes, public health measures, and government policies. Here's an overview of the CBR in India since its independence in 1947:

1947-1950s: During the early years after independence, the CBR was relatively high, reflecting a high fertility rate characteristic of many developing countries during that period. It was estimated to be around 40-45 births per 1000 population.

1960s-1970s: India experienced a period of demographic transition during the 1960s and 1970s, marked by declining birth rates due to improvements in healthcare, sanitation, and education. However, the CBR remained relatively high compared to developed countries, ranging from 35 to 40 births per 1000 population.

1980s-1990s: The implementation of family planning programs and the promotion of contraception during the 1980s and 1990s led to a further decline in the CBR. It decreased to around 30-35 births per 1000 population during this period.

2000s-2010s: The CBR continued to decline gradually in the 21st century, reaching approximately 20-25 births per 1000 population by the late 2000s and early 2010s. This decline was attributed to various factors, including increased access to family planning services, education, and urbanization.

2010s-present: The CBR has continued to decrease, although at a slower rate compared to previous decades. As of the latest available data, the CBR in India is estimated to be around 20 births per 1000 population.

It's important to note that these figures are estimates based on available data and may vary slightly depending on the source. Additionally, regional variations within India exist, with some states having higher or lower CBRs compared to the national average.

Compare and contrast the birth rate of India with the rest of the world

Feature of birth rate in India:

High Initial Birth Rate: India experienced a relatively high birth rate following its independence in 1947, characteristic of many developing countries. This high birth rate was influenced by factors such as large rural populations, limited access to contraception and family planning services, and cultural preferences for larger families.

Decline Over Time: Over the decades, India has undergone a demographic transition, marked by a gradual decline in birth rates. This decline has been attributed to improvements in healthcare, education, women's empowerment, and the implementation of family planning programs.

Current Status: As of recent years, India's birth rate has continued to decrease but remains higher than the global average. However, there are significant regional variations within India, with some states having higher birth rates than others.

Birth rate of Rest of the World:

Diverse Range: Birth rates vary significantly across different countries and regions of the world. Developed countries tend to have lower birth rates due to factors such as higher levels of education, urbanization, access to contraception, and changing societal norms.

Global Decline: Overall, there has been a global trend of declining birth rates over the past century, particularly in developed countries. This decline has been influenced by factors such as economic development, improvements in healthcare and sanitation, urbanization, and increased opportunities for women.

Concerns About Low Birth Rates: While declining birth rates can contribute to sustainable population growth and socioeconomic development in some contexts, excessively low birth rates pose challenges such as aging populations, labor shortages, and strain on social welfare systems.

Comparison:

Magnitude: India's birth rate, while declining, remains relatively higher than the global average due to its large population size and diverse socioeconomic factors.

Factors Driving Decline: Both India and the rest of the world have experienced declining birth rates, albeit at different rates and driven by different factors such as economic development, healthcare improvements, and cultural shifts.

Regional Variations: Similar to India, there are significant regional variations in birth rates within countries across the world, influenced by factors such as urbanization, education, and access to healthcare.

In summary, while India's birth rate has been declining over time, it remains relatively higher than the global average due to a combination of socioeconomic and cultural factors. Understanding these trends and variations is essential for policymakers to address challenges related to population growth, healthcare, and socioeconomic development.

**The relationship between birth rate and economic development is complex and can be influenced by various factors. Here are some key aspects of their relationship:**

**Early Stage of Development:** In the early stages of economic development, birth rates tend to be high. This is often associated with agrarian economies where large families are advantageous for agricultural labor, and where high child mortality rates necessitate larger numbers of children to ensure the survival of offspring. Additionally, in such societies, children are often considered as a form of social security for parents in old age.

**Improvements in Healthcare:** As economies develop and healthcare improves, particularly in terms of reduced infant and child mortality rates, families begin to have fewer children. This is because parents no longer need to have as many children to ensure that some survive into adulthood. Therefore, improved healthcare tends to be correlated with declining birth rates.

**Education:** Education, particularly of women, plays a significant role in reducing birth rates. As women gain access to education and employment opportunities, they tend to marry later and have fewer children. Educated women are more likely to use contraception and have greater control over their reproductive choices, leading to smaller family sizes.

**Urbanization:** Urbanization is often accompanied by declining birth rates. In urban areas, the cost of raising children tends to be higher, and there are greater opportunities for women to pursue education and careers outside the home. Urban lifestyles also tend to promote smaller family sizes due to limited living space and the high cost of living.

**Government Policies:** Government policies, such as family planning programs and incentives for smaller families, can also influence birth rates. In some cases, governments may implement policies to encourage or discourage childbearing based on demographic and economic goals.

**Economic Growth:** As economies continue to develop and per capita income rises, birth rates may stabilize at lower levels. This is often observed in more developed countries where the focus shifts from large families to quality of life, and where the cost of raising children becomes a significant consideration.

Overall, the relationship between birth rate and economic development is dynamic and influenced by a multitude of social, cultural, and economic factors. While economic development tends to be associated with declining birth rates, the direction and magnitude of this relationship can vary depending on specific circumstances and contexts.

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