

Population, Environment and Development in India

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ABSTRACT Relationship between Man and Environment continues since the early existence of man on the Earth. Mankind's relationship with the environment has passed through several stages, commencing with primitive time in which human beings lived in a stage of symbiosis with nature, followed by a period of growing mastery over nature, up to the industrial age and culminating into material-intensive growth patterns of the contemporary era. In India, population, environment and development issues have emerged as a chronic problem, because the process of development could not pace with the growth of population. India, for decades has been facing the adverse consequences of gradual degradation of environment in the form of drought, flood, rainfall, ill health and pollution etc. slow development processes and rapid growth of population pressurized the huge population to exploit the available resources more that result into the environmental degradation. It is seen predominant in urban area because of the rapid growth of urban population due to migration from rural to urban areas and rapid process of industrialization. Thus, the environmental degradation in India can be attributed to the processes of rapid population growth. This paper deals with the relationship among population, environment, and development in India by investigating the complex relationship of different demographic and development indicators viz; population growth, deforestation, urbanization, industrialization, health, land use pattern and globalization with the environment in Indian context.

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