

Department of Economics

Best Practice

1. Title of the Practice (शीर्षक) –

World Population Day: Awareness of Population in Student

2. Objectives of the Practice (उद्देश) -

The main objective of the day is to draw world attention on the issue arising out of uncontrolled population growth, and also to take necessary collective measures for their containment. Issues like poverty, unemployment and human quality index are directly linked to population.

World Population Day was instituted to bring the world's attention to the issues of population and how incessant population growth can drain our available resources. It is at the core of the observance that people across the globe realize impacts of population explosion and adopts various methods for its containment, like family planning, etc.

World population is growing annually at an approximate rate of 83 million. If the things are left to continue and also keeping in mind that the fertility rate is declining, even then the world population will be 8.6 billion by 2030, which would be a huge strain on healthcare, education, and other available resources. 2030 is also the same year that the world has decided to reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is to raise awareness on these issues arising out of population growth that the United Nations seeks through World Population Day.

Introduction

World Population Day is observed every year on 11th July to raise awareness on the world population, its growth, and its impacts. It is observed globally to aware of the people about the stress on resources due to population and also to take up containment steps like family planning etc.

World Population Day was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. At the root of it was the date 11th July 1987, when the

world population reached five billion. It was to bring awareness about the population growth and its impact that the world population day was instituted.

World Population Day was suggested by Dr. K.C. Zachariah who worked as a senior demographer in the World Bank from 1971 to 1987. Dr. Zachariah hailed from the state of Kerala in India and is currently serving as Honorary Professor at the Centre for Development Studies.

Why Is ‘World Population Day’ required to be celebrated?

The current world population as in the first quarter of 2020 is 7.8 Billion and the estimated global population increase is around 83 million every year. With this rate the world population is expected to reach 8.6 billion by 2030, reaching 9.8 billion by 2050 and 11.2 billion by the end of the century.

World Population Day – India

Current Indian population stands at approximately 1.36 billion. That puts India as the second-most populous country in the world after China and is also most likely to surpass the latter in 2022.

India is a developing nation that falls in the medium category of Human Development Index according to data published in 2019. Despite on the verge of becoming the fastest growing world economy, India struggles with issues like poverty, hunger, unemployment, and corruption, etc.

Acknowledging the fact that uncontrolled growth in the population will only worsen the situation, the government of India observes the World Population Day, displaying a full commitment to the cause.

The government in coordination with NGOs and local administrative bodies gets in touch with the masses at the grass-root level. People are educated about the impact of the population on the quality of life and availability of resources. Workers and volunteers distribute contraceptives and family planning education material to the people.

In further development of events, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution 45/126 in December 1990, proclaiming that a World Population Day be observed every year on July 11th.

3. The Context (पार्श्वभूमी) –

World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

By resolution 45/216 of December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population Day to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.

The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. Since then, a number of a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with governments and civil society.

4. The Practice (प्रत्यक्षकृती/उपक्रम/कार्य) –

Every Year our Department of Economics has organize the activity of World Population Day on 11 July in the form of Guest Lecture. On the theme of Merits and Demerits of Indian Population, Impact of growth of population on Indian Economy, Demographic Dividend, Gender Equality and Population, Problems of Growth of Population.

5. Evidence of Success (यशस्वी असल्याचे पुरावे)

- World Population day is an annual event to create awareness about the increasing population and its impacts on society, nations, environment and educating them to control it.
- It attracts global attention on the issue of population explosion.
- People are helped in every possible way and inspired to take family planning in order to reduce population growth.
- Several government and non-government organizations take active participation, to make people aware of the effects of population, through talks and street shows.

6. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required** (समस्या कोणत्या आल्या व त्यावर उपाययोजना काय शोधल्या/ किंवा कोणत्या उपाययोजना करणे आवश्यक आहे)

Problems Encountered

Food and nutrition problems; housing problems; starvation and famine; infectious diseases and epidemics; increasing population pressure on the cities and development of slums; heavy burden on most resources; decrease in agricultural areas; continuous destruction of forests; threat to environment including wildlife

Overpopulation Solutions

Preventing the rapid growth of the population is the key to the victory over poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, economic backwardness, etc in the modern world. The increasing population will only swallow the growing development of the nation and the benefit of advanced technology. Therefore, the following measures should be taken to curb the excessive growth in population:

- **Family Planning:** For a good, prosperous nation, it is necessary that its residents are healthy and their numbers are in sync with the country's wealth. For this, modern methods and measures of family planning should be adopted. They should be propagated in a proper manner by the government, NGOs and civil society.
- **Increase in marriage age:** Minimum age of marriage of boys and girls should be increased. The age of marriage in India has been fixed for girls at 18 years and for boys at 21 years. It should be complied with firmly in all the states. For this, we require a strong political will, accompanied by an effective system of governance.
- **Balanced ratio:** It is also necessary to make qualitative improvement in the population. The gap between the children should be at least five years and the number of offspring should not exceed two children per family.
- **Improvement in public health services:** It is necessary to pay attention to public health and cleanliness to increase man's economic capacity. In each state, emphasis should be on pollution-free and clean environment in urban and rural areas.

- **Proper utilization of land:** To reduce the burden of the growing population, what is required is the scientific and proper planning of the land. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to emphasize on certain parameters:
 - In the interest of the nation, small areas of land should also be used to their optimum limit.
 - To fulfil various needs, land should be used for multipurpose production.
 - Land should not be left un-utilized for any reason.
 - Appropriate changes in the use of agricultural land should be made in accordance with the demand for any item.
 - Land use should be determined by considerations of workers, marketing and traffic related arrangements available and the value and quantity of commodities etc.
 - There is a need to improve the land system and increase agricultural production.
 - In agriculture, innovative technology should be used at all levels.
 - In farming, equilibration should be maintained in composting, fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.
 - New mixed and useful breeds of animals should be developed.
 - Wastelands, dry and other useless and marshland lands should be made useful by continuously improving upon them.
- **Need for education:** To improve the condition of the farmers, they need to be educated and attached with some cooperatives. With the help of government, co-operatives and other useful institutions, the farmers continue to get the opportunity to learn about loans, proper agriculture methods, education and technology. They, thus, realize that illiteracy is a curse that leads to only deprivation and destruction.
- **Proper industrialization:** In areas where industrial development has not reached yet, industrialization should be done promptly. Small and cottage industries should be encouraged, because small industries establish a necessary linkage and coordination between agriculture and large-scale industries, along with it between rural and urban income. By reducing the gap, they also develop other means of livelihood. This leads to the development of many subsidiary and new dwellings in the cottage and small scale sector. If small industries increase in the villages, they also absorb the burden of population.

- **Proper government policies:** Means of education, entertainment and employment should be increased. Our government needs to adopt such public policies that not only curb the uncontrolled growth of the number of persons, but also prevent unchecked migration of the population and the growing centralization of the people in urban areas. For the right population mix, adequate resources should be harnessed with provision of enough space and strong infrastructure.
- **Promoting family planning:** Spreading awareness about the contraception measures and birth control techniques is most effective method to keep the population within limit. We need to make people aware about benefits and ways of family planning in order to overcome the problem of overpopulation. It will also help them to understand the need of having one or two children at the most.

Family planning needs to be seen under its own right. Right measures will have to be implemented, force will not work, but only through discussions and persuasion, success can be achieved. Legal measures can be helpful but what is of urgent need is the social awareness and realization of responsibility in society as a whole. Other suggestions include:

- Encourage interval method rather than sterilization in family planning programme.
- Age of girl child marriage should be raised further.
- Emphasis to be laid on economic development.
- Rapid awareness campaign to be run by the government and non-governmental organizations
- New, innovative contraceptives should be explored.
- Reduction in birth and fertility rates.
- Emphasis on gender parity priority for girl education.
- **Empowering women:** Any woman who has many children for parenting and who passes through child deliveries repeatedly spends most of her life as a mother and wife. She is imprisoned in the four-walls of her house. She cannot play any meaningful role in her community and society until she is able to limit her family to a proper size. Family planning will not only improve family welfare, but also contribute to achieving social prosperity and personal happiness.
- **Raising awareness:** Fast population growth in India hinders the progress and development of the country. Reducing the existing population is not possible but it is possible to check further

rise in population of our country which can overcome the problem of population growth, through spreading awareness about overpopulation.

Once people know that unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, unhealthy living conditions, depletion of natural resources and environmental problems are all results of overpopulation; they will themselves take initiatives to control the population growth.

Unbridled growth of population is certainly a problem that our country needs to overcome. The government, NGOs and the people of the society have to work together to solve the problem of overpopulation in our country. Clearly, human beings need to stop overpopulating the world. The Earth has a limited capacity and we must not tear open its bowels to feed ourselves.

1. This day is observed to highlight the growing population in the world.
2. Growing population will increase poverty, unemployment, lack of resources, etc.
3. It shifts people's attention to the consequences of the increasing population.
4. On this day, many NGOs and volunteers show their active participation in generating awareness.
5. The day encourages people to adopt measures like family planning to control the population.
6. Government distributes brochures, booklets, contraceptives, etc among the public on this day.

Conclusion

Uncontrolled population growth hugely limits resource availability and severely hampers the quality of life. It is not only the need for the time but also the responsibility of the world nations to take necessary collective and individual steps in this regard.