



## Trends of Population Growth in Orissa

*S.N. Mahapatra*

To study the population growth if 1901 is taken as the base year, the population of Orissa grew about 113 folds during the first 70 years of the 20th century, whereas in the next 30 years it swelled about 153 percent of the base population. Thus speaking precisely, the 10 million people of Orissa in 1901 has become nearly 36 million at the time of 2001 census, increasing at a faster rate of about 256 per cent in a span of 100 years.

Viewing the growth of population in the country as a whole vis-a-vis the state of Orissa during the same period under reference, the mega problem facing the nation today is found more tense in the country rather than in this state. 238 million people of India as per 1901 census counting, rolled with many multiplications with the passage of time to become 1027 million now. To put it in absolute terms 238,396,327 Indian populace in the beginning of the 20th century has become 1027,015,247 in 2001 census as per the provisional release.

Thus, the percentage increases in population in the previous ten censuses in the country divulge figures that run proportionately more compared to the state with few exceptions particularly in the initial decades. Till 1931 the percentage increase is recorded higher in

case of the state than that of the nation. And after independence one such decadal figure (1971 census) exhibits that trend though the difference is marginal.

But if the decadal variations are re-grouped, the progressive growth rate of the country during the first seventy years is calculated to be about 130 percent of the population of the base year. This is more than the state figure of 113 percent. And the rate of growth during the last three decades of the 20th century is definitely more alarming for the nation with a growth of population of about 200 percent of the base year. This in *toto*, indicates a difference of about 74 percentage points in the cumulative growth rates of the state and the country during the period under reference.

Recapitulating the aggregated figures for the last century as a whole, the growth rate of population of Orissa with 256.28 percent is at a lower level than that for the nation with 330.80 percent. This is definitely a consoling situation for the state. But still, from the national back ground, un-hindered vigilance is a must for the administrators and the common people as well to see that the growth rate of population is not only checked but also reduced to the extent possible.

The population for each decennial census starting from 1901-2001 for the State of Orissa is presented in the table below along with the decadal variation in percentage. Progressive growth rates for the last 100 years is also reflected in the table for an easy access of the readers to the problem of rapid population increase. Further, for getting a comparative picture of the trends of the growth of population in the country as a whole vis-a-vis Orissa, the decadal variation and the progressive growth rates for the Nation is given brackets along side the corresponding figures of the State.

But, the rate of decline is calculated much more for the state vis-a-vis the nation. Whereas the negative growth rate for the nation is mainly attributed to the resultant outcome of the Second World War (1914-19), that for the state is multi numbered. Besides the global war, the devastating floods, famines and epidemics in different parts of the State brought down the number of people in Orissa as a chain event compared with the previous decadal counting.

In absolute terms the 11,378,875 people in Orissa in 1911 was reduced to 11,158,586 in 1921 downsizing by about two lakh 20 thousands people in 10 years time. This decade

#### The Growth of Population of Orissa

Year	Population	Decadal Variation in Orissa / (India)	Progressive growth rate over 1901 in Orissa / (India)
1901	10,302,917	-	-
1911	11,378,875	10.44 (5.75)	10.44 (5.75)
1921	11,158,586	-1.94 (-0.31)	8.31 (5.42)
1931	12,491,056	11.94 (11.00)	21.24 (17.02)
1941	13,767,988	10.22 (14.22)	33.63 (33.67)
1951	14,645,946	6.38 (13.31)	42.15 (51.47)
1961	17,548,846	19.82 (21.51)	70.33 (84.25)
1971	21,944,615	25.05 (24.80)	112.99 (129.94)
1981	26,370,271	20.17 (24.66)	155.95 (186.64)
1991	31,659,736	20.06 (23.86)	207.29 (255.03)
2001	36,706,970	15.94 (21.34)	256.28 (330.80)

It comes to sight from the tabulated data on the decadal variation in population during last 10 decades is that the growth rate of population is on the rise constantly except in the lone decade 1911-1921 where it is found negative in the State and the Country as well.

shook hands with a number of un-warranted incidents which created a devastating socio-economic situation in Orissa. Some inauspicious years starting from 1915 owned the responsibility of a number of unnatural deaths due to emergence of a large number of killer

epidemics like small pox, cholera and dysentery. Misery and misfortune never came alone - it is said. Another disastrous epidemic overclouded the sky of Orissa was the influenza in 1917 which spread its tentacles up to the year 1919. It took away a lot of precious lives putting the rates of morality at a higher level. Besides that ravaging flood of 1917, the drought of 1918 worsened the living conditions of the people to a large extent. Coupled with bad harvest for some years, these vagaries of nature also demanded their share and created a condition of scarcity of food-stuff resulting in high market prices which led to starvation deaths. That was the decade singled out in the last century as the worst one which not only affected the economy but also reduced the population size of the State.

Going a bit further, it can be seen that the population in almost throughout Orissa were affected severely during that decade and in majority districts, the population was found less compared to the previous census counting of 1921. In seven out of 13 undivided districts of the present Orissa, a reduction of population was clearly picturised in absolute terms. The highest reductions were recorded in Dhenkanal (12.81 per cent) followed by Puri, (10.04 per cent) and Balasore (6.99 per cent). The other affected districts that follow them are Ganjam (3.25 per cent), Koraput (3.12 per cent), Cuttack (2.81 per cent) and Phulbani (0.45 per cent). In other six districts there was a growth of population, but in five of them it is less than only five percent and only in Kalahandi there was 15.50 per cent increment than the previous decade. Whether the decadal happenings are in support of the Malthusian theory of population or not is a separate question, but that inauspicious scenario is not repeated in Orissa once again. Ever since, the

growth rate of population in this state is increasing alarmingly - particularly after independence. This is a point of much concern.

This history of decadal growth of population in the state during the last century reveals that disregarding the negative figures of 1921, the ever lowest rate of growth of population was recorded in the decade 1941-1951 - the first decadal census after independence. But such a situation was encountered for the nation as a whole in 1911. And thereafter, there was a steady growth recorded in the decadal variation in population till 1971 in the country except in two intermillitant periods. In 1921 there was a negative growth as in case of Orissa and in 1951 there was a little fall in the growth rate compared to the previous decade. That besides, it may also be stated here that this was the year when the growth rate was lowest for Orissa encountered in this entire century.

But, so to say, a regular trend not found in these figures for the state. Although, there was a trend of growth in population ever since 1901 (excepting in one decade) in the state, it can be found from the table that the rate of growth is not in a systematic manner in consonance with the somewhat regular rising trend of the nation as a whole. However, the highest rate of the growth of population in this state was noticed in 1971 and situation was also the same for India as well. At both levels the rate of growth was hovering round 25 percent over the previous figures. But however the rate of decadal growth in the state is at a little higher level than that for the country.

And thereafter, for the next part of the last century i.e. for the last 30 years, the trend of growth noticed for the state of Orissa and for the country is on similar lines. There is a

constant fall in the rates of growth marked in decadal variations of population figures. Though the fall is very remarkable in case of Orissa for 1981 and for 2001 figures which speaks of a reduction of about five and four percentage points respectively, at the national level it is not that remarkable. In the country during this entire period of constant fall of about 30 years, the decadal growth rate of population has come down to 21.34 per cent in 2001 from 24.80 per cent in 1971. This tenure of 30 years brought down the figure of about 3.46 percentage points in the country. But that for the state of Orissa is a bit encouraging. The rates of decadal fall is much faster here. In terms of figures a substantial 9.11 percentage points have been reduced from the 1971 decadal growth rate of 25.05 percent to become 15.94 per cent in 2001.

Thus from the point of view of the decadal population growth, the entire last century may be divided into two groups. The

first seven decades may be termed as the "period of rise" and the rest about 30 years i.e. the last three decades as the "period of fall". The fall in growth rates of population is of course, a good indicator of a healthy society in the notational context-particularly at present. Hence it is worth mentioning here that the beginning of the new Millennium has indicated a good signal in the population scenario. The situation seems to be somewhat favourable in resolving population problems in the country. The more is the reduction of the decadal growth rate - More favourable situation for the area concerned. From that background Orissa enjoys a better position compared to the nation. Every attempt should be made not only by the Central and State Governments but also by the non-governmental organisations and the people of the country as a whole to maintain this falling trend in the years to come.

S.N. Mahapatra lives at 3R/10, Census Colony, Baramunda-751003.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SANCTIONS RS.47 CRORE GRANT-IN-AID FOR UPGRADATION OF INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE STEEL & METALLURGICAL CLUSTER AT JAJPUR**

The Apex Committee on Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) at its meeting held on 2.7.2004 approved the proposal of the State Government for strengthening industrial infrastructure in the Jajpur Steel and Metallurgical Cluster at a total cost of Rs.62.50 crore. Government of India will provide Grand-in-Aid amounting to Rs.47 crore and the balance amount of Rs.15.50 crore will be raised from the user industries as promoters' contribution.

The Project will benefit the steel complex near Dubri as well as the mining industries operating in Daitari. The main components of the project include augmentation of water supply, upgradation of roads, development of utility corridors, upgradation of power distribution infrastructure and development of a Common Facility Centre.

The project would be implemented by a Special purpose Vehicle (SPV), which has been set up for this purpose. 51% of equity in the SPV will be held by the user industries, including small scale industries. The balance 49% will be held by IDCO on behalf of the State Government. The project is expected to benefit both large / medium and small scale industries operating in the area. The State Government is in the process of developing more proposals for receiving Central assistance under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme.