

POPULATION PROJECTIONS OF INDIA AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

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Abstract

REPLACEMENT index J , a measure of the true rate of natural increase has been utilised here to adopt an alternative method of population projection. An attempt has been made to find out a relation between the replacement index J and the population P for India and this relation has been used to forecast future population for India up to 1991. The relation $P = 281269.7674 J - 108103.3899$ is applicable only for India as the estimates of the constants are based on the Indian data. The above relation should not be used for projecting future population at distant period of time.

Introduction

The idea regarding future population at the same specified time is necessary to the administrator for planning and for various other purposes where the decisions are affected by the extent of population. For example to estimate the future supply of goods and services, demand forecasting is the first pre-requisite and this, in its turn, depends upon reliable estimates of population growth. Thus the importance of population projection in connection with planning for economic and social progress can hardly be ignored. So the estimation of the future population, on the basis of available information of the present and past population is necessary in our life. In fact it is extremely difficult to predict the future events which do not follow any strict mathematical laws. It is quite likely therefore that these forecasts may differ from the real situation. In particular for human population the estimation of the future population is a difficult one

* I express my sincere gratitude to my teachers Mr. G. Ramakrishna and Prof. P. B. Gupta for their guidance and suggestions wherever necessary.