

ROJECTION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL POPULATIONS FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE 1951-1981

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1. *Introduction* : Population data are needed for direct use in planning for social and economic development. This is more so for the economically underdeveloped countries like India which have plans for social and economic development. Education is the key for the achievement of the social and economic progress of a nation and the planners in India realizing this have stressed the need for the spread of education among the masses as can be seen from the successive five year plan programmes.

The population of India and that of Maharashtra has been increasing at a tremendous rate in the recent years. After independence the public health programmes have got into full play bringing in their wake a huge reduction in mortality. Asia's number one killer which is also India's enemy number one — Malaria — was claiming a large number of persons as its victims every year.

Side by side with this decline in mortality there has been no evidence of a corresponding decline in the fertility in the country. As a matter of fact some stray evidence actually exists that due to reduced mortality the incidence of widowhood may be reduced increasing thereby the period of fertile unions between married couples and thus increase the fertility of the population. This has brought in its wake a tremendous growth rate of the population which is now of the order of about two to three per cent. per annum. Again the drastic reduction in mortality has been achieved mostly by a huge reduction in the infant mortality which coupled with no reduction in fertility has resulted in a substantially large group of young children in the population. The child population has been growing at a rather high rate involving on the part of the government huge outlays in terms of amenities for them like child welfare clinics, kindergartens and nurseries, schools and so on.

The present paper attempts to provide the necessary background statistics pertinent to the ever growing needs of planners and educators currently engaged in planning future facilities for the already overburdened school system in the State of Maharashtra.

2. *School age populations, Maharashtra 1951-81* : The school age population is a special segment of the total population and hence if the age sex structure of the population is available for the future periods this special group can easily be separated out.

For example the primary school age is considered as between six and 11 years whereas the secondary school age is between 12 and 17. To get