



INTER-TEMPORAL CHANGES IN THE GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF POPULATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Abstract: This study has been undertaken to investigate the inter-temporal changes in the growth and structure of population in Himachal Pradesh. In order to achieve the objective of the present study, the information has been collected from secondary sources. In this study data of three recent censuses- 1991, 2001 and 2011 have been used. Total population of Himachal Pradesh was about 52 Lakh per 1991 census, that increased to around 61 Lakh in 2001 and 69 Lakh as per 2011 census, recording a decadal growth rate of 17.5 during 1991-2001 census and 12.94 between 2001 and 2011 census. Sex-ratio (female per 1000 males) declined from 976, as per (1991 census) to 968 (2001 census) increased marginally to 972 as per 2011 census. The highest increase in population has been recorded in case of Christian (64.5 percent), followed by Jain (28.2 percent), Muslim (25.4 percent), Hindu (12.6 percent) and Sikh (10.4 percent) during 2001-2011. Literacy rate has increased from 63.75 percent (during 1991) to 82.80 percent (as per 2011 Census). Birth rates have shown a decline as per all censuses from 16.5 births per during 1991 Census to 16.0, as per 2011 Census. Death rate remained constant (uniform) at 6.7 deaths. Total fertility rate, has shown a declining trend among both rural and urban women. Overall, infant mortality rates among children of rural and urban women have shown a declining trend.

Keywords: Birth rate, Death rate, Growth rate of population, Infant mortality rate, Literacy rate, Sex-ratio, Total Fertility Rate.

1. Introduction

Economic transformation plus dramatic breakthrough in health and family planning technology have been the fundamental forces driving a demographic transition. Population growth today is primarily the result of a rapid transition from a long historical era characterised by high birth and death rates, to one in which death rates have fallen sharply while birth rates, especially in developing countries have not yet fallen much more than historic high level (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1997, 68-70). The unrestrained population increase is claimed to be the principal cause of poverty, low standard of living, malnutrition and ill health in some of the developing countries. High population growth has some far-reaching consequences, too. The employment problem is clearly intensified when population is growing more rapidly (Meir, 1984: 86). Another significant consequence of population growth is the increased demand for food. The growth in a country's population is more important than the growth in national income in determining the demand for food (Meir, 1984: 87). The result of the rapid population increase is a locking in of the economy in a low-level equilibrium income. There are also serious environmental consequences of this process, in the form of land degradation, which includes nutrient exhaustion, soil erosion and deforestation (Okpala, 1990: 63-77).

Fertility, mortality and migration are three components that affect population change. The rate of growth of population reflects the difference in the rates of change in birth rates, and death rates (Meashom, 1999: 1359) and migration plays an important role in the population dynamics of the country. In population dynamics fertility and mortality bring about natural population change, where fertility is a positive force through which the population expands, counteracting the forces of attrition caused by mortality (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1997: 200), whereas migration causes redistribution of population in region or area. Demographic studies are not merely concerned with human beings but also with the social and economic factors which have direct or indirect impact on the growth of population, especially through change in fertility, mortality and migration trends and differentials.

A population policy would address itself both to the situation arising out of fast rising population in any country or area as well as out of declining population in any particular area. The important issues of population policy are primarily to reduce fertility and mortality and to manage redistribution of population. It is not a policy that denies couples to have (bear) children; it aims at securing better economic future for those who are already there. The future population is to be so planned that the present and future of the existing numbers are not adversely affected. It aims at giving chances to all those already born to live well.

2. Methodology

2.1 Objectives

The present study has been undertaken to study the inter-temporal changes in the growth and structure of population in Himachal Pradesh.

2.2 Sources of data

In order to achieve the objectives of the present study, the information has been collected from secondary sources. Information, for this study, has been collected from various secondary sources such as related books, journals, reports of Government publications, internet sites etc.

3. Profile of and inter-temporal changes in the growth and structure of population in Himachal Pradesh

This section has been divided into two sections. In section 3A general profile of Himachal Pradesh has been presented, and section 3B shows inter-temporal changes in the growth and structure of Population in Himachal Pradesh.

3A. Profile of Himachal Pradesh

3A.1 History

The history of human settlement in Himachal Pradesh goes back to the Palaeolithic period in which stone tools and flakes have been discovered in the valleys of the Sutlej and Beas rivers, and also in the foothill zone of the Shivalik hills. Numerous tribes settled in different parts of the region. The recorded history begins with effect from the Maurya period, i.e. 4th Century B.C., when this part of India was an outlier of Chandragupta's kingdom. Throughout its history, the present territory of Himachal Pradesh remained segmented into a number of principalities, usually under the hegemony of an empire centred at Delhi. The area has also been a refuge for several freedom-loving population groups/castes, particularly Rajputs and Brahmins who refused to live under the imperial authority centred at Delhi. They settled in specific parts of this region, which took the form of small/tiny states under the chieftdom of Rajput princes. The colonial empire brought them under the hegemony of the British Crown in 1859. They continued enjoying a degree of autonomy but were essentially in the nature of feudatory states. On the eve of Independence of India, half of the present territory of Himachal Pradesh was divided into 30 princely states and the other half was a part of the Punjab province of the British Empire. Himachal Pradesh acquired its present disposition in phases, overtime after independence (Himachal Pradesh State Development Report).

Himachal Pradesh came into being as a part 'C' State of the Indian Union on 15th April, 1948 by integration/merger together of 30 big and small hill States. All these areas at that time constituted four districts viz. Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi and Sirmour with an area of 27,169 square kilometres. In 1954, the neighbouring State of Bilaspur was integrated with Himachal Pradesh, thereby adding one more district with an area of 1167 square kilometres. Himachal Pradesh continued as a part 'C' State of the Indian Union till 1956 when the States Reorganisation Commission submitted its recommendations to abolish the categorisation of States as part A, B, C, etc. and recommended the merger of all part 'C' States either with

the adjoining states of higher status or to maintain these independently as Union Territories till a further decision was taken. Himachal Pradesh continued to exist as a Union Territory till the conferment of statehood on 25th January, 1971.

In 1960, the border Chini tehsil of Mahasu district was carved out as a separate administrative unit and district Kinnaur was formed raising the total number of districts to six. On 1st November, 1966, the then Punjab State was reorganised with the formation of Haryana as a separate State and merger of the then Kullu, Kangra, Shimla and some hilly areas of Hoshiarpur district and Dalhousie of Gurdaspur district into Himachal Pradesh constituting the four new districts viz. Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Kangra and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh and merging Dalhousie into Chamba district. With this addition, Himachal Pradesh comprised of ten districts, an area of 55,673 square kilometres. On 1st September, 1972, two more districts i.e. Hamirpur and Una were created by trifurcation of Kangra district and the Mahasu and Solan districts were reorganised as Shimla and Solan districts. In this re-organisation, Shimla town was re-organised with the erstwhile Mahasu district to form Shimla district.

The people of the State classify themselves into two sub-regional identities: the old Himachal Pradesh and the new Himachal Pradesh. The erstwhile princely states constitute the old Himachal and territories that were earlier part of Punjab, form the new areas. The former is less developed than the latter.

3A.2 Location

The State took its name Himachal from the Himalayas. Himachal Pradesh is a hilly state and situated in the lap of Himalayan ranges in the north-west of India. It is situated between 30°22'40'' to 33°12'20'' North latitude and 75°45'55'' to 79°04'20'' East longitude. The altitude in the Himachal Pradesh, a wholly mountainous region in the lap of Himalayas, ranges from 350 metres to 6975 metres above sea level. It is surrounded by Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Tibet on north east, Uttarakhand east/south east; Haryana in south and Punjab in south west/ west. According to Surveyor General of India, the total area of Himachal Pradesh is 55,673 square kilometres (Planning Department, 2014).

As per a study conducted in 2009 by the Centre for Geo-Informatics, Research & Training of the Chaudhary Sarvan Kumar H.P. Agriculture University for estimating 3D area of the State by using modern Geo-IT tools, remote sensing and GIS, the 3D area of the State comes to 86,384.77 sq. km. which is about 56% more than the 2D area of 55,673 km.

3A.3 Administrative structure

Since 1st September, 1972, there have been no changes in the administrative structure of Himachal Pradesh except carving out of new sub-divisions, sub-tehsils, raising sub-tehsils to the level of tehsils within the district boundaries. The strength of Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh is 68. To the Union Legislature, Himachal Pradesh is represented by 4 members to Lok Sabha and 3 members to Rajya Sabha.

There has been no change in the number of districts since 1972, even though there are substantial variation in area and population of the districts. Lahaul and Spiti with an area of 13,835 sq. km. is the largest district. It contains 24.85 percent of the State's area followed by Chamba with 11.72 percent. However these rankings become totally different, once the population is taken into account. Lahaul & Spiti, which occupies the first place in terms of area, is relegated to the last position in terms of population, followed by Kinnaur. These variations in the land-man ratio are reflected in the density of population. The low density of population in the larger districts is due to the limited arable land, unfavourable physio-graphical conditions, poor means of transport and communication, hostile climate and the low level of economic development.

Shimla is the only Class I town (with a population of more than 1,00,000) in the State. Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur districts have no urban centres. The pattern of urbanisation in Himachal Pradesh is different from that of the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana. Its undulating topography prevents the development of big towns and is more conducive to smaller towns. The common languages spoken are Hindi, Pahari and Punjabi.

CENSUS OF INDIA 2011
PROVISIONAL RESULTS



Map 3A.1 Administrative map of Himachal Pradesh

3A.4 Geographical features

Himachal Pradesh can be divided into three regions the Shivalik range (the height from plain up to 915 metres); Colder Zone (the height is about 4500 metres); and the Axis and Crystalline core of the whole system (the height above 4500 metres but below 5500 metres). The climatic conditions, therefore, vary from the semi-tropical to semi-artic. Besides the seasonal variations, the climate of Himachal Pradesh varies at different altitudes. The average rainfall is 152 cm (60 inches).

Himachal Pradesh has deeply dissected topography, complex geological structure and a rich temperate flora in the sub-tropical latitudes. Physio graphically, the State can be divided into five zones, viz. (i) wet sub-temperate zone, (ii) humid sub-temperate zone, (iii) dry temperate-alpine high lands, (iv) humid sub-tropical zone, and (v) sub-humid sub-tropical zone. Wet sub-temperate zone comprises Palampur and Dharamshala of Kangra district, Jogindernagar area of Mandi district and Dalhousie area of Chamba district. Humid sub-temperate zone comprises the district of Kullu, Shimla, parts of Mandi, Solan, Chamba, Kangra and Sirmaur. Dry temperate-alpine high lands include major parts of Lahaul-Spiti, Pangi and Kinnaur. Humid sub-tropical zone consists of Bilaspur, Bhattiyat valley of District Chamba, Nalagarh area of district Solan, Dehragopipur and Nurpur areas of district Kangra. Sub-humid tropical zone comprises district Una, Paonta Sahib area of district Sirmaur, and Indora area of district Kangra.

Himachal Pradesh has twelve districts and more than 78 percent of cultivated area is rain-fed. In Himachal Pradesh about ninety percent of population lives in villages and earn its livelihood through farming. They are mainly involved in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry. The farming in hills mainly depends on rainfall. Water in the hills is available through rains, snow, springs, oozing water sources, surface flows and drainage courses.

3A.5 Forest

Forests are an important resource of Himachal Pradesh. Although the area classified as “Area under Forest” is 67 percent of the total area of the Pradesh, yet the effective forest cover is much lower than this area, primarily on account of the fact that a very large area is either alpine meadows or is above the tree line. As per latest State Forest Report of FSI, an area of 14,668 Sq. Km. is actual forest cover. This is constituted by 3224 sq. km. of very dense forests, 6383 sq. km. moderately dense and 5061 sq. km. of open forests. In addition to this, 327 sq. km. area has been described as scrubs.

3A.6 Mineral wealth

Himachal Pradesh is blessed with mineral wealth. As per investigation of Geological Survey of India, the minerals available in Himachal Pradesh include limestone, byrytes, clay, mica, iron pyrites, salt, gypsum, slate, antimony and lead. The distribution of these minerals is scattered all over the State and includes lime stone in Bilaspur, Sirmaur and Kangra districts; salt and slate in Mandi district; gypsum in Rajban & Bharli in Sirmaur district; Lahaul & Spiti and Sabathu in Solan district; byryte in Sirmaur, iron ore in Mandi and Kangra; and uranium in Kullu and Hamirpur districts.

3A.7 Rivers and Lakes

Himachal Pradesh has the privilege of snow-fed perennial rivers and rivulets flowing in almost all parts of the Pradesh. Yamuna, with its important tributaries of Tons, Pabbar and Giri in the east; and Satluj, Beas, Ravi and Chenab in the west flow through various parts of the Pradesh. Some of the important natural lakes are Khajiar, Ghadasasu Lamba Dal, Manimahesh, Mahakali in Chamba district; Dal, Kareri in Kangra district; Chandratal and Surajtal in Lahaul & Spiti district; Chandra Naun in Shimla district; and Renuka in Sirmaur district. The man-made lakes include Gobind Sagar in Bilaspur district; Pong Lake in Kangra district; Pandoh Lake in Mandi district; and Chamera Lake in Chamba district (Balokhra, 2015).

3A.8 Occupation

The mainstay of the people of Himachal Pradesh is agriculture on which 66.71% population depends for their livelihood. The topography being mostly hilly, the type of cultivation is terraced. Close to 80 percent of all holdings fall in the category of small and marginal farmers. Due to ideal climate for fruit cultivation, horticulture and vegetable growing (seasonal as well as off-season), a well-diversified farm economy has developed rapidly during the past three decades.

3A.9 Development of the state

Himachal Pradesh now is one of the most dynamic hill states of India. It scores significantly high on indicators of human development. Its resources of forests, fruits, minerals, health resorts, and hydel power hold the promise of great progress. Natural assets for tourism in the state are ideal. It has its own rich culture, physiography suited to almost all types of crops and fruits, and an independent administrative identity. Its notable accomplishments have been in literacy, agriculture, horticulture, roads, forests, hydel power generation and tourism. The state is called the 'apple belt' of India. Its vast potential for hydel power generation, because of its locational advantage, has attracted the attention of the entire nation, as a major resource awaiting full exploitation (Himachal Pradesh State Development Report).

3B. Inter-temporal changes in the growth and structure of population in Himachal Pradesh

Change in the size of a population, whether positive or negative is called "growth". Growth of population comes from only three source- births, deaths and migration. In this study data of three recent censuses- 1991, 2001 and 2011 have been used in order to know inter-temporal changes in the growth and structure of population in Himachal Pradesh.

3B.1 Decadal population growth in Himachal Pradesh

Table 3B.1.1 Decadal population growth in Himachal Pradesh

Year	Population	Decennial growth rate	Density per square km.	Females per thousand males	Percentage of rural/urban population to total population		Percentage of SC/ST population to total population	
					Rural	Urban	SC	ST
1991	5170877	20.79	93	976	91.31	8.69	25.34	4.22
2001	6077900	17.54	109	968	90.20	9.80	24.72	4.02
2011	6864602	12.94	123	972	89.97	10.03	25.19	5.71

Source: Census of India

Table 3B.1.1 shows the decadal population growth in Himachal Pradesh according to three recent censuses- 1991, 2001 and 2011. Total population of Himachal Pradesh was about 52 Lakh per 1991 census, that increased to around 61 Lakh in 2001 and 69 Lakh as per 2011 census, recording a decadal growth rate of 17.5 during 1991-2001 census and 12.94 between 2001 and 2011 census. Decennial declining growth rate has been registered during these censuses. The density of population and percentage of urban population to total population has been reported to increasing. Percentage of Scheduled Tribes population to total population increased from 4.22 during 1991 census to 5.71 during 2011 census, whereas share of SC population to total population has shown an increasing trend during these censuses. Sex-ratio (female per 1000 males) declined from 976, as per (1991 census) to 968 (2001 census) increased marginally to 972 as per 2011 census.

3B.1.2 Decadal population growth rate by sex

Table 3B.1.2 Decadal population growth rate by sex

Year	Male	Female	Total
1991	20.62	20.96	20.79
2001	17.97	17.10	17.54
2011	12.76	13.14	12.94

Source: Census of India

Decadal population growth rate by sex has been given in table 3B.1.2. Male growth rate during 1991-2001 is higher (17.97 percent) as compared to that among females (17.10 percent), whereas the growth rates reversed, that an increase has been recorded for females than males during 2001-2011 Censuses.

3B.2 Rural-urban population by sex of Himachal Pradesh

Table 3B.2 Rural-urban population by sex of Himachal Pradesh

Year	Rural				Urban				Total			
	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
1991	4721681	2372193	2349488	990	449196	245274	203922	831	5170877	2617467	2553410	976
2001	5482319	2756073	2726246	989	595581	331867	263714	795	6077900	3087940	2989960	968
2011	6176050	3110345	3065705	986	688552	371528	317024	853	6864602	3481873	3382729	972

Source: Census of India

Table 3B.2 presents the rural-urban population by sex. Sex-ratio among rural population (females per 1000 males) declined as per all the three censuses, it decreased to 989 (during 2001) from 990 (as per 1991 census) and further to 986 (as per 2011 census). The sex ratio of urban population, at first, declined from 831 (during 1991 census) to 795 (as per 2001 census), and then increased drastically 853, as per 2011 census.

3B.3 Population by religion

Distribution of absolute population (during 2001-2011) by religion is given in table 3B.3. Share of Hindu population to total population is the highest, followed by Muslims, Sikh and Buddhist. The highest increase in population has been recorded in case of Christian (64.5 percent), followed by Jain (28.2 percent), Muslim (25.4 percent), Hindu (12.6 percent) and Sikh (10.4 percent) during 2001-2011.

Table 3B.3 Population by religion

Religion	Population	Percentage increased 2001-11
Hindu	6532765	12.63
Muslim	149881	25.41
Christian	12646	64.51
Sikh	79896	10.42
Buddhist	78659	3.69
Jain	1805	28.20
Other religion	856	101.41
Religion not stated	8094	-

Source: Census of India

3B.4 Sex-wise Literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh

Table 3B.4 Sex-wise Literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh

Year	Male	Female	Total
1991	75.36	52.13	63.75
2001	85.35	67.42	76.48
2011	89.53	75.93	82.80

Source: Census of India

Sex-wise literacy rate is given in table 3B.4 for three Census- 1991, 2001 and 2011. Literacy rates among male and female population are reported to be increasing over the years as per 1991, 2001 and 2011 censuses. Literacy among male population is 89.53 and 75.93, among females (as per 2011 Census). Overall, literacy rate has increased from 63.75 percent (during 1991) to 82.80 percent (as per 2011 Census).

3B.5 Sex-wise registration of births and deaths in Himachal Pradesh

Sex-wise births and deaths have been presented in Table 3B.5 for the years 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011. Sex ratio of children at birth indicates the number of female child births per 1000 male child births. Sex ratio at birth of child has a favourable trend among female children. The sex ratio at birth is 879 (female children to 1000 male children) during 1996, it increased to 856 and 885 during 2001 and 2006, respectively and finally increased to 918, as per 2011 Census. Higher proportion of male deaths has been recorded than the female deaths.

Table 3B.5 Sex-wise registration of births and deaths in Himachal Pradesh

Year wise registration	Births		Deaths		Sex ratio at birth
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1996	58933	51808	16088	11395	879
2001	71993	61607	20932	14048	856
2006	74438	65891	24066	16271	885
2011	67409	61854	25079	17445	918

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department Himachal Pradesh

3B.6 Birth and death rate in Himachal Pradesh

Table 3B.6 Birth and death rate in Himachal Pradesh

Year	Birth rate	Death rate	Difference
1991	16.5	6.7	9.8
2001	16.2	6.7	9.5
2011	16.0	6.7	9.3

Source: Census of India

Table 3B.6 reveals birth and death rates as per 1991, 2001 and 2011 Census. Birth rates have shown a decline as per all censuses from 16.5 births per during 1991 Census to 16.0, as per 2011 Census. Death rate remained constant (uniform) at 6.7 deaths per declining trend in difference between birth and death rates has been observed during these Censuses.

3B.7 Mean age at effective marriage of females by residence- Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Table 3B.7 presents mean age at effective marriage of females by residence for years 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Mean age at effective marriage of urban females is higher as compared to rural females; it oscillates between 22.6 years for 2008 year to 24.8 years for 2010 year among urban females and about 22 years for rural females.

Table 3B.7 Mean age at effective marriage of females by residence- Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
2004	21.7	23.8	21.7
2006	21.6	23.3	21.7
2008	21.7	22.6	21.8
2010	22.0	24.8	22.2
2012	22.2	24.3	22.4

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department H. P.

3B.8 General fertility rates of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Table 3B.8 General fertility rates of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1988	130.2	89.7	127.3
1991	114.0	70.8	110.9
1996	86.1	61.9	84.3
2001	76.6	60.7	75.4
2006	70.2	42.5	67.5
2011	59.3	37.8	57.3

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department H. P.

General fertility rates have been presented in table 3B.8. General fertility is defined as number of child birth per 1000 married women aged 15-44 or 15-49 years. General fertility, rates have been given for six years 1988, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011. A declining trend has been observed in rural as well urban areas, it being the highest (130.2) and the lowest (59.3) for rural women, and 89.7 and 37.8 are respective rates for urban women.

3B.9 Total fertility rates of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Table 3B.9 presents total fertility rates as per SRS data for six years- 1988, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011. Total fertility rate, defined as total of age specific fertility rates multiplied by 5 (age group interval), has shown a declining trend among both rural and urban women. Total fertility rate among rural women has been the highest (3.7) during 1988 and the lowest (1.8) in 2011, whereas among urban women it has been the highest (2.5) during 1988 and 1.2 (the lowest) in 2011.

Table 3B.9 Total fertility rates of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1988	3.7	2.5	3.7
1991	3.2	2.0	3.2
1996	2.5	1.8	2.4
2001	2.2	1.8	2.2
2006	2.1	1.4	2.0
2011	1.8	1.2	1.8

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department H. P.

3B.10 Infant mortality rates by sex and residence of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Table 3B.10 Infant mortality rates by sex and residence of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Year	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1996	58	73	63	41	31	40	57	71	62
2001	49	38	56	25	14	32	48	36	54
2006	47	57	52	20	31	26	45	55	50
2011	37	40	38	20	35	28	36	39	38

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department H. P.

Table 3B.10 shows infant mortality rates by sex and residence for the year 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011. Overall, infant mortality rates among children of rural and urban women have shown a declining trend. Infant mortality, among female children of rural women has been higher than that of male children, whereas it is higher for male children of urban women than female children of the same area during 1996 and 2001, and later it stated declining.

3B.11 Death rates by sex and residence of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Table 3B.11 Death rates by sex and residence of Himachal Pradesh (SRS)

Year	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1991	10.1	8.2	9.2	6.0	4.2	5.2	9.8	8.0	8.9
1996	9.1	7.3	8.2	6.9	4.9	6.0	8.9	7.2	8.0
2001	8.3	6.2	7.2	6.6	4.0	5.3	8.1	6.0	7.1
2006	-	-	7.1	-	-	4.8	8.4	5.4	6.8
2011	8.1	6.0	7.0	4.1	3.1	3.6	7.7	5.7	6.7

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department H. P.

Table 3B.11 shows death by sex and residence for five years – 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011. Death rates have followed a declining trend in rural as well as urban areas. Overall, death rate declined from 9.2 in 1991 to 7 during 2011 for rural areas and from 6.0 during 1996 to 3.6 in 2011 for urban areas. Male deaths in rural and urban areas are recorded to be higher than female deaths.

4. Policy Implications

The study indicates the need to reduce in fertility and infant & child mortality. This may be achieved through providing education and employment opportunities to women. Education policy should be given higher priority to increase female education, especially to higher education, irrespective of residence. Health facilities, particularly in rural areas may be increased so that effort would be an influence on women's contraceptive behaviour resulting reduction in fertility and child mortality. The income level of household in rural areas by providing employment and education may induce a rapid reduction in fertility. Through counselling, women should be educated to have higher child birth intervals (between successive births) as these reduce both fertility and mortality. There is a need to popularize the temporary methods of birth control, particularly among the young couples. The public should be made aware about the benefits of family planning programmes through electronic and print media.

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