

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AND SUSTIANABLE DEVELOPMENT: INDIAN EXPERIENCE

Dr. T. V. Sekher

Professor & Head, Dept. of Family & Generations,

PI - Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

Mumbai

Background

- ▣ World is experiencing unprecedented demographic changes with important economic and social implications
- ▣ 20th century witnessed remarkable changes in India's demographic arena
- ▣ India's population increased five times - 238 million in 1901 to 1440 million in 2024
- ▣ TFR around 6 in 1950s, India has attained the replacement level fertility of 2.1 by 2021 with a voluntary family planning program

Contours of India's future growth

- **Age:** Every fifth person in India is an adolescent and every third person is a youth (10-24 years)
- Future social and economic development will depend upon investments in education, health care and skill development.
- By 2050, India will have 20 percent of its population as elderly (60 plus) (320 million)
- We need to focus on health and economic security of rapidly growing aged population

Contours of India's future growth

- ▣ **Gender:** This dimension is largely lacking in our development discourse.
- ▣ Despite many policies and programs, child and early marriages still persists, and child sex ratio is skewed.
- ▣ Consider gender gap in educational attainment, particularly in higher education
- ▣ *“Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao”* (save the girl child, educate her)- major focus of govt. now, including many CCT schemes

Reaping Demographic Dividend

- ▣ Demographic transition across states in India varies both in its timing and pace.
- ▣ Consequent to this, period of demographic dividend differs among states
- ▣ Demographic dividend will continue for few more decades for the country as a whole due to large variation across states
- ▣ There is a larger increase in educational levels in recent decades which will help in improving skills and employment opportunities

Realizing demographic dividend

- ▣ In some demographically advanced states, the focus should be on ageing
- ▣ Strengthening social and health security for aged
- ▣ Generating data on elderly- Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) / NTA / NTTA
- ▣ National Program for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE)
- ▣ Creating work environment for migrant workers from other states- Migration-friendly policies

Realizing demographic dividend----

- ▣ For another set of states, education, skill building and employment generation should be the focus, along with strengthening RCH program with human rights approach.
- ▣ For other states lagging behind in demographic transition, focus must be on expanding voluntary access to family planning services, addressing maternal and child health needs, and ensuring universal secondary education for girls
- ▣ Inter-regional population dynamics in India presents a unique situation, that can be turned into a powerful engine for overall development.

Looking forward

- ▣ Considering huge population and demographic diversity in India, a differential planning approach is required for various states
- ▣ Evidences suggest that better health facilities improved economic production
- ▣ Strengthening the sexual and reproductive health programs
- ▣ More investment in girls' education and skill building
- ▣ To reap “gender dividend”, India need to increase female workforce participation

SSTC

- ▣ National efforts must be complemented by international assistance in optimizing the benefits of demographic transition
- ▣ Reducing digital divide
- ▣ Safeguarding environment for value addition
- ▣ Building capacities and technology transfer
- ▣ Supporting evidence based data-driven policies
- ▣ Exchange of knowledge, skills and resources
- ▣ Learning from the best practices

Thank you