

## **A Study on Capacities and Challenges of Demographic Bonus in India**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Demographic dividend refers to a period when fertility rates fall due to significant reductions in child and infant mortality rates thereby reducing the proportion of non-productive dependent population. This fall is often accompanied by an extension of average life expectancy that increases the proportion of the population that is in the working age-group. As more and more members of a family enter into the workforce and start earning, the expenditure of the household on the dependent population decreases as a proportion of the total income which increases savings. It is predicted that around 60 percent of India's population will be in the working age group by 2020. However, India has been facing difficulty in the realization of demographic dividend. India can exploit the benefits of demographic dividend if the working population gets employment opportunities, infant mortality rate and dependency ratio are reduced, adult literacy rate is increased, health care facilities are given and quality of labour force is improved. Hence, the objective of this paper is to examine the trend in the volume of working population and causes for the trend, and explore the measures taken by the Government of India to provide quality education and health care system to this working population.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Demographic change and economic growth are inter-related and economic gains through demographic change are commonly defined in terms of demographic dividend.

“The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that may result from a decline in a country’s mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, a country’s young dependent population grows smaller in relation to the working age- population. With fewer people to support, a country has a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic policies are developed and investments made”. (Population Reference Bureau)

In economic terms, demographic dividend refers to the as the benefits derived from a rise in the ratio of working age ( usually 15-59 years) population to dependents or non- working age population ( usually under 15 and over 60 years old).

### **YOUTH CONCEPTS &DEFINITION – INDIA**

Conventionally, period from adolescence to middle age is termed as youth. Age constitute the determining characteristics in the definition of Youth by various agencies. UN adopted the age group 15 to 24 for defining youth. The National Youth Policy initially (in 2003) defined the youth as in the age group 13-35. However, National Youth Policy, 2014 modified it and defined ‘youth’ as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years. In the present report, we have adopted 15-34 years as youth as adopted in the earlier report in order to show trend and changes over long period of time.

**2. OBJECTIVES**

- To examine the trend in the volume of working population and causes for the trend.
- To explore the measures taken by the Government of India to provide quality education and health care system to this working population.

**TREND IN THE VOLUME OF WORKING POPULATION AND CAUSES FOR THE TREND**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFP), it simply means, “the economic growth potential resulting from shifts in a population’s age structure when the share of the working age population (15to 64) is larger than the share of non-working age population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)”.

A country is expected to reap the demographic dividend when the share of its working population is larger than the share of its non working population. Dependency ratio will remain high due to causes like

- Ageing population
- Low birth rate
- High life expectancy
- Low death rate

**TABLE 1**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE**  
**(IN 000’S)**

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2031</b>
0-14	363611	372444	372358	364247
15-64	613155	767735	937302	1042044
65-80	49106	70676	94222	133614
Age not started	2738	4490	-	-
All age	1028610	1210855	1403882	1539905

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

The table (1) represents the different age group people under different categories they are child, working and old population. 15- 64 working population are higher in population by 60 in 2001to 68 per cent in 2031. 0-14 child populations are lesser by 35.3 per cent in 2001 to 24 per cent in 2031 compared with the working population. 65-80 old populations are lesser by 5 per centin 2001 to 9 percent in 2031 compared with the child population. This table concludes that working population are higher in every year compared with other age groups.

**TABLE 2**

**YOUTH POPULATION FROM 15 – 34 YEARS DIFFERENTIATION IN TWO COUNTRIES (1970 -2030)  
(IN PERCENT)**

YEAR	COUNTRY	
	INDIA	CHINA
1970	32.20	31.69
1980	33.87	35.37
1990	34.25	38.28
2000	34.73	35.26
2010	35.11	32.25
2020	34.46	27.83
2030	32.26	22.31

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 revision Population Database, United Nations Population Division

The table (2) explains the population trends in two different countries they are India and china and it also includes the 15-34 years youth population. In 1970 64.4 per cent youth population is higher in India compared with china and its youth population is 63.3 per cent in 1970. In 2000 70.5 per cent of youth population is higher in china then in India and its youth population is 69.4 per cent in 2000. In 2030 65 per cent of youth population is higher in India then Chinas youth population is 45 per cent. So it concludes that India has higher youth population then china.

**TABLE 3 YOUTH POPULATION FROM 15-34 YEAR SEX WISE IN TWO COUNTRIES  
(1970 -2030)  
(IN PERCENT)**

YEAR	COUNTRY			
	INDIA		CHINA	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
1970	32.02	32.41	32.19	31.17
1980	34.08	33.64	35.43	35.30
1990	34.53	33.96	38.25	38.32
2000	34.87	34.58	35.20	35.33
2010	35.29	34.92	32.49	32.00
2020	34.78	33.84	28.24	26.97
2030	32.72	31.43	22.94	21.12

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 revision Population Database, United Nations Population Division

The table (3) represents the gender wise youth population in India and China. In 1970 male population was 64.3 percent higher in china than India and in 2000 the male population was 70 per cent in India is lesser than China. In 2030 India will be higher at 65.4 per cent of male population than Chinas 46 per cent of male population this concludes that in every year. In 1970 female population was 65 per cent higher in India than China and in 2000 the female population was 71 per cent in China is higher than India. In 2030 India will be higher at 63 per cent of female population than Chinas 42.2 per cent of male population this concludes that in every year India’s population male andfemales youth population are higher than china from 1970-2030.

## **II. The measures taken by the Government of India to provide quality education and health care system to this youth population and working population.**

### **A. POLICY INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH IN INDIA**

Youth has always been of vital concern of the Government of India. Various youth development programmes undertaken by the Union Government after Independence, like National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the schemes for financial assistance to NGOs engaged in youth development bear ample testimony to this fact.

A Committee for National Youth Programmes (CONYP) was also set up as per the guidelines of National Youth Policy with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson which led to the formation of a National level committee constituted by the Department of Youth and Sports for preparation of the National Perspective Plan for the Youth, 1996-2020. The committee identified various areas of concern for youth which inter-alia include:

- Youth in Academic Institutions
- Out of School/Non-Student Rural Youth.
- Out of School/Non -Student Urban Youth and Youth in Slum Areas.
- Training, Employment, Vocational Guidance and Career Counselling.
- Youth-Culture and Creative.
- Sports, Adventure and Recreation for Youth.
- Youth and Adolescence.
- Youth Health including Drug Abuse, Alcohol and HIV / AIDs
- Youth-Sanitation and Environment
- Youth with Special Needs
- Youth and Gender Justice
- Youth, Media and Communication
- Youth in Urban Areas
- Youth and Population
- Youth in the North East
- The National Youth Policy, 2003 replaced the erstwhile National Youth Policy 1988. The policy was redesigned to galvanize the youth to rise up to the new challenges, keeping in view the global scenario, and aimed at motivating them to be active and committed participants in the exciting task of National Development. The thrust of the Policy centred on “Youth Empowerment” in different spheres of national life. This Policy defined youth as persons in the age group of 13 to 35 years.

**OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY, 2014**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>PRIORITY AREAS</b>
1. Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India’s economic development	1. Education
	2. Employment and skill development
	3. Entrepreneurship
2. Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges	4. Health and healthy lifestyle
	5. Sports
3. Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership	6. Promotion of social values
	7. Community engagement
4. Facilitate participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance	8. Participation in politics governance
	9. Youth engagement
5. Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all dis-advantaged and marginalised youth	10. Inclusion
	11. Social justice

**B. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH IN INDIA**

- National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)
- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)
- National Service Scheme (NSS)
- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
- National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD)
- Youth Hostels
- Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisations

**C. SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH**

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDU-GKY)
- Deen Dayal Antayodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
- Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
- Enterprise and Skill Development
- Assistance to Training Institutions (ATI) Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- UDAAN

**3. CONCLUSION**

Demographic change in India is opening up new economic opportunities. So if we want to take advantages of this working age group, we should pay attention on quality of education, increase job opportunities and skill development programme. With the help this programme and policy we can able to get maximum benefit of the young age group. If we enhance the quality of education with appropriate structure and policy, it will directly help us to get advantages of this working age group.

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