

RESEARCH ARTICLE



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Population growth trend and distribution in Karnataka state

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Abstract

Growth of population in any region is a function of fertility, mortality and migration processes. It is a total number of persons inhabiting a region. Overpopulation, under-population and optimum population in any region is directly linked with the resource balance of a region that includes the available resource use, development, depletion, waste and degradation etc. Thus the studies on population growth of a region appears to be significant in order to make decisions to maintain a healthy balance between man and resources. Geographically the Karnataka state forms a part of the table land of Deccan plateau of peninsular India. Karnataka state with a population of 6,10,95,297 (2011) retains 9th rank in India's population of 1,21,05,69,573 (2011), and has been experienced fluctuations in its growth trend. It is in view of these growth fluctuations the researchers have made an attempt to analyse the population growth trend in Karnataka. However, the analysis in this paper is a compilation of available information.

Keywords: Population Growth Trend; Man-resource balance

Introduction

Geographically, Karnataka forming a part of the tableland of the Deccan Plateau, has often been termed as an anthropological museum, where the people of different racial traits are seen. Apart from the Dravidians and Indo Aryan races, the land has notable strains of other categories too. The Muslim dynasties that ruled over the region attracted considerable number of Turks, Afghans and other people from the Middle-East. Proximity to Goa made many run-away Negro slaves from that region, believed to have come and settled down on the territory bordering Goa, especially in Uttara Kannada and these people are called Siddhis. Of late cer-

tain settlements of the Tibetians have also come into existence. Some places on the coast like Bhatkal has people of Arabic origin and who are locally called Navayats, having settled down there for centuries. The Christian population here has a considerable strain of European element in it, as the Portuguese in Goa had married local women and considerable sections of Goan Christians have migrated to Karnataka. The contact, the coastal people had with the Arab traders helped their mingling with the local population. Moreover, various racial elements including both indigenous and foreign; various religious movements and customs have helped in evolving the Karnataka culture which has shaped the life of the people.

Study area

The study region Karnataka state lies in the Southern part of India between 1135 N to 1830 N latitudes and between 745 East to 7835 East longitudes. The total geographical area of the state is 191791 sq.km. which accounts 5.83 percent of the total geographical area of India. In terms of area it is 8th largest state and in population 9th largest in the country. The state extends North-South about 750 km and East-West about 400 km. As per the 2011 census the total population of the state is 6.11 crore.

The Karnataka state has been divided into four revenue divisions (Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi and Kalaburgi), 52 sub-divisions, 30 districts, 177 taluks, 747 hoblies (revenue circles) for administrative purpose. As per the 2011 census the state has 29340 villages, 220 statutory towns and 127 census towns.

Objectives and methodology

As stated in the abstract part of this paper, the broad main objectives in the present study are; To study the population growth trends in Karnataka state; To analyse the regional disparities in the distribution of population in Karnataka.

The present analysis is based on the secondary data and information with simple statistical techniques. The census reports of India, Handbooks and maps published by Govt. of Karnataka, District statistical reports etc., are the main sources of data and information.

Growth trend of population

As can be seen from the trends in growth of population, there was a fall in growth and decrease during 1911-21 due to epidemics, plague and influenza. In 30 years between 1901 and 1931 the population increased only about a million and a half. The rate of growth of population has accelerated from 1951 onwards. The percentage growth rate of population during 1981-91 was 21.12 as against 26.76 during 1971-81. It reduced to 17.51% during 1991-2001. Among the districts, during 1981-91 Bengaluru district has recorded the highest growth rate of 35.10 per cent and newly formed Udupi district (1997) has registered the lowest growth rate of 7.10 percent (see table no. 1).

During the decade 2001-11, the state population witnessed a net addition of 82,44,735 persons to its 2001 population of 5,28,50,562. The male population increased by 40,67,739 and the Female population increased by 41,76,996. Continuing the population growth trends of previous censuses, the State registered a growth rate of 15.60 per cent, recording a decline of -1.91 per cent in comparison to the growth of 17.51 per cent registered during the 2001 census. Among the districts, Bengaluru district has witnessed the highest decennial growth rate of 47.18 per cent followed by Yadgir, the newly created

district, with 22.81 per cent. The gap in the growth rate between the first and second ranked district is a whopping 24.37 per cent. Chikkamagaluru district, predominantly a plantation area in the Malnad region, is the only district in the state which has registered a negative growth rate of -0.26 per cent. Kodagu district another plantation area in the Malnad region with a growth rate of 1.09 per cent ranks 29, just above Chikkamagaluru district.

Table 2. District-wise Distribution of Population – 2011

Sl.No.	State/District	Population	Percentage share to total population
1	2		3
Total	Karnataka	6,10,95,297	100%
1.	Belagavi	47,79,661	7.82
2.	Bagalkot	18,89,752	3.09
3.	Vijaypur	21,77,331	3.56
4.	Bidar	17,03,300	2.79
5.	Raichur	19,28,812	3.16
6.	Koppal	13,89,920	2.28
7.	Gadag	10,64,570	1.74
8.	Dharwad	18,47,023	3.02
9.	Uttara Kannada	14,37,169	2.35
10.	Haveri	15,97,668	2.62
11.	Ballari	24,52,595	4.01
12.	Chitradurga	16,59,456	2.72
13.	Davanagere	19,45,497	3.18
14.	Shivamogga	17,52,753	2.87
15.	Udupi	11,77,361	1.93
16.	Chikkamagaluru	11,37,961	1.86
17.	Tumakuru	26,78,980	4.38
18.	Bengaluru	96,21,551	15.75
19.	Mandya	18,05,769	2.96
20.	Hassan	17,76,421	2.91
21.	Dakshina Kan-nada	20,89,649	3.42
22.	Kodagu	5,54,519	0.91
23.	Mysuru	30,01,127	4.91
24.	Chamarajanagar	10,20,791	1.67
25.	Kalaburagi	25,66,326	4.20
26.	Yadgir	11,74,271	1.92
27.	Kolar	15,36,401	2.51
28.	Chikkaballapura	12,55,104	2.05
29.	Bengaluru Rural	9,90,923	1.62
30.	Ramanagara	10,82,636	1.77

Source : Census of India, 2011.

Only 7 districts have registered decennial growth rates higher than the state average of 15.60 per cent. Of the remaining 23 districts as many as 14 districts have registered a

Table 1. Population Growth, Karnataka ; 1901-2011

Census Years	Population	Decadal Growth		Average annual exponential growth rate (%)	Progressive growth rate over 1901 (%)
		Absolute	Percentage		
1901	1,30,54,754	-	-	-	-
1911	1,35,25,251	4,70,497	3.60	0.35	3.60
1921	1,33,79,559	-1,47,652	-1.09	-0.11	2.47
1931	1,46,32,992	12,55,393	9.38	0.90	12.09
1941	1,62,55,368	16,22,376	11.09	1.05	24.52
1951	1,94,01,956	31,46,588	19.36	1.77	48.62
1961	2,35,86,772	41,84,816	21.57	1.95	80.68
1971	2,92,99,014	57,12,242	24.022	2.17	124.43
1981	3,71,35,714	78,36,700	26.75	2.37	184.46
1991	4,49,77,201	78,41,487	21.12	1.92	244.53
2001	5,28,50,562	78,73,361	17.51	1.61	304.84
2011	6,11,30,704	82,80,142	15.67	1.46	368.26
2021	6,74,24,681	Estimated			

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Govt. of Karnataka Handbooks.

growth rate of below 10 per cent. Rapid Industrialization and growth of various metros in Karnataka has contributed a lot towards its population. Bengaluru, the capital city witnessed a large number of migratory populations from other parts of India. With state government providing a better health services to the people, it has further resulted in controlling the health related problems in Karnataka. So with recent modernization in the state, Karnataka has witnessed a decent growth in its population. The district-wise population of the state in 2011 and the percentage of decennial increase between 2001 and 2011 are as follows.

From the table : 2 it may be noticed that, Bengaluru district is the most highly populated district in the state representing 15.75% of the total population of Karnataka state. Belagavi district is the second largest populated region in Karnataka followed by Mysuru (4.91%), Tumakuru (4.38), Kalaburagi (4.20%) and Bellary district (4.01%). These districts are considered as highly populated regions. Medium populated districts include Vijayapura (3.56%), Dakshina Kannada (3.42%), Davanagere (3.18%), Raichur (3.16%), Bagalkot (3.09%), Dharwad (3.02%). Relatively less populated districts are Shimogga (2.87%), Bidar (2.79%), Chitradurga (2.72%), Mandya (2.96%), Hassan (2.91%), Kolar (2.51%), Chickaballapur (2.05%), Haveri (2.62%), Uttara Kannada (2.35%) and Koppal (2.28%). The less populated districts are Kodagu (0.91%), Bengaluru Rural (1.62%), Ramanagara (1.77%), Yadgir (1.92%), Chamarajanagar (1.67%), Chickmagalur (1.86%), Udupi (1.93%), Gadag (1.74%).

Conclusion

Though the Karnataka state has experienced many ups and downs in the population growth and inspite of decline in

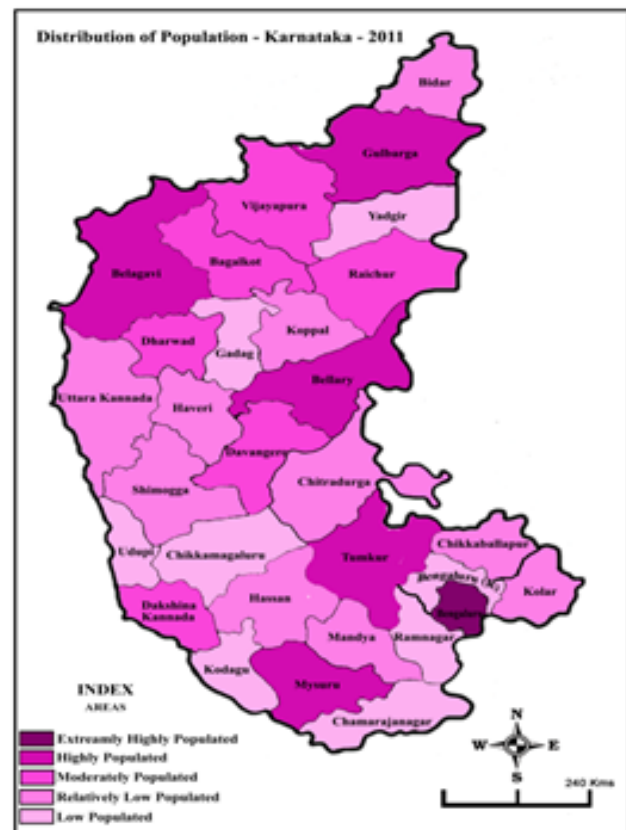


Fig. 1. Distribution of population.

the percentage growth rate the state's total population has been increasing. The estimated and projected population for the state for the year 2021 shows the figures like 6,44,24,681 and 6,48,48,000 based on various methods. This increase in population size is a clear cut indication of increasing pressure of people on the available resources such as land, water, infrastructural facilities etc. Apart from this, the increased population triggers the unemployment problems and demand for essential services, ultimately resulting in environmental resource depletion. Hence this issue needs to be addressed

through proper planning.

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