

7/14/22

What are the significant takeaways for policymakers on improving citizen's quality of life? Analyse in context of the recent UN report?

A UN report predicted that India will surpass China as the most populous country. It was four years earlier than what predicted in 2019. The factors responsible were poverty and inequality - during COVID 19 which led to the population explosion.

Facts showing the resulted growth:

- 1) As per the projections, the older population will increase by 16% in 2050.
- 2) As per the National Family Health Survey 5, the total fertility rate increased by 0.2% from the previous levels of 2015-16. States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Manipur were showing a TFR of 2.1%.

Bihar and Jharkhand had the most number of stunted, wasted and overweighted children.

The poor quality of care in the Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had a health insurance cover of 15% and 17%, when comparing to the national average of 41%.

- 3) According to the Annual State of Education Report 2021, the number of unenrolled children in schools has doubled.
- 4) India Skills Report 2021 states that Uttar Pradesh had an abundant skilled population, showing that the talent pool was untapped.
- 5) The UN report of 2019 brought out that 79% of the elderly population, complain that the social security schemes were not enough.
- 6) UN Human Development Report 2019 placed India in 131st place in the medium category.

What policymakers need to be done?

- 1) Strengthening awareness campaigns and programmes regarding family planning.
- 2) Improving the enrollment of children to schools. "Amma Vadi" in programme in Andhra Pradesh can be a case study.
- 3) Attracting more foreign investments to developing states to tap the unused human resource potential.
- 4) Bringing more awareness to youth of Skill India, Start UP India and Stand Up India programmes to create self employment.

India, being the largest demographic populous country had a huge margin to become a developed country. With right policies, infrastructure and resource management, that should be a cake-walk.

* Older popⁿ = 16%[↑] in 2050

* NFHS-5 - TFR = 2.2 in NFHS 4 to 2.0 in NFHS 5

- Bihar, Jharkhand → stunted, wasted, underweight.

- Bihar, UP, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Manipur - > TFR 2.1

* "poor quality of care" - UP, Bihar → health insurance cover = 15.9% & 17.4%.

* ASER 2021 - UP, Bihar - (unenrolled)²

* India Skills Reports 2021 - UP - talent pool abundant.

* UN report 2019 - 79% of elderly popⁿ - social security schemes - not enough

* UNHDP 2019 - India 131st - medium HDI