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Food Crops & Population: A Correlative Study of Jalna District (MS)

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Introduction:

The natural resources of the world with exceptions of solar energy, wind energy and water energy are limited and fixed. The land which is cultivable is already under the cultivation and further extension of the agricultural area is not possible. It is only possible at the cost of deforestation.

Population explosion is one of the most threatening issues which contemporary India facing, with 2.4 percent of the land mass, India is supporting 16 percent of the world population. This is bound to adversely affect the life style of everyone. It is high time we focus our attention on the ever increasing population of our country which has increased from 25 crores in 1911 to 31 crores in 1951 to an alarming one billion now. The population is growing at the rate of about 17 million annually which means a staggering 45,000 births per day and 31 birth per minutes. If the current trend continues, by 2050 when Indian would have 162 crores which will be more than any other country in the world.

History of population reveals that the population is not in the proportion to the existing resources. Roughly, about five thousand years took for doubling the population there after, it took almost five hundred years and then it doubled in about one hundred fifty years and in the twentieth century population has increased almost four times. And it took almost fifty years for becoming double and it is going to take not more than twenty five years to become double now. The ultimate adverse affect is on the available resources.

Correlative Study of Population and Food Crops Production in Jalna District:

In order to understand the relationship between population growth and growth of food crops production, table 1 gives information for the period 2001 and 2011. It will be more convenient to consider step by step, the population growth pattern first, then secondly, the growth pattern of food crops production. In the year 2001, the population of Jalna district was 1612980 which increased to 1959046 in the year 2011.

The analysis shows that the population increased rapidly due to industrialization and increasing urbanization. This has resulted in attracting large number of immigrants to Jalna city especially. During the period 2001-2011, growth rate of population for the district as a whole was 21.46 percent. However, the growth rate of population of district was not uniform for the tahsils in the Jalna district. The highest growth of population was recorded for Mantha tahsil (28.56%) , while the lowest was for Jafrabad tahsil and it was 18.77%.

Jalna tahsil is the most urbanized part of the district. Large numbers of people migrate to Jalna city in search of better employment opportunities, resulting in the high growth of population for Jalna tahsil. The tahsils like Bhokardan, Ambad, Ghansawangi, Partur and Mantha has the growth rate of population was higher than the district average besides, Jafrabad, Jalna and Badnapur tahsils has also shown much lower growth rate of population than the district average during the same period. (Table 1)

Table 1
Volume of Change in Population and Food Crop Production in Jalna District (2001-2011)

Tahsil	Population		% Change in Population 2001-2011	Production (M.T.)		% Change in Production 2001-2011
	2001	2011		2001	2011	
Bhokardan	256191	311303	21.51	53979	59321	9.90
Jafrabad	137345	163120	18.77	42449	46834	10.33
Jalna	432129	519018	20.11	55316	60721	9.77
Badnapur	131362	153772	17.06	43509	48018	10.36
Ambad	207142	255709	23.45	48229	52751	9.38
Ghansawangi	173082	211108	21.97	33403	37016	10.82
Partur	145495	177589	22.06	33861	37153	9.72
Mantha	130234	167427	28.56	26285	29585	12.55
Jalna District	1612980	1959046	21.46	337031	371399	10.20

Source: Computed by researcher.

Now, it is necessary to furnish simultaneously, the information about food crops production for the Jalna district from 2001 to 2011. It is noted from the table 1 that the food no doubt, has also increased for the same period only to 10.20 percent, which is much lower than the growth of population for the district as a whole. This is because of the land resources are same and cannot be expanded in future. In case, if they are expanded than the forest land is converted into agricultural land which is not desirable at all in the present situation, because in the district land under forest is already below 1% to total geographical area. The food crops production is increasing at much lower rate than population growth. In the district like Jalna there is below 1 percent area under good forest, hence, there is no scope of increasing land for higher production of food crops. Apart from this, there is no sufficient rainfall to raise agricultural productivity for the district as a whole. Total food crops produce in 2001 was 337031 metric tons, which increased to 371399 metric tons in the year 2011.

The growth pattern of food crops production was also observed for different tahsils of the Jalna district. It was recorded highest for Ghansawangi tahsil because of better irrigation facilities and lowest for Bhokardan tahsil as a result of low irrigation facilities. The growth rate of food crops production varies enormously within the region. Jafrabad and Badnapur tahsils have shown higher growth rate of food crops production than the district whereas Jalna, Jafrabad, Mantha and Partur tahsils have shown lower growth rate of food crops production than the district as a whole.

In short, it may be concluded that during the last two decades , the population of Jalna district has increased more than forty percent, while food crops production has increased to only 25 percent during the same period. This gap between the population growth rate on the one hand and food crops production on the other hand is quite remarkable. It must be considered as an alarming problem before the region under study.

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