

AN APPRAISAL OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS IN UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA

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Abstract

The quantity and quality of population is a significant element to study and also is the main consideration in regional planning. Hence the present paper, intends to study the growth, distribution, sex ratio, literacy and rural-urban population in Union territories of India. The present investigation is based on secondary sources of data mainly collected from census of India district census handbooks. Simple growth rate, density of population, sex ratio, and literacy rate has been calculated. It is observed that the decadal growth rate (2001-11) of population was 21.55%. The density of population is 1830 per sq. km. In the union territories density of population is uneven; it is found that the average sex ratio in the study area was 848 in 2011. It is further found that literacy rate in study area is 86 per cent in 2011. The percentage of urban population is increasing from 1981 to 2011.

Key words: Literacy, Density, population Characteristics, territories.

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INTRODUCTION

Population study is concerned not only with the population variables but also with the relationship between population variables and social, economic, political, biological, genetic, geographical variables. It includes both qualitative and quantitative aspects of human population. Population study, gives an idea not only about the need of the region but it also gives an idea about the resource because, population is also one of the major resources of any region. Hence, qualitative study of population is significant. It is necessary to know not only the dynamic ideas about the place of population in geographic literature but also the quality of population in different parts of the globe (Mandal, et al. 2007). The population of any area or region is the outcome of its physical, socio-economic environment. In view of this, the present population characteristics on both quantitatively and qualitatively, present paper includes various aspects of the population.

OBJECTIVES

Present paper aims to study the population characteristics like growth rate, urban rural distribution, density of population, sex ratio, literacy, etc in Union territories of India.

STUDY AREA

As of now there are **seven** union territories.¹ Delhi, the capital of India, is also a Union territory. Delhi and Puducherry have been given partial statehood. Delhi is redefined as National Capital Territory. Delhi and Puducherry have their own elected legislative assemblies and the executive councils of ministers, but their powers are limited; certain legislation must be reserved for the "consideration and assent" of the President of India.

The following are the current union territories of India: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, National Capital Territory of Delhi. The total area covered by the seven Union territories is 10,973 sq. km. and their population, as per the 2011 census, is 20,082,522.

DATA AND METHOD

The present paper is based on secondary sources of data collected from the Census of India district handbooks. Union territories wise simple decadal growth rate has been computed. For the analysis of Rural and urban population distribution, density of population is calculated. Sex ratio is measured in terms of number of females per thousand males. Literacy has been computed for the population above 6 year.

TRENDS IN POPULATION GROWTH

Growth of population is the most fundamental process with which all other demographic attributes are associated. As per 1951, population of the study area was 2228 thousand and increased to 20078 thousand in 2011. Thus during the period of last 60 years population of the study region has increased with 901.17 percent. Growth rate of population in the study area is notably higher than the national level. In order to investigate deeper into the issue and to identify the factors, the decadal percentage growth rates for the study region are analyzed.

Table 1 depict the Decadal variation of population in Union territories of India, there is wide variation from one UT to another. Among Union territories, highest percentage of population is residing in Delhi and lowest percentage of population is in Lakshadweep archipelago.

Table 1. Decadal variation of total population in Union territories (population in thousands)

Name of Union territories	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Delhi	1744	2659	4066	6220	9421	13851	16753
Pondicherry	317	369	472	604	808	974	1244
Chandigarh	24	120	257	452	642	901	1054
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	31	64	115	189	281	356	379
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	42	58	74	104	138	220	342
Daman & Diu	49	37	63	79	102	158	242
Lakshadweep	21	24	32	40	52	61	64
All Union territories	2228	3331	5079	7688	11444	16521	20078
India	36,1088	43,9235	54,8160	68,3329	84,6421	1,028,737	1,210,193

Source: Office of the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

¹ [Union Territories](#) at the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI.

Table 2 Decadal population growth rate in Union territories and India (growth rate in %)

Name of Union territories	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001	2001-11	1951-2001
Delhi	52.47	52.91	52.98	51.46	47.02	20.95	960.61
Pondicherry	16.40	27.91	27.97	33.77	20.54	27.72	392.43
Chandigarh	394.17	119.17	75.88	42.04	40.34	16.98	4391.67
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	106.45	79.69	64.35	48.68	26.69	6.46	1222.58
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38.10	27.59	40.54	32.69	59.42	55.45	814.29
Daman & Diu	-24.49	70.27	25.40	29.11	54.90	53.16	493.88
Lakshadweep	14.29	33.33	25.00	30.00	17.31	4.92	304.76
All Union territories	49.51	52.48	51.37	48.86	44.36	21.53	901.17
India	21.64	24.80	24.66	23.87	21.54	17.64	335.15

Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001 and 2011 (p).

The table 2 gives UT wise population growth rate during the decades from 1951-61 to 2001-11, Union territories show higher percentage of population growth rate over a period of time than the national average of 335.15 percent. The overall percentage of growth rate of population is found to be the highest in Chandigarh (4391.67%) followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands (1222.58%). The lowest growth rate is in Lakshadweep (304.76 %) which is lower than all Union territories and national average.

In terms of percentage, the growth rate of population of Union territories is much higher (21.53%) compared to the national average of 17.64 percent during 2001-2011. The growth population in the Union territories has not been uniform over time; it varied from decade to decade. As in the case of the country, the growth rate of the Union territories has been continuously increasing from 1951.

In the decade 1951-61, there was wide gap in the growth rate among the Union territories of India, the highest growth was happen in Chandigarh i.e., 400 percent while the lowest was Daman and Diu(-24.49%). But poducherry and Lakshadweep have shown lower growth of population than the average of either Union territories or the national average. But in 2011, the growth rate of population Union territories drastically declined to 21.53 percent it was less than half of the 1951-61 growth rate. Chandigarh shows the growth rate of 16.94, which is nearest to the national average but less than the average of Union territories. The highest percentage of growth rate is in Dadar and Nagar Heveli and Daman and Diu, because of higher percentage of tribal population residing in these Union territories.

RURAL-URBAN RATIO:

The ratio between the rural and urban population affects various aspects of the rural area. The proportion of the urban population to the total population is increasing at an accelerating rate in the last two decades due to increasing industrialization and migration; The rural population was 11.70 % of UT's total Population in 2001 which has slightly declined to 10.93 % in 2011, as given in Table-4. More than 95 percent population residing urban area in the Union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh, which have 97.50 and 97.25 respectively in 2011. The plain topography well developed transportation network, industrial development etc are the causes of the high urbanization. The low percentage of urban population is found in the Andaman and Nicobar Island, where the rate of urbanization is slightly increased from 2001.

**Table 3. Percentage of Rural and Urban Population in Union territories
(No of population per Sq km)**

	Union territories	2001		2011	
		RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
1	Delhi	6.99	93.01	2.50	97.50
2	Chandigarh	10.22	89.78	2.75	97.25
3	Lakshadweep	55.53	44.47	21.92	78.08
4	Daman & Diu	63.74	36.26	24.84	75.16
5	Pondicherry	33.43	66.57	31.69	68.31
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	77.11	22.89	53.38	46.62
7	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	67.33	32.67	64.33	35.67
	All Union territories	11.70	88.30	10.93	89.07
	India	68.84	31.16	72.22	27.72

Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001 and 2011 (p).

DENSITY OF POPULATION

Density of population is one of the important indicators to study population concentration and it is defined as number of persons living per sq. kilometer. According to Census 2011, the density of population is worked out at 1830 persons per sq. km. as against 646 persons in 1981. It increased by more than 100 percent over a period of 30 years. Density of population at All-India level has been worked out at 382 persons per sq. km. in 2011 as against 208 in 1981. The density of population in Delhi is highest (11297) in the country as well as Union territories and lowest in Andaman and Nicobar Island where it only 46 people per sq km in 1981 to 2001. The density of population continuously increased in all the Union territories as well as in the country. Except A&N, all the Union territories have shown higher density of population than the national average. The rise in the density of population of New Delhi is mainly due to the migration of people to the capital in search of better living standard.

Table 4 Density of Population in Union territories

Name Of the Union territories	1981	1991	2001	2011
Delhi	3791	6,352	9,340	11297
Chandigarh	3961	5,632	7,903	9252
Pondicherry	1229	1,683	2,034	2598
Daman & Diu	705	907	1,413	2169
Lakshadweep	1258	1,616	1,895	2013
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	211	282	449	698
Andaman & Nicobar Island	23	34	43	46
All Union territories	646	1043	1499	1830
India	216	267	325	382

Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001 and 2011 (p).

SEX –RATIO

Franklin (1956) rightly observed that sex ratio is an index of economy prevailing in an area and is useful tool for regional analysis. The overall sex ratio has been decreasing from 1981 to 2001 in Union territories of India. In 2001 sex ratio in India was 933 females per 1000 males. During the last decade sex ratio in India has increased 0.75% and it is still not a satisfactory figure. Overall sex ratio of Union territories of India had shown lower sex ratio than the national average over a period of time.

It is interesting to note that Delhi is the most developed UT but it stood least in the rank of sex ratio. Average sex ratio in the study area was 848 in 2011 with the variation from a maximum of 1038 in Puduchery and minimum of 618 Daman and Diu in 2011.

Table 5 Decadal variation of Sex Ratio in Union territories of India

Name Of the Union territories	1981	1991	2001	2011
Chandigarh	769	790	773	818
Delhi	818	827	821	866
Daman & Diu	1062	969	709	618
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	974	952	811	775
Lakshadweep	975	943	947	946
Pondicherry		979	1,001	1,038
Andaman & Nicobar Island	760	818	846	878
All Union territories	865	838	827	848
India	934	927	933	940

Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001 and 2011 (p).

There have been huge negative changes of sex ratio in Union territories of Daman Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Sex ratio has dropped by 12.96% during last decade in Daman Diu and 4.56% in Dadra Nagar Haveli. Though Delhi has a positive change of 5.48%, Chandigarh also shows some improvement of 5.28% from 2001. Sex ratio has increased about 4% in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

LITERACY RATE

Literacy and education play crucial roles in the social and political life of a nation and are viewed as factors eminently suited to bring about social change, economic growth, political development and modernization in a given society (Ramotra, Vadiyar, and Mote, 2009). Tables 7 gives data which have been compiled on the basis of published "Census of India 1981 & 1991- Social and Cultural Tables". Literacy rates for total population, in respect of 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 have been given. The Temporal analysis reveals that; literacy rate of the Union territories and India have increased gradually. Literacy rate in study area was 86.24 per cent in 2011, varied from a minimum of 77.7 per cent in Dadar & nagar Haveli to a maximum of 92.3 per cent in Lakshdweep and both male Female literacy rates shows the same pattern in the Union territories. Female literacy is low in Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu over a period of time. Hence, females of the Both Union territories need much attention as far as the literacy is concern.

Table 6. Spatio –temporal variation Literacy rate in ANI

	1981			1991			2001			2011		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Pondicherry	65.1	77.1	53.0	74.7	83.7	65.6	81.5	88.9	74.1	86.5	92.1	81.2
Lakshadweep	68.4	81.2	55.3	81.8	90.2	72.9	87.5	93.2	81.6	92.3	96.1	88.2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32.7	44.6	20.4	40.7	53.6	27	60	73.3	43	77.7	86.5	65.9
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	63.2	70.3	53.2	73	79	65.5	81.2	86.1	75.3	86.3	90.1	81.8
Chandigarh	74.8	78.9	69.3	77.8	82	72.3	81.8	85.7	76.7	86.4	90.5	81.4
Daman & Diu	59.9	74.5	46.5	71.2	82.7	59.4	81.1	88.4	70.4	87.1	91.5	79.6
Delhi	71.9	79.3	62.6	75.29	82.01	66.99	81.82	87.37	75	86.3	91.0	80.9
India	43.7	56.5	29.9	52.2	64.2	39.2	65.38	75.85	54.16	74.04	82.14	65.46

Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001 and 2011 (p).

CONCLUSION

- The following observations are made from the above analysis.
- The temporal and spatial variations are observed in the population characteristics.
- The population of Union territories has increased from **22 million to 200million** during the decade 1951-2011. The rate of population growth was higher than the national average.
- About 10.93 per cent of the population of the Union territories lived in rural area and about 89.07 per cent in urban area in 2011. The percentage urban population is higher than the country's average over a period of time.
- Density of population per sqkm in the Union Territory was 1830 as against 646 in 1981; the highest density is noticed in Delhi and Lowest in A&N.
- Puducherry with 1038 has the highest sex ratio and Daman & Diu has the lowest sex ratio of 618 and Lakshadweep has 946 which is closer to national average 940.
- In 2011 as in 2001, there exists wide variation in the literacy rate among Union Territories. In 2011 the highest literacy rate was recorded in Lakshadweep and the lowest in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and remaining Union Territories the literacy rate was more than 80 per cent.

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