

Ques "Report show that India's population growth is now stabilizing."

However, the TFR remains higher than the national average amongst rural women. Hence, empowering them is the key to achieve SDs by 2030."

Critically Analyse: 250W

Ans According to a UN report: "World Population Prospects 2019", It is estimated that India would surpass China as the world's most populous nation around 2027. This data shows the grave situation and demands proactive steps so that SDs, like No poverty, zero hunger, good health & well-being etc. can be achieved.

India's action steps & achievements

- National population policy 2000: targets replacement rate of fertility by 2045. i.e. TFR = 2.1.
- India has reached a level of population stabilization with TFR - 2.2 little above replacement level.
- According to NFHS-5, the number of contraceptives use is on rise with the rural-urban gap narrowing.

But the main problem lies in the rural areas where TFR is still above the national average.

Factors responsible:

1. Lack of awareness, illiteracy, and cultural beliefs, poverty.
2. No bodily autonomy to women: regarding making choice related to pregnancy, abortion, contraceptives use etc. (as mentioned by State of World population report 2021).

3. Poor health infrastructure :- leads to high IMR, child mortality rate \rightarrow so people go for more child births.
4. - Non-availability of affordable contraceptives.
- lesser facilities available for Vasectomy & Tubectomy & associated cultural beliefs

How to address the situation

1. Involve community leadership : like religious leaders, ASHA workers etc. for awareness generation towards ~~birth~~ small family & its benefits.
2. Empowerment of women : through education, increased employment opportunities, monetary recognition to household care & awareness generation regarding sexual health & contraceptive use.
3. Increasing the legal age of marriage.
4. Increased spending on health : - to provide better delivery & pregnancy related health services to reduce IMR.
- subsidize the health products related to birth control.

5. Role modelling of best performing states. 6. Media Campaigning "Hum do Hamare do".

This is how the pace of population growth can be controlled and the SDG goals to reduce poverty by better livelihood opportunities, good health facilities etc. can be ensured & vision of New India - healthy India & prosperous India would be realized.