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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## POPULATION, RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN TRIBAL DOMINATED DISTRICT OF MAYURBHANJ

**Dr. Biswajita Mohanty**

Teacher, O.G.P.C. High School, Cuttack.

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#### Abstract

Demographic study is a pre-requisite for the developmental plan on the basis of population and population characteristics of any area. The data on population by age and sex is vital for demographers, health administrators etc. for planning and evaluation of various developmental and health program. Due to mal-distribution, diverse ways of living, high growth rate, subsistence level of economic activities and poor mental development, the economic growth is affected. It is very important for a backward district like Mayurbhanj with high tribal concentration. Here 2.51 million people reside in 3727 villages and four census towns spread over 10,418 sq.k.ms. of area (census of India 2011). The total area of Mayurbhanj comprises 6.51 percent of the state and it accommodates 6.00 per cent of the state's total population. So sustainable development programs should be initiated at war footing measures for the growth and development of this tribal district.

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#### Introduction:-

The race of being developing from underdeveloped and developed from developing is a continuous event of mankind since its inception. Population has a very vital impact on this. In a developing country like India where both rural and urban development is a part of the process of industrialization as well as growth in agricultural sector, the spatial dynamics of population is an important field of study. The socio-cultural and economic development of a region is to a great extent dependent on the size, growth rate and composition of its population. The pressure on resources of a region also plays a significant role. Optimum utilization of resources with constraints to safeguard the interest of the future generation is the most challenging task before human beings. The resources like land, labor and capital plays a very important role in the development of a region. Out of these, land gets exhausted with the growth of population where as labor and capital recourses flourish with it. But a combination of these three speed up the industrial growth of a region which in turn brings development as well as crisis in the field of environment, energy, food etc. For which a balanced approach is required which will lead to sustainable development of the region. Mayurbhanj, the most tribal district of Odisha is also not untouched from this problem. Through high birth rate and high death rate the population of the district grows in a faster pace. This puts tremendous pressure on the rich natural resources present in this district. The much awaited development in Mayurbhanj should not be at the cost of this non renewable resources rather sustainable development program for the tribal taking into account the population dynamics of the region should be initiated.

**Corresponding Author:- Dr. Biswajita Mohanty**

Address:- Teacher, O.G.P.C. High School, Cuttack.

**Population pattern of Mayurbhanj:**

Population density is a simple concept of relating population size to the land area with a view to assessing crudely the pressure of population upon the resources of the area. Density of population impacts the environment and ultimately the quality of life of the people. Increasing pressure of population has already impacted the way people live and how they are governed.

Reducing the load on the natural resources & infrastructure especially in the urban areas would remain a huge challenge for administrators and policy makers. The negative effects of population density include less farmlands for farmers & consumers, more congestion and more environmental pollution.

One of the most important aspects of the population of Mayurbhanj is its uneven distribution. A comparative study of the population density of Mayurbhanj, Odisha and India in the last three decades has been given below.

**Table 1:-** Comparison of Population density

Year	Mayurbhanj	Odisha	India
1991	181	202	267
2001	213	236	324
2011	242	269	382

Though the population density of Mayurbhanj does not seem to be high as compared to the state and the nation, yet taking into consideration its physiographic features the density can be claimed at an alarming level. The density distribution in Mayurbhanj is not uniform as it can be seen that due to difficult terrain the density of central region is very less i.e. 116 where as in the eastern region it stands at 421, which also puts non uniform pressure on the resource of the district.

Whatever the reasons may be the high sex ratio in the tribal dominated district and low work force participation of the females contributes much to the per capita income of the district as well as its nose diving economy. From Table-2 it can be easily interpreted how females dominates the demography of Mayurbhanj.

**Table 2:-** Comparison of Sex ratio

Year	Mayurbhanj	Odisha	India
1991	979	971	927
2001	980	972	933
2011	1006	978	940

From the 2011 census it is seen that the female work force participation rate in Mayurbhanj is quite low, they are engaged mainly as marginal workers in different fields which doesn't help the economy to boost in a larger way.

**Table 3:-** Work force participation in Mayurbhanj

	Total	Male	Female
Workers	46.35	52.00	40.74
Main	42.85	56.38	25.67
Marginal	57.15	43.62	74.33

With only 40 percent female workers out of which only 25 percent are working as main workers and the remaining as marginal workers, the contribution of the females in the economy of the region is negligible. Non workers in the district also a major concern in the field of economy as 51 percent of the total populations are non workers. 45 percent males are non-worker in the district.

The precarious literacy rate and the slow pace of growth in it during the last three decades has compelled a majority of population of this district to stick to the primary sector of occupation.

About 63 percent main workers and 74 percent marginal workers are engaged in primary sector of occupation which establishes the poor participation of people in service sector. The poor literacy rate is responsible for overdependence on primary activities thereby increasing pressure on the resources of the district.

The comparison of literacy rate over the last three decades among the district, state and nation is given in Table-4

**Table 4:-** Comparison of literacy rate

Year	Mayurbhanj	Odisha	India
1991	37.88	49.09	52.21
2001	51.90	63.61	64.83
2011	63.20	73.45	74.04

Due to the above discussed facts the resources in Mayurbhanj are depleting day by day. Forest, which is the backbone of the economy of Mayurbhanj, is disappearing in a large scale. The overdependence on forest products is nullifying the effect of many a forestation program initiated by the administration. In spite of continuous effort the per capita forest cover in the district has come down to 0.13ha in 2015 from 0.22 ha in 1991. Dense forest cover area is decreasing due to infrastructure development which might cause problem for the future generation.

The uncontrolled extraction of minerals from the mines is evident from the fact that in the year 2011-12 745,000 tonnes of iron ore, 13,000 tonnes of china clay and 12,000 tonnes of Quartzite have been exploited in the district. The pressure on forest, mineral, land resources due to increase in population puts emphasis on the initiation of some sustainable development program in the district. Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. There are several challenges that need attention in the arena of economic development and environmental depletion. Hence the idea of Sustainable development is essential to address the following issues. To curb or prevent the environmental degradation To ensure a safe human life To check the exploitative technology and find alternative sources To check the over exploitation and wastage of natural resources To regenerate renewable energy resources The concept of Sustainable development is based on following principles Integration of environment and economic decision Stewardship or humans as the caretaker of the environment Shared responsibility, accountability and decision making Prevention and mitigation Conservation Waste minimization Enhancement of productivity, capability, quality of nature and human life Rehabilitation and reclamation.

**The major problems in the path of development of Mayurbhanj are:**

1. The primitive methods of cultivation without any use of modern equipments and scientific techniques.
2. Most of the people in the rural areas rear livestock & poultry. Though there is a good potential for dairy farming, it has not been fully exploited.
3. The percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste is very low.
4. Economic imbalances, lack of infrastructure especially in the interior areas, lack of basic facilities like health, education, inaccessibility and want of gainful employment have led to the rise of left wing extremism.
5. The literacy among tribal woman is averse to the concept of women empowerment coined by the Government of India.
6. Brain drain is quite obvious which is not in favor of the development of this region.

**The major recommendation for the development of Mayurbhanj is:**

1. Agriculture universities with the help of local N.G.O.s should carry out extensive training programmes for the farmers educating them about modern techniques like crop diversification, use of scientific tools, and use of soil health card etc. for a better productivity.
2. Creation of market by announcing a good M.S.P. and M.P.P, providing good storage facilities, preservation technology of the products should be at the focus of the government.
3. A good number of veterinary institutions, animal breeding centres should be initiated to encourage livestock, dairy and poultry farming which in turn generate wealth and employment in the district.
4. Literacy among people in general and S.C., S.T. and women in particular must be emphasized.
5. Employment generation scheme for the educated should be implemented to check brain drain.
6. Government and non-government organizations are to be involved to carry out better health care programmes and health care campaigns.
7. The God gifted Similipal massif must be exploited for tourism development.
8. Maximum utilization of forest products by local people is to be encouraged but sufficient care must be taken so that there should be no overuse of forest which may lead to deforestation.

**Conclusion:-**

Taking into consideration the growth rate of population, social groups, literacy as well as economy of this district it can be well assumed that there should be optimum utilization of the resources of this resource rich district. But much more emphasis must be laid on sustainable development as we have to store these resources for our future generation for their survival.

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