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GROWTH OF POPULATION IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA: 1991-2001

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Introduction

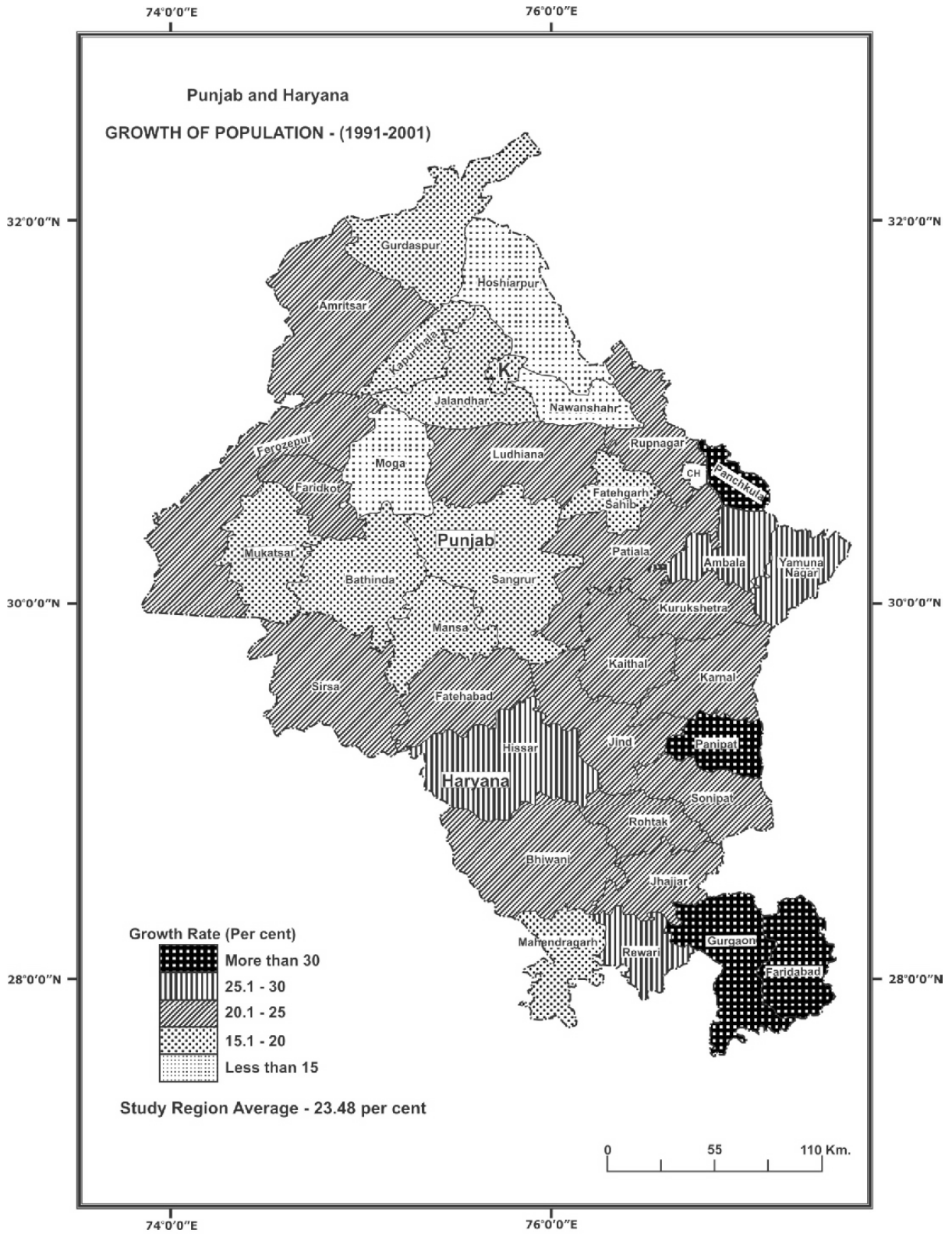
Both Punjab and Haryana, which at one time were part of the same state continue to display contrastingly different demographic scenario, especially with regard to growth of population and growth related attributes. During 1991-2001, while Punjab's population grew only by 20.1 per cent which was lower than the national average (21.54 per cent), that of Haryana recorded a growth rate of 28.4 per cent which was significantly higher than the national average. Another significant contrast between the two states was that while the growth rate of population in Punjab declined by 0.7 per cent during 1991-2001 in comparison to that in the previous decade (1981-91), which was in tune with the national scenario, the growth rate of Haryana's population, by comparison, improved upon its growth rate of previous decade. It recorded an increase of 1.02 per cent in its population growth rate during 1991-2001 in comparison to the previous decade.

Such contrasts in two areas could very well be related to their differences both in natural rate of increase and migration patterns. The rate of natural increase of population in Haryana during the period under review was 19.4 per cent while that in Punjab it was only 14.2 per cent. However, one could derive a solace from the fact that in both the states the proportion of population below 6 years of age declined by almost the same percentage points (3.0), which was no less a significant

development especially in Haryana. Such a significant decline in the proportion of population below 6 years of age signals a quantum fall in population growth rates of both the states in the years to come.

Spatially too, while large parts of Haryana displayed higher rate of population growth during 1991-2001, large areas in Punjab, by comparison, displayed low rate of population growth (Fig. 1). It may be pointed out here that the highest growth rate of population experienced by any district in Punjab was less than 25 per cent (Ludhiana-the industrial district-Table 1). By contrast, in case of Haryana, the highest growth rate of population recorded by any district was above 50 per cent (Panchkula- the emerging administrative capital of Haryana –Table 1) as most of the state's administrative headquarters have been located at Panchkula city because of its nearness to Chandigarh and also of its beautifully planned internal structure. While a cursory examination of birth rates in the two states reveals that continuing high birth rate in Haryana state has much to explain the state's existing high growth rate of population, excess of in-migration over out-migration due to state's proximity to the national capital of Delhi too had its role to play. By comparison, Punjab displayed comparatively much lower birth rate and added to it was marginal excess of out-migration over in-migration. Both these factors yielded slow growth rate of population.

In addition, other areas of Haryana



Source : Table 1

Fig. 1

Table 1
Punjab and Haryana: Growth of Population (1991-2001)

State/District	Growth Rate %	State/District	Growth Rate %
Punjab	20.10	Haryana	28.43
Nawan Shahar	10.58	Mahendragarh	19.16
Hoshiarpur	14.02	Rohtak	21.00
Moga	15.03	Kaithal	21.02
Kapurthala	16.68	Jind	21.36
Fatehgarh Sahib	18.27	Sonipat	22.39
Sangrur	18.67	Bhiwani	22.49
Muktsar	18.80	Karnal	23.06
Jalandhar	18.96	Jhajjar	23.06
Gurdaspur	19.73	Kurukshetra	23.32
Mansa	19.85	Sirsa	23.59
Bathinda	20.09	Fatehabad	24.76
Ferozepur	20.51	Rewari	25.34
Patiala	20.70	Ambala	25.78
Faridkot	21.07	Hisar	27.11
Amritsar	23.59	Yamunanagar	29.19
Rupnagar	24.07	Panipat	38.58
Ludhiana	24.89	Gurgaon	44.87
		Faridabad	48.56
		Panchkula	50.91

Regional Average: 23.48 Per cent

Source: Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2005, p. 61

Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2007-08, p.39

displaying high growth rate of population included the districts of Gurgon (the emerging IT capital of North India) Faridabad, Panipat and Yamuna Nagar each having considerable concentration of specialized industry. The districts of Rewari, Hisar and Ambala are the close followers that may display still higher growth rate of population in the coming decade. At the other end of the scale was the district of Mahendragarh that displayed the lowest growth rate of population due to its comparatively high literacy (both male and female) as also due to its neglect *vis- a- vis* development projects. While the former was responsible for low birth rate, the latter yielded higher out-migration, both

resulting in low growth rate of population in the district.

In Punjab *Bist Doab* has been the traditional area of out-migration/emigration as well as of high literacy. No wonder, during the period under review the region recorded a low rate of less than 20 per cent or even 16 per cent. The adjacent district of Moga too recorded a low growth rate of less than 16 per cent due to excess of out-migration over in-migration. Another major area of slow growth of population in Punjab was the Malwa region which seems to have been successful in arresting its growth rate. However, the district level data on proportion of population below 6

years of age for the region may speak volumes.

In fine, spatial variations in the pattern of growth of population within the study region were in consonance with the regional differences in the rate of natural increase and the nature of migration. In addition, levels of literacy, proximity to national/state capital and extent of industrial concentration or its absence had their own role to play.

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