



POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT DURING 2001-2011

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ABSTRACT

Population is one of the major concerns of the present world as human population is not a static factor. Rather, it is growing at a very alarming rate. In the context of World, population is currently growing at a rate of around 1.11% per year. According to 2016, the population growth rate of India is 1.19% (CIA World Factbook) whereas, the growth rate of Punjab is 14.05%. In the state of Punjab, Gurdaspur is a prominent district of Punjab, where the growth rate of population is 23.18 percent, which is relatively high than that of the state average by 9.13%. The present paper concentrates on the analysis of population growth trends of Gurdaspur district. The data has been collected from Census of India 2001 and 2011. For analysis, simple averages and percentage shares have been calculated.

INTRODUCTION:

The concept of population change or growth of population is often used to connote the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact whether change is negative or positive. Such a change can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of percentage. Because of the increasing world population, the resources of the earth remain constant. Thus the ability to maintain sustainable development is becoming a major challenge to mankind today. The fluctuation in the population in a given area are influenced by fertility, mortality, migration, etc. A number of studies exploring the trends in population change have recorded a conspicuous spurt in the recent past. For a population geographer, however, the phenomenon of population growth has special significance. He values it as a vital index of a region's economic development, social awakening, historical and cultural background and political ideology. Thus the understanding of population growth in an area holds the understanding of the entire demographic structure of the area (Chandna, R.C., 2014).

STUDY AREA

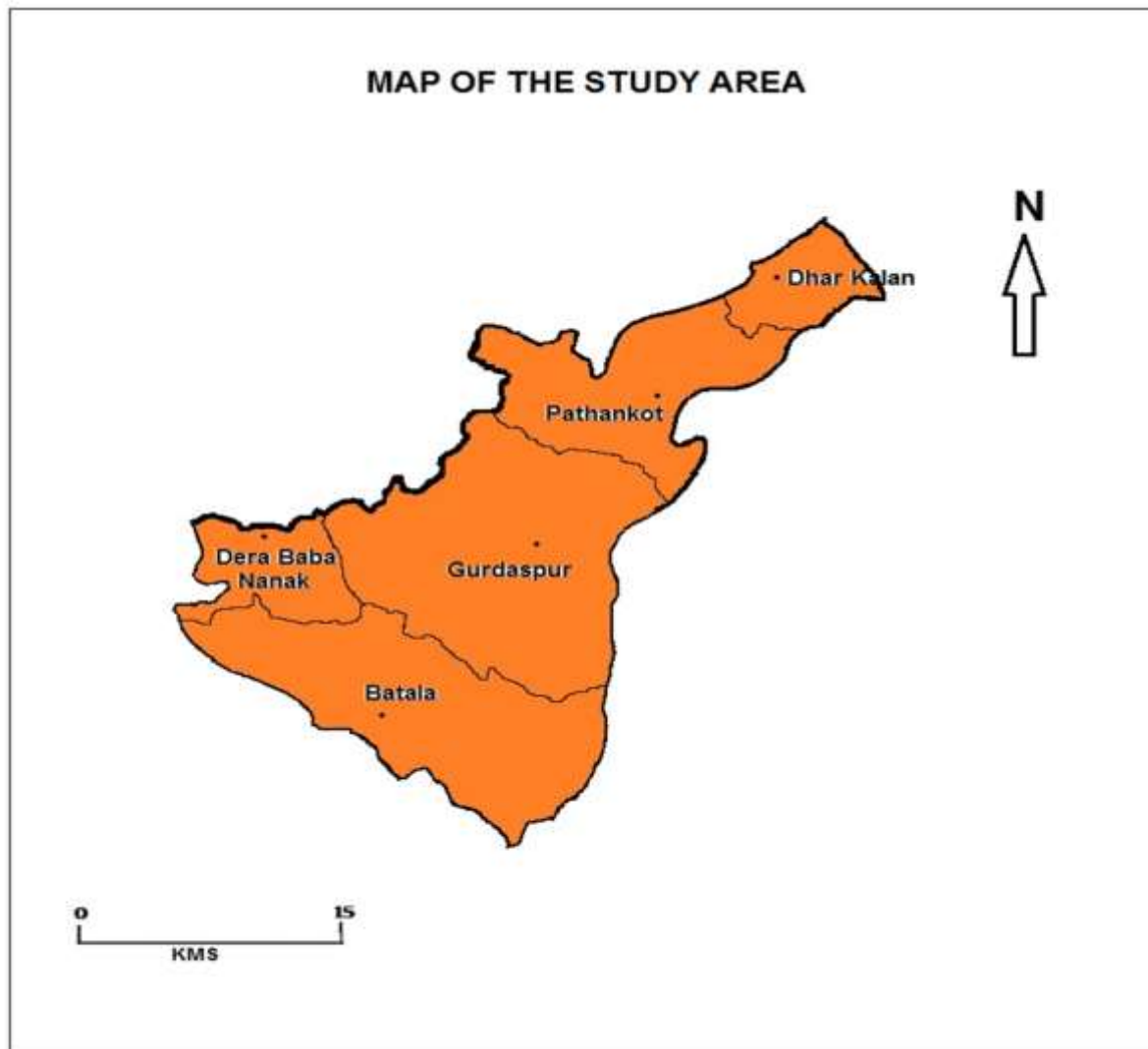
Guradspur is one of the 20 districts of Punjab. The head quarter of this district is the city of same name, that is Gurdaspur city. According to population, this is the 6th largest district of Punjab. Gurdaspur is located at 32.03° N, 75.52° E. It has an average elevation of 242 metres. The district comprises an area of 1889 Km². It is bounded on the north by the Jammu region of Jammu & Kashmir. Chamba, on the east by Kangra district and the Beas River, on the south by Amritsar district, and on the west by Sialkot, and occupies the submontane portion of the Ban Doab, or track between the Beas and the Ravi River.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the spatial patterns of growth of population in various tehsils of the study area.
2. To identify the factors affecting growth of population in the study area.

SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on secondary data obtained from Census for 2001 and 2011. Tehsil has been selected as study unit. Simple statistical techniques are used for deriving results and for mapping, simple choropleth method is used.



Source: Punjab Census 2011

GROWTH OF POPULATION IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT-2001-2011

Gurdaspur district has a population of 22,98,323 comprising 12,12,617 males and 10,85,706 females. Gurdaspur district makes 8.3 percent of the total population of the state. Gurdaspur is the most populous and Dhar Kalan is the least populated tehsil. The District population has increasing from 21,04,011 to 22,98,323 during 2001-2011 which is showing the growth rate of 8.45 percent. There are 14 large sized villages in the district with a population of 5,000 and above. Out of the total population of the district, 71.3 percent is in rural area and only 28.7 percent in urban. Dhar kalan is the only district where no urban area exists. (District Census Handbook for Gurdaspur, 2011)

TABLE 1.1:GROWTH OF POPULAION (In percentage)

State/ District/ Tehsil	Total	Male	Female
Punjab			
Gurdaspur	14.05	12.89	15.39
Dhar Kalan	23.18	8.94	9.56
Pathankot	3.89	0.82	7.44
Gurdaspur	36.22	7.99	8.94
Batala	21.06	10.50	10.30
Dera Baba Nanak	6.44	9.09	9.62
	38.71	6.69	8.34

On the basis of data given in Table 1.1, three types of areas have been identified (Map 1):

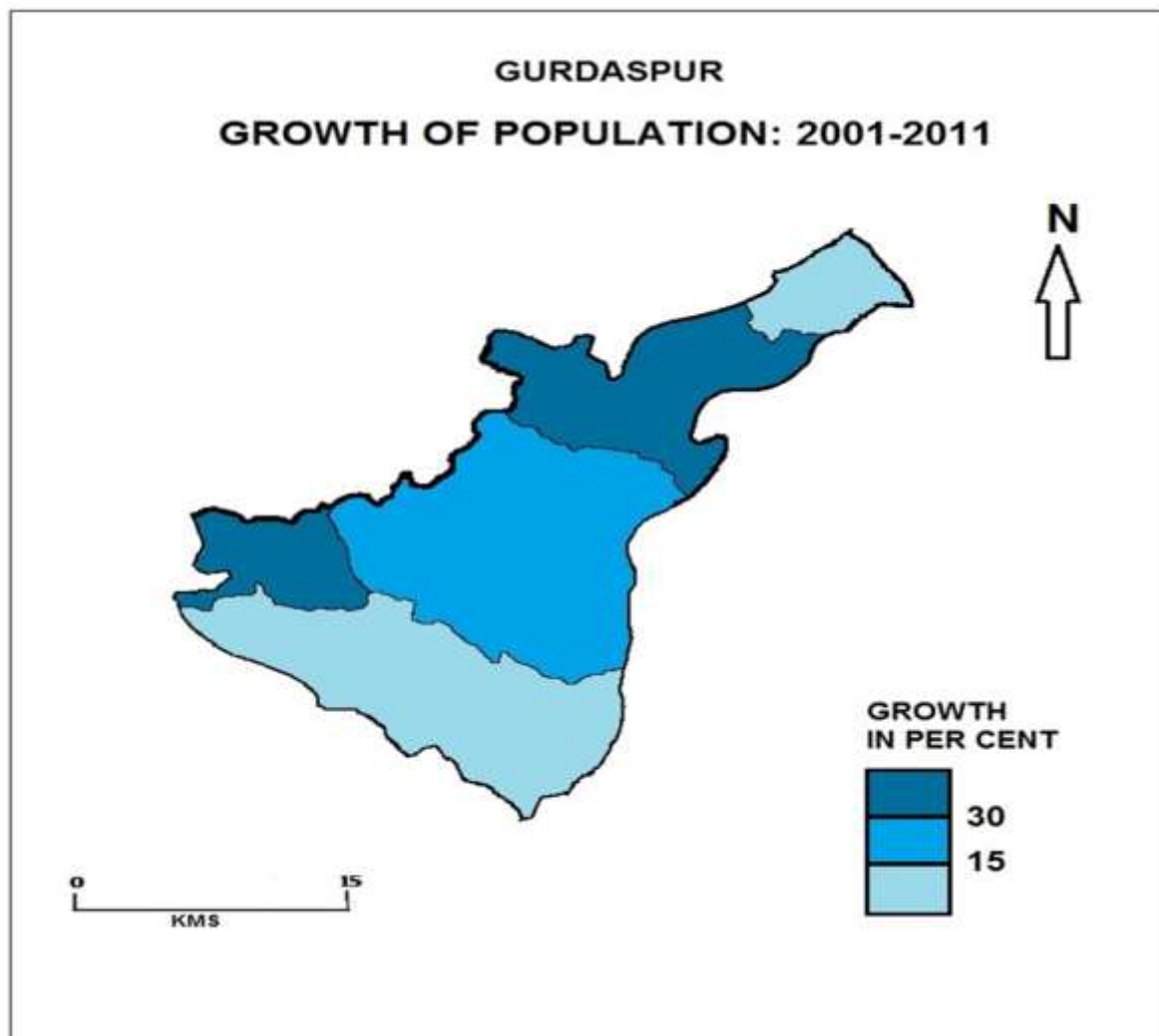
1. Areas with relatively high growth rate of population (more than 30 percent);
2. Areas with moderate growth rate of population (between 15-30 percent);
3. Areas with relatively low growth rate of population (less than 15 percent).

1. Areas with relatively high growth rate rate of population (more than 30 percent):

Out of all the tehsils of the district, two tehsils namely Dera Baba Nanak (38.71 percent), and Pathankot (36.22 percent) recorded relatively high growth rate of population. Dera Baba Nanak is a religious place that becomes the reason for its high growth and Pathankot has its own scenic beauty which attracts the population growth.

2. Areas with moderate growth rate of population (between 15-30 percent):

Only one tehsil has been identified with moderate growth of population i.e. Gurdaspur (21.06 percent) as shown in Map 1. It is interesting to note that gurdaspur is the most populous tehsil



Source: Punjab Census, 2011

Only one tehsil has been identified with moderate growth of population i.e. Gurdaspur (21.06 percent) as shown in Map 1. It is interesting to note that gurdaspur is the most populous tehsil of the District but population growth here is moderate (between 15-30 percent). Because people in this tehsil are migrating to abroad because the tehsil has limited agriculturable area.

3. Areas with relatively low growth rate of population (less than 15 percent):

Two tehsils namely Batala (6.44 percent), and Dhar Kalan (3.89 percent) recorded relatively low growth rate of population i.e. less than 15 percent. Batala tehsil is leading in this regard by recording 2.55 percent more than that of Dhar Kalan (Table 1). Both the tehsils have high literacy

rate that is 85.28 percent and 81 percent in Batala and Dhar Kalan tehsils respectively. High literacy is the major reason for relatively low growth rate of population in these tehsils.

In terms of male population growth, there are three types of areas that have been identified (Map 2):

1. Areas with relatively high growth rate of male population (more than 8 percent);
2. Areas with moderate growth rate of male population (between 4-8 percent);
3. Areas with relatively low growth rate of male population (less than 4 percent).

1. Areas with relatively high growth rate of male population (more than 8 percent):

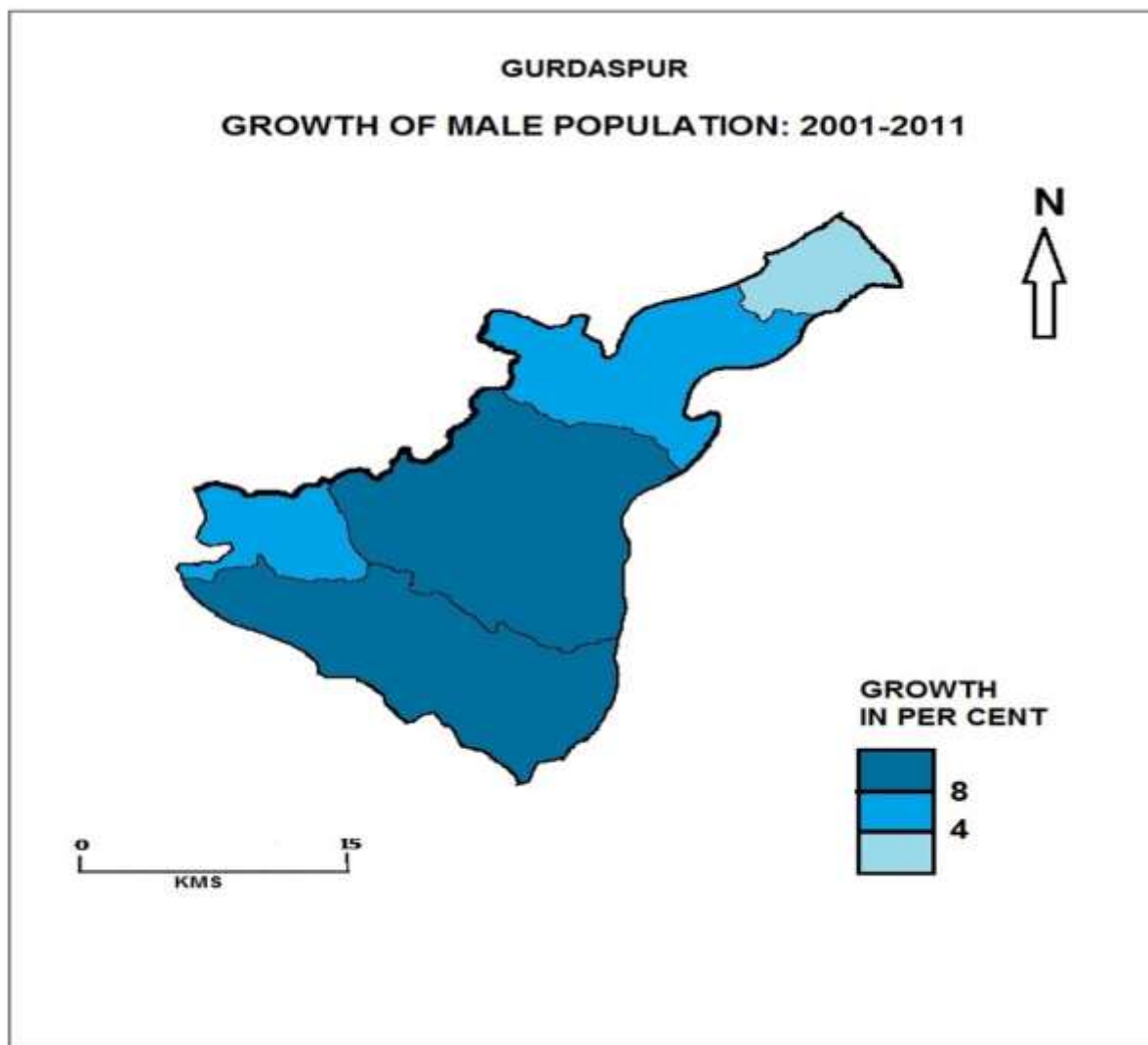
Two tehsils namely Gurdaspur (10.50 percent), and Batala (9.09 percent) emerged with relatively high growth rate of male population. Batala is the biggest industrial town in the district. Immigration of male population has been observed as a driving force in this regard.

2. Areas with moderate growth rate of male population (between 4-8 percent):

Two tehsils emerged with moderate growth rate of population in the district of Gurdaspur i.e. Pathyankot (7.99 percent), and Dera Baba Nanak (6.69 percent). High literacy rate in Pathankot (84.9 percent) is responsible for moderate growth of male population. The growth of male population in Dera Baba Nanak is less than that of female growth rate (8.34).

3. Areas with relatively low growth rate of male population (less than 4 percent):

Only one tehsil that is Dhar Kalan (0.82 percent) falls in this category. Dhar Kalan is the least populous tehsil in Gurdaspur district. The growth of female population here is 6.62 percent higher than that of population growth among the males.



Source: Punjab Census 2011

MAP 2

In terms of female population growth, three types of areas have been identified (Map 3):

1. Areas with relatively high growth rate of female population (more than 9.50 percent);
2. Areas with moderate growth rate of female population (between 8.50-9.50 percent);
3. Areas with relatively low growth rate of female population (less than 8.50 percent);

1. Areas with relatively high growth rate of female population (more than 9.50 percent):

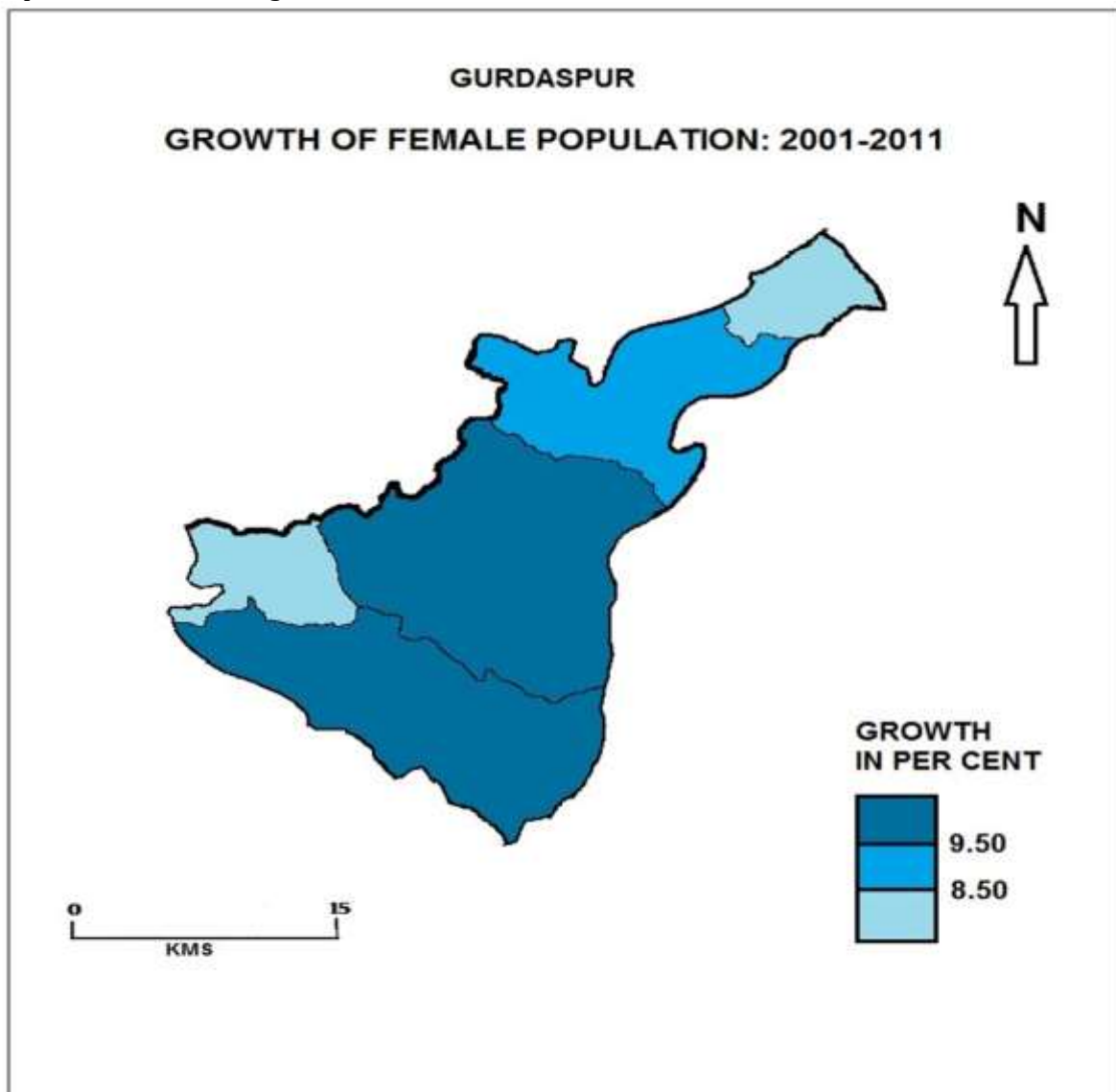
Two tehsils namely Gurdaspur (10.30 percent), and Batala (9.62 percent) recorded relatively high growth rate of female population. High status of women in these tehsils is responsible for high growth rate. It is interesting to note that the growth rate of female population of Gurdaspur district (9.56) is lower than the growth rate of these tehsils than 8.50 percent).

2. Areas with moderate growth rate of female population (between 8.50-9.50 percent):

Only one tehsil namely Pathankot (8.94 percent) comes under this category. Location of this area along the international border may be one of the reasons of moderate growth of female population, perhaps due to the presence of more males in defence forces.

3. Areas with relatively low growth rate of female population (less than 8.50 percent):

Two tehsils namely Dera Baba Nanak (8.34 percent), and Dhar Kalan (7.44 percent) have recorded relatively low growth rate of female population. Male dominance in the society is responsible for the low growth rate in these tehsils.



Source: Punjab Census 2011

MAP 3

FINDINGS AND SUMMARY

The concept of population change or growth of population is often used to connote the change in the number of habitants of a territory during a specific period of time irrespective of the fact whether change is negative or positive. The growth rate of population of Punjab is about 1.4 percent (annually). Population growth in Punjab is considered to be satisfactory as compared to growth in other states of India. According to Census 2011, the total growth rate of population of Gurdaspur district is 23.18 percent. The total growth rate of male population is 8.94 percent whereas the growth rate of female population is 9.56 percent. Dera Baba Nanak tehsil of the district recorded the highest growth rate because it is a religious place and population is migrating in the tehsil for religious purposes. Dhar Kalan tehsil of the study area recorded the lowest growth rate. High literacy rate is the reason of low growth rate in this tehsil. The results of the study of growth trends of population in Gurdaspur district have revealed the following facts:-

- Areas along the international border recorded low growth rate as compare to other areas.
- Areas, where the process of international migration is high, have the lowest growth rate of population.
- Areas having low level of literacy recorded the high growth rate and those having high level of literacy recorded the low growth rate of population.
- Areas which are industrially advanced and where the employment opportunities are found, recorded the highest growth rate of population.
- Areas having more educational facilities and awareness among population recorded relatively low growth rate of population.
- Areas, where the male dominance is practised, recorded low female population growth.

POLICY SUGGESTIONS

First of all, there should be effective border management for complex territorial conditions so that the population feel safe and secured at border areas. The tehsils having high rate of international migration should provide employment opportunities, social security, Wage security and good living conditions in their home peripheries. These factors may emerge as a major discouraging power of this phenomenon. Free and compulsory education should be provided in those areas where the low literacy rate has been recorded. Apart from this, woman education can work wonders in controlling population. An educated man and woman can readily understand the benefits of a small family. So the efforts should be made in this direction. Government and non-government institutions can carry awareness campaigns informing people how they will be unable to provide good nutrition, education or medical facilities to their children and how can they improve the living standard by decreasing population growth.

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