



**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
CHANGE MONOGRAPHS**

48

**The Population and Development
Transition in South India:**

Evidence and Implications

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Foreword

This monograph by Dr C M Lakshmana addresses the concerns and issues explaining the demographic changes and their consequences on population transition in southern states of India during the last four decades of development. The monograph examines the effects of decline in fertility and its significance in the changing age structure of population, focussing on children, youths and the elderly. The relationships among dependency ratio, economic development, urbanization and the transition are also discussed.

Substantive changes in distribution of population have taken place in India owing to rapid economic growth and infrastructure development. Significant decline in TFR (Total Fertility Rate) is observed in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab which have already reached the replacement level fertility. The health scenario has improved at a slower pace compared to other developing countries and is due to regional disparity in socio-economic development. Demographic trends of birth rate, death rate and migration have been influenced by the socio-economic development which are shaping the economic growth and social development. Eventually, development has been the primary cause of declining fertility and death rate.

The pattern of fertility decline in India is changing the 'age structure' of the population and has implications on appropriate changes in public health policy to improve productivity of human resources. Understanding the linkage between population and development transition is crucial due to the changing scenario of demographics in India. This study of population and development accordingly involves social, economic, political and cultural dimensions and their interplay in addressing the predicament.

This monograph addresses issues in the area of population and development and is a good piece of research work of great use to demographers. I am happy to recommend this monograph for the benefit of the wider audience.

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