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203

**CHANGING CHILD
POPULATION:
GROWTH, TRENDS AND
LEVEL IN KARNATAKA**

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CHANGING CHILD POPULATION: GROWTH, TRENDS AND LEVELS IN KARNATAKA¹

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Abstract

The present investigation endeavours to understand the growth rate trends and levels in Karnataka of child population aged below 6 years. The study tries to present the comparative analysis of child population between the two decades of 1981-1991 and 1991-2001. The available census data for the years 1981, 1991 and 2001 have been used for the study. There has been a drastic change in the growth rate of child population in Karnataka in the two decades under review. Most of the districts in the southern region registered a negative rate of growth in child population. Excepting Belgaum, Gulbarga Raichur, Chitradurga and Bangalore Urban districts, no other district in Karnataka witnessed significant growth in child population in the decade 1991-2001. And excepting Bangalore Urban, Gulbarga, Raichur and Chitradurga, no other district reported a positive growth in female child population in the decade 1991-2001.

Introduction

In the last two decades, there has been a continuous decrease of child population in the total population in India. This is also witnessed in the state of Karnataka. This is the result of two demographic trends: First, the movement towards smaller families meant fewer children were being born in the later part of the century; second, increase in life expectancy has led to a larger adult population in the recent decades. However, in this regard one must note that declining fertility and increasing preference for sons in recent decades in Indian society have further influenced the dissimilar growth and distribution of gender population of children under 6 years of age.

The proportion of youth, children and adults in the total population in a given region/area has played an important role in the socio-economic development and growth. For instance, many developing economies like India, Pakistan, Africa and Srilanka have over exploited

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the available natural resources. This is because of higher proportion of child population in the total population. Despite this has led to low socio-economic development. Increasing awareness towards family planning in India since 1980's, contraception prevalence rate turned higher (59.3 per cent RCH round 2nd NFHS-3 2005-2006). At the same time availability and access of health care services for children have also increased overtime. This is true both for India and the progressive State of Karnataka. In this regard the Ministry, Department of Health and Family Welfare, GOI has made good effort in providing health care services and also controlling the population growth as well, by introducing innovative policies and programmes in the country. It is significant in Karnataka. In this respect, the present study tried to understand change in the proportion, growth and variation of child population under age 6 years in Karnataka for the decades 1981-1991 and 1991-2001.

Data and Methodology

To study the changing child population in Karnataka under age 6 years, secondary data have been obtained from census publications for the three different census years for 1981, 1991 and 2001. Districts-wise proportion and also decadal growth rates have also been computed. A comparative analysis has been done for the study to trace the major changes in the growth rate of child population under age 6 years. In understanding the demographic shift and its impact on the changes in proportion and growth of child population under age 6 years in Karnataka, a district-wise analysis has been done for the study. In the context of increasing preference for sons and neglecting a girl child in modern society in India, a special emphasis has been laid to understand the growth rate of female child population in Karnataka between two decades of 1981-1991 and 1991-2001.

Review of Literature

Over the years, child population trends have helped project potential needs for education, child care, health care and other services for children. Most of the studies on child population have drawn attention either towards

adverse sex-ratios or gender discrimination (Neelambar Hatti, Sekher and Mattias Larsen 2004 and 2006). However, over the years several studies conducted by the researchers and demographers had focused on the general population growth and distribution and no attention has been given to understand the child population under age 6 years in India as well as Karnataka. Therefore, there is no relevant literature available on child population under age 6 years both at national and State levels. However, at the international level a study carried out by William in 2001 deeply explains the reasons for decreased growth of child population in decade 1991-2001. The author in his study tried to trace the relative change in the growth rate of child population over the past two decades. An effort has been made for the study to trace the demographic shift in 1990s by studying the growth in the number of children between the years 1990 and 2000. Children in USA accounted for 40 per cent of the total population in 1900, but only 26 per cent in 2000.

Objectives

- Understand the changes in the proportion of child population under age 6 years and its variation in Karnataka for the year 1981, 1991 and 2001
- trace the major changes in the growth rates of child population under age 6 years and to explain the trends and levels for both male and female child population in Karnataka by districts for the decades of 1981-1991 and 1991-2001.

Change in Proportion: A Glance

Before understanding the growth, trends and levels of child population in Karnataka, it is necessary to mention the changes in proportion of child population under age 6 years between 1981 and 2001. The child population of Karnataka was increased from 6.84 million in 1981 to 7.47 million in 1991, but, by the year 2001 there was a decline in its absolute figures to 7.18 million. Fig 1 reveals that over the years the proportion of child population in total population has decreased from

18.4 per cent in 1981 to 13.6 per cent in 2001. This can be attributed to fall in fertility rates, birth rate and the increase in life expectancy (Table 3) has also influenced the reduction in the share of child population in total population of Karnataka.

It is seen from Fig 1 that, there was a higher proportion of child population in Karnataka in all the districts in 1981 as compared to the year 2001. The average proportion of child population of the state in the year 1981 was 18.4 per cent. The districts of Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Kolar, Mandya and Raichur have registered above State average of 18.4 per cent. Whereas the other districts of Bangalore (u), Belgaum, Chikkmagalore, Dakshina Kannada, Uttar Kannada, Tumkur, Hassan, Mysore, and Shimoga have shown below State average of child population in Karnataka.

As per 1991 Census, this proportion of child population in Karnataka declined slightly in all the districts except in Belgaum, Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur. Interestingly in the year 2001, there was a steady decline in the proportion of child population in all the districts in Karnataka.

For the purpose of understanding, the proportion of child population has been classified into four categories as high (18.1-22 per cent or greater), medium (14.1-18), low (10.1-14) and very low (Proportion below 10 per cent). As per this classification, in the year 1981, the districts of Kodagu, Bangalore (u), Belgaum, Chikmagalore, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Tumkur, Hassan, Mysore and Shimoga have under medium (14.1- 18 per cent) category and the rest of the districts have come under high proportion category with 18.1 – 22 per cent in the total population. Interestingly there were no districts under the categories of low (10.1-14 per cent) and very low (Below 10 per cent) in the year 1981. This has been presented in Table 1.

There was a wide variation in the child population proportion in 2001 as compared to the year of 1981. There were no districts under

the categories of very low and high proportion of child population. All the districts fall under Low and Medium proportion of child population. This was the significant change in the proportion of child population in Karnataka, over a period of time. With this evidence we could infer that demographic impact and as well as awareness of family planning and despite the improvement in socio-economic development have together attributed to low birth rates and intended fewer children in the last two decades.

Further it is clear from Fig 1 that, the southern districts in Karnataka have been classified under Low (10.1-14 per cent) category, and rest of the districts in the northern region under Medium category in proportion of child population. Though, studies have shown that this is because of two factors: (i) in Karnataka, especially most of the districts in northern region have registered high fertility, low age at marriage, and low female literacy (NFHS-2 and 3), (ii) comparatively low socio-economic development and the state has achieved expected demographic goals to a considerable extent (Table 3). On the other hand poverty reduction, fertility decline, increasing female literacy, reduction in infant and child

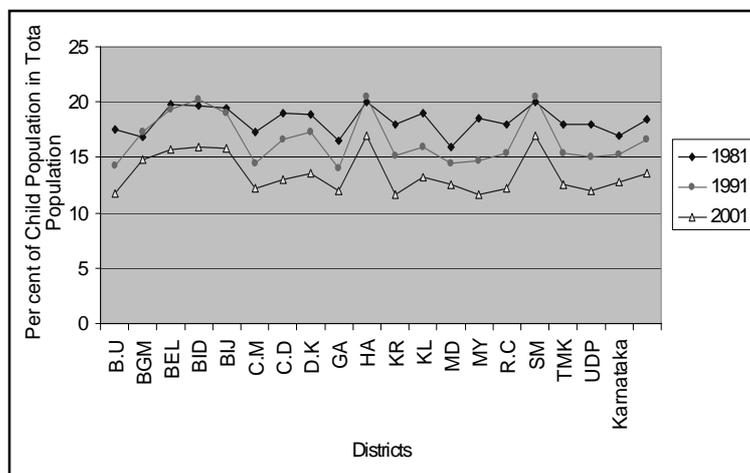


Fig 1 Changing Child Population in Karnataka by Districts

mortality, availability and access of public health care services for children and to some extent, creating awareness about family planning programs even in poorer and weaker sections of the society have influenced to a great extent in reducing child population in Karnataka particularly in southern districts.

Growth Rate Trends and Levels

In this section, focus has been given to study the main objective of the paper, analyzing the trends and levels of child population in Karnataka. In the decade 1981-1991, the overall growth rate of child population in Karnataka was 8.5 per cent. But, it was negative in the decade 1991-2001. (Table 3). In the decade 1981-1991 most of the northern districts like Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chitraduraga Dharwad, Gulbarga, Raichur and the districts of Chitradurga, Mysore, Dakshina Kannada in southern region had registered positive growth rates of child population in the state. But during the decade 1991-2001, there had been a drastic change in the growth rate of child population across districts in Karnataka. (Table 2). Excepting the districts of Chitradurga, Bangalore urban (10.2 per cent), Belgaum (0.7) Gulbarga (1.5) and Raichur the rest of the districts had shown negative rate of growth in child population under age 6.

Table 2, clearly shows that in the decade 1981-1991 the districts like Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar and Bijapur had posted higher levels (15.1 – 20 per cent) of growth in child population.

Table 1: Proportion of Child Population under age 6 years in Karnataka by groups 1981 and 2001

Group	Districts (1981)	(2001)
Below 10 (Very Low) per cent	Nil	Nil
10.1- 14 (Low)	Nil	Bangalore (u), Bangalore Rural, Chamarajnar, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Mandya, Tumkur, Udupi, Chikmagalore, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Kolar, Kodagu, Mysore, Shimoga and Uttar Kannada.
14.1-18 (Medium)	Kodagu, Bangalore (u), Belgaum, Chikmagalore, Dakshina Kannada, Uttar Kannada, Tumkur, Hassan, Mysore and Shimoga.	Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Haveri, Gulbarga, Koppal and Raichur.
18.1-22 (High)	Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Kolar, Mandya and Raichur.	Nil

Source: Compiled and classified by the Author

Economically backward districts of Gulbarga and Raichur had registered very high (20.1 per cent or more) growth rates. It is observed that most of the districts in southern region like Bangalore urban, Chikmagalore, Uttara Kannada, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Shimoga and Tumkur had registered negative rates of growth in child population in the State.

Table 2: Decadal Growth of Child Population under age 6 by Districts in Karnataka

Sl.Nos	District	Decade		Per cent Increase or Decrease
		1981-1991	1991-2001	
1	Bangalore (u)	-25	10.2	35.2
2	Bangalore -R		-15.7	
3	Bagalkot			
4	Belgaum	18.7	0.7	-18
5	Bellary	19.8	-15.2	-35
6	Bidar	22.8	-6	-28.8
7	Bijapur	15.6	-0.81	-16.41
8	Chamarajnaragar			
9	Chikmagalore	-7	-6.2	0.8
10	Chitradurga	7.1	17.56	10.46
11	Davanagere			
12	Dharwad	8.4	-0.08	-8.48
13	Dakshina Kannada	3.7	-10.74	-14 .4
14	Gadag			
15	Gulbarga	21.2	1.5	-19.7
16	Haveri			
17	Hassan	-2.7	-19.3	-16.6
18	Kolar	-0.7	-5.8	-5.1
19	Koppal			
20	Kodagu	-7.1	-2.2	4.9
21	Mandya	-9	-17.7	-8.7
22	Mysore	4.3	-11.10	-15.4
23	Raichur	24.9	3.67	-21.23
24	Shimoga	-1.2	-41.7	-40.5
25	Tumkur	-2.8	-13.3	-10.5
26	Udupi			
27	Uttar Kannada	-1.1	-8	-6.9
	Karnataka	8.5	-4.1	-12.6

Note: Calculated by the Author

Here one must note that in Karnataka the growth of child population was not only low, but also negative in the decade 1991-2001. Interestingly the districts of Chitradurga and Dharwad have shown low (5.1-10 per cent) growth rates in their child population.

Table: 3 Achievements of Demographic Goals in Karnataka

Indicators	1981	1991	2001
(1) Crude Birth Rate	32.20	28	25
(2) Crude Death Rate	-	8.1	7.6
(3) Total Fertility Rate	3.5	3.1	2.4
(4) Contraception Prevalence Rate	-	-	59.3*
(5) Infant and Child Mortality Rate	69	77	58
(6) Life Expectancy			
(Total)	-	61.9	63.3
(Male)	-	60.2	61.6
(Female)	-	63.5	64.9

Source: Population Change in Karnataka, Project Report submitted to ISEC by C.M.Lakshmana (2006) and * RCH Phase I &II, 2001, currently married women age 15-44.

If we compare the growth rates of child population in decade 1991-2001 with that of 1981-1991, it shows that excepting Belgaum, Gulbarga (below 5 per cent), and Bangalore urban (10.1-15 per cent) no other districts reported positive growth rates in child population in the State (Table 4). From this, we could infer that over the years the developing country of India experienced decline in fertility rates at the national level. However, there is a growing disparity between northern states and southern states with the southern States being more successful in controlling population growth (Fertility Transition in South India, Gulimoto and Rajan 2005). Awareness about small family, welfare programmes and policies and increasing female literacy rate resulted in controlling population growth and has played an important role in reducing the growth rate of child population in Karnataka.

Table 4 Decadal Growth of Child Population under age 6 years by districts in Karnataka. (1981-1991 and 1991-2001)

Growth Rate Levels	1981-1991 Districts	1991-2001 Districts
Negative (growth rate less than 0)	Bangalore (u), Chikmagalore, Uttar Kannada, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandaya, Shimoga and Tumkur	Bangalore (R), Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chikmagalore, Dharwad, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttar Kannada
Very Low (Below 5 Per cent)	Dakshina Kannada, Mysore	Belgaum, Gulbarga and Raichur
Low (5.1-10)	Chitradurga, Dharwad	Nil
Medium (10.1-15)	Nil	Bangalore (u)
High (15.1-20)	Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar and Bijapur	Chitradurga
Very High (20.1 percent or greater)	Gulbarga and Raichur	Nil

Source: Classified by the Author

There were two reasons for positive (very low) growth of child population in districts of Bangalore urban, Gulbarga and Belgaum. First, increasing slum population and rapid migration to Bangalore urban District seem to have contributed to the positive growth of child population. Further investigation has been done on the aspects of geographical boundary of Bangalore (u). But in 1991 and 2001 the geographical boundary of Bangalore was 2190 sq.kms. Hence, it is clear that the higher growth of child population under age 6 is not due to boundary change. The large proportion of labour migrants towards Belgaum from other

parts of Karnataka in search of employment coupled with high fertility among migrant population seem to have led to higher growth of population. In this regard migration data from successive censuses indicates that about 87 per cent of the total migrants were recorded either inter district or intra-district migrants within the state. Border districts like Bellary, Belgaum, Kodagu, Bidar and Kolar had a higher proportion of migrants from other states (Sekher 2004). Secondly it is to be noted that poor economic position, illiteracy and also their religious way of life to some extent seem to be the main reasons for positive growth in child population in Gulbarga. However, this calls for further research to unearth the exact reasons on this issue. However, here one must note that out of 640 towns in India, about 28 towns have 2 lakh and above slum population, with Bangalore being one of them. The remaining 612 towns in out of 640 have 25,000 to 1 lakh slum population (Census of India, 2001, series-1, Slum Population India). Illiteracy and low socio-economic status among the slum population might be the reason for the high growth of child population in irrespective of the sex.

Growth Rate Trends and Levels: Male Child Population.

It is a general phenomenon that historically the Indian society is a male dominant one along with gender discrimination. In view of this the proportion and growth of male child population in total population of a country/ region assume greater importance in population studies. There have been many district wise as well as State wise studies in India which focus on gender related issues. In this context if we examine the proportion and growth of gender based population under age 6, one can observe that there has been a wide gap in the growth of male and female child population in Karnataka in decade 1981-1991. It is a well known fact that Karnataka of late, is playing an important role in not only as a progressive state but also in the economic development scenario of the country. Hence, it is evident from Table 5 that the decadal growth of male child population under age 6 was 20.40 per cent in decade 1981-1991. But, it was absolutely negative in the next decade of 1991-

2001. From this observation one can note that probably due to increasing awareness about family planning and the effort made by the Department of Health and Family Welfare in the country has influenced to a negative growth of child population with a declining trend (- 8.2 per cent) in the decade 1991-2001.

If we look at the percentage change of male child population under age 6 between the two decades as reported from table 5 that, except the districts of Bangalore (33.35 per cent), Kodagu (4.51 per cent) and Chikmagalore (1.52 per cent) and the rest of the districts were absolutely negative growth of child population in the state. In decade 1981-1991 the districts of Raichur (25.43 per cent), Bidar (21.93 per cent) and Gulbarga (21.43 per cent) have registered above state average growth rate of 20.40 per cent. Even the district of Bellary (19.95 per cent), Bijapur (16.18 per cent) and Belgaum (13.75 per cent) districts had also registered relatively higher growth of child population under age 6 in Karnataka. The minimum growth rate has been reported in districts of Kolar (0.64 per cent), followed by Dharwad (8.34 per cent) and Chitradurga (8.52 per cent). The growth rate was negative in the remaining districts of Karnataka.

The above scenario has been entirely changed in decade 1991-2001 when compared to the previous decade. The population growth under age 6 in Karnataka registered negative (-8.2 per cent). If we look at the growth rates by districts it has been observed that, except Bangalore (10.5 per cent), Gulbarga (2.6 per cent) and Belgaum (2.4 per cent), the rest of the districts were had negative growth rate of child population. Further It was higher in Dharwad (- 177 per cent), Bijapur (-91 per cent), Chitradurga (-80.5 per cent), Raichur (-67 per cent) Dakshina Kannada (- 65.2 per cent), Mysore (-50.3 per cent) and Shimoga (-41.4 per cent). The negative growth of child population in remaining districts was relatively lower.

If we look at the percentage change of male child population growth between two decades of 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 it has been presented in table 5. The district of Bangalore urban has registered higher rate of growth with 33.35 per cent. Also the districts of Kodagu and Chikmagalore have also had a positive growth with 4.51 and 1.52 per cent respectively. The growth rate change in the remaining districts in Karnataka was shown negative. Further it was reported that the maximum rate of growth in district of Dharwad (-185.45 per cent), followed by Bijapur (-107.37 per cent), Raichur (-92.50 per cent), Chitradurga (-89 per cent), Dakshina Kannada (-62 per cent), Mysore (-54.79 per cent) and Shimoga (-41.10 per cent). For further details see table 5.

Table 5 District-wise Male/ Female Population Growth under Age 0-6 years in Karnataka

Sl. No	District	Decadal Growth Rate and Change					
		Male		Percent Increase or Decrease	Female		Percent Increase or Decrease
		1981-1991	1991-2001		1981-1991	1991-2001	
1	Bangalore (u)	-22.81	10.5	33.35	-27.2	9.9	37.1
2	Bangalore -R		-14.8	-14.81			0.0
3	Bagalkot			0.00			0.0
4	Belgaum	13.75	2.4	-11.33	12.4	-1.1	-13.5
5	Bellary	19.95	-14.6	-34.54	19.6	-15.9	-35.4
6	Bidar	21.93	-4.9	-26.80	23.7	-7.2	-30.9
7	Bijapur	16.18	-91.2	-107.37	15.0	-96.8	-111.8
8	Chamarajnaragar			0.00			0.0
9	Chikmagalore	-6.68	-5.2	1.52	-7.4	-7.2	0.2
10	Chitradurga	8.52	-80.5	-89.00	5.6	9.9	4.3
11	Davanagere			0.00			0.0
12	Dharwad	8.34	-177.1	-185.45	8.5	-179.7	-188.2
13	Dakshina Kannada	-3.20	-65.2	-62.00	-4.2	-67.6	-63.5
14	Gadag			0.00			0.0
15	Gulbarga	21.53	2.6	-18.93	20.9	0.4	-20.5
16	Haveri			0.00			0.0
17	Hassan	-0.82	-18.8	-17.96	-4.7	-19.9	-15.3
18	Kolar	0.64	-5.2	-5.82	-2.1	-6.5	-4.4
19	Koppal			0.00			0.0
20	Kodagu	-7.01	-2.5	4.51	-3.4	-5.6	-2.2
21	Mandya	-6.59	-16.2	-9.58	-11.4	-19.2	-7.8
22	Mysore	4.52	-50.3	-54.79	4.0	-50.9	-54.9
23	Raichur	25.43	-67.1	-92.50	24.4	-67.1	-91.5
24	Shimoga	-0.20	-41.4	-41.15	-2.1	-42.1	-40.0
25	Tumkur	-3.08	-12.1	-9.06	-2.5	-14.6	-12.1
26	Udupi			0.00			0.0
27	Uttara Kannada	-1.22	-7.8	-6.62	-1.1	-8.2	-7.1
	Karnataka	20.40	-8.2	-28.58	5.7	0.2	-5.5

Note: Compiled from Census data for the year 1981, 1991 and 2001 and growth rates calculated by the author

Table 6 Decadal Growth of Male Child Population under age 0-6 in Karnataka by Districts

Growth Rates Levels	Districts (Decade 1981-1991)	1991-2001
Negative (Growth Rates Less than 0)	Bangalore (u), Chikmagalore, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kodagu, Mandya, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttar Kannada	Dakshina Kannada and Dharwad
Very Low (Below 5 Per cent)	Kolar and Mysore	Bijapur and Raichur
Low (5.1-10)	Dharwad	Nil
Medium (10.1-15)	Belgaum	Nil
High (15.1-20)	Bellary and Bijapur	Chitradurga
Very High (20.1 Per cent or Greater)	Bidar, Chitradurga, Gulbarga and Raichur	Bangalore (u), Bangalore (R), Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Chikmagalore, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttar Kannada

Note: Classified by the Author

Growth Rate Trends and Levels: Female Child Population

In the previous part, we briefly explained the trends and levels of male child population in Karnataka. Now, we turn our attention towards the female child population growth to discuss the trends and levels by districts in Karnataka for the last two decades. It is clear from Table 5 that in the decade 1981-1991, female child population growth rate was about 5.7 per cent; but there was a drastic decline to 0.2 per cent by the decade 1991-2001. The average percentage change in the growth rate of female child population in Karnataka between the decades 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 was minus 5.5 per cent.

There was no significance difference of male and female child population growth in the decade 1991-2001. If we compare the status of gender balance in respect of the growth of male and female child population under age 6 was seems to be no any significance difference. By the statistical support one could note that in Karnataka female child population growth is slightly higher than male child population growth. It is evident from table 5 that in decade 1991-2001 the male child population growth was absolutely negative, but on the other hand female child population growth was slightly positive with 0.2 per cent.

The percentage change between two decades in growth of female child population was highest in Dharwad (minus 188.2 per cent), Bijapur(minus 111.8), Raichur (minus 91.5), Chitradurga (minus 88.6),Dakshina Kannada (minus 63.4) and the southern district of Mysore (minus 54.9 per cent). Excluding Bangalore (u) and Chikmagalore, all the districts registered below minus -50 per cent of change in the growth rate of female population. It ranged from minus 2.2 per cent in Kodagu to minus 35.5 per cent in Bellary.

Table 7 reveals that in decade the growth rate trend of female child population in decade 1981-1991 vary across districts. The growth rate of female child population was negative in most of the districts in southern region. But, it is quite reverse in case of northern region. The districts like Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Belgaum and Raichur have shown high to very high growth rates level in female child population with 15-20 per cent or more. The districts of Dharwad and Chitradurga registered low (5.1-10 per cent) rate of population growth. Interestingly the district of Mysore in southern region reported very low (below 5 per cent) growth rate of female child population in the State.

There was a significant change in the growth rate of child population in decade 1991-2001, as compared with the previous decade of 1981-1991. As has already been mentioned, strong son preference, neglect of girl child due to increasing cost of marriage, education have influenced the negative growth of female child population not only in

Karnataka (except Bangalore (u) and Gulbarga) but also in India. It is observed from Table 7 that except the districts of Bangalore urban and Gulbarga Chitradurga and Raichur and no other districts reported positive growth rate in female child population in Karnataka.

The positive growth rate of female child population in the above mentioned districts can be attributed to the two factors; (i) higher per cent of slum population in Bangalore and (ii) low socio-economic status and, to some extent, religious sentiments in Gulbarga district. For example, the illiterates in the rural villages believe that a birth of child will be performed by God. Hence, they should not kill a born child irrespective of the gender. Probably this might be the reason and, to some extent, higher per cent of SC/STs in Gulbarga were also influenced the positive growth of female child population.

Table 7 Decadal Growth of Female child population under age 0-6 in Karnataka by districts

Growth Rate Levels	Districts (Decade 1981-1991)	1991-2001 All Districts
Negative (Growth Rate Less than 0)	Bangalore (u), Chikmagalore, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttar Kannada	excluding Gulbarga, Raichur, Chitradurga and Bangalore urban
Very Low (Below 5 Per cent)	Mysore	Gulbarga and Raichur
Low (5.1-10)	Chitradurga and Dharwad	Bangalore (u)
Medium (10.1-15)	Belgaum and Bijapur	Nil
High (15.1-20)	Bellary	Chitradurga
Very High (Per cent 20.1 or greater)	Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur	Nil

Note: Classified by the Author

The reasons for positive growth of female child population in Bangalore urban district can be seen in the context of highly polarized urban growth and consequent unusual concentration of population with unique demographic characteristics resulting in the creation of several slums in Bangalore Metropolis. Further it is to be noted that in poor families, the arrival of an additional child is considered as a source of income and a means of social security. Hence poverty is closely associated with higher child population irrespective of the gender of child. These people (slum dwellers) do not think of their family welfare and improving their standard of living. Therefore, these factors led to higher fertility and also higher growth of child population. Lack of awareness about family planning, low standard of living and illiteracy etc., have influenced the birth of child. Hence, these aspects may be the reasons for positive growth in female child population in Bangalore urban district. Of course, over the years, the governments and N.G.O,s have taken some special initiative through planned programmes to improve the standard of slum dwellers. But there is a need to bring these people into the main stream. Still poverty and illiteracy are the draw backs which continue and continue to live in the same life-style and livelihood.

Summary and Conclusions

Overall, in the past 20 years there has been a continuous decline in fertility in India. The same trend is evident in Karnataka also. Disparity in socio-economic development indicators has been growing between northern and southern region of Karnataka. The districts in southern region have been more successful in controlling population growth, with the result most of the districts in northern region have a higher rate of growth in their child population as compared to that of southern region.

Government's efforts in controlling population growth in Karnataka during the last two decades have indeed brought not only a decline in the rate of child population growth it also registered a

negative rate of growth. From this we can infer that this was due to the progressive steps adopted by the State of Karnataka. Districts in the southern region have low proportion of child population, while the opposite is the case in the districts in the northern region.

Proportion of female child population in total population in Karnataka was higher than that of male child population in 1981, which declined by the year 2001. In the decade 1981-1991, overall growth rate of child population in Karnataka was 8.5 per cent; the rate of growth was negative in the decade 1991-2001. There has been a drastic change in the growth rate of child population in Karnataka by districts in the two decades under review. Economically backward districts of Gulbarga and Raichur have registered very high growth rate of child population even in the decade 1991-2001

Most of the districts in southern region have registered negative rate of growth in child population in the decade 1991-2001, and excepting, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Bangalore urban no other district witnessed any significant growth in child population. Further, excepting Bangalore urban and Gulbarga, no districts reported positive growth in female child population in the decade 1991-2001.

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