

Youth Bulge – An Analysis with Special Reference to Ollur Village

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Abstract: *According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), by 2020 alone some 60 crore additional jobs will need to be created for youth reaching working age in developing countries. In the future, actions to promote youth employment in developing countries with high population growth will be more urgently needed than ever before. This research aims to identify the benefits and drawbacks of Youth Bulge. Primary data was collected through questionnaires, Telephone Calls and personal interviews. Various Statistical tests like Percentage Analysis has been used. Here we analyse the Youth Bulge Phenomenon by evaluating the demography of Ollur village in Thrissur.*

Key words: *Population, Youth Bulge, Ollur, Indian Economy, Demography.*

I. Introduction

As China, Japan and many other nations face an aging demographic profile, the youth segment of India's population is growing rapidly, and is projected to continue to do so for the next 30 years. Provided India can act quickly on health, education and employment, this demographic dividend has the potential to inject new dynamism into its flagging economy. Failure to do so, however, will result in demographic disaster.

Today, more than half of India's population is under the age of 25, with 65 percent of the population under 35. By 2020, India's average age will be just 29 years, in comparison with 37 in China and the United States, 45 in Western Europe and 48 in Japan. This demographic trend will confer a significant competitive advantage upon India. About a quarter of the global increase in the working age population (ages 15-64) between 2010 and 2040 is projected to occur in India, during which time this segment is set to rise by 5 percent to 69 percent of its total population. Roughly a million people are expected to enter the labor market every month, peaking at 653 million people in 2031. As a result the IMF projects that India's demographic dividend has the potential to produce an additional 2 percent per capita GDP growth each year for the next twenty years.

Unfortunately, most do not have the remotest chance of acquiring the skills and education that would raise their living to those levels, even assuming enough jobs were created to employ them. India's education system is simply not delivering: A recent report from Pratham, a nonprofit education advocacy group, found that half of India's 7-year-olds cannot identify letters, and one in five 10-year-olds cannot read sentences. Manufacturing is not expected to generate enough jobs; a recent report indicates more people will be working in agriculture in India in 2019 than in 2012. Some other people are going to other countries for searching jobs.

According to the most recent figures (ILO 2013), 73 million young people worldwide were looking for work. This means that on the global average, young people are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed.

The unemployment rate currently stands at 12.6% globally. In developing countries, however, this is only the tip of the iceberg. There, young people must also put up with underemployment; informal working conditions and is therefore more often than adults hit by poverty. In 2012, over 200 million young people were employed for less than 2 US dollars a day. According to the ILO some 25% of the working poor worldwide, i.e. people who are in work but nevertheless poor, are young.

Higher Education Scenario in India:

In the recent years, the cut-offs for admissions became close to 100% in the best Indian universities. While the institutes are in the race of getting the best students in the country, the ambitious youth who fail to meet the "irrational" demands had to compromise on their dream of occupying a seat in any of the prestigious Indian universities. This leads them to explore the scope of higher education abroad. Most of the students who try their luck in higher studies abroad get into good universities as they have an edge over the students from other countries in terms of skills and knowledge. While this is the case of young students, the academically well qualified people prefer going abroad for higher research because they don't get the best chances, resources and facilities for research in India. A recent study conducted by Indian Institute of Management- Bangalore (IIM-B) shows that the students going for higher studies abroad has increased by 256% in the last 10 years. When 53,000 Indian students went abroad for higher studies in 2000, the figure shot up to 1.9 lakh in 2010. The US is the

most sought after destination for the students, followed by the **United Kingdom**. There are many Indian students exploring study opportunities in countries in **Australia, Germany and France**.

Over the years, India has become a major supplier of skilled and talented young people to the Western countries, particularly European Union. The major destinations for Indians in the EU in the beginning of the century were limited to UK, Germany, Italy, Austria and Spain. But, now, more and more Indians are immigrating to the countries like Poland, France, Ireland and Sweden. A good number of these immigrants reach the host countries as students.

II. Research Methodology

The area of survey was restricted to Ollur area in Thrissur. Ollur is a major suburban area in the city of Thrissur of Kerala state. It is situated about 5 km away from Swaraj Round on old National Highway 47 (India) towards Kochi. 22 families constituting 104 members were considered as the sample. The primary data was collected from the respondents through questionnaires and personal interviews. The secondary data was collected with help of internet, journals etc.

Statement of problem

The basic problem identified was about the departure of educated or professional people from India to another for better pay or living conditions. Hence the study analyses the employment preferences of youth.

Objectives

- To identify employment status among youth.
- To identify job location preference among the population.

III. Literature Review

The youth bulge is a common phenomenon in many developing countries, and in particular, in the least developed countries. It is often due to a stage of development where a country achieves success in reducing infant mortality but mothers still have a high fertility rate.

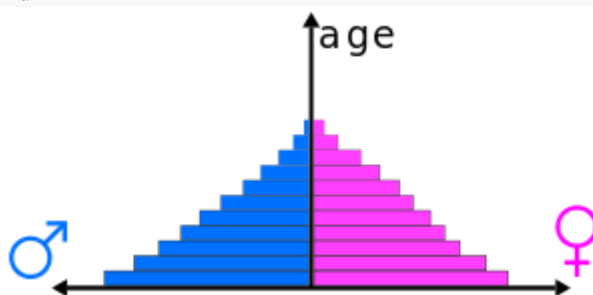
A population pyramid, also called an age pyramid or age picture diagram, is a graphical illustration that shows the distribution of various age groups in a population (typically that of a country or region of the world), which forms the shape of a pyramid when the population is growing. It is also used in ecology to determine the overall age distribution of a population; an indication of the reproductive capabilities and likelihood of the continuation of a species.

It typically consists of two back-to-back bar graphs, with the population plotted on the X-axis and age on the Y-axis, one showing the number of males and one showing females in a particular population in five-year age groups (also called cohorts). Males are conventionally shown on the left and females on the right, and they may be measured by raw number or as a percentage of the total population.

Population pyramids are often viewed as the most effective way to graphically depict the age and sex distribution of a population, partly because of the very clear image these pyramids present.

A great deal of information about the population broken down by age and sex can be read from a population pyramid, and this can shed light on the extent of development and other aspects of the population. A population pyramid also tells how many people of each age range live in the area. There tends to be more females than males in the older age groups, due to females' longer life expectancy.

Types of population pyramid



Population pyramids for 4 stages of the demographic transition model. While all countries' population pyramids differ, four general types have been identified by the fertility and mortality rates of a country.

Stable pyramid: A population pyramid showing an unchanging pattern of fertility and mortality.

Stationary pyramid: A population pyramid typical of countries with low fertility and low mortality, very similar to a constrictive pyramid.

Expansive pyramid: A population pyramid that is very wide at the base, indicating high birth and death rates.

Constrictive pyramid: A population pyramid that comes in at the bottom. The population is generally older on average, as the country has long life expectancy, a low death rate, but also a low birth rate. This pyramid is becoming more common, especially when immigrants are factored out, and is a typical pattern for a very developed country, a high level of education, easy access to and incentive to use birth control, good health care, and few negative environmental factors.

Youth bulge

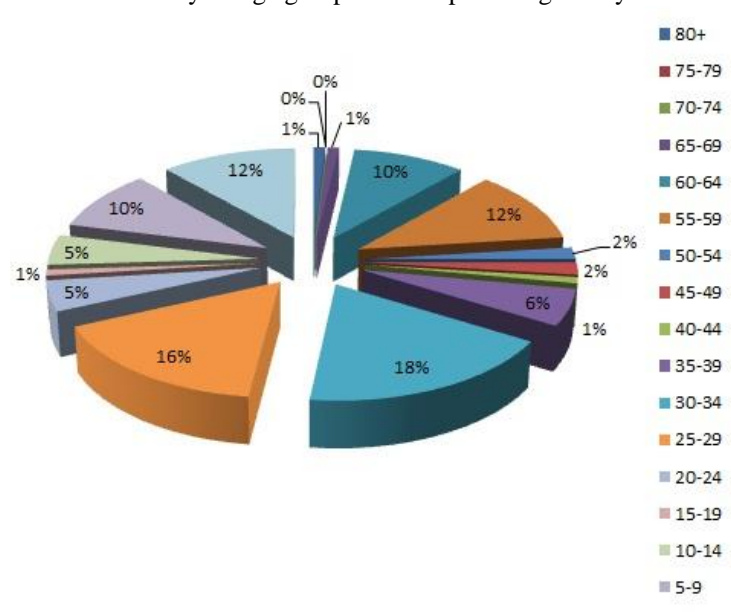
The expansive case was described as youth bulge by Gary Fuller (1995). Gunnar Heinsohn (2003) argues that an excess in especially young adult male population predictably leads to social unrest, war and terrorism, as the "third and fourth sons" that find no prestigious positions in their existing societies rationalize their impetus to compete by religion or political ideology.

A large population of adolescents entering the labor force and electorate strains at the seams of the economy and polity, which were designed for smaller populations. This creates unemployment and alienation unless new opportunities are created quickly enough - in which case a 'demographic dividend' accrues because productive workers outweigh young and elderly dependants. Yet the 16-30 age range is associated with risk-taking, especially among males. In general, youth bulges in developing countries are associated with higher unemployment and, as a result, a heightened risk of violence and political instability. For Cincotta and Doces (2011), the transition to more mature age structures is almost a sine qua non for democratization.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Age	%
80+	0.96
75-79	0.00
70-74	0.00
65-69	0.96
60-64	9.62
55-59	11.54
50-54	1.92
45-49	1.92
40-44	0.96
35-39	5.77
30-34	18.27
25-29	16.35
20-24	4.81
15-19	0.96
10-14	4.81
5-9	9.62
0-4	11.54

The population has been divided into 5 year age groups and the percentage analysis has been carried out



IV. Findings and Conclusion

- 22.12 % of the population constitutes youth.
- 39.13 % has been employed among the youth.
- 36 % of the working population that lies in the age range of 20-39 is employed abroad.
- 100 % of people working abroad lies in the age range of 25-39.
- The money migrants sent back could be spent more in investments such as education, health and housing, rather than on food and other goods.
- Ultimately this may lead to shortage of key skilled workers in many sectors
- Reduces confidence in the economy; people aspire to leave rather than stay
- With most of the college graduates leaving their homelands, it raises the question as to whether their skills are being put to good use in the destination country

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