INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT

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POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY IN INDIA

DR. REJI B
ASST. DIRECTOR
LABOUR BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

PINKI
INVESTIGATOR GRADE II
LABOUR BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

ANURADHA KUMARI RAI
STUDENT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
PANJAB UNIVERSITY
CHANDIGARH

ABSTRACT
The rapid growth of population, increasing life expectancy, decreasing fertility rate, etc. in India resulted into structural changes in age composition of population. Gradual shrink of child and youth population and rapid increase of elderly accelerate the percentage of dependent population. The share of India's population aged 60 years and older is projected to climb from 8 percent in 2010 to 19 percent in 2050. The economic and social welfare of the elderly people and of society more generally seem tenuous in the face of low labour force participation, reliance on younger generations for support, and new and emerging diseases. The paper closely examines the profound shift in age composition and its economic impact on the basis of various dependency measures. Census, 2011 and Third Annual Employment - Unemployment Survey, 2012-13 data were used to measure various dependency ratios. The research indicates that the dependency among youth (15-29 years) and females are severe in nature.

KEYWORDS
economic dependency, labour force dependency, population growth.

INTRODUCTION
According to 2011 census, India's total population was 1.2 billion with 17.72 percent decadal growth rate and 1.64 percent Average Annual Growth Rate. At present, India is world's second most populous country. United Nation's population projections show that India will be the most populous country by 2030. As per Economic Survey, 2014-15, from 1951 to 2013, India's birth rate per thousand has declined from 39.9 to 21.4. On the other hand, death rate has declined to 7.0 per thousand in 2013 from 27.4 per thousand in 1951. This significant decline in death rate can be attributed to control over epidemics, fatal diseases like smallpox & cholera and improved health facilities. There has been a fall in birth rate also but not significant enough to commensurate the rate of decline in death rate.

As a result of rapid growth of population, increasing life expectancy, decreasing fertility rate, etc. in India, the share of older population will also increase dramatically over the next four decades. The share of India's population aged 60 years and older is projected to climb from 8 percent in 2010 to 19 percent in 2050 (UN, 2011). This profound shift in the share of older Indians – taking place in the context of changing family relationships and severely limited old age income support- brings with it a variety of social, economic and health care policy challenges (PRB, 2012).

The growth of population is a success story of India's developing economy, as it is largely driven by a steady increase in life expectancy over the past 60 years. Average life expectancy at birth of an Indian increased from 37 years in 1950 to 66 years in 2011. Projections show that the average life expectancy at birth in India will increase to 72 years by 2031-36 (PFI, 2007). The improvement in life expectancy which has resulted from the improved sanitation and living conditions over the last century helped to eliminate many debilitating diseases that lead to high mortality at younger ages.

The economic and social welfare of the elderly people and of society more generally seem tenuous in the face of low labour force participation, reliance on younger generations for support, and new and emerging diseases. India has, however, made some important policy provisions in the face of this demographic shift, but difficulties as well as opportunities lie ahead for the country. This rise in dependency ratio due to ageing population is a concern for many countries, since it becomes difficult to provide pension and other social security benefits to a significantly older and non-working population.

Demographic advancement and rising socio-economic status of families has lessened the size of the family. This may result into shrinking of youth population in future. Moreover, there is also a growing trend of migration of younger population from rural to urban areas in search of job, leaving their older family members in rural areas. Consequently, the rural areas have more elderly population who need care and support. Population ageing in India presents not only a challenge but also an opportunity. In order to develop effective policies to maximize the potential of the ageing population, the first step is to understand the current status of economic, social, and health conditions of not only the aged population of today, but also the next generation of aged persons.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY
Dependency ratio (DR), in general, is defined as the number of dependent population to the supporting population. This ratio gives insight into the number of people of non-working age group compared to the number of those of working age group. A higher DR implies a greater dependency of non-working age group on the working age group of the total population.

$$\textbf{Dependency Ratio (DR)} = \frac{\text{population aged } 0-14 + \text{population aged 60 and above}}{\text{population aged } 15-60 \text{ year}} X100$$

Dependency Ratio is equal to the sum of population aged below 15 years and population aged above 60 years to the population aged 15 to 60 years, expressed as a percentage.

Total Dependency Ratio can be divided into two parts namely, Child Dependency Ratio (CDR) and Old Dependency Ratio (ODR). Normally, CDR is high in developing and underdeveloped countries due to higher birth rate. In developed countries, low fertility and high life expectancy characterise high ODR.

$$\text{Child Dependency Ratio (CDR)} = \frac{\text{population aged } 0-14}{\text{population aged } 15-60 \text{ year}} X\ 100$$

$$\text{Old Dependency Ratio (ODR)} = \frac{\text{population aged above 60 year}}{\text{population aged } 15 - 60 \text{ year}} X100$$

Out of these two forms of dependency ratio, CDR, consisting of pre labour force age group, may be seen as of lesser burden as this part of population is yet to enter the labour force and an economy can expect demographic dividend in the form of higher labour force in the near future. On the other hand, population forming part of ODR i.e. post labour force age group is not expected to contribute anything towards any economic activity neither at present nor in future.

Dependency ratio is a crude measure of determining dependency as all the persons in the working age group are not part of labour force and further those who are part of labour force are not necessarily employed. In order to find out the actual dependency, economists developed the Labour Force Dependency Ratio (LFDR) and Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR). LFDR is expressed as per 100 number of persons not in the Labour force to those who are in the labour force.

$$\text{Labour Force Dependency Ratio (LFDR)} = \frac{\text{Persons out of Labour Force}}{\text{Persons in Labour Force}} \times 100$$

Similarly, Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR) is the ratio which gives actual dependency of a society or a region. This ratio is expressed as the sum of per 100 persons out of labour force and persons who are in the labour force but unemployed to the persons who are employed.

$$\text{Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR)} = \frac{\text{Persons out of Labour Force} + \text{unemployed}}{\text{employed}} X100$$

The data for analysing economic dependency scenario in India as a whole as well as states were gathered from Census 2011 by Registrar General of India and Annual Employment - Unemployment Survey, 2012-13 by Labour Bureau.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 shows the Total Dependency Ratio (DR), Child Dependency Ratio (CDR) and Old Dependency Ratio (ODR) over the period of 1991-2025. As per the table, DR is decreasing over the period of time whereas ODR is increasing throughout the period. The CDR and ODR were 51 percent and 14.2 percent respectively in the year 2011. It is projected that by the year 2025, the CDR and ODR will be 36.4 percent and 19.3 percent respectively. The dependency of children is decreasing gradually at the same time with the increasing trend in longevity; the dependency load of elderly is gradually increasing (Kumar, 1999; Sun, 1998). The decreasing CDR can be attributed to the declining birth rate whereas increasing ODR is a sign of increased life expectancy due to improved health facilities.

TABLE 1: TOTAL DEPENDENCY RATIO (DR), CHILD DEPENDENCY RATIO (CDR) AND OLD DEPENDENCY RATIO (ODR) OVER THE PERIOD OF 1991-2025

Year	Dependency Ratio (per 100)		
	Child (CDR)	Old (ODR)	Total (DR)
1991	67.2	12.2	79.4
2001	62.1	13.1	75.2
2011	51.0	14.2	65.2
2025	36.4	19.3	55.0

Source: Population Census (1991, 2001, 2011), population projection, RGI.

As discussed in the above section, the dependency ratio is a crude measure because all the persons in the working age group are not participating in the labour force. The Labour Force Dependency Ratio (LFDR) and Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR) were calculated on the basis of results of Third Annual Employment - Unemployment Survey (AEUS), 2012-13. As the survey results were compiled for the persons aged 15 years and above, the Labour Force Dependency Ratio and Economic Dependency Ratio calculated on the basis of this survey results have been used for comparative analysis with Old Dependency Ratio.

TABLE 2: DEPENDENCY RATIOS AT ALL INDIA LEVEL PER 100 PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND ABOVE

Dependency Ratio	Person	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
Dependency Ratio (Census 2011)	65	65	65	72	53
Child Dependency Ratio (Census 2011)	51	52	50	57	40
Old Dependency Ratio (Census 2011)	14	14	15	15	12
Labour Force Dependency Ratio (AEUS, 2012-13)*	96	31	342	89	117
Economic Dependency Ratio (AEUS, 2012-13)*	106	36	378	98	130

Source: Census, 2011 and Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2012-13, Labour Bureau

Table 2 shows gender-wise and sector-wise Labour Force Dependency Ratio (LFDR) and Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR) at all India level. LFDR and EDR were calculated on the basis of AEUS, 2012-13 whereas Census, 2011 data was used for calculating Total Dependency Ratio (DR), Child Dependency Ratio (CDR) and Old Dependency Ratio (ODR). During 2012-13, LFDR for rural areas at all India level was observed at 89 persons per 100 persons while EDR was 98 persons per 100 persons. In case of females, the intensity of dependency is significantly higher which is a result of lower female participation in labour force and higher unemployment rate mong female.

TABLE 3: AGE COHORT DEPENDENCY RATIOS AT ALL INDIA LEVEL PER 100 PERSONS

Dependency Ratio	Age Cohort	Person	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
Labour Force Dependency Ratio (AEUS, 2012-13)	15-29 years	153	74	438	144	183
	30 years & above	71	11	300	65	89
Economic dependency Ratio (AEUS, 2012-13)	15-29 years	192	97	567	178	239
	30 years & above	73	13	306	67	92

Source: Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2012-13, Labour Bureau

A cohort analysis was done using age-wise data of Third Annual Employment - Unemployment Survey (AEUS), 2012-13, conducted by Labour Bureau, for the age groups 15-29 years (youth) and 30 years and above. Table 3 shows that overall Labour Force Dependency Ratio (LFDR) is more than double among youth when compared with 30 years & above age group. The same trend can be seen in sector-wise ratios also. Gender wise ratios show higher dependency among females in both age groups. In males, LFDR for persons aged 15-29 years is almost seven fold as compared with 30 years & above age group.

In case of economic dependency, the difference between the ratios of both age-groups under study is more as it involves dependency on employed persons only. The above analysis indicates serious unemployment issues among the youth population (15-29 years). When the youth is unemployed/economically dependent then the middle aged population (30-60 years) have to support both the preceding and succeeding generations simultaneously.

TABLE 4: DEPENDENCY RATIOS AT STATE/UT LEVEL PER 100 PERSONS

States/UT	Dependency Ratio (per 100)						
	DR*	CDR*	ODR*	LFDR#	YLFDR#	EDR#	YEDR#
Andhra Pradesh	56	41	15	65	116	69	135
Arunachal Pradesh	67	60	8	63	116	87	221
Assam	65	54	11	97	144	111	195
Bihar	91	77	14	115	192	129	257
Chhattisgarh	66	53	13	64	107	67	114
Delhi	52	41	10	130	204	144	262
Goa	49	33	17	110	111	135	160
Gujarat	59	46	13	106	157	112	173
Haryana	62	48	14	129	183	140	223
Himachal Pradesh	57	41	16	64	122	75	169
Jammu & Kashmir	70	58	13	124	175	146	262
Jharkhand	77	64	13	96	152	115	226
Karnataka	56	41	15	83	132	87	144
Kerala	56	37	20	130	190	156	324
Madhya Pradesh	71	57	13	77	127	81	141
Maharashtra	58	42	16	84	153	91	187
Manipur	59	48	11	104	297	111	350
Meghalaya	80	72	8	74	147	82	179
Mizoram	63	53	10	60	131	65	151
Nagaland	65	57	9	98	230	114	326
Odisha	62	47	15	89	124	101	167
Punjab	56	40	16	123	176	135	219
Rajasthan	73	60	13	112	191	119	218
Sikkim	51	41	10	65	103	91	224
Tamil Nadu	52	36	16	79	126	86	158
Tripura	55	43	12	99	141	128	247
Uttarakhand	67	52	15	135	246	149	318
Uttar Pradesh	78	64	14	120	181	134	233
West Bengal	55	42	13	96	132	112	194
A & N Island	45	35	10	144	237	171	341
Chandigarh	46	37	9	143	175	158	219
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	55	49	6	105	157	108	160
Daman & Diu	38	31	6	86	115	88	121
Lakshadweep	51	39	12	124	197	150	320
Puducherry	51	36	15	99	132	125	250
All India	**65**	**51**	**14**	**96**	**153**	**106**	**192**

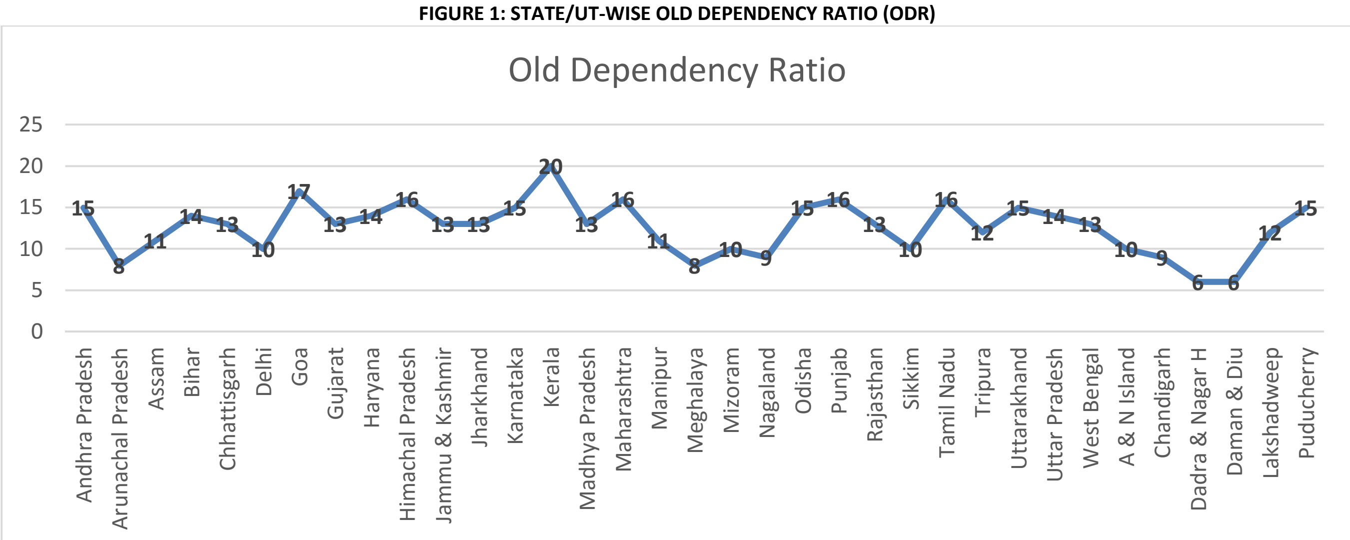
DR- Dependency Ratio
CDR- Child Dependency Ratio
ODR- Old Dependency Ratio
LFDR – Labour Force Dependency Ratio
EDR – Economic Dependency Ratio
YLFDR– Youth Labour force Dependency Ratio
YEDR – Youth Economic Dependency Ratio

*Source: *Based on Census, 2011, # Based on Third Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2012-13*

As per table 4, the highest economic dependency is in Andaman & Nicobar Island (171 persons) followed by Chandigarh with 158 persons and Kerala with 156 persons per 100 working population. The lowest EDR is 65 persons in Mizoram which is good sign for the state economy. Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh are the second and third lowest with 67 and 69 persons respectively.

In short, among all the State/UTs, 19 State/UTs were having LFDR less than 100 persons. In case of EDR, the number shrinks to 12 State/UTs. LFDR less than 100 persons indicate that, on an average, less than one number of dependent population on labour force/working population. It can be seen from Table 4 that the dependency ratio is higher among youth, which is not a good sign for the economy. The most likely reason for this can be the increased number of years spent by today's youth on higher education and acquisition of additional skills required for better employment opportunities.

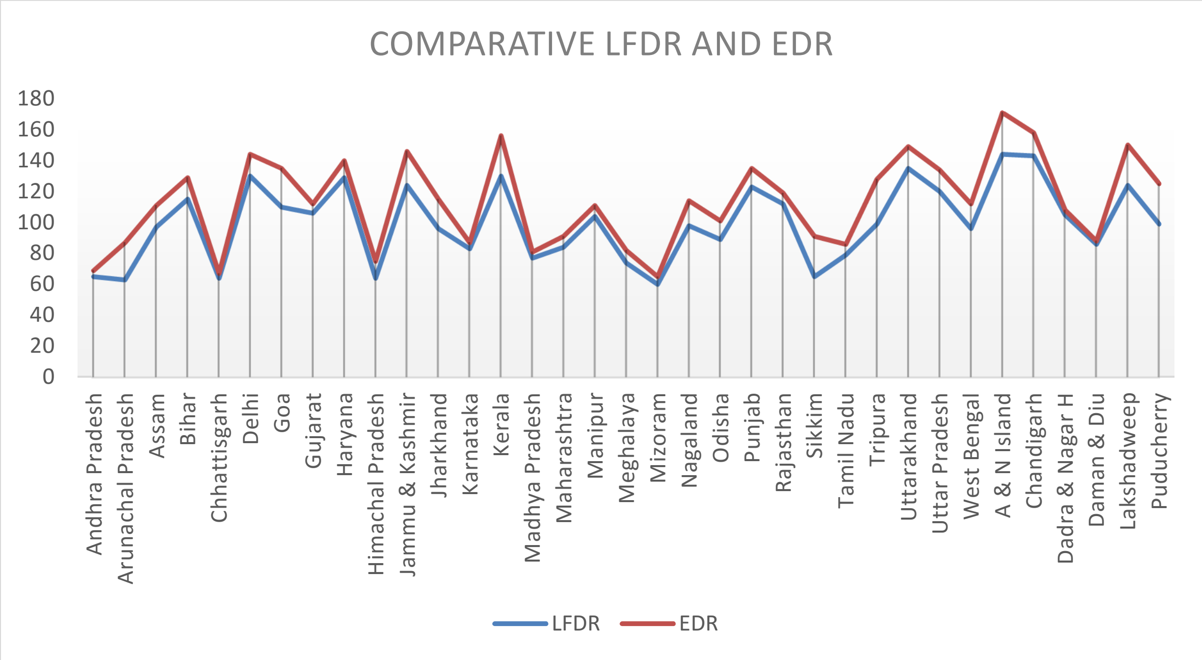
FIGURE 1: STATE/UT-WISE OLD DEPENDENCY RATIO (ODR)



Source: Census, 2011

Figure 1 shows the State/UT-wise Old Dependency Ratio. Among all the States/UTs, Kerala had the highest ODR of 20 elderly persons per 100 working age persons followed by Goa (17 persons). 11 States out of total 35 States/UTs were reported to be having ODR above all India average of 14 persons per 100 persons.

FIGURE 2: STATE/UT-WISE COMPARATIVE LABOUR FORCE DEPENDENCY RATIO (LFDR) AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY RATIO (EDR) PER 100 PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND ABOVE



Source: Third Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2012-13, Labour Bureau

As per figure 2, both the EDR and LFDR were reported to be the highest in Andaman & Nicobar Island (171 and 144 persons respectively) followed by 158 and 143 persons respectively in Chandigarh. The wider the gap between the EDR and LFDR, greater is the unemployment rate. The difference between EDR and LFDR is highest in Tripura followed by Andaman & Nicobar Island. The same is lowest in Daman & Diu followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Chhattisgarh which is a good indicator in terms of employment as well as dependency.

CONCLUSION

India is to have the demographic dividend in which, a major portion of population falls in the working age group. This increased level of working age group is in itself a double edged sword. It can open up new horizons of growth if explored well by generating better job opportunities. On the other hand, if not utilised productively, this growing work force will prove to be an additional burden on the employed population by increasing economic as well as labour force dependency. In order to explore the above discussed advantage of current demographic dividend in India, government have to address the problems namely youth unemployment, lower levels of female labour force participation and lack of social support to elderly population. The youth of the country lack confidence in their ability to face competition due to lack of skill sets. In India, the emphasis has been on general education, with the vocational education on the ignorant side. This has resulted in large number of educated youth remaining unemployed (Goel, Vijay P.). Introduction of compulsory vocational education will help to develop attitude, skill and knowledge and build an employable youth. To increase the employability of youth, present Government has launched a skill development programme which aims at providing training and skill development to 500 million youth of the country by 2020. The objective of this scheme is to raise confidence, improve productivity and give direction through proper skill development.

Huge budget allocation for the support of elderly is not promising to an economy particularly developing and underdeveloped countries. The share of population advancing into their 60s and 70s are healthier than preceding generations of the same age, therefore, the demand for health care will be less intense and many will be able to continue to work and contribute to the household as well as national economy for longer than preceding generations. Otherwise, it will place an increasing burden on both the government and the household. With a healthier older population which can contribute to the economy, India's growth potential can far surpass many other countries in the world.

As seen from the results, dependency among the females in India is alarming. The labour force participation rate of females in India is around 23 percent whereas the rates are 64, 48 and 58 percent in China, Japan and USA respectively. The policies that encourage growth in sectors which are friendly to women will significantly increase the participation of women in labour markets. A different set of policies are needed to encourage women to overcome social and cultural constraints in joining the labour force (Rahul Lahoti and Hema Swaminathan, 2013).

In order to reduce the economic dependency, policy interventions are required in various fields such as skill development among youth, special industrial/employment policies to improve the female labour force participation and improve healthcare and other social security benefits for employed/employable elderly population. In view of this, various Government programmes and schemes targeted to address the above mentioned problems have been launched. What results these efforts will give only time can tell, but no doubt it seems to be a good initiative on the part of Government to take full advantage of increasing working age population.

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