

DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITION (during colonial rule)

N.B-Demographics is defined as statistical data about the characteristics of a population, such as the age, gender and income, education and health of the people within the population.



An important tool for framing development policies.

Under British rule characteristics of India's demography

- Various details about the population of British India were first collected through a in 1881.

census



a statistical method to collect data

- This census was suffering from certain limitations, it revealed the unevenness in India's population growth. Subsequently, every ten years such census operations were carried out.
- Before 1921, India was in the first stage of **demographic transition.**(characterized by a low population growth rate due to a high birth rate and a high death rate
- The second stage of transition began after 1921. However, neither the total population of India nor the rate of population growth at this stage was very high.

- Discouraging
social
indicators

- a) overall literacy level was less than 16 per cent.
- b) female literacy level was at a negligible low of about seven per cent.
- c) Public health facilities were either unavailable to large chunks of population or, when available, were highly inadequate.
- d) water and air-borne diseases were rampant and took a huge toll on life.
- e) overall mortality rate was very high and in that, particularly, the infant mortality rate was quite alarming—about 218 per thousand (**in contrast to the present infant mortality rate of 40 per thousand**).
- f) Life expectancy was also very low—44 years (in contrast to the present 68 years).

- it is difficult to specify the extent of poverty at that time but there is no doubt that extensive poverty prevailed in India during the colonial period which contributed to the worsening profile of India's population of the time.