

**The Nation's Biggest Problem Seen Through a Writer's Eye**

**{In special reference to R.K. Narayan}**

**Dr. Meenakshi Gupta**

**Assistant Professor**

**(Communication skills)**

**Guest Faculty, Ujjain Engineering College**

**Madhya Pradesh**

**India**

**Abstract:**

When a writer thinks something keeping in mind some aspects of society, it benefits the people. R. K. Narayan was an Indian writer not only by birth but his soul was totally merged in India. He always thought for the country and its people when he wrote his famous novel The Painter of Signs, the problem of over population was in his mind and he expressed his worries regarding this problem.

**Key words: Over population, resources, family planning, unemployment, poverty.**

“Don't you see how horrible it is with everything crowded and an endless existence being possible on such a mass scale- each one of us has to chain of queues for food, shelter, bus, medicine, and everything with thousands of children coming with nothing to eat, no clothes to wear, no roof no civilized do our bit in the corner of the country allowed to us(1)

These are the words of the famous Indian writer Dr. R. K.Narayan, they show the worries about the Nation's biggest problem the over population. If we see the data report given by PRB it tells that how the problem is increasing at alarming rate. Now it is not only the problem of India but it is the problem of the world. Let's have a look on the data by PRB:

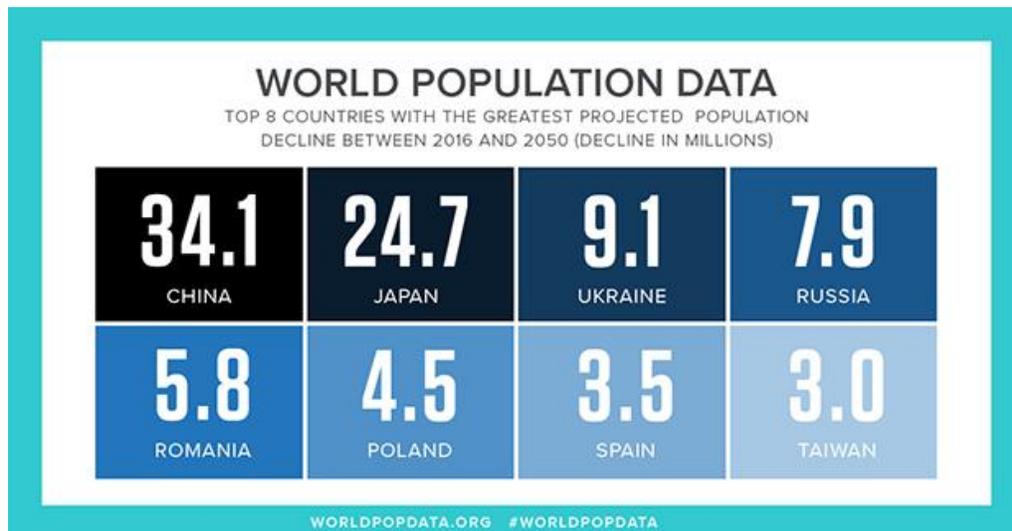
PRB DATA

Indexed, Peer Reviewed & Refereed Journal

(August 2016) The world population will reach 9.9 billion in 2050, up 33 percent from an estimated 7.4 billion now, according to projections included in the *2016 World Population Data Sheet* from the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). The world population would hit the 10 billion mark in 2053 if the assumptions underlying PRB's 2050 projections are applied to subsequent years.



PRB's widely referenced [World Population Data Sheet](http://www.worldpopdata.org) ([www.worldpopdata.org](http://www.worldpopdata.org)) has been produced annually since 1962. This year's edition provides the latest data on 19 key population, health, and environment indicators for the world, major regions, and more than 200 countries



The data sheet shows that the world's population is increasing tremendously. (2) Actually when the writer R.K. Narayan thought about this problem, specially India was in his mind. So he sent her female character Daisy to campaign the family planning program in different villages of India. If we see the problem from the point of view of writer in reference with India, we can realize his worries.

INDIA A great country, a country with a great heritage, unique tradition, culture and customs. A country which has a unique identity in the world. It is a developing country facing many problems like poverty, unemployment, dearness, corruption, smuggling, black money, over population etc.

Behind every problem there are some reasons but if we explore the main factor, the fact comes in light that over population is the main factor for all these problems.

If we see the census of India in different years it tells us the fact that the population is growing horribly. If we have a look on this table of census which reveals the fact that the population is growing tremendously:

Years	Population
1901	23,83,96,327

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1911	25,20,93,390
1921	25,13,21,213
1931	27,89,77,238
1941	31,86,60,580
1951 <sup>1</sup>	36,10,88,090
1961 <sup>1</sup>	43,92,34,771
1971	54,81,59,652
1981 <sup>2</sup>	68,33,29.097
1991 <sup>3</sup>	84,64,21,039
2001 <sup>4</sup>	1,02,87,37,436
2011 <sup>5</sup>	1,21,01,93,422

**According the above table.** The population of India (According to census) in 1901 was only 238396327 gradually it increased in every census and in 2001 it reached up to 1028737436 and if we see the latest data of 2012 we can see the growth of population clearly.

With the population of 1.22 billion India is the second most populous country in the world while with the population of 1.35 billion people china is on the top. The figures also tell us that India represents almost 17.31 A.D of the world's population. It is also predicated that with the growth rate at 1.58% India will have more than 1.53 billion people by the end of 2030.(3)

The results of overpopulation are very dangerous. It is creating many problems in the nation. The government is aware about all these things and that's why it is trying to campaign the programme to control the population and highlighting the family planning programmes among the people through various media. Despite of all these attempts the population is growing day by day.

The census of 2001 shows that the population of India was 1.02 billion but in 2011 it reached up to 1.21 billion which is an alarming rate. Is it not the time to think over this serious problem? Is it not the duty of every citizen that we should think over it and create awareness among other people also. It's the time now not only to think over it but also to implement the powerful steps/rules to control this problem. The problem of over population is not only one problem in itself but it is the main cause of many problems giving birth to another problems also. Some major problems are born due to this problem:

- 1) The over population has given birth to unemployment. This problem is now the biggest problems of India since last few years. The population is growing very fast but the opportunities of employment are not growing according to the requirements. Thus the imbalance of population and employment creating the problem of unemployment. There are a lot of people still unemployed.
- 2) The growth of population is giving birth to unsocial activities in the society. The youth of the country is dissatisfied and depressed that's why their mind is easily diverted towards some wrong ways. Their power and ability is misguiding and the youth of the country is indulging in crimes and other unsocial activities. This dissatisfaction leads the growth towards the wrong way and thus destroying the future of the coming generation.
- 3) The problem of over population has increased the poverty in the country. The members in a family increase but the sources of income do not increase to meet the requirements of the family, the economical level of the family reduces day by day and this leads towards poverty.
- 4) As the population is increasing tremendously but the resources and production is not increasing according to that ratio, this imbalance creates the problem of demand and supply and leads towards the problem of dearness.

Thus there are many problems created due to over population. **The fact was** realized by the eminent writer R.K. Narayan, who expressed his worries regarding this problem through his famous novel *The Painter of Signs*.

He devoted his female protagonist Daisy to control the overpopulation. He sent her in different villages of India to campaign the family planning programmes. There are many dialogues among the characters of the novel which show that Narayan was too much anxious

about the growing population of India. He wanted to give a wonderful message to the people of India that it's the time now, when we should control the population. The dialogue of the characters of the novels tell that how much Narayan was worried about the over population.

" I mean it's a national tragedy-looked at from the right perspective." (4)

These words express that Narayan was concerned about the growing population of India. His female protagonist Daisy campaigns the family planning in villages and says to a village teacher.

"Exactly, I am not suggesting that they uproot themselves but if they want to stay comfortable, let them avoid creating an unmanageable crowd around themselves, that's all I am not prohibiting anything, but only suggesting that they avoid too many children"(5)

She visits village to village and gives the message to control the population. Through his novel *The Painter of Signs*, he gave the message to all humanbeings that if we want to live comfortably we have to control the population. The words of the female protagonist Daisy tell the feelings of the writer:

The situation is alarming...It..... that means a thirty percent increase" It is a serious matter, you know something must be done immediately about it."(6)

To conclude it can be said that R. K. Narayan was not only worried about the population problems only but he wanted to warn the people to be aware the dangerous results of this problems. Now its time to be aware before we gate late.

**References:**

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