



## Replacement Level Fertility

**For Prelims:** Replacement Fertility Rate, National Family Health Service, Related Government Schemes

**For Mains:** Significance of growing/ declining population, importance of family planning, National Family Health Survey, government's initiatives

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Government of India** reported that India has achieved **replacement level fertility**, with as many as **31 States/Union Territories** reaching a [Total Fertility Rate of 2.1](#) or less.

- Between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 crore additional users for [modern contraceptives](#) thereby increasing their use substantially.
- Government also unveiled the India Family Planning 2030 vision document.

### What do we know about Replacement Level Fertility?

- Total Fertility Rate of about 2.1 children per woman is called **Replacement-level fertility**.
  - **TFR lower than 2.1 children per woman** — indicates that a **generation is not producing enough** children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population.
  - Total fertility rate (TFR) in simple terms refers to the total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the prevailing rate of age-specific fertility in the population.
- **India's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2.0 in 2019-21**, indicating the **significant progress of population control measures**, revealed the report of the fifth round of the [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-5\)](#).

### What is India Family Planning 2030 Vision?

- **Focus Areas:**
  - Strategies to overcome **teenage childbearing, lack of male participation in awareness programmes, migration and lack of access to contraceptives** have been identified as priorities.
- **Contraceptives:**
  - **Modern contraceptive prevalence Rate:**
    - **Women with Migrant Husband:**
      - 35% in Bihar and 24% in UP
      - It is mostly driven by **lack of contraceptive preparedness** before husband's arrival, **inability to procure contraceptives** due to **inaccessibility to health facilities and stigma** around procuring contraceptives when the husband was away.
    - **Women with Resident Husband:**
      - 47% in Bihar and 36% in UP

- Although **modern contraceptive use** among married adolescents and young women have increased, it remains low.
  - Married adolescent girls and young women reported high unmet need for contraception.
- In several districts, **more than 20% of women marry before they become adults.**
  - The districts are located in Bihar (17), West Bengal (8), Jharkhand (7), Assam (4) and two each in UP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
  - The same districts have seen low use of modern contraceptives.
- The vision also included a **plan to use the private sector for providing modern contraceptives.**
  - Private sector contributes 45% share of pills and 40% share of condoms. For other reversible contraceptives like injectables, the share is 30% and 24% for Intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD).

## How did India achieve the Replacement Level Fertility?

- **Women Empowerment:**
  - The latest data also show significant progress on several indicators related to **fertility, family planning, age at marriage and women's empowerment** — all of which have contributed to the decrease in TFR.
- **Contraceptives:**
  - Between 2012 and 2020, India **added more than 1.5 crore additional users for modern contraceptives thereby increasing their use substantially.**
- **Reversible Spacing:**
  - Introduction of **new reversible spacing (gaps between children) methods, wage compensation systems to undergo sterilisation**, and the promotion of small family norms also worked well over the years.
- **Government's Initiatives:**
  - **Mission Parivar Vikas:**
    - The Government has launched **Mission Parivar Vikas** in 2017 for substantially increasing **access to contraceptives and family planning services** in 146 high fertility districts with TFR of 3 and above in seven high focus states.
  - **National Family Planning Indemnity Scheme (NFPIS):**
    - This scheme was launched in the year 2005, under this scheme clients are **insured in the eventualities of death, complication and failure following sterilization.**
  - **Compensation scheme for Sterilization Acceptors:**
    - Under the scheme, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides **compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiary and also to the service provider (& team) for conducting sterilizations from the year 2014.**

## What is the National Family Health Survey?

- **About:**
  - **The National Family Health Survey** is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative **sample of households throughout India.**
- **Conducted by:**
  - **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** Mumbai, as the nodal agency for providing **coordination and technical guidance for the survey.**
  - IIPS collaborates with a number of Field Organizations (FO) for survey implementation.
- **Objectives:**
  - Each successive round of the NFHS has had **two specific goals:**
    - To provide **essential data on health and family welfare** needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes.
    - To provide **information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.**
  - The survey provides **state and national information for India on:**

- Fertility
- Infant and child mortality
- The practice of family planning
- Maternal and child health
- Reproductive health
- Nutrition
- Anaemia
- Utilization and quality of health and family planning services.

▪ **NFHS - 5 Report:**

- **The Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has further declined from **2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between NFHS 4 (2015-16) and NFHS 5 (2019-20).**
- There are **only five states in India which are above replacement level of fertility** of 2.1. These states are Bihar, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Manipur.

## Way Forward

- Although India has achieved replacement level fertility, there is still a **significant population** in the reproductive age group who must remain at the **centre of our intervention efforts.**
- India's focus has traditionally been on the **supply side**, i.e. the providers and delivery systems but **now it's time to focus on the demand side** which includes family, community and society.
- Significant change is possible with this **focus, instead of an incremental change.**

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q1.** "Empowering women is the key to control the population growth." Discuss. **(2019)**

**Q2.** Critically examine the effect of globalization on the aged population in India. **(2013)**

**Q3.** Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

**Source:** [TH](#)

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