

E-Learning Study Material

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Q:- How Population Education is necessary for proper implementation of Population Policy of India. ?

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Population is the most important resource. If used rationally and scientifically, it can make the country prosperous and if not used properly it becomes a liability.

Today, India has the second largest population of the world while it has only 2.4% (135.79 million square Km) of the total world surface area. India's population exceeds the combined population of six most populous countries of the world namely. USA, Brazil, Pakistan, Russia Federation, Bangladesh and Japan (excluding only China, Indonesia and Nigeria). The growing population of India is posing several challenges in all areas of national life. In this regard it becomes necessary to introduce Population Education in India both at Micro and Macro Level.

It is a very challenging task to give a universally accepted definition of Population Education. In simple language, Population Education may be defined as a process of bringing about a change in the attitudes and behaviour patterns of the individual which may enable him to make rational decision on population issue and implementing them. So that it helps him to achieve better quality of life not only for himself but also for the family and nation. Smt. Avabai B. Wadia, in this context has very aptly observed, "One has strong feeling that population education seems to be one of those areas of knowledge where definitions will probably follow the empirical programme evolved rather than the other way round. It is therefore quite possible to move on the action programmes without spending too much time on perfecting theories."

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A UNESCO conference on Population Education and Family Planning organised at the Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (PROAP), Bangkok in September-October 1970 defined Population Education in these words "Population Education is an educational programme which provides for a study of the population situation in the family, community, nation and world with the purpose of developing in the students national and responsible attitudes and behaviour towards the situation."

Population Education Bureau, Washington (1917) stated, "Population Education is an attempt to create a deep, universal, action guiding perception of the consequence of demographic change. It seeks to bring about a realization of the individual, family, social and environmental efforts of the explosive increase in human population, the rapid shifts in the concentration and distribution of people, the implications of changing age and other demographic patterns and the conceivable options that may be open to mankind to cope with the consequent problems. It is focused primarily students who will become the principal child bearers within one-two decades."

According to D. Gopal Rao, "The need for Population Education mainly arose because of the consequences of the imbalance between the population and world resources family life education in the west grew out of growing evidence of the disintegration of the family where as sex education developed as a reaction to an increase in general diseases and out of wedlock pregnancies."

Population Education has a great motivational force to perform for controlling the growing population of India. Hence, Population Education needs to be give top most priority in India. It will be instrumental in controlling population explosion, ensuring quality of life, optimum use of natural resources, establishing equality of sexes, increasing nation wealth etc.

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Hence we can conclude that **Population Education** is an exploration of knowledge and attitudes about population, family living, reproduction education and basic values.
