

b) According to NFHS -3 (2005-2006), the Life Expectancy of 2 communities was :-

Hindus 65 years
Muslims 68 years

[Note: Thus within 8 years, the life expectancy at birth of Muslims grew by 5.4 years, while that of the Hindus increased only by 3.6 years.]

General Remarks

Will not the above facts and figures cause some anxiety to the readers and make them ponder over the crisis facing the Indian nation? Will you not then think it proper to disseminate this information amongst whomsoever you think fit? Our primary objective is to make all Indian citizens, irrespective of caste, creed or community, aware of the ground realities and provoke them to think how to protect and preserve the age-old civilizational ethos of India that had once, in the famous words of Swami Vivekananda spoken on September 11, 1893, at Chicago, *“taught the world both tolerance and acceptance”*. Patriots' Forum humbly solicits your valued guidance, wise counsel and active support in any manner thought fit by you.

Circulated on behalf of Patriots' Forum, a Delhi-based thinktank formed by a cross section of thinkers and intellectuals, including retired civil servants, academicians, media and social scientists. The Forum is an apolitical study group holding no bias against any community or caste.

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THINK INDIA

Socio-political implications of ongoing Demographic Changes

Demography plays a very vital role in shaping the destiny of a country and more so in a democracy. So has been the case with India with long tradition of our democratic ethos and Hindu identity, as emphasized by Swami Vivekananda and Rishi Aurobindo. Major changes in the religious composition of the Indian nation, especially the religious profile of the Hindus, as disclosed by Statement 7 of the Census 2001 Report will therefore adversely affect the multicultural and pluralistic social fabric of India and the future integrity of the Indian civilization as a whole.

Population Growth

i)	Decadal Growth Rate as per Census 2001	
	1991	2001
Hindus	23 %	20 %
Muslims	34.5%	36 %

- a) This figure has since been shown as / brought down to 29% by omitting 3.6 crore Indians living in two sensitive States of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir. The deletion of this big chunk of population was done with retrospective effect from 1961 onwards. No other country has ever done this.
- b) Since independence members of all Indic religionists (i.e. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains) and even Christians, have recorded steady decline in growth percentage of their population.
- ii) Statement 7 of the Census 2001 (Religion Data Report, page (xlii) revealed that the percentage of 0-6 years old Muslim cohorts (a term used in demographic parlance to denote the future reproductive trend) was higher than Hindu cohorts by 21 percent. **(Comment:** To this may be added nearly 25% lower acceptance of family planning among Muslims). This indicated that anytime between 2011 and 2016 when the 6 years old cohorts reach the reproductive age, the Muslim population will grow at a vastly fast-paced rate. The percentage of Muslim cohorts was (1901 census) higher than that of Hindu cohorts in 31 of the 35 States and Union Territories of India.
- iii) According to the preliminary analysis of Census 2011 data, the percentage of Hindus has already gone down below 80 percent. In 1951, it was about 85% for the Hindus.
- iv) According to Census 2001, every Muslim woman was giving birth to at least one more child than her Hindu counterpart.
- v) In Delhi the Muslim population grew 10 ½ times between 1961 and 2001-from 1,55,453 (1961) to 16,23,520 (2001).

vi) In Haryana, Muslim population quantum jumped 3 times during the 30 years – rising from 405,723 (1971) to 1,222,916 (2001).

vii) In Kolkata district of West Bengal, the decadal Hindu growth was 0.7 percent against 18% growth of Muslim population. The Hindu fertility rate in Kolkata district during 1991-2001 was 1 child per Hindu woman, while the sustainability rate of population is 2.1 percent for any religious community.

viii) In Bongaigaon district of Assam (near the strategic neck of the northeast), the decadal growth rate of Hindus in 1991-2001 was 2.3 percent as against 31.8 percent growth of Muslims.

ix) The phenomenal demographic change in Northeastern India since independence is now a matter of history and is often described as 'demographic invasion'. According to Hari Shankar Brahma, a serving Election Commissioner in Assam, the Muslim population has become majority in nearly eleven districts.

x) All over world, except Muslim countries, the fertility levels have sharply declined by more than half since 1972 - from 6 children per woman in 1972 to 2.9 in 1990s. According to the United Nations Population Report of 2002, Europe's fertility rates are now far below the replacement level of 2.1, raising the fear of Europe becoming 'Eurabia'.

xi) In India, the 'fertility' of Muslims which was about 10 percent higher than that of Hindus before independence is now 25 to 30 percent higher than the Hindu rate. (Source: Late P. N. Bhat and A. J. Francis in "Role of Religion in Fertility Decline: the case of Indian Muslims", Economic & Political Weekly, January 29, 2005).

Global Population Scenario

a) According to a study by the PEW Research Center of USA released in 2010 the Muslim population worldwide was growing at 1.5 percent, while the growth rate of non-Muslim communities was only 0.7 percent per annum.

b) The growth in Muslim population worldwide from 1900 AD has been as under:

1900	1993	2004	2025 (estimated)
12 %	18 %	20 %	30 %

c) According to security analysts, the proportion of jihadi attacks globally is growing in tandem with the rise in Muslim population, Thailand being the latest addition to the jihad-afflicted nations.

Comparative Study of Human Development Indices of Hindus and Muslims

In terms of four globally recognized major human development indices, namely,

Incidence of Infant Mortality (children below 1 year age), Incidence of Child Mortality Indices (1 to 5 years), Degree of Urbanization and Life Expectancy at Birth, in India the Hindus are more backward than the Muslims (Source: Prof. Sanjay Kumar's Seminar Paper, Indian Institute of Public Administration, September 2, 2006).

Estimate of Infant and Child Mortality for Hindus and Muslims

Source	Infant Mortality		Child Mortality	
	Hindus	Muslims	Hindus	Muslims
Census 1991	74	68	97	91
NFHS 1 (1992-93)	90	77	124	106
NFHS -2 (1998-99)	77	59	107	83

The NFHS-3 (2005-2006) disclosed that in urban and rural areas the incidence of Infant and Child Mortality among Hindus continues to be higher than that of Muslims. In urban areas the Infant Mortality of Hindus was 44.3 per thousand as against 35.5 of Muslims. In rural areas the Hindu Infant Mortality was 63 per thousand as against 60.4 of Muslims, while the Child Mortality among Hindus was 82.5 as against 82.2 among Muslims.

Degree of Urbanisation

Worldwide, urbanisation has emerged as the biggest catalyst of economic development, as highlighted by Goldman Sachs in their Global economic Paper No. 152. By this parametre, the Muslims are ahead of Hindus by 10 percent.

Presently, the percentage of urbanisation among Hindus and Muslims is as follows:

Hindus in Urban Areas 26% Muslims in Urban Areas 36%

(Source: Census Religion Data Report, 2001)

Average Life Expectancy at Birth

a) Calculated on basis of NHFS Surveys -1 (1992-93) and NFHS-2 (1998-1999)

Hindus 61.4 years
Muslims 62.6 years

Thus, in 1998-1999 an average Indian Muslim lived **1.2 years** longer than his Hindu counterpart.