

TITLE: Statement on national population policy. Draft.

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ABSTRACT: This report provides the draft statement of India's National Population Policy and a detailed strategy for implementation. The National Development Council's Committee on Population contributed to policy development. India's development policy since the early 1950s focused on the balance between human population and nature and improving the quality of life. Fertility declined, but the population growth rate continued to be high. The high growth rate is attributed to high growth rates in four populous states. The total fertility rate (TFR) in 1993 was 5.2 children/woman in Uttar Pradesh, 4.2 in Madhya Pradesh, 4.5 in Rajasthan, and 4.6 in Bihar. These four states accounted for 42% of the net increase in population during 1981-91. The national policy is based on the strategy of thinking, planning, and acting locally in the support of national goals. Policy calls for rapid and effective implementation of the Minimum Needs Program with a priority on safe drinking water and good sanitation, healthy families, opportunities for family planning, children's education and education among girls, provision of child care for working mothers, and increased income earning capacity for men and women. There is a need to recognize limits to human carrying capacity of natural resources. The policy calls for gender equity and achievement of a TFR of 2.1 by 2010. Empowerment mechanisms are identified for the family, small political governing units, districts, states, and the nation. Politicians must adopt the small family norm to remain in office. The policy aims to assure a better life for all people.

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