

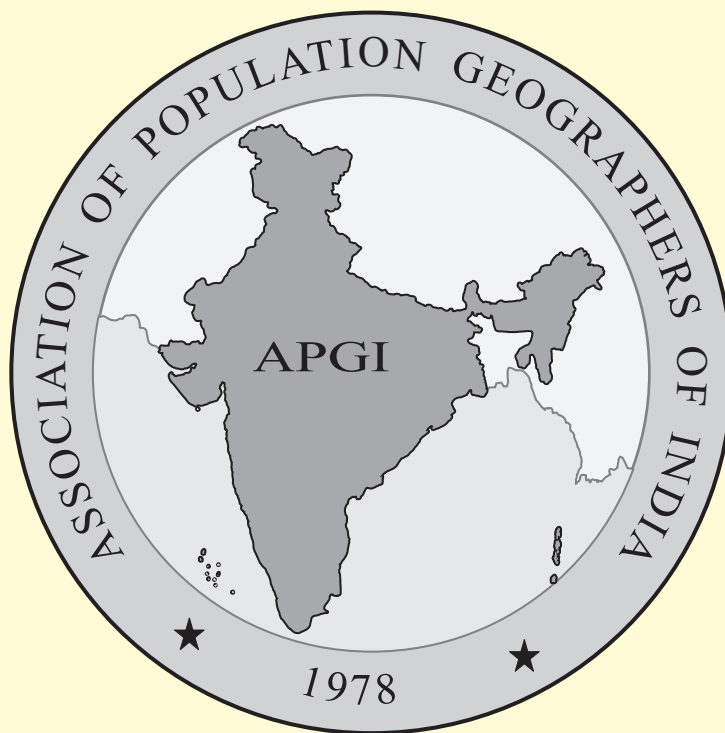
POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH - 160014

ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHERS OF INDIA

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Editorial Note

The previous issue of Population Geography published the research works accomplished by young and budding Geographers of India. The present one represents a blend of experienced and mature scholarship, with an enthusiastic and committed team. The young geographers are committed to excel in the near future.

The eight papers included in this issue offer a great variety. The paper on rural-urban divide in India presents a mixed picture of rural-urban disparity. While inter-state comparison of social parameters indicates gradual to fast decline in regional inequalities, the reverse trend is observed in the case of several economic parameters, indicating to the emergence of socially homogenizing but economically heterogeneous India. Another paper presenting a comprehensive literature review on slums and slum population in India and makes a detailed study of slums in Hyderabad City; the study reveals the huge increase in number of slums and slum population in Hyderabad city in the post-reforms period, and the southern part of Hyderabad having the largest cluster of slums and also the slum population. How the changes made time and again in planning policies and administrative decision-making by the government agencies can lead to re-densification of the existing urban localities and their phenomenal growth in urban population has been demonstrated in a paper, though a case study of the Chennai Metropolitan Area. Determinants of son preference in India are covered in another paper conclude its continuation in the Indian society albeit with different intensities across regions. Migration of workforce is the theme covered in the two papers; one highlighting the role of push factors another of pull factors and another of pull-factors by taking Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab as the case studies, respectively. The study on Punjab recommends for the formulation a policy so as to provide the farmers affordable farm technology to thwart the acute shortage of farm labour during the peak farm operations. Reflections on India's policy pertaining to Tibetan refugee population in India and its implications for Indo-China relations form the subject matter of still another paper. India is the home to Tibetan population next only to Tibet. It recommends political dialogue between India and China not only to resolve the Tibetan refugee population issue in India but also border issues between the two Asian giants. A paper on fertility transition in Maharashtra during 1971-2018 finding wide but narrowing down inter-district differentials in female fertility rates advocated for area based approach to tackle the problem in an effective manner.

The traditional as well as modern techniques of data analysis and interpretation have been put to service by the authors. The findings of these studies are worthy of special attention. These are to be noted for their applied value.

The Map Series, a regular feature of Population Geography journal, this time highlights the spread of Punjabi speaking people outside Punjab in India. A notable revelation is that the percentage of this linguistic community living outside their home state was the highest among all major linguistic groups in India, and there was no state or union territory which was without Punjabi speaking people. Family migration was rather typical in their case.

Finally, we are happy to announce the introduction of another series on the pattern of the Map Series. It is titled as Geo-Reflections, contributed by Professor Gopa Samanta, Department of Geography, University of Burdwan (West Bengal). The Editorial Board of Population Geography and the Executive Committee of the Association of Population Geography of India (APGI) express their gratitude to Professor Gopa Samanta for the initiative and a firm commitment to ensure the continuity of the series.

Surya Kant
Editor