



AMMA'S MESSAGE

WORLD POPULATION DAY - 11 JULY

This day has great significance for it draws attention to the state of the world's population, in other words, humanity itself, of which women constitute half the world's population and therefore their wellbeing and rights are of paramount importance. Women, in a way, steer the destiny of the world, and so their freedom and decision making are vital for the quality of our global human family and its population. We realize with each passing year that the global population is growing beyond the capacity of our planet to feed and sustain it. The present count of 7.8 billion people of the world. Hence the focus each year of the World Population Day is on the health and rights of women and girls, with regard to motherhood and their families, providing with all opportunities for their participation in all spheres of national life and determine their own future.

World Population Trends

It took hundreds of thousands of years for the world population to grow to 1 billion – then in just another 200 years or so, it grew sevenfold. In 2011, the global population reached the 7 billion mark, and today, it stands at about 7.7 billion, and it's expected to grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.9 billion in 2100.

This dramatic growth has been driven largely by increasing numbers of people surviving to reproductive age, and has been accompanied by major changes in fertility rates, increasing urbanization and accelerating migration. These trends will have far-reaching implications for generations to come.

The recent past has seen enormous changes in fertility rates and life expectancy. In the early 1970s, women had on average 4.5 children each; by 2015, total fertility for the world had fallen to below 2.5 children per woman. Meanwhile, average global lifespans have risen, from 64.6 years in the early 1990s to 72.6 years in 2019.

In addition, the world is seeing high levels of urbanization and accelerating migration. 2007 was the first year in which more people lived in urban areas than in rural areas, and by 2050 about 66 per cent of the world population will be living in cities.

These megatrends have far-reaching implications. They affect economic development, employment, income distribution, poverty and social protections. They also affect efforts to ensure universal access to health care, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy. To more sustainably address the needs of individuals, policymakers must understand how many people are living on the planet, where they are, how old they are, and how many people will come after them.

Here are some startling statistics.

- Despite constitutional guarantees of gender equality in many countries, worldwide, on average, women enjoy just 75% of the legal rights of men.
 - Only 55% of women have the power to make their own decisions about lives should be a wake-up call to governments, policymakers and development institutions.
 - An estimated 58% of female victims of murder were killed by an intimate partner or member of their own family, amounting to 137 women every day. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic—and violence against women has been deemed the “shadow pandemic”.
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Global Issues: Population

Never before had population grown so rapidly - in 1950, five years after the founding of the United Nations, world population was estimated at around 2.6 billion people. It reached 5 billion in 1987 and 6 billion in 1999. In October 2011, the global population was estimated to be 7 billion. A global movement "7 billion Actions" was launched to mark this milestone. The world's population is expected to increase by 2 billion persons in the next 30 years, from 7.7 billion currently to 9.7 billion in 2050 and could peak at nearly 11 billion around 2100.

The purpose of observing International Population Day was to create awareness of the growing human population and its effect on the ecosystem and humanity itself.

World Population Day 2021 – History

Overpopulation is a serious global issue that had to be addressed with immediate effect. In 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programs declared this international day for the same purpose. The public interest inspired it in Five Billion Day on 11th July 1987. Coincidentally, on this day, the world population reached five billion people.

This day is about spreading awareness on population issues like the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights. World Population Day was suggested by Dr K. C. Zachariah, who was then working as Sr. Demographer at World Bank. He suggested that efforts have to be made to spread awareness on population rise, as the world is already at five billion people.

World Population Day 2021 Theme

- The World Population Day 2020 theme was ‘How to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now’
- ‘Focus on Unmet goals’ was the theme in 2019, where the focus was on reproductive health, and gender equality is essential for achieving sustainable development.
- ‘Family planning is a human right’ was the theme for the year 2018.
- ‘Family planning, empowering people and developing nations’ was the theme for the year 2017.
- ‘Investing in teenage girls’ was the theme for 2016, where the focus was on helping adolescent girls fight issues like early marriage and motherhood

The United Nations have not declared the theme for the year 2021 as yet, but this year’s focus will be on humanitarian aid to meet 48 million women and young people urgently.