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Growth Trend and Migration of Rural Population: a Case Study in Damavand, Iran

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Abstract

Population dynamics has direct relationship with natural resource management of the area. The study was conducted in Damavand area of Tehran province which is located in the East Province of Iran to find out the growth and stability of rural populations in the selected villages on six villages namely; Aro, Hvyr, Dhnar,Mumj, Khosro and Ayne varzan during 1996 and 2006. During 1996, highest (1035) population was observed in Aro village followed by Ayne varzan (638) and Hvyr (267) with the least (55) population in Dhanar irrespective of age groups, whereas in 2006, highest population was counted in Aro village whereas lowest in Dhanar village. Estimated data for 2011 revealed a variation in the population dynamics. Decadal data represented that Hvyr population had shown negative growth over 10 years which was exceptional than any other villages. This indicated the clear trend of population in migrating from village to village or town in search of jobs all around. Government should take initiatives in creating jobs opportunities like soil and water management practices that may encourage villagers and job opportunities as well.

1. Introduction

Human settlements are dates back to Neolithic era. Major changes in the convention of human life, most notably food production management is associated with domesticating animal, agricultural use of ground water resources and the soil management. Irregular and non-authorized use of forests and agricultural lands, improper livestock are often practised to meet day to day human needs. There is a direct relationship between natural resource management and population dynamics. With time and increasing population, soil and water management as well as job opportunities should be created in sustainable manner that may attract crowds from surrounding villages. The destruction of natural resources along with factors like drought and floods led to the migration of people form from rural villages and rural areas into towns. Institutions and organizations responsible for the restoration and use of these resources should work to prevent further damage. Here is short case study on population dynamics in Damavand region.

2. Materials and Method

Damavand is located in the East Province of Iran, Tehran. The study area is a mountainous, about 1960 masl where summer climate is cool. The area of surface water and groundwater is very good.

The main goal of this study is to find out the growth and stability of rural populations in the selected villages on six villages namely; Aro, Hvyr, Dhnar,Mumj, Khosro and Ayne varzan during 1996 and 2006 in Damavand territory, Iran (Plate 1). It has been divided into two study and the control groups, though there was less relevance of grouping. Main occupation of the groups is farming, and also livestock management which are directly related to the subject of interest. This research was conducted in two stages. Firstly, using questionnaires and interviews, opinions were gathered statistical community and in the second stage of the comments, along with statistical information were collected and verified.

3. Result and Discussion

Analysis of indicators for the population to the total population, age structure and population migration had been noted. Table 1 showed variation throughout the period of study. During 1996, highest (1035) population was observed in Aro village followed by Ayne varzan (638) and Hvyr (267) with the least (55) population in Dhanar irrespective of age groups. There was highest number of population in middle group (15-64 yrs) of age in all the villages. Interestingly, the women population (>10 yrs) had surpassed the men in all the villages except Ayne

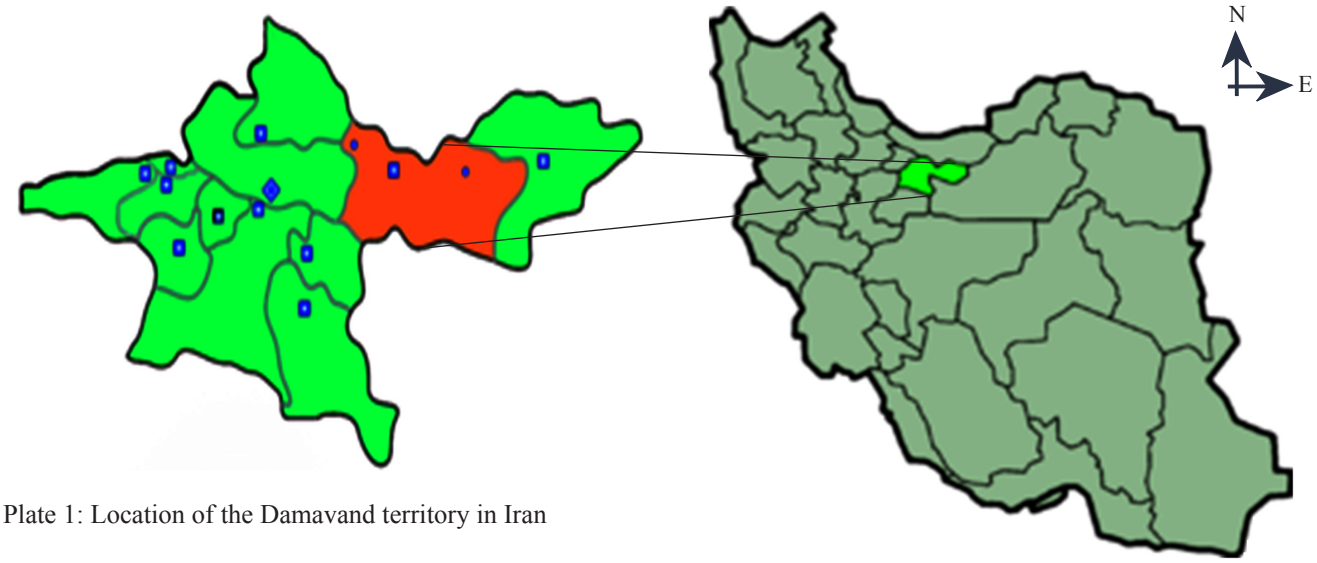

Plate 1: Location of the Damavand territory in Iran

Table 1: Population status of different age groups of test and control villages during 1996 & 2006

Village group	Village	1996						2006									
		All (yrs)			>10yrs			All (yrs)				>10yrs					
		<15	15-64	>65	Mn	Wn	Total	<15	15-29	30-64	>65	Mn	Wn	Total	a	b	c
Study	A	362	600	73	400	409	1035	229	312	411	105	454	458	1057	2.13	1067	0.95
	H	73	157	37	98	123	267	30	55	74	31	85	90	190	-28.84	160	-15.79
	D	6	36	13	25	26	55	4	9	31	15	25	30	59	7.27	61	3.39
Control	M	23	98	46	67	89	167	33	64	103	44	108	114	244	46.11	128	-47.54
	K	17	81	9	50	45	107	29	71	25	1	77	27	126	17.76	291	130.95
	Av	181	406	51	311	209	638	200	438	210	40	571	310	888	39.18	1046	17.79

A: Aro; H: Hvyr; D: Dhanar; M: Mumj; K: Khosro; Av: Ayne varzan; Mn: Men; Wn: Women; a: Decadal growth in % (1996-2006); b: Estimated population for 2011 ; c: Growth in % (2006-2011)

varzan. In the study group, highest population was counted in Aro village whereas lowest in Dhanar village. On the other hand, Ayne varzan village recorded maximum population and Khosro was minimum. Unlike 1996, the population group was divided into four in 2006. Out of which of all groups, 30-64 years age group recorded highest number of population in all the villages. Women population (>10 yrs) had also surpassed the men only in all the villages except Khosro and Ayne varzan. Highest population was counted in Aro village whereas lowest in Dhanar village in the study group; Ayne varzan village recorded maximum population and Khosro was minimum. Data after decadal gap represented that highest Mumj recorded highest (46.11%) growth followed by Ayne varzan (39.18%) and Khosro (17.66%). It was really interesting to find that Hvyr population had shown negative growth over 10 years which was exceptional than any other villages. This indicated the clear trend of population in migrating from village to village or town in search of jobs all around. Ultimately, it affected the total migration indicating the slow tendency or decline in the growth. Hyvr village had highest migration which recorded a negative decadal growth where Mumj had highest growth indicating least migration. On the other hand, it is found from the fact that job opportunity was highest in Mumj village than any others villages under study.

Estimated data for 2011 revealed a variation in the population dynamics. Highest (1067) population was observed in Aro village followed by Ayne varzan (1046) and Khosro (291) with the least (61) population in Dhanar irrespective of age groups. In the study group, highest population was counted in Aro village followed by whereas lowest in Dhanar village. On the other hand, Ayne varzan village recorded maximum population and Mumj was minimum.

Half of the decadal period showed that highest Khosro recorded highest (130.95%) growth followed by Ayne varzan (17.79%) and Dhanar (3.39%) with almost constant in Aro village. It was another interesting fact that Mumj had shown

maximum (-47.54%) negative growth over the tenure followed by Hvyr (-15.79%). It concluded the clear tendency of highest migration in Mumj village followed by Hvyr. At the same time, Aro village have sufficient job opportunities to record lowest migration.

In another study, it had been found that 74.55 population of Aro, Hyvr and Dhnar village used to migrate temporarily during the working season to other places in search of job whereas almost all people for Mumj, Khosro and Ayne varzan villages (Figure 1).

4. Conclusion

Main goal of the study was to find out the impact of agricultural facilities to attract farming, so that to prevent the tendency of migration of the people. Government should take initiatives in facilities like soil and water management practices that may encourage village and job opportunities as well.

5. Future strategy

- All the projects should aim to preserve the rural population and stabilizing it be possible
- Fund to support the residents, especially farmers
- And promote education and indigenous technologies in order to increase production
- Equitable allocation of funds
- training to the village people in adopting and adapting modern farming system

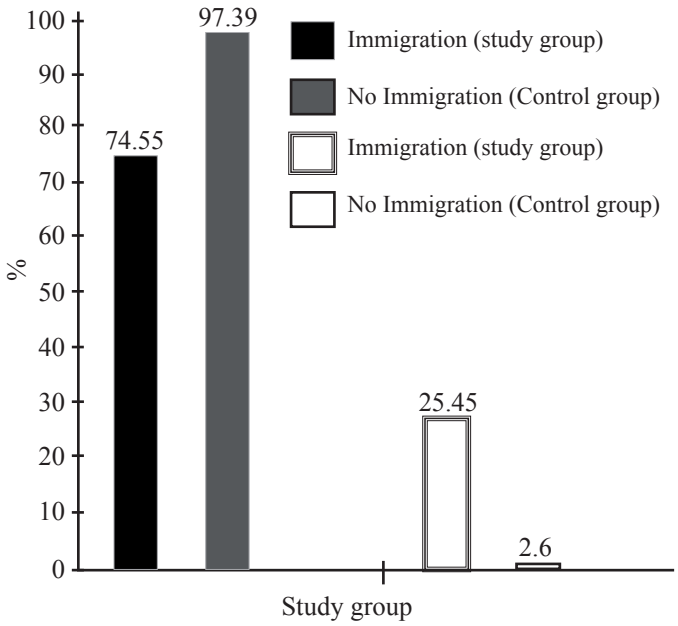

Figure 1: Seasonal immigration status of the villagers

6. Related literature

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