

Changing Population Growth Rate & Its Determinants with the Beginning of 21th Century

L. N. M. Liyanapathirana¹

Abstract

In 19th century, Sri Lankan population increased slowly like other developing countries. But Sri Lanka began the 20th century with 3.6 million population. At the end of 20th century Sri Lankan population was 18.8 million. Furthermore at the mid of 20th century reported the largest population growth in Sri Lanka. In 1960 both death rate and birth rate began to decrease representing the next stage of population growth. Therefore at the beginning of 21th century population growth rate was less than before. However this changes of the population has effected more problems in Sri Lanka. Thus the main objective of this study is to identify the relationships between the population growth rate and its determinants with the beginning of 21th century in Sri Lanka. The study used time series data from secondary sources in Sri Lanka. To satisfy the objective of the study, charts, descriptive statistics and correlation coefficients have been employed. The data was analyzed by SPSS and Excel software. According to the results, with the beginning of 21th century the population has been increasing similar to the past. The highest population was in 2011. But population growth rate has been going down. The population growth rate is positively related with the birth rate, net migration rate, fertility rate, life expectancy and urban population. The death rate is negatively related with the population growth rate. There are strong relationships between birth rate, life expectancy and urban population. There are not strong relationships between population and its determinants such as death rate, net migration rate and fertility rate. The most related variable for population growth rate is the birth rate. Hence the population changing mostly depend on the birth rate in Sri Lanka with the beginning of 21th century.

Keywords: population, population growth, population changing

¹ Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya, nishara.malki@gmail.com