

Rapid population growth causes a wide range of social, economic, environmental and political issues. In the past, India has experienced rapid population growth as a result of a very high birth rate alongside a falling death rate. It has been estimated that India occupies 2.4% of the world's land area but supports over 17.5% of the world's population!

In 2013, the birth rate in India was approximately 20.22 births/1,000 of the population and the death rate was 7.4 deaths/1,000 of the population.

However, Kerala, a state in southwestern India, has registered the lowest growth rate of population in the last decade. The state is now on target to achieve "zero population growth" in the coming years.

Student tasks

1. What was the estimated growth rate for India in 2013?
2. Look at the table below. With your partner, explain how each strategy for population control will affect the growth rate. Add your explanations to the cards on the following page.

Strategies
Encouraging a higher age for marriage
Providing adult literacy classes and free libraries in towns and villages
Improving education standards and treating girls and boys as equals
An education programme detailing the benefits of having smaller families
Only allowing maternity leave for the first two children
Vaccination programmes to improve child health
Providing free contraception and advice
Reducing infant mortality, i.e. people no longer need large families
Land reform - redistributing land to ensure all are self-sufficient, but with no family having more than 8 hectares

3. Sort your statements into a diamond diagram on the following page to show how significant you think each of the strategies has been in helping to reduce the population growth in Kerala.

Exam Question

Use a case study to describe the strategies used to reduce population growth.

(6 marks)

Start your answer:

I have studied strategies used to reduce population growth in Kerala and ...

Kerala population control strategy cards

Encouraging a higher age for marriage will affect population growth in Kerala because ...

Providing adult literacy classes and free libraries in towns and villages will ...

Improving education standards and treating girls and boys as equals will ...

An education programme detailing the benefits of having smaller families will ...

Only allowing maternity leave for the first two children will ...

Vaccination programmes to improve child health will ...

Providing free contraception and advice will ...

Reducing infant mortality, i.e. people no longer need large families will ...

Land reform - redistributing land so all are self-sufficient, but with no family having more than 8 hectares will ...

Kerala population control strategy cards - the Diamond Nine

1.		
2.	3.	
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	
9.		