



IAS MAINS 2019-GS1

Q9- Answer

- By

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Empowering women to control population

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- **“Empowering women is the key to population control”. Discuss.**

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Introduction

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- **Some credible source quoting the link between Women empowerment and Population control**
- **How acute is the situation of Population**
- **What is women empowerment**

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Approach-1

- In the International conference on population and development, Cairo, there was widespread agreement that the empowerment of women is the key to sustainable development and population stabilization.

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Approach 2

- UN population report states that India will surpass China by 2027 in terms of population. Empowering women is the one of the most important factor in stabilizing our population.

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Approach-3

- The empowerment of women and the improvement of their social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of population control

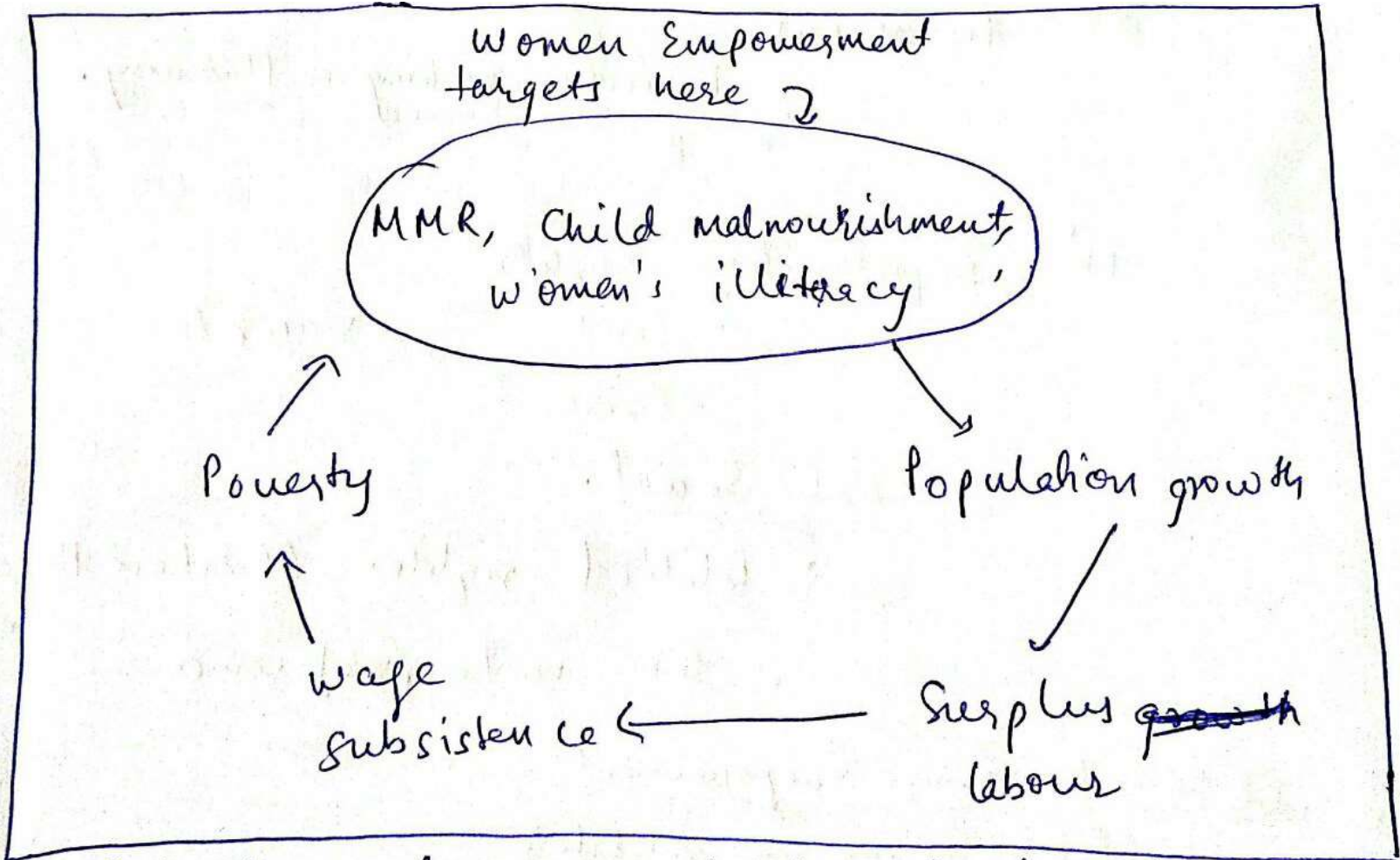
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BODY

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Women's education level	TFR
Illiterate	3.5
Middle school	2.5
7 th - 10 th	2.2
> 10 th	2.08



Fig! Women Empowerment breaking the vicious cycle of population growth.





- Educational empowerment
- Health rights
- Reproductive rights
- Financial rights
- Socio political rights

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Educational empowerment

- Inverse relation between TFR and Women's educational level

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Women's education level	TFR
Illiterate	3.5
Middle school	2.5
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Educational empowerment

- Increased awareness and accessibility to contraceptives
- Increased awareness to importance of family planning
- According to NFHS-4, 90% high school educated women give institutional delivery

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Health rights

- Direct link between Mother's health and child's health
- High percentage of anemia among women's in country
- IMR and MMR- major reason for high growth rate
- Child health linked to poverty and hence population growth

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Reproductive rights

- Cairo declaration
- Right to decide freely and responsibly the **number, spacing and timing of their children** and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

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Socio Political rights

- **Child marriage**
- **Son meta preference**
- **Abortion laws**

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Financial rights

- Decision making authority
- Social capillarity theory
- Demographic transition theory

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Conclusion

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- **Government Initiatives in this context**
- **Statistics showing direct linkage between women empowerment and population control.**

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Approach-1

- India's population policy has evolved from coercion of mid 70's to being focused on women empowerment. Schemes such as Beti bachao Beti padhao are manifestation of this strategy.

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Approach 2

- **Economic survey 2019 states that rising female education led to fall in India's TFR from 4.5(1980) to 2.3(2016). Thus proving that women empowerment is key to Population control.**

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Q.9 "Empowering women is the key to population control." Discuss.

UN population report states that India will surpass China by 2027 in terms of population. Empowering women is the single most important factor in stabilizing our population.

Women Empowerment targets here ↓

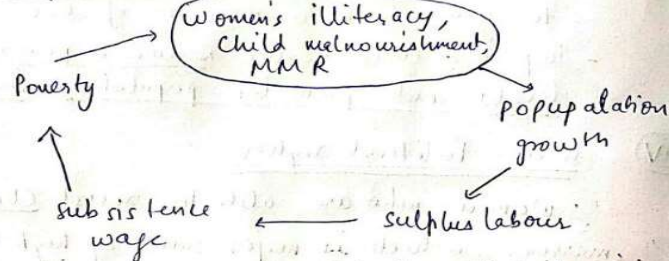


Fig: Women empowerment breaking the vicious cycle of Population growth

How Women Empowerment leads to Population control -

(I) Educational Empowerment -

- # Inverse relation between women's education level and Total fertility rate (TFR)
- Increased awareness and accessibility to Contraceptives
- Increased awareness of benefits of family planning

Women's educational level	TFR
Illiterate	3.5
Middle school	2.5
7 th -10 th class	2.2
>10 th class	2.08

II) Reproductive rights

→ Women get right to decide on birth control practice, spacing between pregnancy which helps reduce population growth rate

III) Health rights

- Economic survey-2017 states there is direct relation between mother's health & child health.
- Decreased IMR & MMR reduces incentive to give birth to more no. of children
- Improved child health reduces poverty levels and promotes population control

IV) Socio-Political rights

- Women ~~who~~ are able to resist child marriage, which is major cause of high TFR.
- Reduced son Meta Preference reduces no. of unwanted children - Economic Survey 2018
- Improved laws such as Abortion, maternity benefit.

V) Financial Empowerment

Women gets decision making power. Tendency to have less children in line with Demographic transition theory to maintain lifestyle.

India's population policy has evolved from coercion of mid 70's to being focussed on women empowerment. Schemes such as "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" are a manifestation of same.