

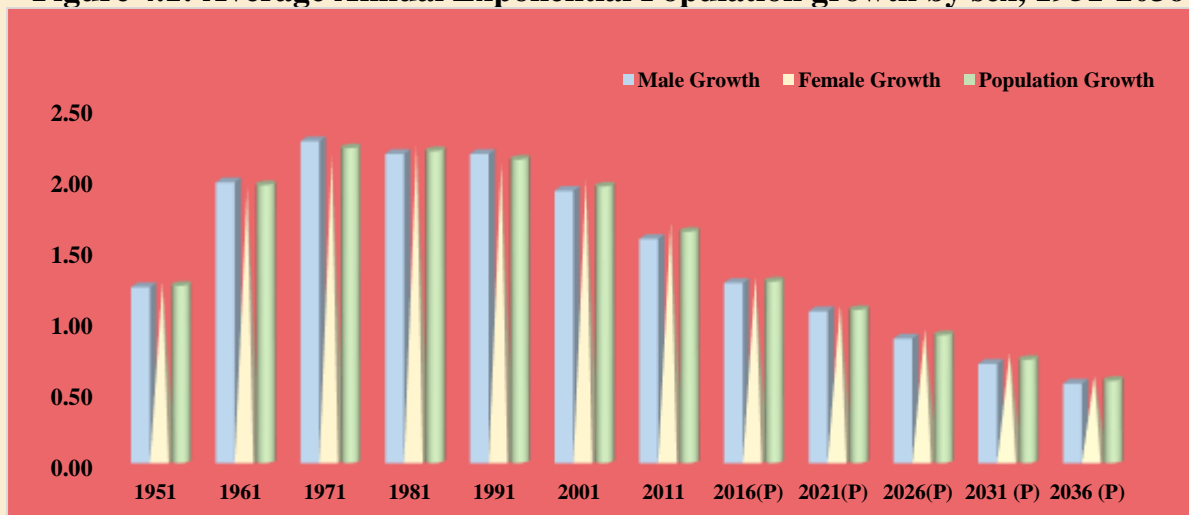
4.1 Population Statistics

4.1.1 A country's development is shaped to a considerable extent by its population demographics and dynamics, which are, or should be, shaped by development policy and progress. Understanding the interplay between gender and population demographics and dynamics is essential for formulating and implementing policies and programmes that aim to change a country's environmental, socio-political and economic demographics, dynamics and development prospects. Analysis of population composition from gender perspective is very central in understanding the nitty-gritty of social structure of a society. Two major factors play a critical role in shaping the population composition, one attributes to biological or natural causes and other attributes to human behavior.

Population demographics and dynamics

4.1.2 As per Census 2011, India's population was 121.1 Crore with 48.5% female population and the total population is expected to reach to 152.2 crore during 2036 with a slightly improved percentage of female population (48.8). Population growth has been slowing down from an average annual growth rate of 2.2% in 1971 to 1.1 % in 2021 which is projected to further fall to 0.58% in 2036. Similar trend is observed in case of both males and females during this period except for a small increase in respect of females from 1971 to 1981. (**Table 1.1**).

Figure 4.1: Average Annual Exponential Population growth by sex, 1951-2036

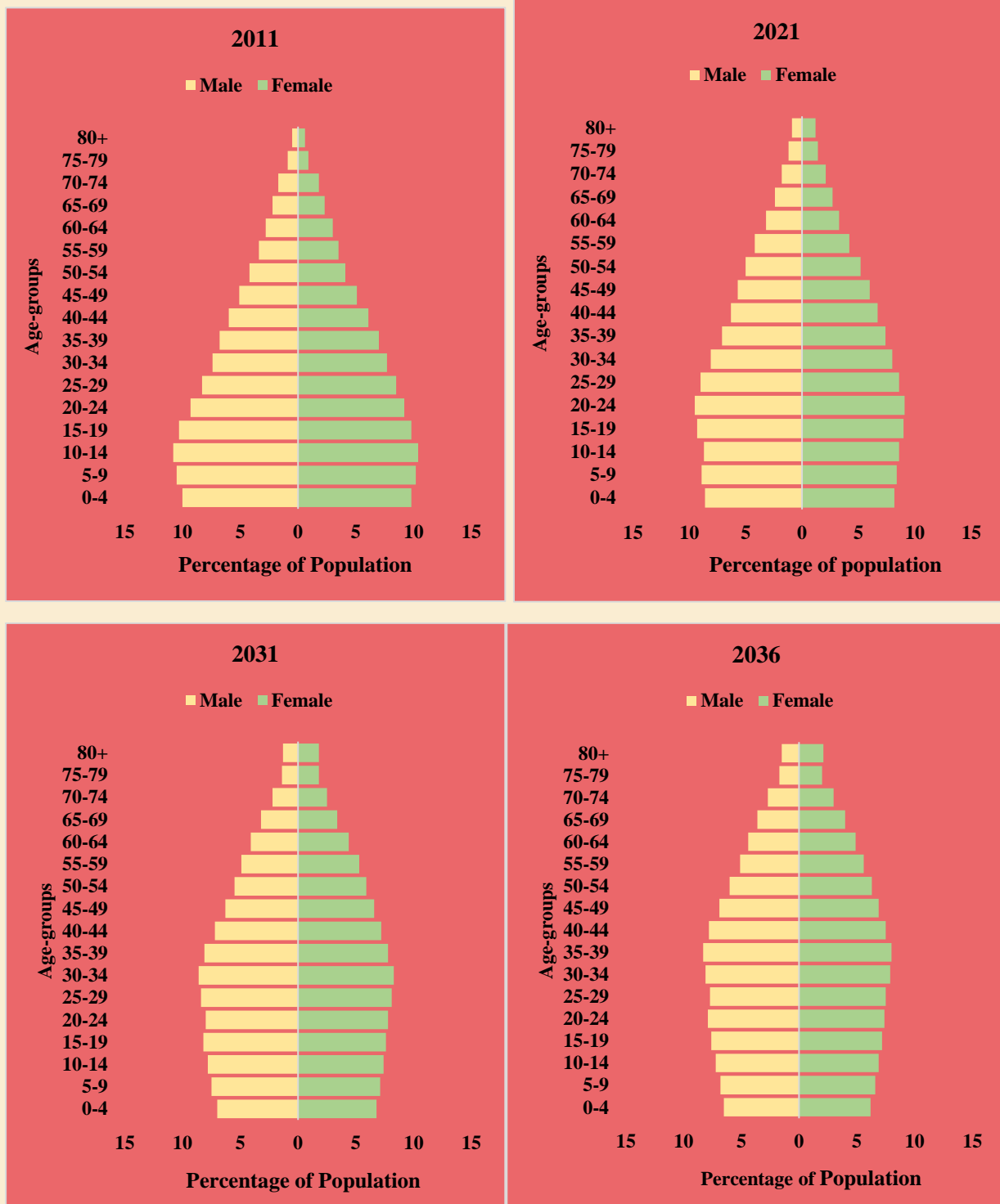


Source: Census, O/o RGI; Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, July, 2020
P: projected figures

4.1.3 The age and sex structure of a country's population can affect gender issues in a variety of ways. Age structure impacting various aspects of societies is determined primarily by trends in fertility and mortality. The proportion of population aged under 15 years is projected to decline during the period 2011 to 2036 probably due to declining

fertility whereas the proportion of the population in the older ages (60 years and above) are projected to increase considerably during this period (**Table 1.2**). Accordingly, the population pyramid will undergo a shift as the base of the pyramid in 2036 would narrow down, while the middle would be broadened. This is true for both the sexes. Changes in the composition of the projected population by sex have been depicted in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: Age-wise Profile of Population by sex (%)



Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, July, 2020

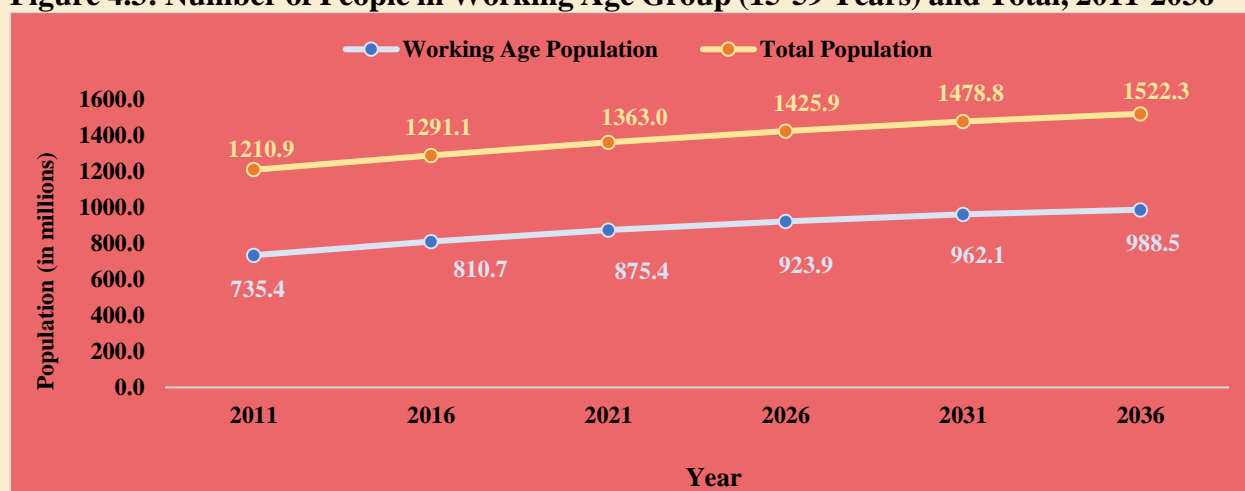
Trend of Working Age-Population

4.1.4 Changes in the size of working-age population plays a key role in determining the size of labour force and direction of inter-state labour migration. Given changing age composition, India's working-age population will continue to increase through 2036. According to Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, 735 million people or 60.7% of India's population was in the working age group i.e. 15-59 years in 2011 and this population group is expected to increase over the years and would reach 988.5 million in 2036 (Statement 4.1, **Figure 4.3**).

Statement 4.1: Projected Population Characteristics as on 1st March 2011-2036

Indicator/ Year	Population by broad age-group (000')			Proportion (percent)			Median age (years)	Dependency Ratio (%)		
	0-14	15-59	60+	0-14	15-59	60+		Young (0-14)	Old (60+)	Total (Young and old)
2011	373,893	735,424	101,538	30.9	60.7	8.4	24.92	50.8	13.8	64.6
2016	362,202	810,687	118,185	28.1	62.8	9.2	26.55	44.7	14.6	59.3
2021	349,990	875,446	137,570	25.7	64.2	10.1	28.34	40.0	15.7	55.7
2026	339,222	923,857	162,829	23.8	64.8	11.4	30.27	36.7	17.6	54.3
2031	323,258	962,091	193,426	21.9	65.1	13.1	32.38	33.6	20.1	53.7
2036	306,374	988,476	227,438	20.1	64.9	14.9	34.48	31.0	23.0	54.0

Figure 4.3: Number of People in Working Age Group (15-59 Years) and Total, 2011-2036



Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, July, 2020

Dependency Ratio

4.1.5 The dependency ratio is the number of children (age 0-14 years) and older persons (age 60 years and above) per 100 working age population (15-59 years). Changes in the dependency ratio provide an indication of the potential social support requirements resulting from changes in population age structures. In addition, the ratio highlights the potential dependency burden on working population and indicates the

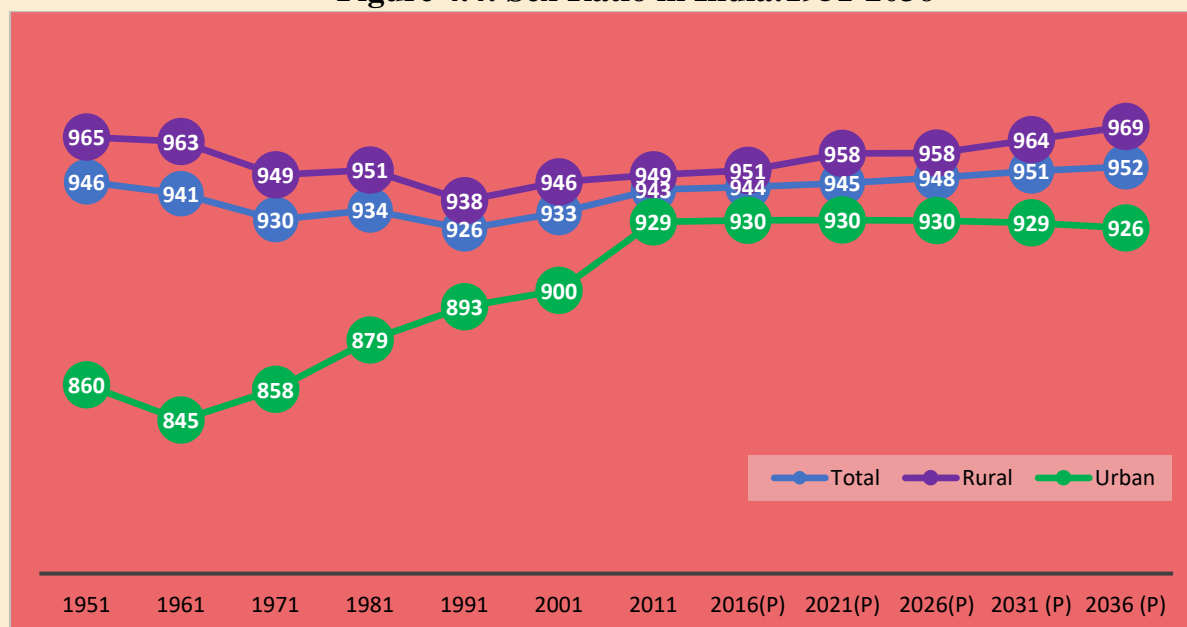
shifts in dependency, as we are going from a situation in which children are dominant to the situation in which older persons outnumber children (i.e, the transition from high mortality and high fertility, to low mortality and low fertility). A high dependency ratio indicates that the economically active population and the overall economy face a greater burden to support and provide the social services needed by children and by older persons who are often economically dependent. It is clear without saying that a high dependency ratio will increase the burden of unpaid care work, which most often falls upon women due to gender roles ascribed by societies.

4.1.6 Due to increasing longevity, population 60 years and above are projected to increase from 101.5 million in 2011 to 227.4 million in 2036. Simultaneously, with India having made significant progress in achieving population control with TFR below replacement level of fertility of 2.1, the young age (0-14 years) population is projected to fall from 373.9 million to 306.4 million during the same period. These amount to a fall in dependency ratio from 65% in 2011 to 54% in 2036.

Sex Ratio

4.1.7 As per Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, the sex ratio (females per 1000 males) in 2036 is expected to be more favourable to women compared to the 2011. (**Table 1.1**).

Figure 4.4: Sex Ratio in India:1951-2036



Source: Census, O/o RGI and Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections, MoHFW; P: projected figures

4.1.8 During the post-independence period from 1951 to 2011, sex ratio in rural areas show a wavering trend, reaching to its lowest (938) in 1991 with an increasing trend in the next two census years. In urban areas, it has been increasing during the period 1971 to 2011. However, sex ratio in case of rural areas is expected to increase from 949 in 2011 to 969 in 2036 whereas in urban areas it is expected to hover around 929 with a

decline to 926 in 2036. A lower sex ratio in urban areas than rural areas can be attributed to migration of males from rural to urban. The only States/UTs with a favorable sex ratio in 2011 are Kerala and Puducherry (**Table 1.3**).

4.1.9 As per Census 2011, Sex ratio in the age-groups 0-6, 15-59 and 60+ has been observed as 918, 944 and 1033 respectively (**Table 1.4**).

4.1.10 Sex Ratio at Birth for the country has gone up by 3 points to 907 in 2018-20 from 904 in 2017-19. Kerala has reported the highest Sex Ratio at Birth (974) while Uttarakhand, the lowest (844). Only 3 States viz., Kerala, Chhatisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have sex ratio at birth close to or more than national sex ratio at birth (**Table 1.6**).