

A Tryst with Destiny: Demography can help realize the dream



**ANRUDH K. JAIN
POPULATION COUNCIL
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“Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.”

“... the past is over and it is the future that beckons us now.

...The service of India means, the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and poverty and disease and inequality of opportunity.”

Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru
in his inaugural address to the Parliament in 1947

“There is only one reason to concerning ourselves about population—to improve the quality of people’s lives, to help make it possible for individuals everywhere to develop their full potential.”

John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1952

What does Demography and Demographers have to do with Improving the Quality of People's Lives?

How can Demography help realize the dream?



Prevent inappropriate policy prescriptions

Guide policies in the right directions

Preventing inappropriate policy prescriptions



Will government interventions reduce population size?

Will the population keep on growing?

Is population growth caused by women having too many babies?

Does India need to implement the type of population programs that China has been implementing?

Why India does not need to implement Chinese population policies?

Fertility has already declined:

- ❖ TFR has declined from about 6.0 to 2.7 births per woman.

Wanted fertility is 1.9, which is below replacement level fertility.

Population growth in the future (524 million between 2005 and 2050) will be caused by three factors:

- ❖ Further decline in mortality (203 million)
- ❖ Unwanted fertility (216 million)
- ❖ Momentum (361 million)

Guide Policies in the Right Direction



Fertility Transition

Demographic Dividend

Conditions Conducive to Fertility Decline



A family planning program that offers information and services of good quality; and

Good Social Setting:

- ❖ Low infant and child mortality; and
- ❖ High female literacy and education, at least through the primary school level.

Table 1. TFR* in 16 Major States in India in 2005/06 by Female Education and Infant Mortality

Female education	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		
(% females 15-49 years old with at least primary level education)	HIGH 55+	MEDIUM 35–54	LOW 15–34
Low < 45	Bihar (4.00) U.P. (3.82) Rajasthan (3.21) M.P. (3.12)		
Medium 45–49	Assam (2.42) Orissa (2.37)	Haryana (2.69) Gujarat (2.42) J&K (2.42) W.B. (2.27) Karnataka (2.07) A.P. (1.79)	
High 50+ TFRs are shown in parenthesis.		Maharashtra (2.11) Punjab (1.99)	Kerala (1.93) T.N. (1.80)

Table 2. Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births for India and Selected States: 1970/72 to 2005/06

Period	Source	India	Kerala	Tamil Nadu	U.P.	Bihar
1970-72	SRS	132	58	120	174	
1980-82	SRS	110	36	89	152	
1990-92	SRS	80	17	58	98	
1993	NFHS I	79	24	68	100	89
1998-99	NFHS II	68	16	48	87	73
2005-06	NFHS III	57	15	30	73	62

Table 3. Percent girls of 15–19 years of age who have completed at least primary school level education for India and selected states: 1971 to 2001

Period	Source	India	Kerala	Tamil Nadu	U.P.	Bihar
1971	Census	31	71	42	19	
1981	Census	37	85	56	24	
1993	NFHS I	50	94	66	40	33
1998-99	NFHS II	61	97	78	52	43
2001	Census	73	99	80	66	46

TFR* in SSA Countries with recent DHS by Female Education and Infant Mortality

Female education	Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births		
(% females 15-19 years of age with at least primary level education)	HIGH 80+	MEDIUM 60-79	LOW <60
Low <50	Niger (6.8) Mali (6.6) Chad (6.3) Burkina (5.9) Guinea (5.7)		
Medium 50-79	Nigeria (5.7) Mozambique (5.5)	Benin (5.7) Tanzania (5.7) Ethiopia (5.4) Senegal (5.3)	Madagascar (5.2)
High 80+	<i>Congo Democratic Republic (6.3)</i> <i>Rwanda (6.1)</i> Swaziland (3.9) Lesotho (3.5)	<i>Uganda (6.7)</i> <i>Zambia (6.2)</i> <i>Malawi (6.0)</i> Liberia (5.2) Cameroon (5.0) Kenya (4.9) Congo 'Brazzaville' (4.8) Ghana (4.4)	Zimbabwe (3.8) Namibia (3.6)

*TFRs are shown in parenthesis.

Requirements for Realizing Demographic Dividend



Quantity

—proportion of the population in the labor force.

Quality

—education and technical skills of the labor force.

Opportunities

—available to workers to use their skills productively.

Figure 1. Quantity: Age Distribution for India: 1961 to 2050

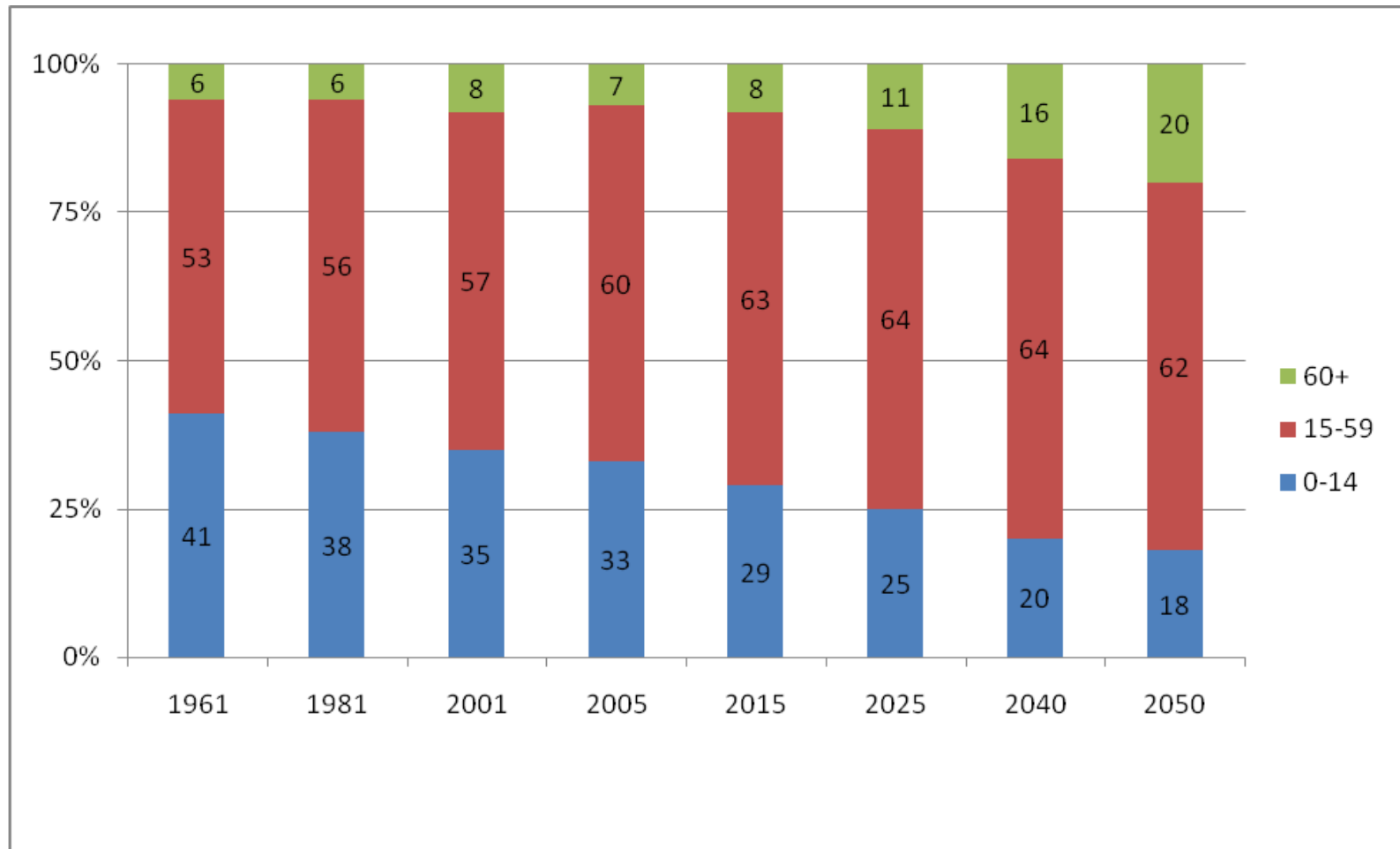


Figure 2. Dependency Ratio in India: 1961 to 2050

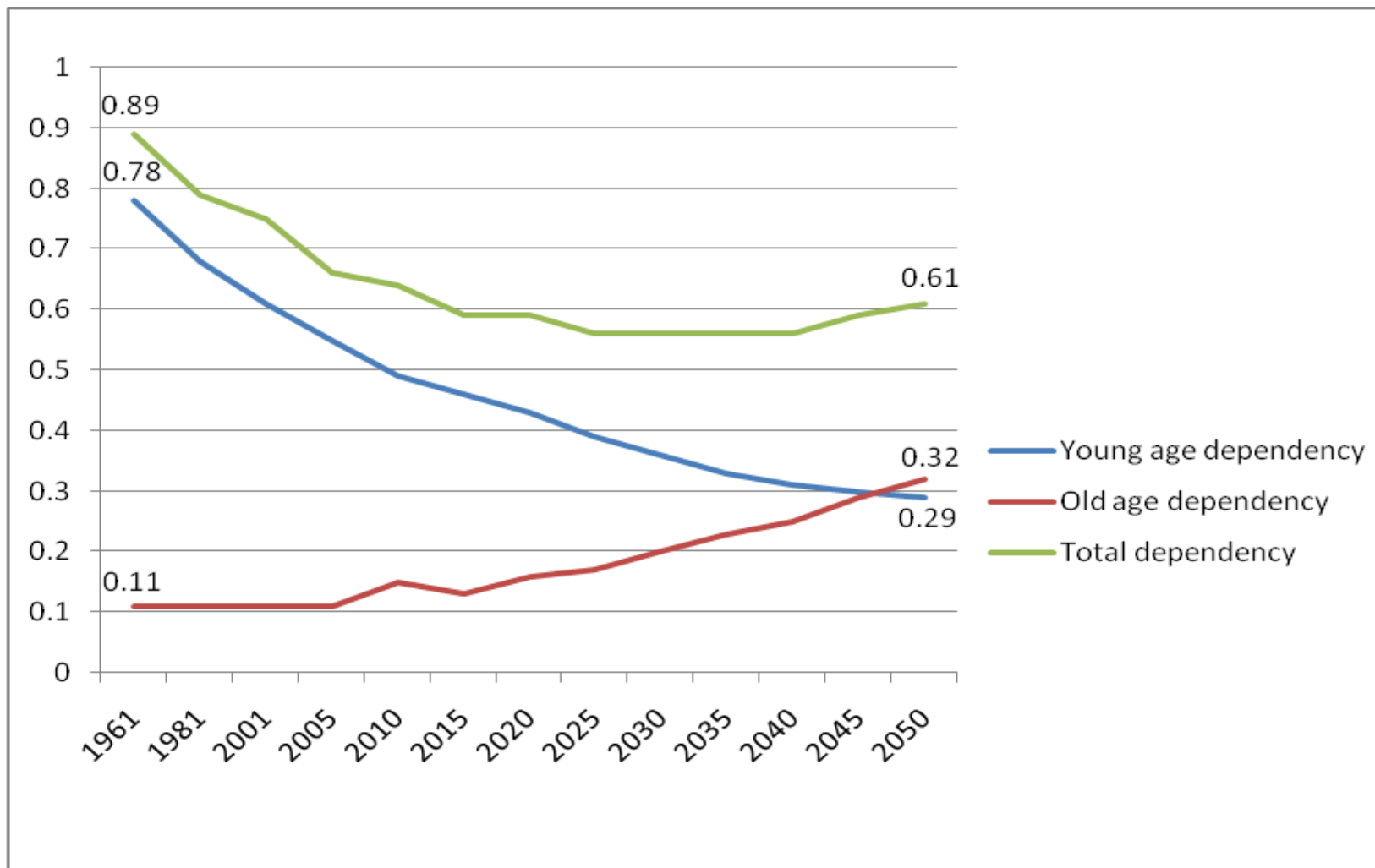


Figure 3. Quantity: Age Distribution for Selected States: 1961 to 2001 Censuses

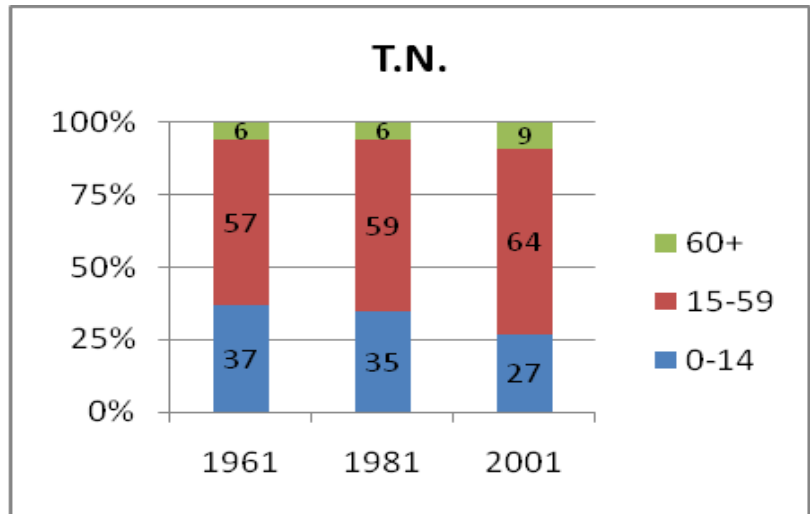
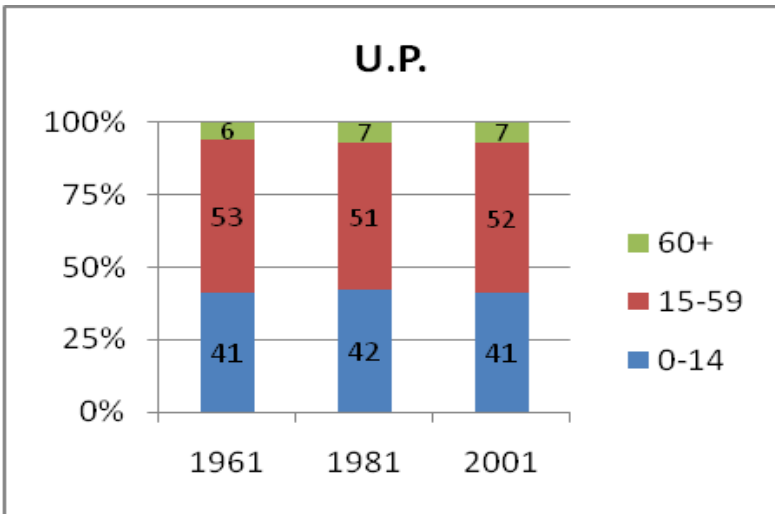
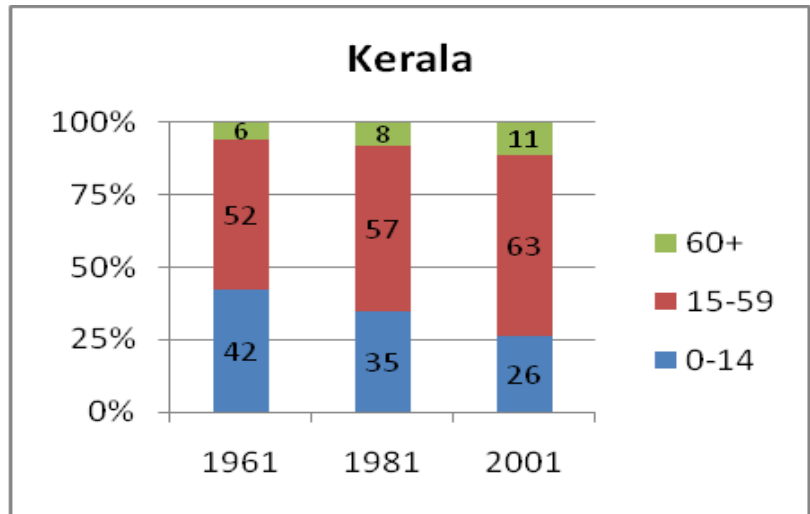
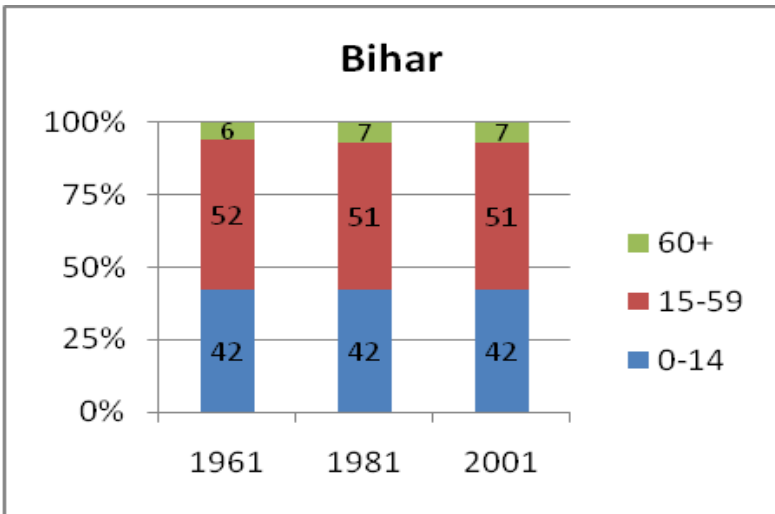
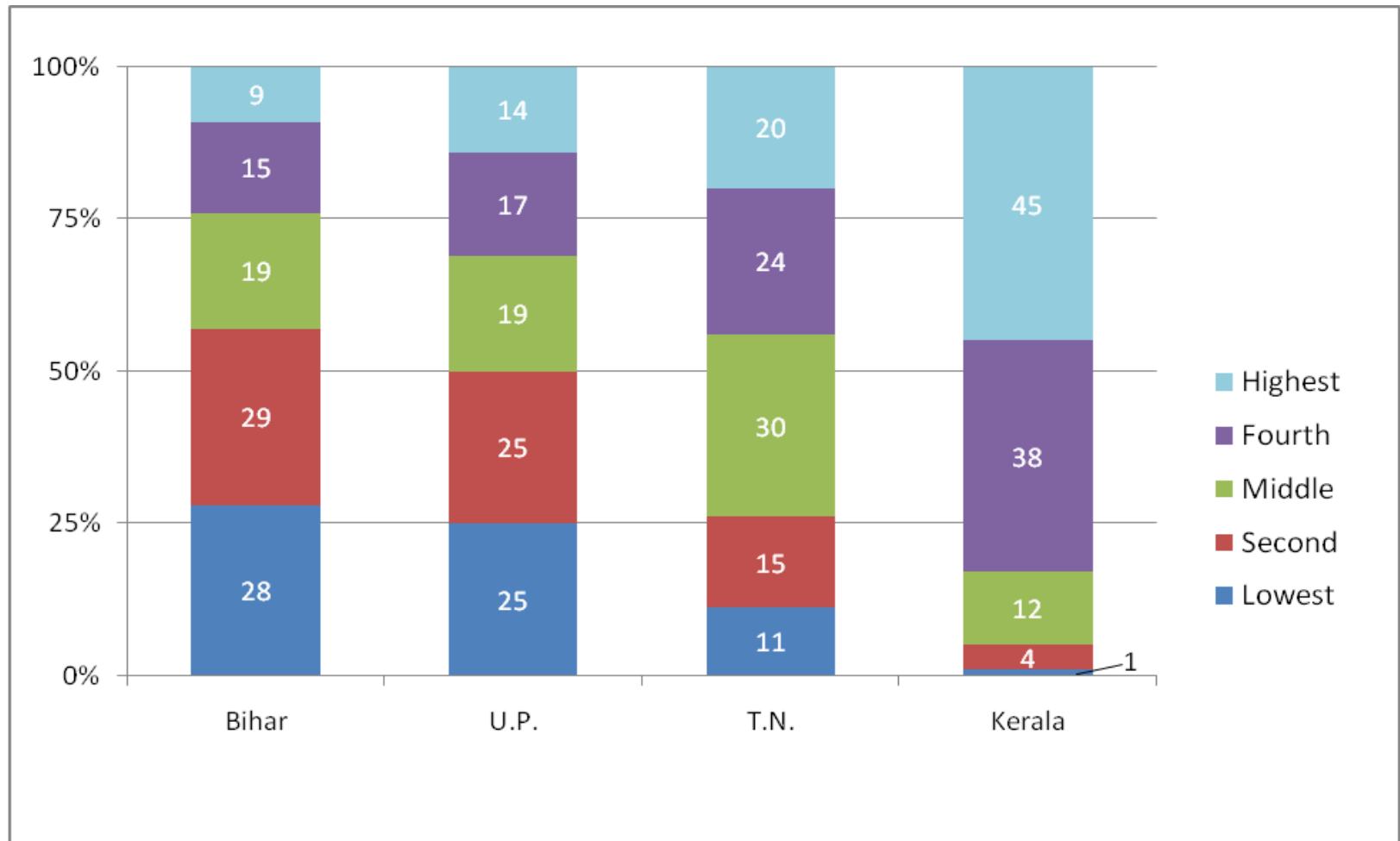


Table 4. Quality and Productivity of the Labor Force

Indicators	Bihar	Jharkhand	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	Maharashtra
	<i><u>Unmarried Males 15-24 years</u></i>				
Watch T.V.	12	23	26	11	30
8+ Years	60	67	72	81	83
Paid work	39	39	35	58	54
Alcohol	7	13	4	19	7
Physical Fights	15	19	8	9	11
Voted	45	49	45	65	45
	<i><u>Unmarried Females 15-24 years</u></i>				
Watch T.V.	13	23	43	13	52
8+ Years	38	45	57	84	81
Paid work	17	18	16	38	27
Alcohol	0	2	0	0	0
Physical Fights	4	5	2	3	2
Voted	19	28	32	48	25

Figure 4. Demographic Dividend: Population Distribution by Wealth Quintiles for Selected States: 2005/06



Conclusions



Social justice, fertility transition, and the demographic dividend are closely interlinked.

Actual experience varies from state to state:

- ❖ *Those states that made earlier investments in social development experienced fertility transition early and are now ready to reap the benefit of demographic dividend.*
- ❖ *Those states that did not invest in social development early on are now lagging behind in fertility transition and will not benefit from demographic dividend in the near future.*
 - *They have backlog in educating children.*
 - *They will have an ongoing need for additional resources to invest in education and health of young children.*
 - *They will have no potential savings to invest in improving the economic conditions of their people.*

Demographic dividend is not automatic



Quantity of workforce is certain to decrease with further decline in fertility.

Increase in productivity will require further investment to:

- ❖ *Improve the quality (education and skills) of the workforce.*
- ❖ *Expand opportunities for them to use their skills productively.*

Next decade is crucial for making the investment required to reap the benefit of demographic dividend during the optimal period beginning in 2015 and ending in 2045.

- ❖ *Aspirations among young people will rise further with the spread of cinema, TV, cell phones, and the internet.*
- ❖ *This rise in aspirations may be uniform across states and constituencies.*
- ❖ *Don't want too much disparity among states in regards to quality of adolescents and opportunities for them to use their skills productively.*

Policy Implications



Need to develop mechanisms to transfer resources from richer to poorer states, or

National government must disproportionately allocate resources needed to states lagging behind in social development and family planning.

Need to spend in schooling of children in the neglected age group of 6–10 years because their experience will determine the skills of adolescents entering the workforce in 2015.

Need to document differences among states, districts, and communities and work with parliamentarians who can attract resources needed through budgetary and democratic processes.

Concluding Remark



Cost of this investment may seem high; but the cost of the alternative of not investing now may be even higher.

- ❖ *Quantity of work force is certain to increase.*
- ❖ *Aspirations of young people is certain to increase—more or less uniformly.*
- ❖ *Gap between aspirations and reality would increase if required investments are not made now to improve the quality of this work force and to expand opportunities for them to use their skills productively.*
- ❖ *Gap may rise disproportionately across the country.*
- ❖ *Negative consequences of this increasing gap may include rising unemployment, alcohol use, violence, and unrest.*
- ❖ *Negative consequences may not remain confined to a community, district, or a state boundaries.*