

Why Hindu Population is Decreasing: Is this a Serious Issue?

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Abstract

“Hindu philosophy is at the core of all religions.”

Hindus are a significant international faith that originated here on the Indian subcontinent and consists of many different philosophical, religious, including ceremonial traditions. About 80% of people in India followed Hinduism as a religion before the beginning of the twenty-first century however this percentage is declining as the number of Muslims in this region is rising. Hindu and Muslim reproductive differences in India were studied using census data and the results of 11 surveys. There was a reason for the variations in fertility. And again when the country was divided, the proportion of Muslims in the population rose while the proportion of Hindus fell. After the partition, between 1951 and 1971, the percentage of Muslims rose from 9.9 to 11.2 while the percentage of Hindus fell from 84.9 to 82.7%. These proportionate changes can't be ascribed to variations in immigration or death hence these should be caused by variations in fertility, according to an analysis of mortality and migration statistics. The significant indication that Muslim reproduction is greater than Hindu fertility may be found in census and survey data. According to statistics from the 1971 census, Muslim women had a total marital fertility rate that was 20% higher in rural regions and 11% higher in urban areas than it would be for Hindu women. The Muslim rate was greater even when schooling was kept under control. The results of 11 demographic studies consistently showed that Muslim women had greater fertility rates than Hindu women. Numerous researches showed that when socio-economic and educational criteria were taken into account, these discrepancies shrank but remained substantial. To explain the disparities, researchers often provide one of three ideas. Hindutva is in genuine danger, and we need to do a self-evaluation and begin building unity and resolve to regain our former greatness. Otherwise, by 2050, Muslims will overtake Hindus as the majority religion in the Asia-Pacific area. Hindus are currently the predominant community in both India and Nepal, making them the largest religious group in the area. They are also widely present in Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Malaysia. While the proportion of Muslims in the area is anticipated to rise from 24 in 2010 to almost 30 in 2050, the percentage of Hindus will expand more slowly, from 25 to almost 28. This essay will provide all the details as to why Hindus are dwindling, why this is a severe problem, and all the evidence that demonstrates how the Hindu religion is at elevated danger.

Keywords: Hinduism, Hindutv, Sanatan Dharm, India, Religion

Hinduism's Introduction and History

Hinduism, which has its roots in Central Asia and the Indus Valley and is being practiced today, is the oldest religion in the world. The word Hinduism is an exonym, which is a name that is given by someone else to a group of individuals, a location, or an idea. It comes from the Persian word Sindus, which referred to people who resided on the opposite side of the Indus River. Since it is seen as a virtue-based way of life, purists prefer to refer to it as Santana Dharma (the eternal path/law) rather than a religion. After Christianity and Islam, it is the religion that has been followed the longest and also has the third-largest population. It boasts more than a billion active adherents, 90% of them from Southern Asia, including India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. Because the concepts of converting and evangelization are missing from Hinduism, it has only selectively expanded to various regions of the world since it emerged on the Indian subcontinent. As a result, it is less a religion than it is a crystallization of the changing beliefs and way of life of the local populace. Hinduism is a collection of several practices and cultures, without a single creator or God. The arrival of the Aryans in northern India (5500–2600 BC) led to the assimilation of several late Ancient and early Harappan ideas out of their own religious beliefs. Containing significant components of environment gods and their worship, modern Hinduism developed from the ancient writings known as the Vedas and had many similarities with other Indo-European faiths like Zoroastrianism. By the fourth century BC, Vedic Hinduism had expanded over the Indian subcontinent, incorporating aspects of all indigenous religious beliefs and rituals. Over the following 10th century, it underwent significant development and also assimilated the principles of Buddhism and Jainism, which focused on vegetarians and incorporated the doctrine of non-violence. Hindu thinking became more structured and became more systematized during the classical Golden Epoch of the Gupta era (4th to 6th century AD). The great Hindu epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata, had acquired their current shape by that time, and laws for idol worship, depictions of the divine, and the construction of buildings and temples had also been established. This integration continued till the arrival of formal Islamic rule over India in the seventh century. Hinduism has a very extensive body of religious literature and the much more significant of which are the four Vedas (also known as Rg-, Sma-, Yajus-, and Atharva-), which concentrate on ritual practices, and the Hindu scriptures and Puranas, which concentrate on spiritual understanding, mythical tales, and ideological teachings. The Ramayana and Mahabharata are two of the most well-known epics in Hinduism, in addition to several other canonical books (shastras) of Hindu philosophy. The basic tenets of Hinduism include Dharma (a rule of ethical conduct), Samsara (the continual cycle of birth, life, death, and reincarnation), Karma (activity and consequent response), Moksha (liberation from samsara), and the different yoga asanas. Hinduism is difficult to fully explain (paths to attain Moksha). God is a really difficult notion to grasp. The majority of Hindus hold that the human psyche or soul (Atma), which is an indistinguishable aspect of Brahman and the supreme spirit that permeates the Universe, is everlasting. Hinduism holds that the purpose of existence is to discover non-duality and to live in such a way that one achieves Mukti as a result (liberation or freedom). Depending on the faith, other metaphysical schools may worship Brahman as Vishnu, Brahma, Shiva, or Shakti. Devas, heavenly beings that are the manifestations of creation or attributes, are mentioned in both Hindu texts and mythology. However, they are frequently separated from an ultimate divine Creator. Avatars are physical, human representations of Divinity. The majority of believing Hindus do religious rituals

every day to ask for blessings from numerous Gods. They worship (puja) the holy idol in sanctuaries at their homes or in temples. Although going to the temple is not required, it is traditional to do so during significant holidays. Even if they are held in high regard, in theory, Vedic fire-oblation ceremonies (yajna) are only occasionally performed nowadays. The yajna and singing of Vedic mantras are still common in Hindu wedding and funeral rituals. Life, wedding, and death entail what are sometimes complex collections of religious traditions. Cremation is customarily carried out after death and involves wrapping the body in linen before being burned on a pyre. Even though Hinduism has several sacred towns and shrine cities, pilgrimage is not required. Prayagraj, Banaras, Haridwar, Mauthra, Tirumala-Tirupati, Katra, the location of the Vaishno Devi temple, and also groups of pilgrimages connected with theology are significant Hindu pilgrimage centers. The Hindu calendar designates several festivals that are celebrated throughout the year in Hinduism. Hindu holidays, such as Holi, Dussera, and Diwali, are often commemorated. Hindu holidays typically have their roots in mythology. Civilization was classified into four parts, or Varnas: the Brahmins (tutors and priests), the Kshatriyas (warriors, nobles, and kings), the Vaishyas (landowners, traders, and business people), and the slaves and workers (Shudras). Throughout history, these classes gradually developed into highly strict castes and sub-castes, creating an incredibly repressive structure.

Decrease in Hindu Population!

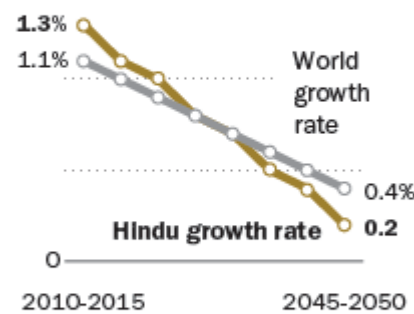
**POPULATION TRENDS FOR MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS
IN INDIA -1951-2011**

(in %)

Religious group	Population						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Hindu	84.1	83.45	82.73	82.30	81.53	80.46	78.35
Muslim	9.80	10.69	11.21	11.75	12.61	13.43	14.2
Christian	2.00	2.44	2.60	2.44	2.32	2.34	2.34
Sikh	1.89	1.79	1.89	1.92	1.94	1.87	1.87
Buddhist	0.74	0.74	0.70	0.70	0.77	0.77	0.77
Jain	0.46	0.46	0.48	0.47	0.40	0.41	0.41
Parsi	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.06
Animist, Others	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	0.44	0.72	0.72

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Cenus, 2011

Projected Compound Annual Growth Rates for Hindus Between Five-Year Periods



Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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According to a recent study by the Pew Research Center, news items relying on stolen census data from 2011 are accurate. Less than 4 in 5 Indians now self-identify as Hindu, a first since the country's independence in 1947. This is not unexpected that due to such a significant migration, the state's Hindu population, which made up 78.45% of the population in 1951, had decreased to 70.54% as per the 2011 census.

The slightest hint of a declining Hindu population, even if just in absolute terms, hits a sore spot with some extreme Right groups. In response to the research, a VHP member predicted that the Country will soon resemble Pakistan or Afghanistan. This is supported by a recent Pew Research Center study. Fortunately, none of these opinions seems to reflect the consensus. These strike out, though, as instances of how to not talk about demographic transition. If reasonable people are unable to discuss the subject calmly, they essentially hand it over to various extremists, racists, and conspiracy theories.

In contrast to the hyperbolic language that dominates headlines, the Pew study paints a far more complex picture. In absolute numbers, India's Hindu number is increasing but at a diminishing rate, not shrinking, with fertility rates comfortably over the replacement threshold of 2.1 children per woman. It will increase from more than 300 million people to over 1.3 billion over the next 35 years. However, concerning certain other religions, these figures point to a gradual but persistent decline. Hindustan was around 85% Hindu in 1951, not long after the devastation of Separation. 77% of the population will be Hindu by 2050. To put it another way, if you are in your 40s now, your parents were likely born and raised in India, where only one in eight individuals identify as Muslim or Christian. In a nation where your grandkids will reside, that proportion will be nearer to the one in five. . Coincidentally, this percentage of Hindus is similar to what it was in undivided India in the

1881 census. Add Pakistani and Bangladeshi, and it is predicted that the country's Hindu population would decline to 61% of its 2.17 billion-person population by the year 2050.

Bearing on Fertility Rate

Total Fertility Rates of Hindus by Region, 2010-2015

	ALL RELIGIONS	HINDUS	DIFF.*
Asia-Pacific	2.1	2.4	0.3
Latin America-Caribbean	2.2	1.6	-0.6
Europe	1.6	1.5	-0.1
World	2.5	2.4	0.0

* Differences are calculated from unrounded numbers. Only regions for which there are sufficient data are shown.

Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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The majority of India's shift may be attributed to an anticipated substantial increase in the Muslim population that has resulted in rising birth rates. Hindu women in India have 2.5 children per family, compared to 3.2 for Muslim women. Muslims in India will increase beyond their present 14 per cent population share to over 311 million over the next 35 years or more than a per cent of the country's total population. According to the report, India will have the biggest Muslim population in the world by 2050, surpassing Indonesia and Pakistan.

It's tougher to quantify the quantity of Christians. Although both Hindu nationalist and evangelical groups assert that Christianity is expanding quickly in India, according to Conrad Hackett, the demographer in charge of the Pew poll, "We have not seen any indication of this in demographic or demographic survey data." Due to some Dalit Christians identifying as officially Hindu to be eligible for reservations in government employment and education, Pew believes that there are around 10% fewer Christians in India than there are.

However, Pew projects that over the next several decades, Christianity will spread quickly in regions like Africa, although it will remain roughly constant at 2.5% or less of the population in India. According to various organizations, the Foundation for the Research of World Christianity, India already has a 4.7% Christian population, which is about double what Pew currently estimates.

Reason for Decline of Hindu Population

The declining Hindu population is caused by several factors, including

- Hindus in India are growing more aware of other religions and are hence hesitant to criticize them more openly. They feel that anything they bring into the world must be raised correctly, not like a beggar, and that if they fail, they should abdicate all responsibility to their deity, which is notably a disgusting addiction of the ignorant other culture.
- Hindu women in India trail far behind by a TFR score of 3, whereas Muslim women have the highest TFR with a score of 3.7. In layman's terms, the Muslim community can generate 3.7 children per woman, compared to the Christian society's 3.3 children per woman and the Hindu society's 3 kids per woman. Even though some uneducated people think this is in their guts, it is essentially a misfortune for India's better future since other industrialized nations have very low TFR.
- Under Hindu marital law, separation is not a simple or frequent process, particularly when the girl's side refuses to grant the divorce. The scenario is unique for non-Hindus, whose laws are largely dominated by men. As a result, they have a greater opportunity to change partners throughout their lives, and more partners equal more children, whereas Hindus typically stay in committed relationships for the rest of their lives and have a smaller number of children.
- The notion of the nuclear family is developing amongst Hindu families more quickly and vividly than among families from other communities, as I previously stated. Parents need to provide the best for their child, whether a male or a girl, thus they typically move to various locations for employment. They do not even prejudice based on gender and are more accepting than the older generation. Additionally, as most of them (spouses) are extremely preoccupied with their jobs, they do not have the time to raise 2 kids.
- Hindus aren't readily swayed by Indian policymakers or gurus, thus their indulgence is not productive for the Hindu population-control strategy. However, in other communities, there are times when foreigners (legislative representatives) intervene to make marriage planning decisions
- The essential point I want to make is that there are worldwide gangs that attack the Hindu people, but there are no worldwide Hindu gangs that encourage discourse about Hinduism, which is the most regrettable thing.
- Hindus do not change people's minds from other religions to Hinduism; this is because Hinduism does not adhere to the idea of religious conversion. Islam and Christianity both adhere to the principle of religious conversion. Everybody should adhere to the Islamic faith, and transformation is permitted, according to the Hadith. Christianity also includes conversion. Hindu population declined due in large part to conversion, which also contributed to the decline.

- Hindu monarchy in decline: Our past has been highly exalted. For instance, the Maurya Empire, the Funan Empire, and the Srivijaya Empire all practised Hinduism in ancient times. With the collapse of the Hindu Empire, Hindu traditions and rituals started to wane; this reduced the number of adherents to the faith. Hindu education suffered a general decrease as a result of the burning down of temples and educational facilities, the murder of knowledgeable monks, and the dispersing of pupils. Due to a lack of financing, royal patronage, and an open climate following the fall of Hindu rulers, scientific study and philosophy experienced some difficulties. This caused the Hindu population to shrink
- Hindu conversions, emigration, and genocide are other major causes; data from Hindu Genocide.com indicates that around 55 crore Hindus were coerced into changing their faith. 44 crore Hindus are conscripted by Islamist jihadists, who rape, abuse, and murder Hindu women. Christianity further pushed 67 Hindus to change their religion. Political crime also affects 9.7 crore Hindus, which together have caused a decline in the number of Hindus.

Hindus and Muslims in the Asia-Pacific Region: How the Numbers will Alter

By 2050, Muslims will overtake Christians as the largest religious group in the Asia-Pacific area. Hindus are currently the predominant community in both India and Nepal, making them the largest religious group in the area. They are also widely present in Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Malaysia.

While the proportion of Muslims in the area is anticipated to rise from 24 in 2010 to almost 30 in 2050, the fraction of Hindus will expand more slowly, from 25 to almost 28.

World Hindu Population by Region, 2010 and 2050

	YEAR	REGION'S TOTAL POPULATION	REGION'S HINDU POPULATION	% HINDU IN REGION
Asia-Pacific	2010	4,054,940,000	1,024,630,000	25.3%
	2050	4,937,900,000	1,369,600,000	27.7
North America	2010	344,530,000	2,250,000	0.7
	2050	435,420,000	5,850,000	1.3
Middle East-North Africa	2010	341,020,000	1,720,000	0.5
	2050	588,960,000	3,700,000	0.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	2010	822,730,000	1,560,000	0.2
	2050	1,899,960,000	1,900,000	0.1
Europe	2010	742,550,000	1,380,000	0.2
	2050	696,330,000	2,660,000	0.4
Latin America-Caribbean	2010	590,080,000	660,000	0.1
	2050	748,620,000	640,000	0.1

Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050
Population estimates are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers.

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- **The third-largest religious group in the world will be Hindus.**

The world's fourth-largest religious group as of the present is the Hindus. By the middle of the last century, they will overtake individuals that have no religious connection as the third-largest religious group in the world, moving them to the 4th position.

By 2050, the United States will have the fifth-largest Hindu population outside of the Asia Pacific area, and Canada will have the tenth-largest, thanks to growth rates of 160%, which are considered to be the highest in the world for Hindus.

- **India would come out on top among nations with the highest percentage of Muslims.**

By 2050, India will have the biggest proportion of Muslims in the world, surpassing Indonesia, which currently has the highest portion.

The percentage of Muslims in the general population will rise significantly in India and Nigeria, two of the ten nations with the highest Muslim populations.

Projected Population Change in Countries With Largest Hindu Populations in 2010

	COUNTRY'S POPULATION AS SHARE OF WORLD'S POPULATION IN 2010	COUNTRY'S POPULATION AS SHARE OF WORLD'S POPULATION IN 2050	SHARE OF COUNTRY'S POPULATION THAT IS HINDU IN 2010	SHARE OF COUNTRY'S POPULATION THAT IS HINDU IN 2050
1 India	17.8%	18.2%	79.5%	76.7%
2 Nepal	0.4	0.5	80.7	79.8
3 Bangladesh	2.2	2.1	8.5	7.3
4 Indonesia	3.5	3.2	1.7	1.4
5 Pakistan	2.5	3.0	1.9	2.0
6 Sri Lanka	0.3	0.3	13.6	14.0
7 United States	4.5	4.2	0.6	1.2
8 Malaysia	0.4	0.5	6.0	5.0
9 United Kingdom	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.0
10 Burma (Myanmar)	0.7	0.6	1.7	1.6
Top 10 (2010) Total	33.2	33.4	44.9	44.2

Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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- **Nearly the same percentage of the world's population will be made up of Christians and Muslims.**

Muslims are currently the second religious group on the planet after Christianity, but by 2050, their numbers will be virtually equal due to other demographic shifts and the current rates of population increase.

By the middle of the century, Christians will be distributed differently over the world, with sub-Saharan Africa hosting around 38% of all Christians, up from 24% in 2010. During this time, Europe's share will decrease from 26% to 16%.

Should Hindus be Worried about the Decline of Hinduism in India?

According to census data, the rate of increase of the Hindu population was just 16.76%, compared to the Muslims' rate of growth of 24.60%, and the overall Hindu population had for the first time fallen below 80%. Hindus will become a minority in India by 2115, he said, if the pattern continues. He said that this had occurred in Kerala, where the proportion of Hindus fell from 69% in 1911 to 48% in 2011. The world's oldest and most illustrious dharma is Snatam. Vishva Guru is the name given to ancient India. Hinduism is in grave danger, therefore it's time to reflect on our behaviour and to begin building the unity and resolve necessary to reclaim our former greatness.

Well, this began long after we achieved freedom. I do mean hundreds of years ago. Observe how: You acknowledge that Lakshmi (Laxmi) occupies a significant position in Hindu homes and temples. We ask the favour of the goddesses Saraswati and Laxmi for quality education and overall wellbeing as well as financial prosperity. The same us now store our money purse in our back pocket, which means that the spot Goddess Laxmi was granted is on our butt! How depressing is it, but how many of you have you ever considered this? When the Mughals invaded, they burned down our temples, and sacred writings, including the Vedas, and forced us to live in a way that left the next generations with little to no understanding of our culture and traditions.

When the British colonised India, they further divided it into two separate cultures (Dravidian & Aryan which never exists and what exists was Indus Valley Civilization). We eventually grew accustomed to wearing them without realizing the advertising because they (Britishers) used to dress these as well, so we did not detect any marketing and felt equality. They got the idea for back pockets for pants from the significance Hindus place on their Gods and Goddesses.

How comes Maa Laxmi can stay on your butt? Is this how much reverence we have for our Divinities?

If you look at our Indian clothing, you'll see that it never had a back pocket since earlier on, we wore dhotis, which were complete without pockets. On the other side, Pakistan is making a concerted effort to harm the Indian youth using narcotics by simply dumping them on the border with India, where many of the border regions are already affected. This lunatic has already begun to spread to important

cities and all academic systems, harming the younger generation. We still do not fully understand the potential harm it will bring to us over time. Since we are currently unaffected. I have seen a large number of students in Kolkata who were severely addicted to these drugs, how their lives were harmed, and how they were being forced to compromise their culture, families, relationships, and sentiments to appease the drugs.

Once high on drugs, these men would not be able to distinguish between right and wrong. One day, while still high, they would be involved in a serious crime, and it will be the beginning of the end for them. No one is concerned about this since we are not currently affected. So awful!

Love Jihad: A phrase I've just heard used to describe the way that members of the so-called peace-loving religion are teaching the next generation how to seduce young women of other faiths, trap them, and then force them into marriage with their sect.

Bollywood has consistently mocked or cast a negative light on Hindu deities. Rather than realising the purpose of such films, we Hindus applauded and liked them. Even Hindus are depicted as terrorists, and followers of the supposedly peace-loving desh bhakt sect are depicted as such. Despite not being aware of the propaganda involved, we continue to whistle and adore our Hero.

No matter the language or plot of the film, alcohol now has a constant role. It is a requirement in every movie for at least a few minutes, and you will see that the majority of the young people in the film drink alcohol and that neither their parents nor the wider community object to this behaviour. In this way, after watching alcohol usage over the years in every movie, viewers eventually come to believe that there is nothing wrong with drinking it since we have become accustomed to seeing it sometimes. Even young people will believe that drinking alcohol is required to some level.

Even as parents, we never made any attempt to address this problem or raise public awareness. We also had no idea that it might eventually affect our kids. However, we are seldom aware of when the harmful process begins. Even Catholics wanted to attack the impoverished and uneducated to convert them to Christianity with gifts and financial help.

We are unfairly attacked in our culture, by many as such secularists, whose rhetoric the average person never understands. Okay guys, wake up and spread this information as much as you can so that others begin to realise this at least now, in that way, we could soon reclaim our former greatness.

Conclusion

The timeless, universal, and ecological environment of morality (dharma) and learning (vidya) known as Sanatana Divine is ingrained in the "spiritual DNA" of all beings, both moving and still. It is known as the "cosmic order" or Ritu among non-moving entities.

Sanatana Dharma cannot "decrease" as a result. The material cosmos is always in a state of perpetual cycle change (creation-preservation-destruction-rest-creation), therefore it can be covered, hindered, or disrupted, but any apparent diminution is only momentary. To understand reality beyond the trivial constraints of physical identification documents and attachments, we must broaden our perspective. But there must be a distinction between modernisation and Western influence.

A society cannot advance without technology and innovation, healthcare, the arts, politics, and economics. Since we are emulating the West while disregarding our cultural development, it is only logical that our culture would deteriorate with time. Indulgence in our slackness I disagree with maintaining all traditions; we should adapt to the times. I simply advocate being innovative without losing our heritage, but we should accept everyone's decision. Western blind believers strive to criticize others, but if someone is wearing Chinese, Indian or any other clothing, or clothing that they have self-designed, or even nude, I won't care as long as they try to limit my freedom of choice.

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