

Week 3, August 5-7 Bollywood! Changing Gender Roles and Family Norms

Films: *Baghban (The Caretaker)*, directed by Ravi Chopra, 2003

*Laaga Chunari Mein Daag (Journey of a Woman; or There Seems to be a Stain on her Shirt)*, directed by Pradeep Sarkar, 2007

*Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham (Sometimes There's Happiness, Sometimes There's Sadness)*, directed by Yash Johar, 2001 [depending on time, we'll see as much of this as possible]

Themes to consider in this segment

- ☞ Powerful role of the family in Indian society: multiple social, economic and political connections are determined by one's family and one's family's relationships to other families
- ☞ Glorification of the mother and depiction of other women (particularly as markers of change)
- ☞ Initially, foreign as threat but also something to be aspired. Today, it is the norm for the super-elite, and a desire of the poor. Why?

Selected Current Demographics for India

**Area:** slightly more than one-third the size of the US, 3,287,590 sq km

**Land boundaries:** total: 14,103 km; coastline: 7,000 km

bordering countries: Bangladesh 4,053 km, Bhutan 605 km, Burma 1,463 km, China 3,380 km, Nepal 1,690 km, Pakistan 2,912 km

**Terrain:** upland plain (Deccan Plateau) in south, flat to rolling plain along the Ganges, deserts in west, Himalayas in north

**Land use:** arable land: 56%; permanent crops: 1%; permanent pastures: 4%; forests and woodland: 23%; other: 16% (1993 est.)

**Environment - current issues:** deforestation; soil erosion; overgrazing; desertification; air pollution from industrial effluents and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage and runoff of agricultural pesticides; tap water is not potable throughout the country; huge and growing population is over-straining natural resources

**Population:** 1,147,995,898 (July 2008 est.)

**Age structure:** 0-14 years: 31.5% (male 189,238,487/female 172,168,306)

15-64 years: 63.3% (male 374,157,581/female 352,868,003)

65 years and over: 5.2% (male 28,285,796/female 31,277,725) (2008 est.)

**Median age:** total: 25.1 years

male: 24.7 years; female: 25.5 years (2008 est.)

**Population growth rate:** 1.578% (2008 est.)

**Birth rate:** 22.22 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)

**Death rate:** 6.4 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)

**Net migration rate:** -0.05 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2008 est.)

**Sex ratio:** at birth: 1.12 male(s)/female; under 15 years: 1.1 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 1.06 male(s)/female; 65 years and over: 0.9 male(s)/female

total population: 1.06 male(s)/female (2008 est.)

**Infant mortality rate:** total: 32.31 deaths/1,000 live births

male: 36.94 deaths/1,000 live births; female: 27.12 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth:** total population: 69.25 years; male: 66.87 years; female: 71.9 years

**Total fertility rate:** 2.76 children born/woman (2008 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:** 0.9% (2001 est.)

people living with HIV/AIDS: 5.1 million (2001 est.); HIV/AIDS - deaths: 310,000 (2001 est.)

**Ethnic groups:** Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)

**Religions:** Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)

**Languages:** English enjoys associate status but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication; Hindi is the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people; there are 21 other official languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanscrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu; Hindustani is a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India but is not an official language.

**Literacy:** definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 61%; male: 73.4%; female: 47.8% (2001 census)

**Administrative divisions:** 28 states and 7 union territories\*; Andaman and Nicobar Islands\*, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh\*, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli\*, Daman and Diu\*, Delhi\*, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep\*, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Puducherry\*, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

**Economy - overview:** India's diverse economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of services. Services are the major source of economic growth, accounting for more than half of India's output with less than one third of its labor force. About three-fifths of the work force is in agriculture, leading the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government to articulate an economic reform program that includes developing basic infrastructure to improve the lives of the rural poor and boost economic performance. The government has reduced controls on foreign trade and investment. Higher limits on foreign direct investment were permitted in a few key sectors, such as telecommunications. However, tariff spikes in sensitive categories, including agriculture, and incremental progress on economic reforms still hinder foreign access to India's vast and growing market. Privatization of government-owned industries remains stalled and continues to generate political debate; populist pressure from within the UPA government and from its Left Front allies continues to restrain needed initiatives. The economy has posted an average growth rate of more than 7% in the decade since 1997, reducing poverty by about 10 percentage points. India achieved 8.5% GDP growth in 2006, and again in 2007, significantly expanding production of manufactures. India is capitalizing on its large numbers of well-educated people skilled in the English language to become a major exporter of software services and software workers. Economic expansion has helped New Delhi continue to make progress in reducing its federal fiscal deficit. However, strong growth combined with easy consumer credit and a real estate

boom fueled inflation concerns in 2006 and 2007, leading to a series of central bank interest rate hikes that have slowed credit growth and eased inflation concerns. The huge and growing population is the fundamental social, economic, and environmental problem.

**GDP - real growth rate:** 9.2% (2007 est.)

**GDP - per capita (PPP):** \$2,700 (2007 est.)

**GDP - composition by sector:** agriculture: 17.6%; industry: 29.4%; services: 52.9% (2007 est.)

**Labor force:** 516.4 million (2007 est.)

**Labor force - by occupation:** agriculture: 60%; industry: 12%; services: 28% (2003)

**Unemployment rate:** 7.2% (2007 est.)

**Population below poverty line:** 25% (2007 est.)

**Household income or consumption by percentage share:**

lowest 10%: 3.6%; highest 10%: 31.1% (2004)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):** 6.4% (2007 est.)

**Communications:** Telephones, land lines: 49.75 million (2005); cellular: 166.1 million (2006)

**Telephone system:** general assessment: recent deregulation and liberalization of telecommunications laws and policies have prompted rapid growth; local and long distance service provided throughout all regions of the country, with services primarily concentrated in the urban areas; steady improvement is taking place with the recent admission of private and private-public investors. Fastest growth is in cellular service with modest growth in land lines. Mobile cellular service introduced in 1994 and organized nationwide into four metropolitan areas and 19 telecom circles each with about three private service providers and one state-owned service provider.

**Internet users:** 60 million (2005)

**Trafficking in persons:** India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation; internal forced labor may constitute India's largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children are held in debt bondage and face forced labor working in brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories; women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage; children are subjected to forced labor as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, and agriculture workers, and have been used as armed combatants by some terrorist and insurgent groups; India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation; Indian women are trafficked to the Middle East for commercial sexual exploitation; men and women from Bangladesh and Nepal are trafficked through India for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation in the Middle East.

**International Disputes:** since China and India launched a security and foreign policy dialogue in 2005, consolidated discussions related to the dispute over most of their rugged, militarized boundary, regional nuclear proliferation, Indian claims that China transferred missiles to Pakistan, and other matters continue; various talks and confidence-building measures have cautiously begun to defuse tensions over Kashmir, particularly since the October 2005 earthquake in the region; Kashmir nevertheless remains the site of the world's largest and most militarized territorial dispute with portions under the de facto administration of China (Aksai Chin), India (Jammu and Kashmir), and Pakistan (Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas); India and Pakistan have maintained the 2004 cease fire in Kashmir and initiated discussions on defusing

the armed stand-off in the Siachen glacier region; Pakistan protests India's fencing the highly militarized Line of Control and construction of the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir, which is part of the larger dispute on water sharing of the Indus River and its tributaries; UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has maintained a small group of peacekeepers since 1949; India does not recognize Pakistan's ceding historic Kashmir lands to China in 1964.

*[The World Factbook]*