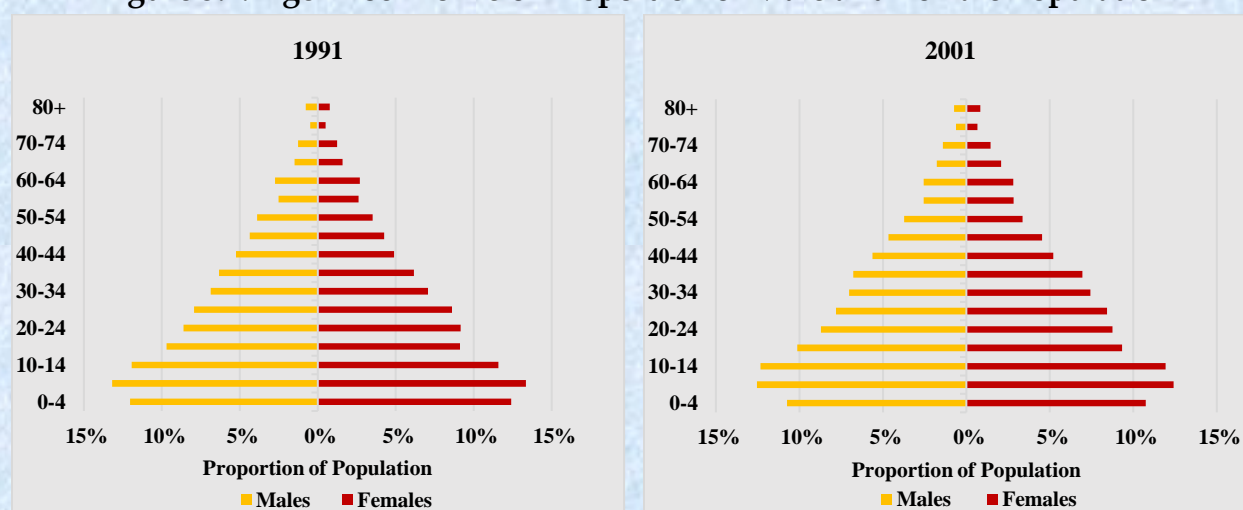


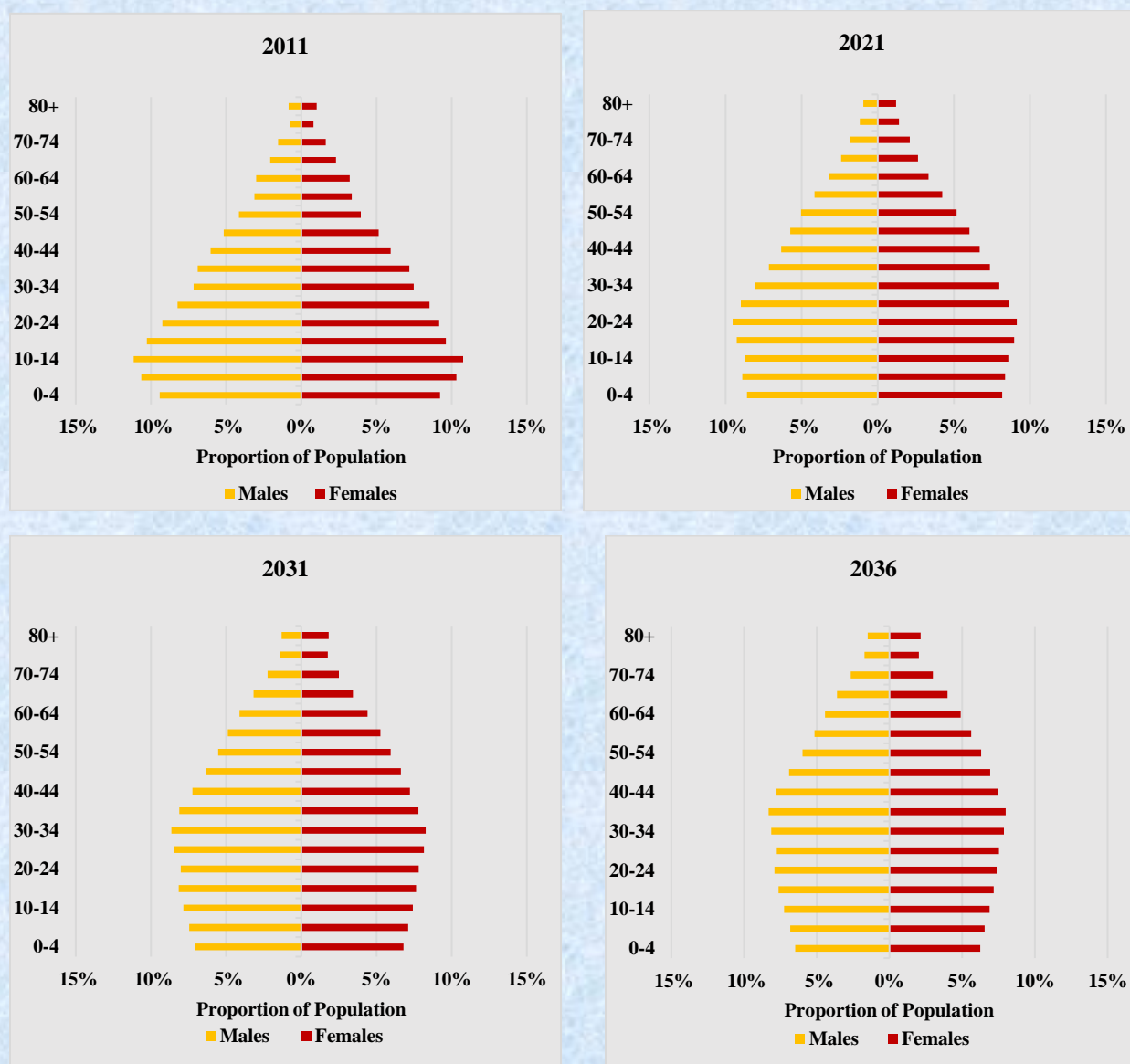
3.1 Population Statistics

3.1.1 Composition of population of a country is one of the prime determinants of the Economic status of the country. The age structure of population and the relative size of the youth cohort are important because they serve as determining factors in the growth of the labour force and pressures on the economy in terms of job creation. Indeed, Governments and policymakers often view young people not as an asset but as a source of labour market pressures that are difficult to address, and large numbers of unemployed youth are viewed as potential causes of political instability and civil unrest. Still, the active engagement of youth is prime to achieve sustainable, inclusive and stable societies, and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development, including the impacts of climate change, unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, conflict, and migration.

3.1.2 India's population, which reached 1211 million in 2011 and projected to reach 1363 million in 2021 makes India one of the youngest countries in the world, with 27.3 percent of its population aged 15–29 years, i.e., youth (Report of Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). In terms of absolute numbers, between 2011 and 2036, because of the declining fertility and increasing life-expectancy, the population pyramid of the country will undergo a shift. While the proportion of population aged under 15 years is projected to decline, the elderly in the population is expected to increase. The youth population is expected to increase initially but will start to decline in the latter half of 2011-2036 period. The total youth population increased from 222.7 Million in 1991 to 333.4 Million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 Million by 2021 and thereafter decrease to 345.5 million by 2036. Changes in the age structure of the population have been depicted by population pyramids (Figure -3.1).

Figure 3.1: Age-wise Profile of Proportion of Male and Female Population





Source: Census 1991, 2001 and 2011. Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, July 2020

3.1.3 The change in the level of fertility and mortality has an impact on the distribution of population among different age groups in the subsequent years (**Table-1** provides year-wise TFR, CDR and IMR). As may be seen from the table, both the TFR and CDR show a declining trend resulting in a shift from young population (up to 29 years) to middle aged population (30-59 years) and elderly population. Proportion of youth to total population had increased from 26.6 percent in 1991 to 27.9 percent in 2016 and then projected to start downward trend and to reach 22.7 percent by year 2036. On the contrary, proportion of elderly population has increased from 6.8 percent in 1991 to 9.2 percent in 2016 and further projected to reach 14.9 percent in 2036 (**Figure 3.2**). Therefore, it can be predicted that a greater proportion of youth at present will result in a greater proportion of elderly in the population in future. This will create a demand for better