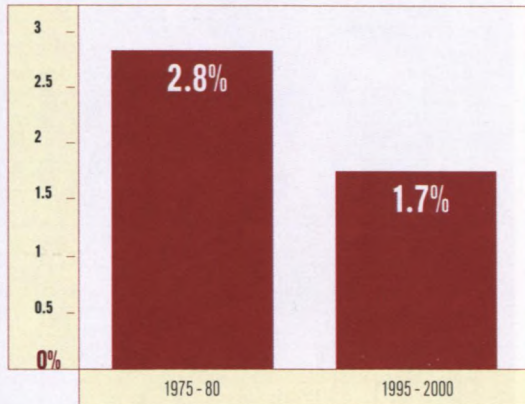


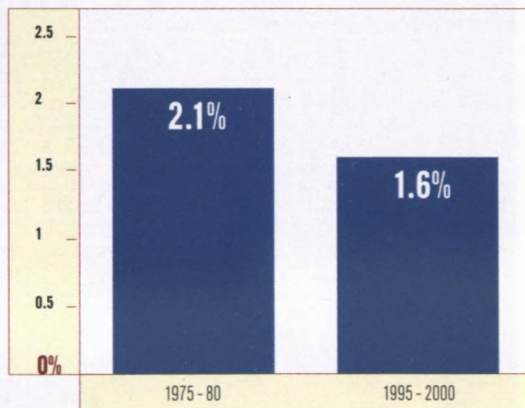
Declining Population Growth Rates in South Asia

Average Annual Population Change (percent)

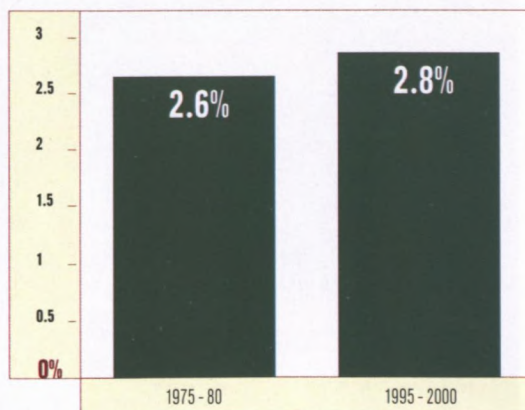
Bangladesh



India



Pakistan (Increasing rate)



The Star of South Asia

Sri Lanka leads the way in South Asian literacy: 91% of the population of Sri Lanka is literate. Education is compulsory and provided without charge. In 1999 the government's educational reforms gave the teaching of English and computer literacy a high priority. The population growth rate has slowed to an average of 1.3% in recent years, and the population is expected to stabilize in the first quarter of this century. Only 2% of children aged 10-14 are in the labour force. The GDP per head is almost double that for India or Pakistan. Their life expectancy at birth is ten years more than for people in India. What better proof that literacy brings lower population growth and better conditions for children? If it weren't for the civil war of the past seventeen years, Sri Lanka could very well be the star of South Asia.

Sri Lanka

