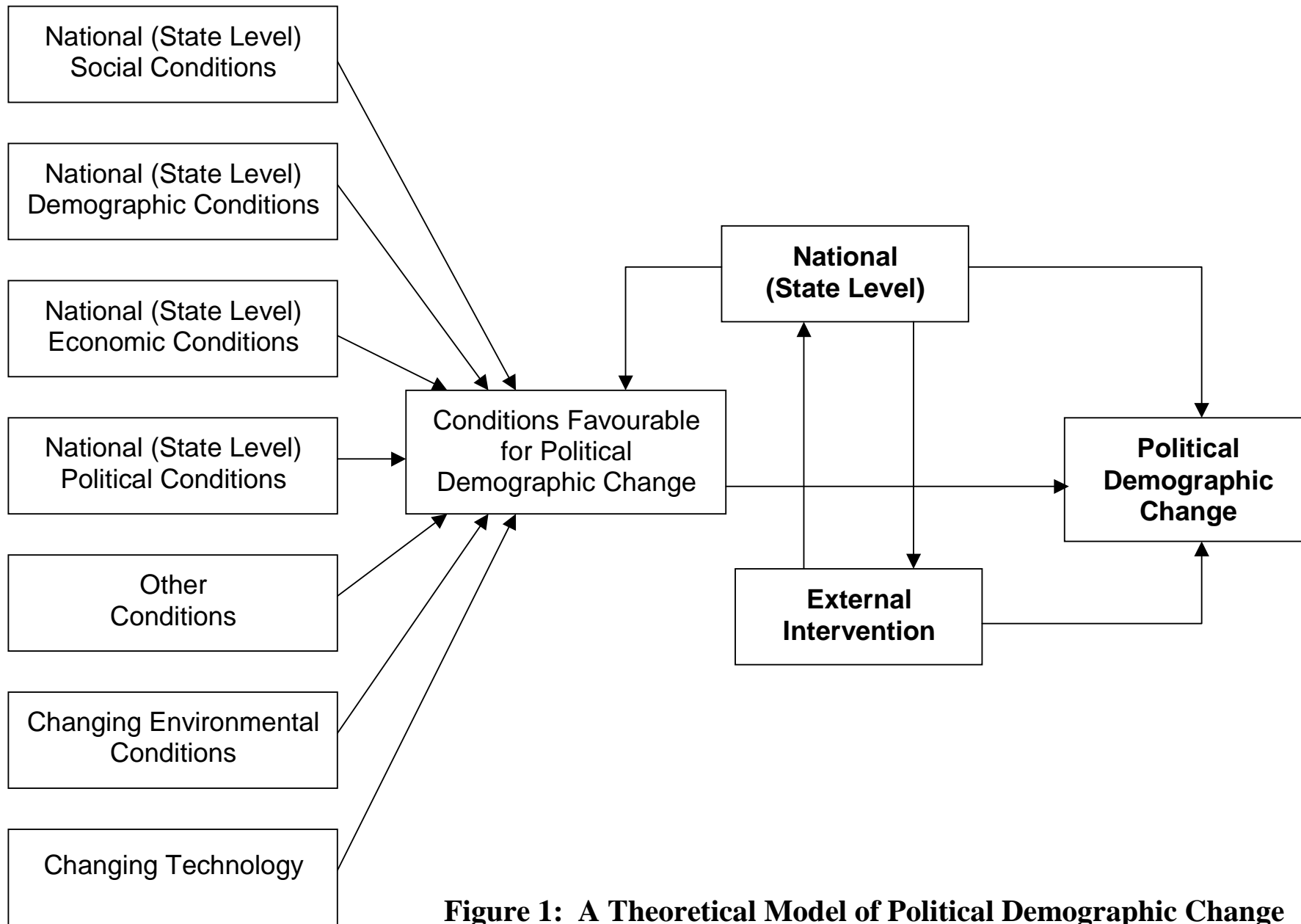## Proximate Determinants of Political Demographic Change in India

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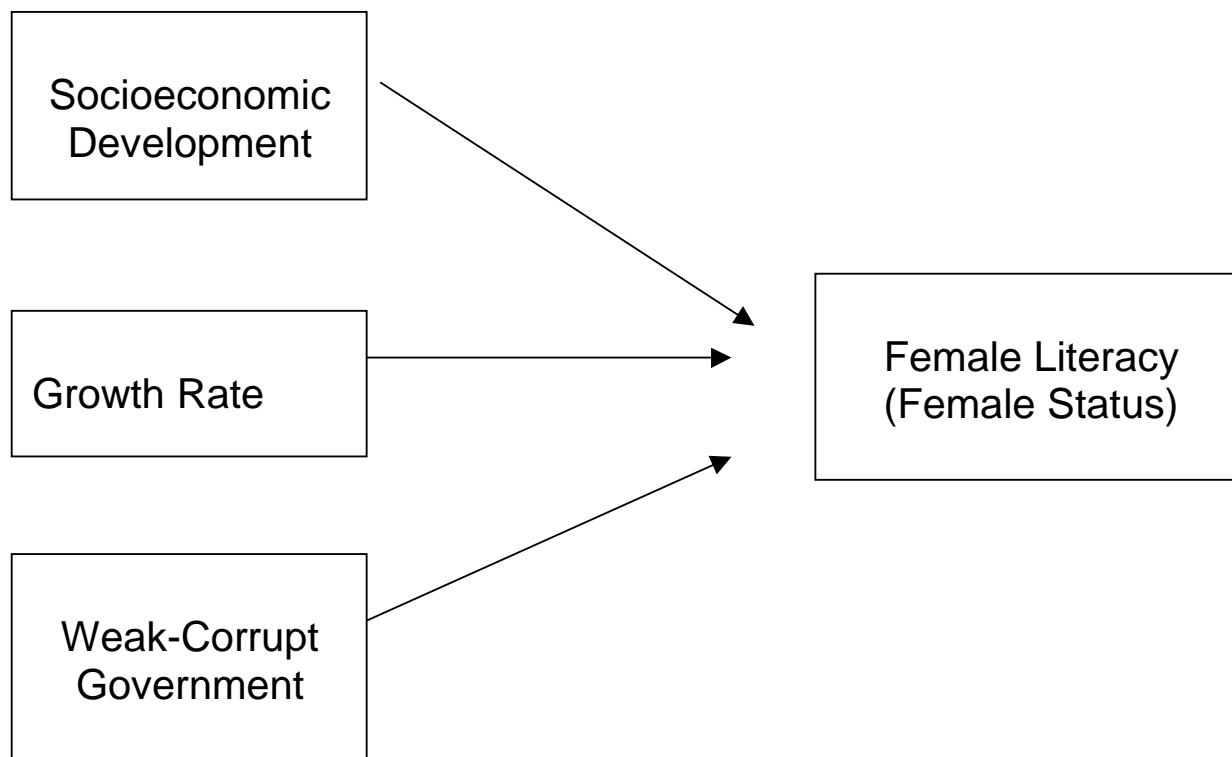A framework for political demographic change in India is presented. The framework is broad enough that it is applicable to most of the developing countries of the world. Various factors (i.e. economic, social ,system of government, external assistance and interference) that eventuate political demographic change are seen as operating through three proximate determinants that are : (1) slow socio-economic development,(2) high population growth and (3) weak and corrupt federal government. The Indian States are taken as the units of analysis. Female literacy is taken as an indicator of woman's status in the society and hence a proxy for political demographic change. The rationale behind this indicator is that ,when the vast majority of women become educated , the socio-demographic picture of India will change. Women can agitate and press for real reforms in job opportunities, wage parity etc. Income per capita is taken as an indicator of economic development ; infant mortality , female labor force participation, degree of urbanization as indicators of social development and population growth rate to portray the population pressure. The empirical analysis is cross sectional and the results are interpretable as evolutionary. Several regression models were fit to the data obtained on 26 Indian States. The regression was found to be fine with no problems. The signs, or the directions of the partial regression coefficients were as expected. R-Square (adjusted) was quite sizable. The results indicate that reduction in infant mortality and increase in income are the keys to higher female literacy rate and hence to political demographic change in India.

Figure 1: A Theoretical Model of Political Demographic Change

Figure 2a. Path Model of Female Literacy on Infant Mortality and Other Variables

Figure 2b. Path Model of Female Literacy on Infant Mortality and Other Variables