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2 CHAPTER _____ THE WORLD POPULATION: DISTRIBUTION, DENSITY and GROWTH

- Q. Define the terms
- Population density.
 - Population distribution
 - Population growth or population change

Ans. (a) Population density refers to the ratio between numbers of people to the size of land in a country. It is usually measured in persons per sq km

$$\text{Density of Population} = \frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Area}}$$

(b) Population distribution refers to the way people are spaced over the earth's surface.

(c) Population growth refers to the change in number of people of a territory during a specific period of time. This change may be positive or negative. It is usually expressed in terms of percentage or numbers.

DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION

Q.1 Mention four areas of High density of population in the world.

Ans. Fertile plains with favourable climate and highly industrialized and urbanized areas are densely populated. There are four areas where density is more than 200 persons per sq. km. they are:

- East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan).
- South and Southeast Asia (India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan).
- North-West Europe (UK, France, Germany).
- The Northeastern Coast of North America.

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Q.1 Mention different areas of low density of population in the world.

Ans. Areas unsuited to agriculture support relatively few people. These thinly populated or uninhabited non-arable areas are identified as frontier environments. They include the following:

- The Hot and the Cold deserts: lands: areas where precipitation and irrigational facilities are lacking are thinly populated.
- Polar areas of North and South Pole: areas such as high latitudes (polar) where temperature is very low and frigid, agriculture is impossible have low population.
- Major mountain ranges: where climate is harsh and cold and terrain is uneven to be cultivated are thinly populated.
- High rainfall areas near Equator: these areas receive heavy rainfall and high temperature therefore, soils are infertile and do not support agriculture, as well as have high incidence of harmful diseases have thin population.

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Q.1 Describe the uneven patterns of population distribution in the world.

Ans.

1. Broadly, 90 per cent of the world population lives in about 10 per cent of its land area.
2. The 10 most populous countries of the world contribute about 60 per cent of the world's population.
3. Of these 10 countries, 6 are located in Asia.

FACTORS OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY

Q.2 Explain with suitable examples any five geographical and economic or social and cultural factors which influence the population distribution and density in the world.

Ans. The factors are grouped into three categories:

i. **Geographical factors:**

- (i) **Availability of water:**
 - a. people prefer to live in areas where fresh water is easily available for drinking, and for cattle, crops, industries and navigation.
 - b. *E.g.* It is because of this that river valleys are among the most densely populated areas of the world.
 - (ii) **Landforms:**
 - a. People prefer living on flat plains and gentle slopes rather than on mountainous and hilly areas. This is because plain areas are favourable for the production of crops and to build roads and industries.
 - b. Whereas, the mountainous and hilly areas are unfavourable for the development of transport network, agriculture and industries.
 - c. *E.g.* the Ganga plains are among the most densely populated areas of the world while the mountains zones in the Himalayas are barely populated.
 - (iii) **Climate:**
 - a. Areas with a comfortable climate, where there is not much seasonal variation have high population.
 - b. Whereas, extreme climates such as very hot or cold, deserts and heavy rainfall are uncomfortable for human living and have low population.
 - c. *E.g.* Mediterranean regions were inhabited from early periods in history due to their pleasant climate.
 - (iv) **Soils:**
 - a. Fertile soils are important for agricultural and related activities. Therefore, areas which have fertile loamy soils have more people living on them as these can support intensive agriculture.
 - b. *E.g.*
- ii. **Economic Factors**
- (i) **Minerals:**
 - a. Areas with rich mineral deposits attract Mining and industrial activities therefore skilled and semi-skilled workers move to these areas for employment and make them densely populated.
 - b. *E.g.* Katanga Zambia copper belt in Africa is one such good example.

(ii) **Urbanisation:**

- a. People migrate in the cities for better employment opportunities, educational and medical facilities, and better means of transport and communication and good civic amenities.
- b. Mega cities of the world continue to attract large number of migrants every year. E.g.

(iii) **Industrialisation:**

- a. Industrial belts provide job opportunities and attract large numbers of people. These include not just factory workers but also transport operators, shopkeepers, bank employees, doctors, teachers and other service providers.
- b. E.g. the Kobe-Osaka region of Japan is thickly populated because of the presence of a number of industries.

iii. **Social and Cultural Factors**(i) **Religious:**

- a. Some places attract more people because they have religious or cultural significance.
- b. E.g. in USA people of different nationalities prefer their own regions where common culture and traditions are present.

(ii) **Political unrest and wars:**

- a. In the same way - people tend to move away from places where there is social and political unrest.
- b. E.g. refugees from Ethiopia, Sudan, Sri Lanka have moved out from their own countries.

(iii) **Government policies:**

- a. Many a times governments offer incentives to people to live in sparsely populated areas or move away from overcrowded places.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH/CHANGE

Q.3 Explain three components/factors responsible for population growth in the world.

Ans. There are three factors responsible for population change.

1. Birth Rate: If the births exceed deaths, within a given year there will be a net population increase.
2. Death rate: If the death exceeds births, within a given year there will be a net population decrease.
3. Migration: The permanent or semi-permanent change of a person's place of residence is called migration. Immigration increases population of a place whereas emigration decreases population of a place. (CW)

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TRENDS IN POPULATION GROWTH

Q.3 Describe the trends in the population growth in the world.

Ans. Fig. 2.3

- a. In the early stages of the development (before 1 A.D) the birth and death rate was small therefore the size of population was also small. The world population was below 300 million.
- b. In the 16th and 17th centuries the population growth was rapid. It was due to **expanding world trade**. The world population increased to 1 billion.
- c. In 18th century **after Industrial revolution** world population increased rapidly and by 1930 it reached 2 billion.
- d. In 19th century due to **scientific and technological advancements** in transportation, sanitation, medical advancements and introduction of biotechnology the world population grew very rapidly. The world population reached 3 billion.
- e. Since last four decades the world population has increased rapidly and it was about 6 billion in 2000.

Q.4 Mention the causes of negative growth in population in developed countries.

Ans. The main causes are:

- a. Traditional lower birth rates.
- b. Economic instability has resulted in rapid rise in death rates. Infant mortality and death during child birth has increased.
- c. The resources are now insufficient to support the population.
- d. The deadly HIV/AIDS epidemics in Africa and some parts of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Asia have pushed up death rates.
- e. Life expectancy has dropped.

Q.5 Mention the consequences of both the population growth and population decline.

Ans. Population change whether negative or positive is taken seriously.

Population decline: - Results

- a. Negative growth in population indicates that resources that supported a population have become insufficient to maintain the population.
- b. Under negative growth the basic structure of the society may become unstable.
- c. In developed countries government is taking steps to increase population by tax exemption, accepting immigrants.

Population Growth: - Results

- d. Positive growth shows prosperity and progress of a country.
- e. Positive growth may become problem after a level when the land and other important resources become insufficient.
- f. Growing population put pressure on existing resources and problems of environmental degradation and pollution become common.
- g. Government takes steps to control the population increase.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY

Q.6 Define the term Demographic cycle/Theory.

Ans. This theory describes and predicts the future population of any area. The theory tells us that population of any region changes from high births and high deaths to low births and low deaths as society progresses from rural agricultural and illiterate to urban industrial and literate society. These changes occur in stages which are collectively known as the **demographic cycle**.

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Q.6 Describe the three-stage model of Demographic Transition Theory.

Ans. As a country changes from a rural society into an urban society there are changes in its demographic trends. These changes are represented in three stages, they are:

1. **Primitive Demographic growth:**

- a. In this stage the birth and death rates are high because people reproduce more to compensate for the deaths due to epidemics and variable food supply.
- b. Life expectancy is low.
- c. The population growth rate is slow.
- d. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture where large families are an asset.
- e. People are mostly illiterate and have low levels of technology.
- f. Two hundred years ago all the countries of the world were in this stage. It is basically found in primitive agriculture dominated countries.

2. **Expanding or youthful demographic:**

- a. In this stage birth rate remains high.
- b. Death rate decline due to technological advancements in health and improvements in sanitation conditions.
- c. Because of this gap between death and birth rate the net addition to population is high and the population growth is rapid.

3. **Late expanding demographic:**

- a. In this stage the birth and death rates declines.
- b. The population becomes urbanised, literate and has high technical knowhow and deliberately controls the family size.
- c. The population is either stable or grows slowly.