



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
Chapter 2- Demographic Structure of Indian Society
(GRADE XII)
STUDY NOTES AND Q&A



SUB-UNITS OF THE CHAPTER:

- THEORIES AND CONCEPTS IN DEMOGRAPHY
- SIZE AND GROWTH OF INDIA'S POPULATION
- AGE STRUCTURE OF THE INDIAN POPULATION
- DECLINING SEX RATIO IN INDIA
- LITERACY
- RURAL URBAN DIFFERENCES
- POPULATION POLICY IN INDIA

Q1. Define Demography and differentiate between formal and social demography. (2mk)

- Demography is a systematic study of population, it is a Greek term derived from two words 'demos' (people) and graphein (describe) description of people.
- It studies births, deaths, migration, sex composition etc.

Demography is broadly of two types: —

- Formal demography which is concerned with quantitative measurement and analysis of population change.
- Social demography which deals with social, economic and political aspects of population.

Social Demography consists of four processes:

- a. Demographic structure: number of people in an area
- b. Demographic processes: birth rate, death rate, migration
- c. Social structure: composition of people in an area
- d. Social processes: processes by which individuals learn to live together in peace and harmony in society e.g. cooperation, accommodation, mediation etc.

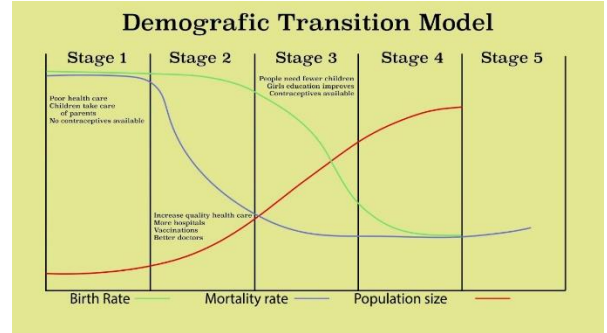
Uses/ Importance of Demographic Data (3pts):

The demographic data collected is essential for:

- the planning and implementation of state policies,
- for economic development and
- public welfare.

Q2. Explain the basic argument of the theory of the demographic transition. Why is the transition period associated with a ‘population explosion’?

Ans. Theory of demographic transition suggests that population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development related population growth.



There are three basic phases of population growth:

Stage I: Primitive Stage [Underdeveloped countries]

- Low population growth in a society that is underdeveloped and technologically backward.
- In such societies like Africa birth rate is high since people are unaware of the advantages of having small families, they are not educated.
- Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available, therefore population is low.

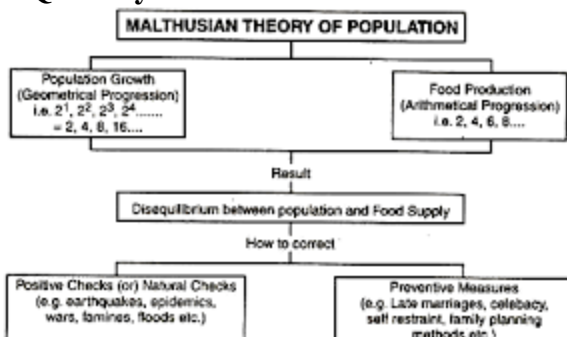
Stage II: [Developing countries]. The birth rate and death rate rank very high, the net growth rate remains low.

Birth rate is high as in this society people live in a patriarchal society in which men decide how many children must be born and male child is preferred. People are illiterate and ignorant. Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available.

Transitional Stage: [The stage between backwardness and skilled people]: In this stage growth rate of population is very high whereas death rates are brought down due to better medical facilities, nutrition and better medical and technological advancement therefore this transition period is associated with a population explosion.

Stage III: [Developed countries]. Birth rate is low because people are educated and aware and use contraceptives, birth control is popularized. Death rate is also low because of availability of health and medical facilities; therefore, population is low.

Q3. Why did Malthus believe that catastrophic events like famines and epidemics that cause mass deaths were inevitable?



Ans. English political economist **Thomas Robert Malthus** argued that human population tend to grow at a much faster rates than the rate at which means of human subsistence (land, agriculture) can grow.

He said population rises in geometric progression whereas agricultural production can only grow in Arithmetic progression.

Malthus believed that **positive checks** to population growth in the form of famines and diseases, were inevitable. These are nature's way of dealing with the imbalance between food supply and increasing population.

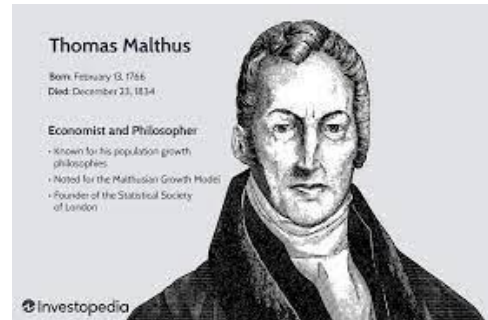
According to him, these natural checks are extremely painful and difficult. Although it helps to achieve a balance between population and subsistence by increasing the death rate.

Q4. Why is the Malthusian theory criticized?

Ans: Malthus argued that human population tends to grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which means of human subsistence (land, agriculture) can grow. His theory was criticized on the following basis:

-Food production and standards of living rise despite rapid population growth as seen in the historical experience of European countries

- Poverty and starvation are caused not due to rise in population but due to unequal distribution of economic resources (liberal and Marxists).



Q5: Define/explain Infant Mortality Rate.

Ans: The **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** is the number of deaths of babies before the age of 1 year per 1000 live births.

Q6: What is meant by 'dependency ratio' and what does it indicate?

Ans: The **dependency ratio** is a measure comparing the portion of the population which is composed of dependents (i.e. elderly people who are too old to work and children who are too young to work) with the portion that is in the working age group, generally defined in the age group of 15-64 years. This ratio is usually expressed as a percentage.

Q7. Why is a rising 'dependency ratio' a cause for worry in countries that are facing an aging population?

Ans: A rising dependency ratio is a cause of worry in many countries because these countries have a higher aging population and it is the working population who will have to carry the additional burden of supporting them.

Q8. Why is a falling 'dependency ratio' a source of economic growth and prosperity?

Ans: A falling dependency ratio can be a source of economic growth and prosperity due to the larger proportion of workers relative to non-workers. This is sometimes also referred to as 'demographic dividend'.

Q9. What are the causes of famines?

Ans: **Famines** are caused by high levels of continuing poverty and malnutrition in an agro-climatic environment that is affected by variations in rainfall, lack of adequate means of transportation and communication.

During a famine there is scarcity of food or shortage of food supply and production. Famines are of two types:

- a. Natural: excessive rainfall, no rainfall, drought
- b. Manmade: excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, lack of proper public food distribution systems.

Q10. What is TFR and name the states with high and low TFR's?

Ans: **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**'s refers to the total number of live births that a hypothetical woman would have if she lived through the reproductive age to give birth to children all through this period.

The **BIMARU states** namely Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh along with the newly formed states of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh have **very high TFR's in India**.

States with low TFR'S: Kerala, Tamil Nadu Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra;

Q11. How does India benefit from a 'demographic dividend'?

Ans: '**Demographic Dividend**' or the benefit flowing from the changing age structure where the proportion of working- age people (15-64yrs) is higher than the proportion of the dependents (the young and the ageing population) in a country. However this benefit is temporary because the larger pool of working age people will eventually turn into non-working age old people.

India currently is in the second phase of demographic transition wherein its birth rate is high but the death rate is going down. And majority of its population is in the working age- group, which could be a source of economic growth. But this potential can be converted to actual growth only if the rise in the working age group is accompanied by increasing levels of education and employment.

Q12. Name the technique used to determine the sex of a child.

Ans: The technique used to determine the sex of a child is called Sonogram which is an x-ray like diagnostic device based on ultra- sound technology. Originally this was developed to identify the genetic or other disorders in the foetus, but it is also used to identify and selectively abort female foetuses.

Q13. What is ‘replacement level’?

Ans: ‘**Replacement level**’ refers to the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out. When the number of people replacing the older generation is more, a country can have a situation of population explosion. Whereas when parents are replaced by two children, there is a situation of zero level of replacement.

Q14. What is meant by ‘sex ratio’?

Ans: **Sex Ratio** refers to the number of females per thousand males in a given area at a specified period of time. This ratio is an important indicator of gender balance in population. Historically there were more females than males in most countries of the world.

Q15. Write a short note on the age structure of India’s population.

Ans: 1. India is one of the youngest countries in the world—majority of Indians tend to be young.
2. The average age is also less than that for most other countries.
3. The share of the 15-60 age group has increased slightly, while the share of the 60+ age group is very small
4. The present trend indicates that 0-14 age group will reduce, thus the changing age structure could offer a demographic dividend for India.
5. There are wide regional variations in the age structure. While a state like Kerala is beginning to acquire an age structure like that of the developed countries, some states like Uttar Pradesh have high proportions in the younger age groups and relatively low proportions among the aged.

Q16. How do economic development and growth impact the age structure of population?

Ans: Age structure of the population refers to the proportion of persons in different age groups relative to the total population. The economic growth and development impact the age structure in the following ways:

- Due to the advancement in medical sciences, public health measures and nutrition the life expectancy is at rise. This is due to economic development and growth.
- Need of family planning is being understood. Decrease in 0-14 years age group reveals that National population policy is implemented properly.
- Because of socio-cultural changes in Indian society and economic growth, Age structure of population is moving towards positive young India.
- Dependency ratio is decreasing and there’s an increase in working population which is a positive growth in Indian economy.
- Economic development and improvement in quality of life improve life expectancy and changes the structures of the population.
- High infant mortality rate and material mortality rate due to poor economic growth hence an adverse effect of age structure of the population.

Q17. What is meant by ‘birth rate’ and ‘death rate’? Explain why the birth rate is relatively slow to fall while the death rate declines much faster.

Ans. Birth rate and death rate are fundamental concepts in Demography.

Birth rate: It refers to the total number of births in a particular area, which can be the entire country, a state or any territorial unit during a specific period.

•Crude birth rate is expressed through the following method : $B/p \times 1000$

B = Number of births P = Entire population

•It is crude birth rate because it does not include the ratio of bearing age.

•Birth rate can be defined as the number of live births per thousand persons in a year.

•Birth rate gets significantly affected by Age of marriage, infertility, climatic conditions, social condition, religious beliefs and education.

Death rate: It is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year in a particular area, which can be the entire country, a state or any other territorial unit.

Causes of slow birth rate:

Birth rate is relatively slow while the death rate can be brought down at much faster rate for the following reasons:

•Public health measures and medical advancement can control the death rate immediately.

Everybody wants good health and wants to live a long life. Because of the love for life everybody adopts all medical and technological measures with high level of motivation.

Birth rate continues to be high because it is related to attitude, beliefs and values of people. Birth rate is related to religious beliefs and by and large it is socio-cultural phenomena which is significantly slow to change.

Q18. Which states in India have reached or are very near the ‘replacement levels’ of population growth? Which ones still have very high rates of population growth? In your opinion, what could be some of the reasons for these regional differences?

Ans. Replacement level refers to the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out.

Replacement level refers to giving birth to two children that replacement completes. States at the replacement level of population growth: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

States very near to the replacement levels of population growth: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal.

States having very high rates of population growth: U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

Reasons of regional differences:

•**Difference in Literacy Percentage** in different states.

•**Societal conditions** vary in different states. Terrorism, war-like conditions and insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East.

•**Socio-Economic conditions** vary in different states.

(i) Number of BPL people are highest among states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

(ii) **Socio-cultural formation:** A belief that more children mean more hands to earn or religious beliefs.

Q19. State the reasons for the decline in sex- ratio

Ans: **Sex Ratio** refers to the number of females per thousand males in a given area at a specified period of time. This ratio is an important indicator of gender balance in population. Historically there were more females than males in most countries of the world.

The reasons responsible for the declining child sex ratio in India are as follows:

- severe neglect of girl babies in infancy leading to their death
- sex selective abortions that prevent girl babies from being born.
- female infanticide



Lowest child sex ratios are found in the most developed states of India such as Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat which are the richest states of India with high per capita income. It is possible that these prosperous people decide to have fewer babies, and hence decide the sex of the children which becomes possible with modern medical technology such as ultrasound.

Q20. There is a huge difference in literacy among genders, regions and social groups in India. Explain

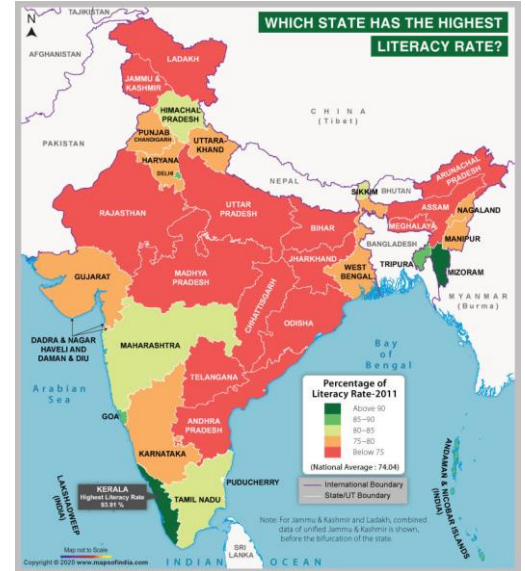
Ans: Literacy is a prerequisite to education which in turn is an instrument of empowerment. In India, the literacy levels have improved considerably after independence and almost two-thirds of India's population is now literate.

However, literacy varies considerably across gender, across regions and across social groups in India. According to the census of India 2011, the literacy rate for women is 16.3% less than the literacy rate of men. However, female literacy rose by about 10.4% between 2001 and 2011 compared to the rise in male literacy of 7.6% in the same period.

Literacy rates also vary by social group- historically disadvantaged communities like the Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have lower rates of literacy, and the rates of female literacy within these groups are even lower.

Regional variations are still wide in India with states like Kerala approaching universal literacy, while states like Bihar are lagging far behind.

The inequalities in the literacy rate are especially important because they tend to reproduce inequality across generations.



Q21. Write a brief on the success and failures of National family planning programme

- Ans: 1. It was introduced with the objective of slowing down the rate & pattern of population growth, through birth-control methods & other coercive measures as introduced during the Emergency Period (1975-1976)
 2. With the coming of a new Govt., the program was renamed as National Family Welfare Program with new set of guidelines to achieve the objectives.

Success and failures of the family planning programme.

Success

1. The growth rate of population has decreased.
2. People have started appreciating small family norms.
3. The infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate has been brought down.
4. Life expectancy has increased.
5. Achieved nearly universal awareness of the need for and methods of family planning.

Failures

1. The growth rate still continues to be high as compared to developed, nations.
2. Coercive family planning programme has been opposed by people (Vasectomy for. men & Tubectomy for women)
3. Lack of availability of reliable family planning methods.

Q 22. Rural-urban differences also exist with respect to the vast majority of the population.

Explain with example.

Ans: The vast majority of population of India have always lived in rural areas and continue to do so.

1. However, it is the mass media & communication channels that are gradually bringing in images of urban life styles & patterns of consumption into the rural villages, this bridges’ the gap between rural & urban.
2. The rapid growth in urbanization (town or city) has been attracting the rural population.
3. Those who cannot find work (or sufficient work) in the rural areas go to the city in search of work.
4. **This flow of rural-to-urban migration has also been accelerated by the continuous decline of common property resources like ponds, forests and grazing lands.**
5. Now, these resources have been turned into private property, or they are exhausted. (Ponds may run dry or no longer provide enough fish; forests may have been cut down and have vanished)

6. People no longer have access to these resources, but on the other hand have to buy many things in the market that they used to get free. The opportunities for earning income are limited in the villages.

Q23. What are the reasons that make the city an attractive destination for villagers.

Ans: The city also may be preferred for social reasons, **especially the relative anonymity it offers.** The fact that urban life involves interaction with strangers can be an advantage for different reasons. For the socially oppressed groups like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, this may offer some partial protection from the daily humiliation they may suffer in the village where everyone knows their caste identity. The anonymity of the city also allows the poorer sections of the socially dominant rural groups to engage in low status work that they would not be able to do in the village. All these reasons make the city an attractive destination for the villagers.

Q24. Explain briefly India's demographic achievement since Independence

Ans: The Census of India suggests that population growth is on the decline since 1991.

- Fertility rate was 3.8 in 1990, and this has fallen to 2.7 today
- The drop in Crude Death (CDR) and Birth Rates (CBR) for the past four decades indicates that India is progressing towards a post-transitional phase. However, during 1990s, the decline in CBR has been steeper than the decline in CDR which has resulted in reduced annual population growth rate of 1.6% today.

(Add 2 more points from textbook)

Statistics of 15th census of India 2011 : -

- Sex Ratio : 943: 1000
- Most populated state : Uttar Pradesh
- Least populated region : Sikkim
- State with maximum maternal mortality rate : Uttar Pradesh
- State with minimum maternal mortality rate : Kerala
- State with maximum infant mortality rate : Madhya Pradesh
- State with minimum infant mortality rate : Manipur
- Literacy : Male - 80.9% , Female - 64.6%
- Largest state (in area) : Rajasthan
- Smallest state (in area) : Goa