

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 6: Population



Population

People are regarded as the greatest assets of the country. This is because people by putting in their labour and expertise play an important part in the development of the economy and of society. For example, minerals such as coal and iron ore become important only when they are put to use by humans. The census of India gives us information about the total population and its various other aspects.

Population Size and Distribution

Population Size

- On March 2001, India's population was 1,028 million which is about 16.7% of the world population.
- Uttar Pradesh, with a population of 166 million, is the most populous state of India. The state accounts for 16% of the total population of the country.
- Sikkim has a population of about 0.5 million people, and Lakshadweep has only 60,000 people.
- It is important to note that nearly half of the population of India lives in five states—Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.
- Rajasthan, the largest state in India, has only 5.5% of the total population of the country.

Population Density

- Population density refers to the number of persons occupying or living in per unit of area. India is one of the highly densely populated countries.
- In 2001, the population density of India was 324 persons/sq km.
- While the population density was as high as 904 persons/sq km in West Bengal, it was as low as 13 persons/sq km in Arunachal Pradesh.
- States which have rugged land and unfavorable climatic conditions are sparsely populated. On the contrary, flat plains with moderate climate have high density of population.

- While Sikkim and Mizoram are sparsely populated, West Bengal and Bihar are densely populated.
- Assam and parts of Peninsular India are moderately populated. This is due to low rainfall, less fertile soil and the dissected and rocky nature of the terrain.
- In terms of geographical densities, the North Indian Plains and Kerala in the south have high density of population because of the availability of flat land, fertile soil and adequate rainfall.

Population Growth and Processes of Population Change

Population Growth

- Growth of population refers to the change in the population of the country at a given point of time. Such a change can be expressed either in absolute number or in percentage.
- The absolute number or an increase in population is expressed by subtracting the earlier population of the country from the later population.
- The rate of population increase is expressed in percentage of population. When the population grows at a steady pace per year, it is known as annual growth rate. India's population is steadily increasing. It grew from 361 million people in 1951 to 1,028 million in 2001.
- The declining growth rate of the country is a positive indicator of the efforts taken to control births.

Processes of Population Change

Three main processes of change of population are

Birth Rate

Birth rate is the number of live births per thousand persons in a year. If the birth rate is higher than the death rate, then the population of the country is set to increase.

Death Rate

Death rate is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year. One of the main reasons for the population growth of India is the decline in the death rate.

Migration

- Migration can be the movement of people across regions and territories. Internal migration refers to migration within the country, while international migration refers to migration between countries.
- Internal migration does not change the population of the country but impacts the density of population in a region or a state.
- In India, rural people migrate to urban cities in search of employment opportunities. Migration changes the size of population and the composition of rural and urban populations.

Age Composition

The age composition of the population refers to the number of people in different age groups in a country. The population of a country is divided into three categories. These are

Children (below 15 years)

They are regarded as economically unproductive and have to be provided with education, food and clothing.

Working Age (15–59 years)

People belonging to this age group are considered productive as they form part of the working population of the country.

Aged (above 59 years)

People belonging to this age group are generally retired though sometimes they also can be productive. They may be working voluntarily, but they are not counted among the young energetic force.

Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is the number of females per 1000 males in the population.

Literacy Rates

The census of 2001 outlined that a person aged above 7 years is regarded as literate if he can read and write in any language.

The literacy rate of the country was 64.84% in 2001. It was 75.26% for men and 53.67% for women.

Occupational Structure

- The distribution of population according to different types of occupations is called the occupational structure.
- Occupations in any country are generally divided on the basis of primary activities, secondary activities and tertiary activities.
- **Primary activities** include agriculture, mining, fishing and forestry.
- **Secondary activities** include the processing of minerals, manufacturing industries and construction.
- **Tertiary activities** include the provision of various services such as banking, transport and commerce.
- We find that in underdeveloped and developing nations, people are mostly engaged in primary activities as their main occupations are agriculture and fishing.
- In developed nations, people are engaged in secondary activities as they work mostly in industries.
- If we look at the occupational structure of India, we find that 64% of its population is engaged in agriculture, while 13% to 20% of the people are engaged in secondary and tertiary activities. This shows that India is still a developing nation.

Health

Health is an important component of population composition. In India, because of the improvement in public health, prevention of infectious diseases and modern medical practices have reduced the death rate in the country. However, still many people, especially children, suffer from malnutrition. Safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities are available to only one-third of the population of the country.

Adolescent Population

- People aged between 10 and 19 years are known as adolescents. They comprise one-fifth of the Indian population.
- They are an important resource for the country. However, many adolescents lack

nutritious food.

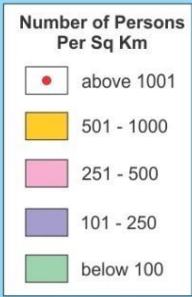
- The problem becomes acute if the adolescents are girls. Most of them suffer from anaemia.
- It is important to provide adolescents with a proper balanced and nutritious diet.

National Population Policy

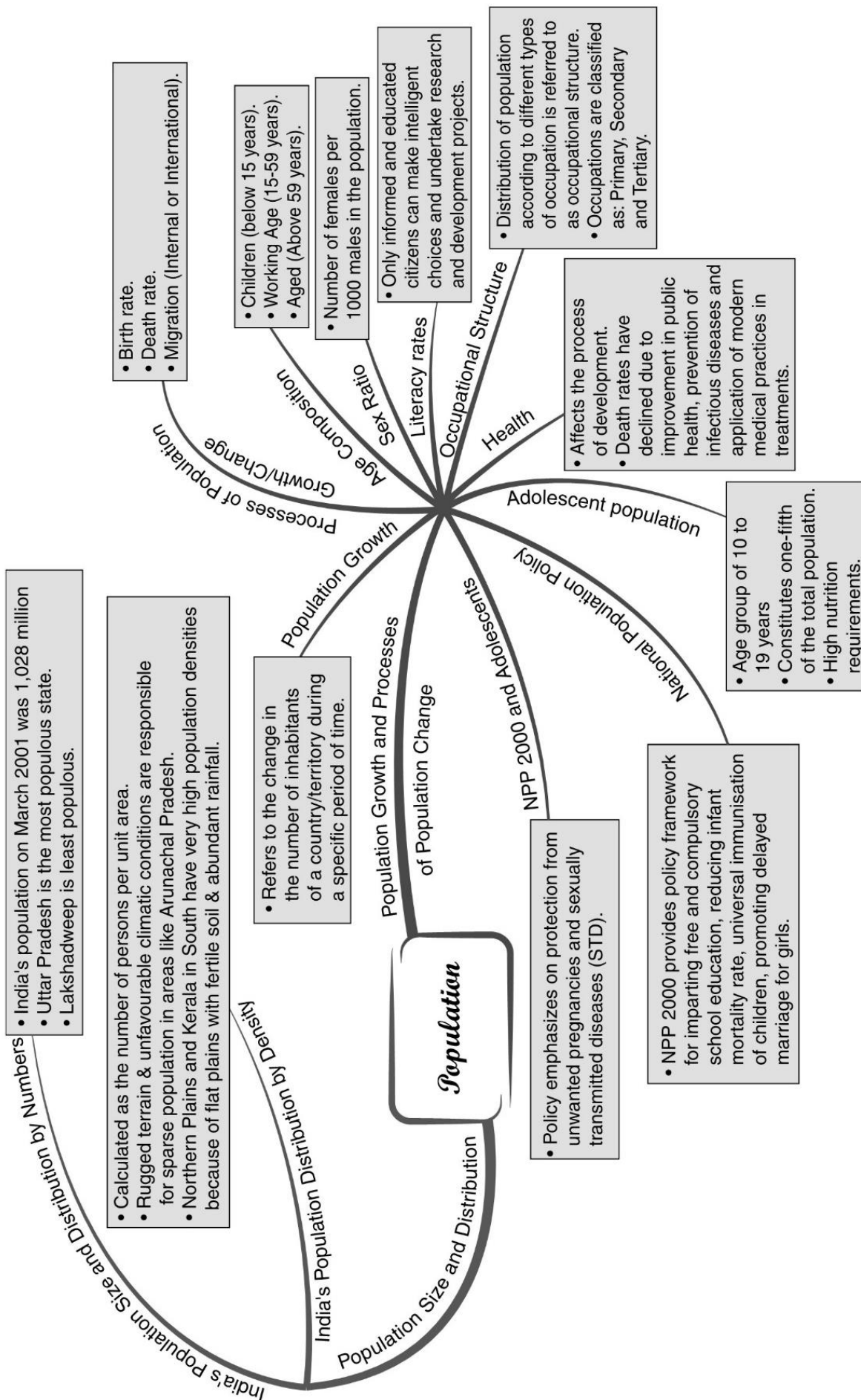
The Government of India started a comprehensive Family Planning Programme in 1952 in order to improve the health and welfare of the people. The National Population Policy was formulated in 2000 with the following aims:

- To formulate policies for imparting free and compulsory education to children up to 14 years of age
- To make policies to reduce infant mortality rates
- To undertake programmes to achieve the universal immunisation of children in India
- To promote delayed marriage for girls
- To stress on the improvement of lives of adolescents by protecting them from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases
- To provide adolescents with proper food supplements

Map showing Population Density in India



CHAPTER- 6 POPULATION



Important Questions

Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. Which India state has lowest density of population:

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Chennai
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Question 2. has the highest literacy rate:

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Bangalore
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Question 3. How much portion of population is engaged in secondary activities?

- (a) 12%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 16%

Question 4. What is the literacy rate in Gujarat according to Censes 2001?

- (a) 68.24%
- (b) 69.97%
- (c) 63.25%
- (d) 65.93%

Question 5. The greatest literacy rate, among the four given states is of:

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Orissa
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Question 6. Country's human resources are called.

- (a) Density
- (b) Man-power
- (c) Census

(d) Age composition

Question 7. India is the most populated country in the world.

(a) Fifth

(b) First

(c) Second

(d) Third

Question 8. is the state where the density of the population is 100 to 200 persons per sq. km.

(a) Madhya Pradesh

(b) Rajasthan

(c) West Bengal

(d) Uttar Pradesh

Question 9. Name the union territory which has highest population density:

(a) Delhi

(b) Chandigarh

(c) Punjab

(d) Port Blair

Question 10. Which Indian state has highest density of population:

(a) Rajasthan

(b) Madhya Pradesh

(c) West Bengal

(d) Haryana

Question 11. What was India's population in 1951?

(a) 361 million

(b) 265 million

(c) 295 million

(d) 461 million

Question 12. What is the literacy rate in India?

(a) 94%

(b) 40%

(c) Nearly 100%

(d) 64-84%

Question 13. A large proportion of children in a population is result of:

- (a) High birth rate
- (b) High life expectancy
- (c) High death rate
- (d) More married couple

Question 14. According to census 2001, a literate person is one who:

- (a) Can read and write his/her name
- (b) Can write his/her name
- (c) is 7 years old and can read, and write any language with understanding
- (d) Knows the 3 'Rs'.

Question 15. The magnitude of population refers to:

- (a) The total population of an area
- (b) The number of person added each year
- (c) The rate at which the population increases
- (d) The number of females per thousand males

Very Short:

1. Why are people considered an important part of society?
2. 'Population is the pivotal element in social studies. How?
3. After how many years is the census held?
4. What do you mean by size and distribution of population?
5. Mention the different components of population quality.
6. According to the 2011 census which was the most populous state of India?
7. Name the biggest Indian state in terms of area.
8. How is the density of population calculated?
9. What position does India hold in the world with regard to its population density?
10. What was the population density of India in the year 2011?

Short Questions:

1. What are the three major issues inculcate through the census?
2. Define census. What is the importance of the study of population?
3. Describe the distribution of population in India.
4. 'What were the causes of uneven population in India?

5. How does migration play an important role in population growth? Explain the 'pull' and 'push' factors of migration?
6. What has been the impact of urbanisation in India? Mention three features.
7. Why is 'Age Composition' considered as one of the most basic characteristics of population? Explain.

Long Questions:

1. Why is population very important in a country?
2. Define the following terms:
3. What is meant by annual growth rate of population? Why is even low annual growth rate of population considered not good for India?
4. Describe the classification of occupational structure. How does occupational structure indicate economic development of a country?
5. What are the factors affecting health status of people of India? What are the improvements made in the health status of people of India?

Answer Key:

MCQ:

1. (d) Arunachal Pradesh
2. (a) Kerala
3. (a) 12%
4. (b) 69.97%
5. (c) Chhattisgarh
6. (c) Man-power
7. (c) Second
8. (a) Madhya Pradesh
9. (d) Delhi
10. (c) West Bengal
11. (a) 361 million
12. (d) 64-84%
13. (a) High birth rate
14. (c) Is 7 years old and can read, and write any language with understanding
15. (b) The number of person added each year

Very Short Answer:

1. People are considered an important part of society as they develop the economy and the society, make and use resources. People are both producers and consumers of the resources.
2. Population is the point of reference from which all other elements are observed and from which they derive meaning and significance.
3. After 10 years.
4. Population size means number of people at a particular time and place. Population distribution means how are they located in various regions.
5. Age, sex composition, literacy levels, occupational structure and health condition are the different components of population quality.
6. Uttar Pradesh.
7. Rajasthan
8. The density of population is calculated by the number of persons per unit area.
9. India hold the third position after Bangladesh and Japan.
10. 382 persons per sq km.

Short Answer:

Ans: 1. The three major issues inculcated through census are:

(a) Population size and distribution. It explains how many people are there in a specific region and where they are located.

(b) Population growth and processes of population change. It means how the population has grown and changed with the times.

(c) Characteristics or qualities of the population. The age, sex, composition, literacy levels, occupational structure and health conditions can be known.

Ans: 2. Census is the counting of population of a country. In India, it takes place after every ten years. In census, various kinds of information is collected about the members of the households. On the basis of this information, the government provides details about birth rate, death rate, sex ratio, literacy and other important features of population. The importance of studying population is mainly in estimating the total manpower available for production and total amount of goods and services required for their consumption.

Ans: 3. (a) The population of India, as on March 2011, stood at 1,210.6 million. These 1.21 billion people

are unevenly distributed over 3.28 million square km.

(b) The population is divided into:

Very densely population – Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh.

Very sparsely population—Sikkim Lakshadweep, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh.

Moderately population – States like Assam and Peninsular states.

(c) The dense population is due to fertile, flat land and favourable climate. On the other hand, hilly areas or regions with low rainfall do not allow people to settle there.

Ans: 4. The population of India is unevenly distributed in India because of the following reasons:

(a) Relief of the land: Where there are mountains and rugged relief the population is sparse. Flat and fertile land favours the population density.

(b) Climate: Less people live in cold climate, in very hot climate and where it is dry. More people live in areas where the climate is favourable.

(c) In regions where the industrial development is more the population is dense as occupations are more. Moreover, the transport facilities also favor the growth of population.

Ans: 5. Migration leads to steady increase in the percentage of population especially in the cities and town. It not only changes the population size but also the population composition.

The 'pull' factor of the city is the movement or migration of people to the cities due to increased employment opportunities, education and better living conditions.

The 'push' factor is associated with the migration from rural to urban area due to unfavourable conditions like unemployment and poverty in the villages.

Ans: 6. The impact of urbanisation in India:

(a) Rapid urbanisation has led to lack of facilities like housing, sanitation, water, power and education, etc. Slums and other social tensions are created. Crime rate has increased.

(b) It has put heavy pressure on transport. Heavy rush on roads creates transport problems like traffic jams, accidents, etc. High urbanisation has created congestion and pollution.

(c) Rural areas are being neglected.

Ans: 7. The impact of urbanisation in India:

(a) Rapid urbanisation has led to lack of facilities like housing, sanitation, water, power and education, etc. Slums and other social tensions are created. Crime rate has increased.

(b) It has put heavy pressure on transport. Heavy rush on roads creates transport problems like traffic jams, accidents, etc. High urbanisation has created congestion and pollution.

(c) Rural areas are being neglected.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. (a) The people are important to develop the economy and society.

(b) The people make and use the resources and are themselves resources with varying quality.

(c) It is the point of reference from which all other elements observed and from which they derive significance and meaning. 'Resources', 'calamities' and 'disasters' are all meaningful only in relation to human beings.

(d) Their numbers, distributions, growth and characteristics or qualities provide the basic background for understanding and appreciating all aspects of the environment.

(e) Human beings are producers and consumers of earth's resources. Therefore, it is very important to know how many people are there in a country, where do they live, how and why are their numbers increasing and what are their characteristics.

Ans: 2. (a) Population. The total number of people living in a country at a given point of time.

(b) Census. Process of collection, compilation and publication of information relating to different aspects of people living in a country at a specific point of time.

(c) Million plus cities/Mega Cities. Cities with a population of one million and above. There are 53 million plus cities in India, e.g. Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bengaluru.

(d) Urban Agglomeration. Around the core of each town or city, cluster of urban settlements have developed which are linked to the economy of the country. They are known as urban agglomeration. They are extension of cities but are not covered by defined municipal limits.

(e) Sex Ratio. Number of females per thousand males in the population.

Ans: 3. It is the percentage increase in the growth of population per year. The rate or pace of population increase is studied in per cent per year. Rate of increase of 2% per annum means that in a given year, there was an increase of two persons for every 100 persons in the base population. This is referred as annual growth rate. India's population has been steadily increasing from 361 million in 1951 to 1210 million in 2011.

It is essential to realize that India has a very large population. When a low annual rate is applied to a large population, it becomes a very high absolute number. When more than a billion people increase even at a lower rate, the total numbers being added becomes very large.

Ans: 4. It is generally classified into primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

- Primary activities include agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying etc.

- Secondary activities include manufacturing industry, building and construction work etc.
- Tertiary activities include transport, communications, commerce, administration and other services.
- Developed nations have a high proportion of people in secondary and tertiary activities because it is more productive and profitable.
- Developing countries tend to have a higher proportion of their workforce engaged in primary activities because these are not as productive and profitable as the other sectors.
- In India, about 64% of the population is engaged only in agriculture. The proportion of population dependent on
- secondary and tertiary sectors is about 13 to 20% respectively.

Ans: 5. The factors affecting health status of people of India are as follows.

(a) The per capita calorie consumption is much below the recommended levels in India and malnutrition affects a large percentage of population.

(b) Safe drinking water and basic sanitation amenities are available to only 1/3rd of the rural population.

The improvements made in the health status of people of India are.

(a) Death rates have declined from 25 per 1000 population in 1951 to 7.2 per 1000 in 2011.

(b) Life expectancy at birth has increased from 36.7 years in 1951 to 67.9 years in 2012.

(c) The substantial improvement is the result of many factors including improvement in public health, prevention of infectious diseases and application of modern medical practices in diagnosis and treatment of ailments.