

What is Census?

Official enumeration of population along with certain economic and social statistics in a given territory and carried out on a specific day is called census. It is generally conducted periodically (after every ten years.)

Define sex ratio.

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males. For example, sex ratio according to 2001 census is 1000:933. It means there are 933 females for 1000 male population.

Explain birth rate and death rate.

Birth rate is the number of live births for every 1000 persons in a year.

Death rate is the number of deaths per every 1000 persons in a year. In 1901 birth rate was 49.2 per thousand but it fell to 26.1 in 2001. Similarly, the death rate in 1901 was 42.6 per thousand which fell to 8.7 per thousand in 2001. Thus, we find that both birth rate and death rate are falling. But death-rate since then has fallen at greater rate. This has led to rapid growth of population.

What is the significance of studying population?

Population represents the total number of people living in a country. The people who constitute the population, act as the producers as well as the consumers of goods and services. The significance of studying population lies mainly in estimating the total manpower available for production and total amount of goods and services required for their consumption.

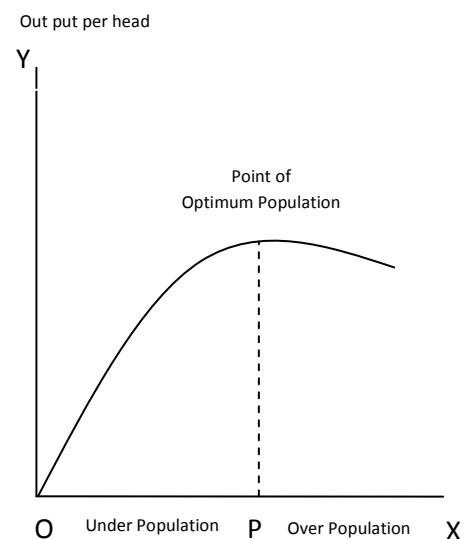
Explain the concept of optimum population.

Optimum population of a country refers to the size of population, which produces maximum amount of goods and services with the help of its resources. As the size of the population in a country grows, it is able to produce more and more after a point it may not be possible to provide the population with the basic goods and services required by them. Per head availability of goods and facilities will decline, as the resources will be over used.

Let us look at the Figure given here. The population gradually increases up the point P on the ox axis. Till the point P, we can say that a country is under populated. We can see that the available output (goods and services) per head has been rising till the point M. after the point M it is not possible to provide the same amount of goods and services for every person as the resources fall short and they also get overused we can see the curve going down after the point M. Therefore, the optimum size of population for the country should be OP, if population exceeds and goes beyond the point P we can say that the country is over populated.

Discuss one factor that causes growth of population in India.

There are three factors, which can change the size of population- birth rate, the death rate and migration. The one main cause of the high growth rate of population is the widening gap between the birth rate and the death rate. After independence, both the birth rate and the death rate have declined but death rate has declined at a much faster rate. The death rate has fallen because of the success of controlling epidemics like plague, small pox, etc. This was possible because of increasing public health measures and advancement in medical technology,



during the last three decades. On the other hand, birth rate continues to be high because of early marriages, lack of education, ineffective birth control measures, agricultural economy etc.

Birth rate: It is No. of birth over a given period divided by the person – years lived by the population over that period. It is expressed as number of births per 1000 people.

How occupational structure does reflect the levels of growth of a country?

The occupational structure of a country refers to the distribution of its people according to different occupations. There are primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

Primary activities: These include agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishery etc. They are primary because, here production is carried out with the help of nature.

Secondary activities: Manufacturing industries are known as secondary activities, building construction work etc.

Tertiary activities: Transport, communications. Banking services, Insurance, etc; are called tertiary activities.

There is a close relationship between development of economy and occupational structure. The higher the proportion of population in secondary and tertiary activities, the higher is level of income. Higher dependence of population on agriculture or primary activities results in lower level of income. The proportion of population dependent on agriculture in our country is around 67 percent (1991). The proportion of population dependent on secondary and tertiary sectors is around 13 and 20 per cent respectively. There has been occupational shift in favour of secondary and tertiary sector because of growing industrialization and urbanization in the last five decades.

Write short notes on:

- i) Urbanization in India.
- ii) Age composition of population and dependency.
- iii) Adolescent population in India.
- iv) National population policy.
- v) Female literacy and population growth.

i) Urbanization in India: Migration from rural to urban areas has taken place mainly due to rising population in rural areas and lack of demand for labour in agriculture. The other reasons are increased employment opportunities, better education and living standard in urban areas. It is also the outcome of expansion of industrial and, services sectors in the urban areas. This phenomenon of migration has resulted in the steady growth of population in towns and cities.

Urban population has increased from 17.29 percent (1951) to 25.72 percent (1991). But the urban sector has not grown uniformly. This is because of employment and other economic opportunities. Around each core town or city, cluster of urban settlements have developed which are linked to the economy of the city. They are known as the urban agglomeration. The existing urban infrastructure and services such as power, water supply, health problems, education, transport is inadequate to meet the growing demand. Besides, problems relating to high density and environmental pollution are intensifying.

ii) Age composition of population and dependency: Population can be divided according to categories of people of various age groups. Age composition of population is usually expressed in terms of three broad groups:

- a) Children below the working age (below 15 years)
- b) Persons in the working age (15 to 59 years); and
- c) Old persons above the working age (above 59 years).

Any one who is engaged in production work and has the ability to do so, is a part of the working population. Quaternary activities include intellectual occupations their task is

to think, research and develop ideas. Doctors, Advocates, Scientists, etc, form this category.

However, there are some exceptions. Housewives, full-time students and those people who go on working even after the age of 60 years are not included in the working population. The dependent population is either in the age group of below 15 years or in the age group of over 59 years.

As such, India has a high dependency ratio with regard to the age group of 0-14 years. A large proportion of country's resources are diverted towards satisfying the consumption needs of the dependent population. Hence, consumption is higher than production. This adversely affects the development of the country.

iii) Adolescent population in India: The most significant feature of the Indian population is the size of its adolescent population. It constitutes one-fifth of the total population of India. Adolescents are generally grouped in the age-group of 10 to 19 years, they are the most important resources for future. Nutrition requirements of adolescents are higher than those of normal child or adult. Poor nutrition can lead to deficiency and stunted growth. A large number of adolescent girls in India suffer from anemia. Such girls have to be sensitized to the problems they confront. Their awareness can be improved through the spread of literacy and education among them.

iv) National population policy: India has been implementing the Population Policy since 1952 for stabilization of population. The objective is to promote development of the country and improve the quality of life of people. We have achieved success on reducing the death rate. Family planning and birth control measures were the focus of attention of this policy in the past. Besides, National Population Policy (NPP) 2000 aims at stabilizing population by 2045. It also lays emphasis on economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The policy states that it will achieve this goal by raising the age at marriage, making school education up to the age of 14 years free and compulsory and reducing dropouts at primary and secondary levels.

v) Female literacy and population growth: The literacy level in India has increased from 5 percent (1901) to 63.35 percent (2001). Around 75 percent of males and 54 percent of females are literate in our country according to the 2001 census.

There is a positive relationship between literacy and growth of population. States of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh which have low literacy rates are the states with high population growth. Female literacy is particularly very important in this context.

In contrast to this in Mizoram, Kerala and Lakshadweep, literacy rate is quite high. That is why the population growth in these states is very low.

Why is the proportion of females less than that of males in India?

It is because the Indians prefer the birth of a male child more than that of a female child; in some areas female child is killed at birth and the female literacy in India is low as compared to males.

Define age pyramid. Give the percentage of population in different groups.

The division of population into three groups of working population (15-60 years) dependent population (below 15 years) and non-working population above 60 years is called the age pyramid.

Why is north Indian plain thickly populated?

- i) The soil of this region is fertile.
- ii) There are large numbers of factories in these areas.
- iii) The climate of this region is quite congenial.

Urban growth in India has been very significant during the past few decades. It has increased six fold from 1947-2001. According to 2001 population census, India's urban

population officially amounted to 286,120,000 inhabitants yet the urbanisation rate remains one of the lowest in world (28%) and the natural growth rate of the country remains relatively high (11.6%/ year) it is generally agreed that India is the country which presents the highest potential of urban growth among the economics.

Describe three main causes of rapid population growth in India.

- i) Birth-rate is quite high but the death-rate has fallen considerably. Due to medical facilities death-rate has fallen but there is no corresponding change in birth rate.
- ii) Poverty is much responsible for the rapid growth of population as the poor people have no other means of recreation and pastime.
- iii) The latest scientific methods of checking conception have not reached the interior and far flung areas of the country.
- iv) Many people in India are still steeped in ignorance and are illiterate and tradition-ridden. As such they didn't want to adopt the small family norms.

As such all the above –mentioned factors have led to the rapid growth of population in India.

What is Sex Ratio? Give two reasons responsible for unfavourable sex ratio in India.

The number of women per thousand men is called sex ration.

The following are the reasons responsible for unfavourable sex ratio.

- i) Female children are less cared than male children.
- ii) Women have great risks to their live at the time of delivery.

What is natural growth rate of populating? How can birth-rate brought down. Give two methods for it.

The difference between births –rate per thousand population of a given region is known as natural growth-rate. According to 1991 census, our growth rate was 2.14% per annum.

- i) The birth-rate can be brought down by family methods.
- ii) Education, Visual aids, Family planning centres can also educate people to adopt small family programme.

What makes West Bengal the most thickly populated state in India? State three reasons.

West Bengal has the highest density of population of all the states of India and it has left Kerala behind in the last decade with 904 persons per sq. km. The reasons for it are the following.

- i) West Bengal receives a large amount of rainfall. The Ganga River also provides large irrigation facilities.
- ii) This area is flat and has very fertile alluvial soils which produces a lot to support a large population.
- iii) There are many agro-based and metal-based industries which provide work to a large number of people.

What is meant by dependent population.

The part of the population which is not engaged in any production activity and is dependent on the working population is called the dependent population. Children below 15 year of age and old men above 60 years of age come under this category. They form about 45.7% of the total population.

Describe three harmful effects of growing population in India.

Three harmful effects of growing population in India are:

- i) **Food Problem:** It is not also possible to increase food production beyond a certain limit to feed the over-growing population.

- ii) **Unemployment:** It is also possible to give employment to the ever increasing number-unemployed person may turn into thieves, dacoits and bad characters and even join the ranks of antisocial elements.
- iii) **ill-effect on capital formation:** Due to unemployment the income as well as savings are badly affected. There can't be any investment without savings. Thus, there is adverse effect on capital formation.

What is a population pyramid? What is the depending ratio in India?

The division of population into three age groups:

- i) Below 15 years of age, ii) between 15 and 60 years of age and iii) above 60 years is known as population pyramid. In India the dependency ration is 83. That means every 100 persons in the age group of 15 to 59 have to support 83 (unlearning) persons who are dependent on them.

What is meant by uneven distribution of population? Discuss with examples the four important factors that determine the population distribution in India.

Uneven Distribution of Population: When some parts of the country are densely populated and other sparsely populated, then the population is said to be unevenly distributed. Factors that determine the distribution of population are :

- i) Relief features ii) Climate iii) Natural resources
- iv) Means of transport and communications v) Fertile land
- vi) Minerals wealth vii) Availability of water.

Give three reasons for the study of migration of people from rural area to urban areas.

Following are the reasons for the steady migration of people to urban areas.

- i) Attractive facilities in urban area centres.
- ii) More employment opportunities in the urban centres.
- iii) Poor living conditions in the rural areas.

Distinguish between rural population and urban population.

Urban population:

- i) Manufacturing and trade are the main occupations of urban people.
- ii) The urban population is provided with almost all the civic and basic facilities of life.
- iii) The density of population is quite high in urban areas.
- iv) It constitutes 25.7% of the population of India.
- v) The standard of living is generally high.
- vi) Very small fraction of this population is engaged in primary occupations.

Rural Population:

- i) Agriculture is the main occupation of rural people.
- ii) The rural population is not provided with modern facilities of life.
- iii) The density of population is quite low in rural areas.
- iv) It constitutes 74.3% of the total population of India. The standard of living is generally low.
- v) Very small fraction of this population is engaged in secondary and tertiary industries.

What are the main reason for migration of people?

People migrate from one place to another because of the following reasons.

a) Economic Reasons:

- i) Employment
- ii) In search of better economic opportunities.
- iii) Better residential facilities.

b) Socio-Economic Reasons:

- i) Insecurity
- ii) Marriage-especially in case of girls.

- iii) Political instability.
- iv) Better civil, education and health service facilities.
- v) Intercaste rivalries.

Push or Pull Factors of Migration: It has generally been seen that people get attracted towards towns and cities as they have better facilities and better economic opportunities. This is known as pull factor. The unemployment, starvation, famines etc, are some of the push factors which lead to migration of people to move out of their birth or native place. People migrate to metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, etc. for better economic opportunities and better security, facilities and civil amenities.

The optimum population for a region or country is the level of (human) population which is ecologically sustainable. It is less than the carry capacities, so the amount of resources available can support the country's population needs indefinitely which maximizes the overall welfare (happiness and standard of living) of the population.

- If the population is below its optimum population, it can increase with net social benefit without damaging the natural resources needed for the population.
- If it is above the optimum, the negative effects of overcrowding (population, crime, social dysfunction, etc.) and environmental damage reduces welfare or there are too few resources to maintain the population at its current level.

