

Sociology

(Indian Society) (Chapter – 2) (The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society)

(Class – XII)

Question 1:

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

Answer 1:

Theory of demographic transition suggests that increase in linked to overall levels of economic development which every society follows a typical pattern of development related growth.

There are three basic phases of population growth:

Stage I: Primitive Stage (Underdeveloped countries)

- Low increase in an exceedingly society that's underdeveloped and technologically backward.
- In such societies like Africa birth rate is high since people are unaware of the benefits of getting small families, they're not educated.
- Death rate is additionally high since health and medical facilities aren't available, therefore population is low.

Stage II: (Developing countries). The birth rate and death rate rank very high, rate of growth remains low. Birth rate is high as during this society people sleep in a patriarchal society during which men decide what number children must be born and child is preferred. People are illiterate and ignorant. Death rate is additionally high since health and medical facilities don't seem to be available.

Stage III: (Developed countries). Birth rate is low because people are educated and aware and use contraceptives, contraception is popularised. Death rate is additionally low thanks to availability of health and medical facilities; therefore, population is low.

Transitional Stage: The stage from backwardness of social facilities to Development of social welfare: during this stage rate of growth of population is extremely high whereas death rates are brought down because of better medical facilities, nutrition and better medical and technological advancement therefore this transition period is related to a population explosion.

Question 2:

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

Answer 2:

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

He said population rises in patterned advance whereas agricultural production can only grow in progression.

Malthus believed that positive checks to increment within the type of famines and diseases, was inevitable. These are nature's way of handling the balance between food supplies and increasing population.

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

Question 3:

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.

Answer 3:

Birth rate and death rate are fundamental concepts in Demography.

Birth rate: It refers to the full number of births in a very particular area which may be the country, a state or any territorial unit during a selected period.

- Crude birth rate is expressed through the subsequent method:

$$\frac{B}{p} \times 1000$$

B = Number of births

p = Entire population

- It's crude birth rate because it doesn't include the ratio of bearing age.
- Birth rate is defined because the number of live births per thousand persons in a year.
- Birth rate gets significantly tormented by Age of marriage, infertility, atmospheric condition, social condition, religious beliefs and education.

Death rate: it's the quantity of deaths per thousand persons during a year in a very particular area which may be the country, a state or the other territorial unit.

The reason Birth rate is comparatively slow while the death rate may be brought down at much faster rate. Public health measures and medical advancement can control the death rate immediately. Everybody wants healthy lifestyle and needs to measure an extended life. Due to which everybody adopts all medical and technological measures with high level of motivation. Healthcare systems can be improved by improving the infrastructure and technological advancement. This could provide immediate treatment to save lives.

Birth rate continues to be high because it's associated with attitude, beliefs and values of individuals. Birth rate is expounded to spiritual beliefs and by and enormous its socio-cultural phenomena which is significantly slow to vary.

Question 4:

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?

Answer 4:

Replacement level refers to the speed of growth required for brand spanking new generations to exchange the older ones that are dying out.

Replacement level refers to birthing to 2 children that replacement completes. States at the replacement level of population growth: Madras, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

States very on the subject of the replacement levels of population growth: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, province, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and state.

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

- (a) Difference in Literacy Percentage in several states.
- (b) Societal conditions vary in numerous states. Terrorism, war-like conditions and insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East.
- (c) Socio-Economic conditions vary in numerous states.
 - Number of BPL people is highest among states like state, Bihar and Odisha.
 - Socio-cultural formation: A belief that more children mean more hands to earn or religious beliefs.

Question 5:

What is meant by 'the age structure' of the population? Why is it relevant for economic development and growth?

Answer 5:

Age structure of the population refers to the proportions of persons in numerous age groups relative to the whole population. India includes a very young population. The common age of an Indian is a smaller amount than that for many other countries. Majority of Indians are between the age bracket of 15 and 64 years. Population under the age of 15 has decreased from 42% in 1971 to 31% in 2011. During this era the ratio of group 15 to 64 years old was gone up from 53% to 63.7%.

Age structure in a country changes with the development of poor medical facilities, and the prevalence of disease reduces life.

Age structure of population may be put in following age groups:

- 0-14 years. (Children)
- 15-59 years. (Working population)
- 60+ Years. (Old people)

This age structure of the Indian population is understood by following table:

Age structure of the Indian population 1961-2026

Year	Age groups (Percentage round up)			Total
	0-14 years	15-59 years	60+years	
1961	41	53	6	100
1971	42	53	5	100
1981	40	54	6	100
1991	38	56	7	100
2001	34	59	7	100
2011	29	63	8	100
2026	23	64	12	100

This table indicates that the share of the under 15 years' age brackets within the total population has come down from higher level of 42% in 1971 to 34% in 2001 and it's perfected to be reduced to 23% in 2026. It means birth rate in India is gradually decreasing. Relevance for economic development and growth as given below:

- The advancement in medical sciences, public health measures, and nutrition causes the lifespan to rise. This is often thanks to economic development and growth.
- Need of birth control in being understood. Decrease in 0-14 years' population cohort reveals that National population policy is implemented properly.
- Due to socio-cultural changes in Indian society and economic process age structure of population is moving towards positive young India.
- Dependency ratio is decreasing and increase in working population is causing positive growth in Indian economy.
- Economic development and improvement in quality of life improve expectancy and changes the structures of the population.
- High infant (mortality rate/death rate/death rate/morbidity/mortality/mortality rate/fatality rate) rate and material mortality rate thanks to poor economic process. Hence, an adverse effect old structure on the population.

Question 6:

What is meant by the 'sex ratio'? What are some of the implications of a declining sex ratio? Do you feel that parents still prefer to have sons rather than daughters? What, in your opinion, could be some of the reasons for this preference?

Answer 6:

Sex ratio refers to the quantity of females per thousand males in an exceedingly given area at a specified period of your time.

This ratio is a crucial indicator of gender balance in population. Historically, there have been more females than males in most countries of the globe. This phenomenon occurred thanks to two reasons:

(i) Girl babies enjoys better immune system and proof against diseases compared of son.

(ii) Females live longer than males in most of the societies.

- The ratio between female babies and male babies is roughly 1050 female to 1000 male.
- In India sex ratio is declining significantly and continuously for quite a century. From 972 females per thousand males at the turn of 20th century the sex ratio declined to 933 at the turn of 21st century.
- The state level child sex ratio is alarming. As many as 6 states and union territories have a baby sex ratio as low child sex ratio of 793. The very best child sex ratio of 986 is found in Sikkim.

Sex ratio seems to be declining in countries like India, China and South Korea.

In India, parents still prefer male child. This is often basically thanks to social and cultural reasons. Being agricultural society the village population preferred lad after the land. The explanation of preference of youngster is unquestionably not linked with economic reasons. The states like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh and Maharashtra are most prosperous states of India and will have highest child sex ratio, but things are just different.

The census of 2001 reveals that these are states with very cheap sex ratios i.e., 950 female babies per 1000 male babies. This data may be a reliable evidence that selective abortion in these states isn't because of poverty, ignorance and lack of resources. Predisposing factors for low child sex ratio in India are as follow:

- **Religious or Cultural Beliefs:** Beliefs that only son is entitled to perform funeral and related rituals of his parents. Only son is that the waaris of family. Within the absence of son, the generation won't continue.
- **Economic Reasons:** the most occupation of Indian society is agriculture. Villagers have a thinking that landed property can't be given to ladies because after marriage they're going to attend another village, town or city. Neither girl child can get her share of load nor she will inherit the land.
- **Lack of Awareness:** People in Indian society having ignorant conservation attitude are still not able to give equal status to daughter because they think that in maturity they're going to be enthusiastic about the son. Only he will share food, house, customs and responsibilities.
- **Implications of kid sex ratio:** Low child sex ratio, if continues, will have serious implications on our social network, particularly the Institution of marriage. It'll also cause severe law and order problem associated with women.