Human Resources

People are important to develop the economy and society. They make and use resources and are themselves resources with varying qualities. The number, distribution, growth and characteristics or qualities of human beings provide the basic background for understanding and appreciating all aspects of the environment.

Population as a Human Resource

- People are a nation's greatest resource. People with their skills and abilities are called as 'human resources'.
- Healthy, educated and motivated people develop other resources according to their requirements.
- They are one of the building blocks of a nation's development. That is why human resources are called the 'ultimate resource'.

Population Pattern

- The pattern of population distribution refers to the way in which people are spread on the Earth's surface.
- Like other resources, human resources are unequally distributed over the world. Some areas are sparsely populated and some areas are densely populated due to relief features, climatic conditions, etc.
- Almost three-quarters of the world's people live in the continents of Asia and Africa.
- Most of the population is concentrated in the tropical region of the world as this region is rich in resources.

Population Density

- The number of the people living in a unit area of Earth's surface is called 'population density.' The average density of population in the whole world is 51 persons per square km.
- South Central Asia has the highest density of population followed by East and South-East Asia.
- Population density of India is 382 persons per sq km according to the 2011 census, which is one of the highest in the world.

Factors Affecting Distribution of Population

There are many factors which affect distribution of population. These factors include:

1. Geographical Factors

The geographical factors which affect population density of a region are as follows:

(i) **Topography** The more suitable place where people prefer to live are plains rather than mountains and plateaus because these areas are more suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities. e.g. the Ganga plains are the most densely populated areas of the world while mountains like Andes, Alps and Himalayas are sparsely populated.

(ii) **Climate** People usually avoid extreme climates that are very hot or cold such as Sahara desert, polar regions of Russia, Canada and Antarctica.

(iii) **Soil** Fertile soils provide suitable land for agriculture. Fertile plains such as Ganga and Brahmaputra in India. Hwang-he, Chang Jiang in China and the Nile in Egypt are densely populated.

(iv) **Water** People prefer to live in the areas where freshwater is easily available. The river valleys of the world are densely populated while deserts have spare population.

(v) **Minerals** Areas with mineral deposits are more populated. Diamond mines of South Africa and discovery of oil in the middle-East established human settlement over there.

2. Social Factors

Some social factors that boost the density of population in a region are better housing, education and health facilities are found. For example, Pune.

3. Cultural Factors

Places with religion or cultural significance are generally more populated. e.g. Varanasi, Jerusalem and Vatican city.

4. Economic Factors

Industrial areas provide employment opportunities. Large number of people are attracted to these areas. e.g. Osaka in Japan and Mumbai in India.

Population Change

The term population change refers to change in the number of people during a specific time. The population of the world is never stable. Population has increased manifold due to changes in the number of births and deaths.

The factors which affect population change are

- **Birth Rate** It is a statistic that measures the number of live births per 1000 people.
- **Death Rate** It is statistic that measures the number of deaths per 1000 people.
- **Natural Growth Rate** The difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country is called the natural growth rate. The rapid increase in natural growth rate is the main cause in increasing the world population.

Migration

It is the movement of people in and out of an area. **Migration** takes place within a country or between countries.

Causes of Migration

- In general, the international migrations take place from less developed to the more developed nations in search of better employment and livelihood opportunities.
- As same migration takes place within countries where large number of people move from rural to urban areas in search of better livelihood facilities like employment, education and health facilities.

Out-migration or Emigration

When people leave a country, it is called 'emigration and the person who leave the country is called 'emigrant. e.g. Sudan (a country) has experienced a loss in population numbers due to emigration.

In-migration or Immigration

When people enter a new country, it is called 'immigration' and the person who arrives in a country is called 'immigrant.' e.g. USA and Australia have gained in-numbers by immigration.

Demographic Profile of India

- Demography is the study of human populations-their size, composition and distribution across space and the process through which populations change.
- Population data are collected though census, held every 10 years in our country. The first population Census in India was conducted in 1872 but the first complete census was conducted only in 1881. Census of 2011 is the 15th National census and according to it recent statistics of population of India is

			State		**UT** (Union Territory)	
	Demography	Data	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
1.	Population	1210 Million	UP	Sikkim	NCR(Delhi)	Lakshadweep
2.	Population Density	382 persons/ sq.km	Bihar (1106)	Arunachal Pradesh (17)	Delhi (11320)	Andaman & Nicobar (46)
3.	Growth Rate (Population)	17.64%	Meghalaya (27.95%)	Nagaland (-0.6%)	Dadra & Nagar Haveli (55.88%)	Lakshadweep (6.3%)
4.	Literacy Rate	74.04%	Kerala (94%)	Bihar (61.8%)	Lakshadweep (91.8%)	Puducherry (85.8%)
5.	Sex Ratio	940	Kerala (1084)	Haryana (879)	Puducherry (1037)	Daman and Diu (618)

Practice Exercise

1. People with their skills and abilities are called as
(a) Human Intelligence (b) Human Resources
(c) Human behaviour (d) Human Evolution

2. The way in which people are spread on the Earth's surface is known as
(a) Population Pattern (b) Population density
(c) Settlement (d) Inhabited Population

3. What is number of the people living in a unit area of Earth's surface is called?
(a) Population pattern
(b) Settlement
(c) Population density
(d) Population measurement

4. What is the population density of India according to the 2011 census?
(a) 342   (b) 380   (c) 375   (d) 382

5. Which of the following is not a geographical factor which affect population density of a region?
(a) Topography   (b) Climate
(c) Soil   (d) Education

6. The term population change refers to change in the number of people during a specific ………….
(a) year   (b) time
(c) day   (d) decade

7. Which amongst the following is a static that measures the number of live births per 1000 people?
(a) Birth rate
(b) Death rate
(c) Migration
(d) Population change

8. What is the difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country is called ?
(a) Migration
(b) Growth rate
(c) Natural growth rate
(d) Population increase

9. The movement of people in and out of an area is called
(a) Migration   (b) Movement
(c) Growth Rate   (d) Emigration

10. What is the study of human populations -their size, composition and distribution across space is called?
(a) Census
(b) Demography
(c) Population change
(d) Natural growth rate

11. When was the first complete census in India was conducted?
(a) 1872   (b) 1881
(c) 1891   (d) 1885

12. Which Indian state has highest population according to 2011 Census?
(a) Uttar Pradesh   (b) West Bengal
(c) Bihar   (d) Maharashtra

13. What is the literacy rate of India?
(a) 73%   (b) 67%
(c) 72. 01 %   (d) 74. 04%

14. Which state of India has highest population Density?
(a) West Bengal
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Bihar
(d) Madhya Pradesh

15. What is the growth rate of population in India in 2001-2011?
(a) 17%   (b) 17.64%
(c) 16%   (d) 17.04%

16. What is the sex ratio of India?
(a) 940   (b) 933
(c) 942   (d) 943

17. Which state of India has the lowest sex ratio?
(a) Haryana   (b) Rajasthan
(c) Bihar   (d) Uttar Pradesh

18. Which amongst the following UTs has maximum literacy rate?
(a) Lakshadweep   (b) Puducherry
(c) Daman and Diu   (d) Delhi

19. The state with lowest population growth rate is
(a) Meghalaya   (b) Nagaland
(c) Delhi   (d) Lakshadweep

20. Census of 2011 is the .... National Census of India?
(a) 14th   (b) 15th   (c) 10th   (d) 12th

Answers

1.	*(b)*	2.	*(a)*	3.	*(c)*	4.	*(d)*	5.	*(d)*	6.	*(b)*	7.	*(a)*	8.	*(c)*	9.	*(a)*	10.	*(b)*
11.	*(b)*	12.	*(a)*	13.	*(d)*	14.	*(c)*	15.	*(b)*	16.	*(a)*	17.	*(a)*	18.	*(a)*	19.	*(b)*	20	*(b)*