

## Preface

Friends, you have learnt about sociology and some of its aspects from the textbook of sociology for 11<sup>th</sup> standard. You all now know that in order to understand Indian society, it is necessary to know about its population structure. In order to comprehend Indian society, it is also essential to know about its various social institutions. All these institutions have 'unity in diversity' which is a distinct feature of Indian society.

Friends, if you observe your class-room, you will know that there are students belonging to different religions and castes. In spite of such religious and caste-based diversity which exists in our country, India is an undivided nation.

We observe cultural diversity in terms of life style, clothing, economic activities, customs, festivals, languages, places of pilgrimage, etc. of the people living in each part of east-west and north-south. This cultural diversity and heritage make us feel proud of being citizen of India. In this chapter, we will try to understand all these issues.

First of all, let us try to understand the meaning of population and its diversity.

## Meaning of population

Population is essential for the existence and continuance of society. There cannot be any society without population. The number of persons in a society is known as human population. Maintenance of population is society's primary and universal social necessity. The size of population depends on birth, death and migration. The size and composition of population affect the society. The population composition is also known as population structure which includes details like age-group, sex ratio, rural-urban differences, literacy etc. All demographic figures related to religion, language, gender, etc. affect society's life. Population and society are mutually related.

## Diversity in population

Population diversity is found in any nation or society in terms of, for example, age-group, sex ratio, rural-urban proportion, literacy, religious groups, linguistic groups, various caste-groups, birth rate, mortality rate, proportion of migrated persons etc. These details can help us in understanding socio-economic status of a given society. Moreover, population related figures are essential for planning and development exercises.

Diversity in population is observed in each of the fields, from local to global. Here, we will try to understand some of them, particularly with reference to India and Gujarat.

### Religious diversity :

Friends, we all know that India is a country of diversity, inclusive of religious diversity. People of key religions of the world live in India. Each religion, with its own code of conduct forms its own life style based on religious places, scriptures, religious festivals and vows.

All religions of India preach fraternity. Indians not only know the rituals and customs of religions in India, they also disseminate the feeling of unity by participating in festivals of each of the Indian religions.

Let us see the proportion of people following different religions in India and Gujarat :

### Percentage Distribution of Population by Religion, India and Gujarat, 2011

No.	Religion	Proportion (%)	
		India	Gujarat
(1)	Hindu	79.80	88.57
(2)	Islam	14.23	9.67
(3)	Christianity	2.30	0.52
(4)	Sikh	1.72	0.10
(5)	Buddhism	0.70	0.05
(6)	Jain	0.37	0.96
(7)	No religion	0.24	0.10
(8)	Other	0.66	0.03

(Source : Census 2011, Government of India)

It is clear from the above table that Hindus are dominating in India and therefore they are also called the community of majority. Among others, known as minorities, Muslims, followers of Islam religion are significant. The category 'no religion' includes those who have said that they do not follow any particular religion.

Figures for Gujarat present the similar picture with Hindus as a majority and Muslims dominating among minorities.

Friends, the public holidays based on different religions which you all enjoy during your academic year are indicative of religious unity.

#### Diversity in sex ratio :

Understanding of the proportion of males and females is essential to understand the size of any society. Demographic information about males and females who are an integral part of a society indicates towards balance of population in that society. Imbalance in proportion of males and females in a society may create many population related problems.

Let us see the proportion of males and females in a developing country like India and a dynamic state like Gujarat :

#### Proportion of Males and Females in India and Gujarat, 2011

Country/state	Number and Percent		
	Total population	Males	Females
India	121,01,93,422 (100%)	62,37,24,248 (51.51%)	58,64,69,174 (48.49%)
Gujarat	6,04,39,692 (100%)	3,14,91,260 (52.10%)	2,89,48,432 (47.90%)

(Source : Census 2011, Government of India)

It can be said on the basis of the above table that India is an over populated country where disparity in proportion of male and female population exists. Proportion of females is lesser than that of males.

Similar trend is observed in case of Gujarat.

Friends, as you know, in India, the number of females per thousand males indicates sex ratio. State wise sex ratio is given in Appendix-1.

As the table in Appendix-1 reveals, average sex-ratio for India comes to 940 with Kerala having highest sex-ratio of 1048 and the union territory Daman and Div, the lowest of 618. The sex-ratio for Gujarat comes to 918.

Uttar Pradesh is the most populated state in India where 16.49 percent of the country's population lives. Uttarakhand, on the other hand, is the least populated state in India where 0.84 percent of the country's population resides.

### **Cultural diversity :**

In the world, Indian culture is the best example of integration and continuance. From the time of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa culture to the contemporary one, Indian society has been full of cultural diversity. In all times, Vedic and post Vedic periods, middle age, colonial period, post-independence, Indian society has been vibrant with cultural activities. Hobbies and likings of the rulers of different times, trade or the life style of those who immigrated for administrative purposes, all have contributed to the development of *bhatigal* (indigenous) culture in India, from traditional period to the modern one.

In a huge geographical area of India which is extended from north to south and from east to west, i.e. from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kolkata to Kutch, cultural diversity is visible on regional basis. These regional cultures have their distinctiveness. Participation of people in each other's culture strengthens the cultural unity. The cultural diversity of India is known in and outside the country.

The cultural diversity of the whole of India can be seen in many forms such as festivals, diets, clothing, ways of livelihood, language etc. which are as follows:

**Festivals:** Festivals in all Indian states and union territories are celebrated with much enthusiasm. In religious festivals like Diwali, Holi, Dassehra, Eid ul-Fitr, Christmas, Navroze (Pateti), Gurgurb and in festivals welcoming crops or signifying the time of harvest such as Bihu festival of Assam, Pongal of Tamil Nadu, Onam of Kerala, Baishakhi of North India, people participate joyfully. Festivals of Buddha Purnima or Mahavir Jayanti are also celebrated with zeal.

**Language :** Friends, you are well aware of the diversity in language and dialect in India. We all know that 22 languages hold constitutional status in India and they include Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Language sustains the culture and linguistic diversity is a unique identity of India. Friends, as you know there are dialects linked with different languages. You must have heard the proverb '*Baar gauae boli badalay*' meaning dialect gets changed every 38.4 kms.

**Dress :** Diversity is visible in Indian dresses also. Dresses form regional identity; for example, Punjabi or Gujarati way of wearing *saari* identifies the region. Similarly, religion based dresses also add to cultural diversity, for example, *burqa* (a long veil covering whole body), *rida* (a kind of religious dress), turban etc.

**Food :** It is natural that food habits or diet of a region is affected by the type of food items produced in that region. Rice and fish are main food in the coastal areas as these are easily available there. Moreover, regional foods add to the diversity, for example, Punjabi food, Gujarati food, South Indian food etc. Religious beliefs also play their role, such as Jain *Bhaaji paav*, *Swaminarayan thali*, etc. These foods have become so famous that they have acquired global identity.



**Means of livelihood :** Humans attempt to satisfy the needs of their family members by earning money. There are several means of livelihood and humans, according to their ability and skill, try to earn their living. In order to get jobs corresponding to the skills acquired, they migrate from one place to another. Such migration directly or indirectly also carries the culture from one place to another and thus adds to cultural diversity. Simultaneously, it also maintains the feeling of national unity.

Thus, the cultural transfer occurring geographically and socially affects the population. On the contrary, demographic information focusing on geographical and social conditions inspires us to collect more specific information related to the diversity of the given region.

The *garba* and kite festivals of Gujarat are excellent examples of displaying cultural diversity.

**Diversity of deprived groups :** The constitution of India has provided fundamental rights to each citizen of India which are inspired by the values of independence, equality, fraternity and secularism. Simultaneously, efforts have been made for uplift of deprived groups of the Indian society.

These deprived groups are included in three categories:

- (1) Scheduled Castes (SC)
- (2) Scheduled Tribes (ST)
- (3) Other Backward Classes (OBC)

Friends, tribals are known by various names but constitutionally they are described as scheduled tribes. We will have detailed information about tribals in unit-2 and unit-3. Here, we will know about their population.

**Proportion of tribal population in India :**

Population and share of tribals in 1951 and 2011 in India are given below.

**Share of Tribal population in India**

Year	Tribals	
	Population	% to total population
1951	1,91,47,054	2.26
2011	10,42,81,034	8.60

(Source : Census 1951 and 2011)

As it is revealed by the table given above, the proportion of tribal population to total population in India has increased from 2.26 percent in 1951 to 8.60 percent in 2011.

**State wise population of tribals in India :**

Tribal population exists in more or less proportion in majority of the states and union territories of India. State wise population of tribals in 2011 can be seen in Appendix-2.

It is clear from the table given in Appendix-2 that Mizoram has the highest proportion of tribals (94.97%) and Uttar Pradesh has the least share (0.5%) of them among the states having tribal population.

In India, most of the tribals live in Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

**Tribal population in Gujarat :**

In more or less proportion, tribal population is found in each district of Gujarat. Appendix-3 contains the details.

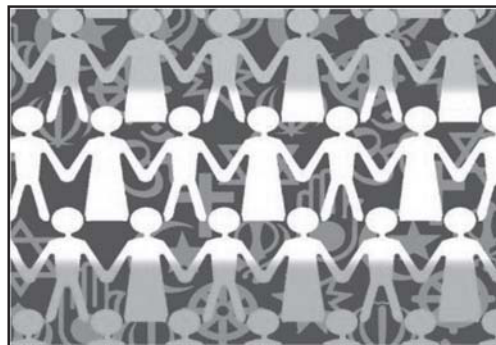
Tribals are predominant in Dang district (94.65%) while Bhavnagar has the least proportion of tribal population (0.32).

Though tribals are found in varying degree in each of the districts of Gujarat, most of them live in the eastern belt of the state.

### **National unity**

We saw that how India holds unity in diversity in terms of language, religion, clothing, livelihood, sex ratio etc. Now we will obtain knowledge about national unity.

The Indian subcontinent is thriving with multiple diversities which are observed in various aspects such as social, cultural, geographical, religious, linguistic, regional etc. It is not only necessary but mandatory that these different sub-groups have mutually cooperative and cordial relations. It is also essential that Indian citizens should be loyal to each other and to the whole of the nation. It is also important from the perspective of national unity that all Indian citizens consider the aims of the nation as their own. At present, the nation is facing many problems in term of communalism, terrorism, casteism, naxalism, lingualism, separatism, etc. which have been hindering the process of community development. The need of the hour is to solve these problems and establish national unity.



**National Unity**

We will try to understand the meaning of national unity and the assisting factors.

### **Meaning of national unity :**

Speaking in a national conference, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, had informed that ‘national unity is a psychological and educational process through which feeling of unity in people’s heart, experience of equal citizenship and feeling of love and loyalty towards the nation can be developed’.

Describing national unity as a psychological and educational process, **G. S. Ghurye** writes that ‘people of the nation have the feeling of unity, firmness and affiliation associated with the feeling of common citizen and loyalty’.

In the opinion of Vinoba Bhave, ‘national unity is a combination of sentimental unity, fraternity and the firm feeling of patriotism which helps the people of a nation to overlook personal, regional, religious and linguistic differences’.

### **Assisting factors of national unity**

Assisting factors of national unity are as follows :

#### **(1) Geographical factor :**

The sages and rulers of India had the vision of geo-political unity. In Sanskrit literature, awareness about geo-political unity of India is expressed in Rigved. The names such as *Bharatvarsha* (particularly the area of the continent that lies south of Himalayas, according to scriptural description) *Chakravarti* (an ancient Indian term used to refer to an ideal universal ruler) and *Ekadhipati* (potentate) express the ideal of geographical solidarity. India is a country of religious temples, holy rivers and scattered hills. All these places were developed as pilgrimages as it became a subject of dignity to visit these places for *darshan* and holy bath. The culture of journey to shrines, places of

scenic beauty and hill stations etc. always inspire Indians to visit such places in India. This process strengthens geo-political unity. People express their affection or patriotism towards their motherland. Geographically, India's borders are extended from Kashmir and Himalaya in the north to Kanyakumari in the south and from Assam and Manipur in the east to Gujarat in the west. The whole of India is spread in a huge area of 32, 87, 263 lakh square kilometers where 1.21 crores of people reside. Plains, hills, rivers, oceans, forests and deserts are geographical features of our country.

Historically distributed in a number of small states, India has now evolved as a nation. Geographical diversity has taught people to adapt to different situations and establish unity by maintaining amiability. Unity in diversity is best manifested when people belonging to different states, castes, languages, religions come together and extend their help to the victims of natural calamities such as drought, flood, cyclone, or earthquake.

## **(2) Constitution of India :**

The constitution of India is the fundamental factor instrumental in creating national solidarity or unity amidst all such diversities. India is a federal union comprising states and union territories. The constitution of India is the only written document which unites them. It is written in the preamble to the constitution of India that India is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic state and justice, liberty and equality are its bases. Discriminations based on religion, gender, caste, place of birth are banned by the acts. The constitution of India assures all citizens dignity of individual and national unity and integrity and endeavors to promote fraternity among them. It considers India as a secular state, i.e. India has no religion. All religions are respected and protected. The constitution has given right to all citizens to follow the religion of their choice and propagate it. The constitution has also given right to minorities living anywhere in India to upkeep and maintain their unique language, script or culture. All these rights play a primary role in shaping national solidarity.

## **(3) Duties of citizens :**

National unity is also reflected in duties of citizens, as mentioned in the constitution of India. For example,

- To be loyal to the nation and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- To rise above religious, linguistic and regional or communal differences
- To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India
- To follow practices which respect the dignity of women;

## **(4) Laws :**

There are many laws which have been helpful in maintaining national unity. These include Indian criminal laws such as those preventing caste class or communal struggle, laws preventing treason, act related to elimination of untouchability, acts related to code of conduct in elections and punishment for their violation.

## **(5) Democratic system :**

The democratic system of India is an auxiliary factor which adds to national unity. In order to maintain the democratic system of India elections are held for parliament, assembly, municipal corporations and local Panchayats. Any citizen of India aged more than 18 years is entitled to vote in these elections. Equal voting right, thus, becomes an important factor to promote national unity. An individual can feel the sense of equal citizenship as this voting right is obtained irrespective of community, caste, sex, language or region. Any individual, in addition, has also right to register his/



her candidature for any election, i.e. s/he can represent any area through any national party or as an independent candidate. National parties tend to attract leaders, workers and voters toward their side. Though these national parties may differ in ideology, their ultimate aim is to attract voters, no matter to which caste, sex, religion, or state they belong to. By doing so, these national parties provide impetus for national unity. Thus, the parliament of the nation, assembly and democratic system of local institutions of self-governance are important factors in creating national unity.

#### **(6) National festivals and national awards :**

National unity is displayed marvelously in the cultural programmes and procession of army presented to celebrate national festivals like Republic Day and Independence Day. National unity is reflected in Indian film industry, Indian film ceremonies, national monuments or gardens. Camps organized under different activities such as Scout at school or college level, National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Core (NCC), etc. convey the message of patriotism and national unity. Similarly, service to the nation is honored by offering different types of awards. They include civilian awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Shree, Padma bhusan, Padma Vibhushan, sports awards like Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dronacharya award, Arjun award, Dhyanchand award, army awards like Paramveer Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Veer Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, etc. There are other awards related to bravery, literature etc. Attempts are made to create national consciousness by honouring distinguished persons such as artists, scientists, soldiers, teachers, social workers etc.

#### **(7) Sports activities :**

When a player participates in sports activities such as cricket, volleyball, tennis, badminton, kabaddi, etc. being played in India or outside, s/he represents the whole country and not his/her language, state, or community. Similarly, various games played in National Sports Festivals, inter-state or inter-university games, Khel Mahakumbh, are being played with the sportsman spirit and with the feeling of being an Indian. Indians are crazy about cricket. When Indian cricket team wins any international match, the whole of India celebrate the win. Thus, various games add to the national unity as assisting factor.

#### **(8) Mass media :**

Mass media such as newspapers, radio, television, computer, cell phone, etc. have been playing an important role in creating national unity. In order to instill the feelings of patriotism among the citizens of India, various programmes such as serials, films, group songs, group dances, programmes on celebration of Independence Day, Republic Day, etc. focusing on communal unity, secularism and patriotism are telecast by Indian TV channels. Television also helps citizens in having true understanding of the problems of terrorism, communalism, lingualism, regionalism, or naxalism by airing relevant programmes, films and news. Thus, publications and programmes of mass media generate awareness among citizens which indirectly helps in creating national unity.

#### **(9) Means of transport :**

India is a country of geographical and cultural diversities; means of transport play an important role in uniting them. Means of transportation have made reciprocation between people of regional diversities possible. This has strengthened the feeling of being citizen of one country. The Indian Railway which connects all states has world's biggest railway network of 1, 15, 000 kms. Every day 2.3 crores of people travel by train. Similarly, big cities of India are connected through airline, making transportation speedy. In the present time, people for various reasons such as business, employment, education, journey etc. get close to each other through means of transportation. This indirectly helps in adding to national unity.

#### **(10) Interdependence and cohesiveness :**

Use of machines in modern industries, agriculture and other occupations has badly affected the

caste-based traditional occupations and as a result the internal interdependence now has extended up to other villages, cities and regions. Due to factors such as social, cultural, educational etc. one needs to be rhythmic with all cities and states of the country to be cohesive with them, in place of being cohesive with the own village as it was the case earlier. However, this process has weakened the restrictions of untouchability, casteism and communalism. At present, there are many occupations where interdependence between Hindus and Muslims is found, which leads to formation of national unity, directly or indirectly.

Friends, in this unit, we obtained knowledge about India's population diversity and national unity. We also acquired knowledge about Indian culture by gaining information about factors contributing to national unity.

The unity and integrity visible in various communities is a distinct feature of India; with reference to this, we will obtain information about Indian culture and community in the next unit.

### Exercises

**1. Answer the following questions in detail :**

- (1) State India's cultural diversities.
- (2) Discuss India's religious diversities.
- (3) Explaining the meaning of national unity, discuss its assisting factors.

**2. Give concise answers to the following questions :**

- (1) State proportion of scheduled tribes in India and Gujarat according to census 2011.
- (2) Explain how democratic system, national festivals and national awards help in creating national unity.
- (3) Transportation and media help in creating national unity. Explain.

**3. Answer the following questions in brief :**

- (1) Which diversities are found in India ?
- (2) Give names of any five languages spoken in India.
- (3) Interpret national unity.
- (4) Which problems are obstacles in India's development ?
- (5) What names were used for geographical unity in old times ?
- (6) Which are the civic awards of India ?
- (7) Which are the awards given for sports in India ?
- (8) Which are the awards for Indian army ?

**4. Answer the following questions in one sentence :**

- (1) State the proportion of males and females in India according to census 2011
- (2) What is the population of Gujarat according to census 2011 ?
- (3) Which Indian state has the highest sex ratio according to census 2011 ?
- (4) Which Indian state has the lowest sex ratio according to census 2011 ?
- (5) Which district of Gujarat has the highest proportion of tribal population according to census 2011 ?

**5. Choose the right options from the following :**

- (1) People of which religion are predominant in India in terms of population ? ☐  
(a) Hindu                      (b) Muslim                      (c) Christian                      (d) Sikh
- (2) Which Indian state is most populated according to census 2011 ? ☐  
(a) Madhya Pradesh                      (b) Himachal Pradesh  
(c) Andhra Pradesh                      (d) Uttar Pradesh



- (3) Which Indian state is least populated according to census 2011 ? ☐  
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Kerala (d) Himachal Pradesh
- (4) What is the sex ratio of India according to census 2011 ? ☐  
(a) 942 (b) 939 (c) 938 (d) 940
- (5) In how many square kms of geographical area is India spread ? ☐  
(a) 32,87,263 sq. km (b) 30,00,000 sq. km  
(c) 33,57,263 sq. km (d) 31,57,263 sq. km
- (6) How many kilometers of network does the Indian Railway have ? ☐  
(a) 1,15,000 km (b) 2,15,000 km  
(c) 3,15,000 km (d) 3,25,000 km
- (7) Which country has the biggest railway network in the world ? ☐  
(a) America (b) India  
(c) China (d) Australia
- (8) Which is the highest civilian award in India ? ☐  
(a) Bharat Ratna (b) Khel Ratna  
(c) Padma Shree (d) Padma Vibhushan

#### Activity

- Classify the students of your class on the basis of religion.
- Show sex ratio of different districts in the map of Gujarat.
- Show the states with highest and lowest population and the proportion of population in Gujarat in the map of India.
- Prepare a chart displaying religious festivals of different communities.

