

POPULATION

Q:1) Why is population very important in a country? (OR) Why is population a pivotal element in social studies?

- i) The people are important to develop the economy and society. The people make and use the resources and are themselves resources with varying quality.
- ii) 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.
- iii) Their numbers, distributions, growth and characteristics or qualities provide the basic background for understanding and appreciating all aspects of the environment.
- iv) 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.

Q:2) What are the major questions that we are concerned with the study of population?

1. **Population size and distribution** : How many people are there and where are they located?
2. **Population growth and purposes of population change**: How has the population grown and changed through time?
3. **Characteristics or qualities of the population**: What are their age, sex-composition, literacy levels, occupational structure and health conditions?

Q:3) What are the 3 components of the study of population?

1. Population size and distribution.
2. Population growth and purposes of population change.
3. Characteristics or qualities of the population

Q:4) Describe the size and distribution of population on India.

1. India's population as on March 2001 stood at 1.028 billion, which account for 16.7% of the world's population.
2. These 1.02 billion people are unevenly distributed over our country's vast area of 3.28 million sq. km, which accounts for 3.28% of the world's area.
3. The 2001 census data reveals that **Uttar Pradesh** with a population of 166 million people is the most populous state of India. UP accounts for 16% of the country's population. On the other hand, Sikkim has a population of just 0.5 million and Lakshadweep has only 60 thousand people.
4. The population density of India in the year 2001 was 324 persons per sq. km. Densities vary from 904 persons per sq. km. in West Bengal to only 13 persons per sq.km in Arunachal Pradesh.

Q:5) What is meant by density of population?

The number of persons per sq. km is called density of population.

Q:6) What are the primary reasons for sparse population in some states of India?

Rugged terrain and unfavorable climatic conditions are primarily responsible for sparse population in some areas. eg. Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh

Q:7) Why do some states in India have moderate population density?

Hilly, dissected and rocky nature of the terrain, moderate to low rainfall, shallow and less fertile soils have influenced population densities in areas. Eg. Orissa, MP

Q:8) State any two reasons for high to very high population in northern plains and Kerala?

The northern plains and Kerala in the south have high to very high population densities because of the flat plains with fertile soils and abundant rainfall.

Q:9) Name the 3 factors affecting population of an area . (What are the processes of population growth / change?)

Birth rate is the number of live births per thousand persons in a year. It is a major component of growth because in India, birth rates have always been larger than death rates.

Death rate is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year. The main cause of the rate of growth of the population has been the rapid decline in death rates.

Migration is the movement of people across regions and territories. Migration can be internal or international.

Q:10)What is meant by population growth and how do you calculate it?

Growth of population refers to the change in the number of inhabitants of a country / territory during a specific period of time, say during the last 10 years. Such a change can be expressed in two ways: in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of % change per year.

It is obtained by simply subtracting the earlier population from the later population. It is referred to as absolute increase.

Q:11)What is meant by annual growth rate of population?

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 1028 million in 2001.

Q:12) Why is even low annual growth rate of population considered not good for India?

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.

Q:13) Why is the rate of population growth in India declining since 1981?

- 1) Since 1981 the rate of growth of population started declining gradually. During this period, birth rates decline rapidly.
- 2) The declining trend of the growth rate is indeed a positive indicator of the efforts of birth control.

Q:14) How does migration affect the population?

1. Migration is an important determinant of population change. It changes not only the population size but also the population composition of urban and rural populations in terms of age and sex composition.
2. In India the rural – urban migration has resulted in a steady increase in the % of population in cities and towns.
3. The urban population has increased from 17.9% of the total population in 1951 to 27.78% in 2001.
4. There has been a significant increase in the number of ‘million plus cities’ from 23 to 35 in just one decade ie 1991 to 2001.

Q:15) What is meant by age composition? Why is it important to know the age composition?

1. The age composition of a population refers to the number of people in different age groups in a country.
2. It is one of the most basic characteristics of a population. To an important degree, a person’s age influences what he needs, buys, does and his capacity to perform.
3. Consequently, the number and % of a population found within **the children**, **working age**, and **aged group** are notable determinants of the population’s social and economic structure.

Q:16) Describe the three age compositions of the Population in India.

Children (below 15 yrs) : They are economically unproductive and need to be provided with food, clothing, education and medical care. They are called depended population.

Working Age (15-59 yrs) : They are economically productive and biologically reproductive. They comprise the working population.

Aged (59 yrs n above) : They can be economically productive though they may have retired. They may be working voluntarily but they are not available for employment through recruitment. They too are called depended population.

Q:17) Who are the dependant groups in age composition?

The % of children below the age of 15 and the aged above 59 years affect the dependency ratio because these groups are not producers. These are the dependant groups.

Q:18) What is sex ratio? Why is it important? (What is meant by favourable sex ratio?)

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

This information is an important social indicator to measure the extent of equality between males and females in a society at a given time.

The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavorable to females.

Q:19) Why do we need high literacy rate in a country? Who is a literate person?

1. Literacy is a very important quality of a population. Only an informed and educated citizen can make intelligent choices and undertake research and development projects. Low levels of literacy rate are a serious obstacle for economic improvement.

2. According to census of 2001, a person aged 7 yrs and above can read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate.

Q: 20) Name the five states in India where half of India's population lives.

Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh

Q: 21) Name states in India having the highest population and highest density of population.

Uttar Pradesh has the highest population and West Bengal has the highest density of population.

Q:22) What is meant by occupational structure?

The distribution of population according to different types of occupation is referred to as occupational structure.

Q:23) Describe the 3 classification of occupational structure.

They are 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.

Q:24) How does occupational structure indicate economic development of a country? (What is the relation between occupational structure and development?)

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.

Q:25) What are the improvements made in the health status of people of India?

Death rates have declined from 25 per 1000 population in 1951 to 8.1 per 1000 in 2001 and life expectancy at birth has increased from 36.7 years in 1951 to 64.6 years in 2001.

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.

Q:26) What are the factors affecting health status of people of India?

The per capita calorie consumption is much below the recommended levels in India and malnutrition afflicts a large % of population.

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

Q:27) Why is too much attention and care required for adolescent population?

Adolescent population constitutes 1/5th of the total population of India. Adolescents are generally grouped in the age group of 10-19 yrs. They are the most important resources of the future.

Nutrition requirement of adolescents are higher than those of a normal child or adult.

Poor nutrition can lead to deficiency and stunted growth but in India, the diet available to adolescents is inadequate in all nutrients. A large number of adolescent girls suffer from anemia. Their problems have so far not received adequate attention in the process of development.

Q:28) What are the significant features of NPP 2000?

The NPP 2000 provides a policy framework for imparting free and compulsory education for school up to 14 yrs of age, reducing infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births, achieving universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases, promoting delayed marriage for girls, and making family welfare a people centered programme.

Q:29) What are the measures taken by the NPP 2000 to protect adolescent population?

Besides nutritional requirements, the policy puts greater emphasis on other important needs of adolescence including protection from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

It called for programmes that aim towards encouraging delayed marriage and child bearing, education of adolescence about the risks of unprotected sex, making contraceptive services accessible and affordable, providing food supplements, nutritional services, strengthening legal measures to prevent child marriage.

Q:30) What are the advantages of having a healthy population?

A healthy population only can provide welfare and well-being of a society.

A healthy population only bear healthy mind to have responsible citizens and to contribute economic development of the country.

Q:31) What are the push and pull factors of the rural and urban areas that affect the population of an area?

i) Push factors are the adverse conditions of poverty and unemployment in the rural areas.

ii) Pull factors are the increased employment opportunities and better living conditions in cities.

Q:32) Which are the important components of population composition that affect the process of development?

Age composition, sex ratio, literacy rate, occupational structure, health etc (explain)

Q: 33) What is meant by over population?

A situation when the resources in an area are too less for the size of population.

Q:34) Define the following terms:

i. Population

The total number of people living in a country at a given point of time.

ii. 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.

iii. Birth rate

The number of live births per thousand persons in a year.

iv. Death rate

Number of death per thousand in a year

v. Million plus cities / Mega Cities

Cities with a population of one million and above. There are 35 million plus cities in India .eg. Delhi,Chennai,Mumbai,Bangalore.

vi. Urban Agglomeration (Not required)

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.

vii. Sex Ratio

Number of females per thousand males in the population.

viii. Age composition

Population can be divided according to categories of people of various age groups. Age composition of people is usually expressed in terms of three broad age groups: children below the working age,(below 15 years),persons in working age ,(15-59 years) and old persons above working age(above 59 years).Anyone who is engaged in productive work and has the ability to do so is a part of the working population. The dependent population is in the age group below 15 and above 59 years.