

## 8<sup>th</sup> – Human Resources



People are a nation's greatest resources. Nature's bounty becomes significant only when people find it useful. It is people with their demands and abilities that turn them into resources. People are, therefore, the greatest asset and resource of the nation. Hence human resource is the ultimate resource. Healthy, educated and motivated people develop resources as per their requirements.

### Distribution of Population

The way in which people are spread across the earth surface is known as the pattern of population distribution. More than 90 per cent of the world's population lives in about 10 percent of the land surface. The distribution of population in the world is extremely uneven. Some areas are heavily populated, while some have hardly any people. The way in which the people are spread over the surface of the Earth is known as population distribution. Thickly populated regions of the world are those that usually enjoy an equable climate, where there is adequate rainfall to allow the practice of agriculture, and where the land is flat and the soil is fertile.

Population is low in places where the climate is inhospitable, like the high altitude region, extremely cold zones, sandy deserts and in the dense evergreen forests of the equatorial region.

They also differ in their education level, age and sex. It is therefore necessary to check at regular intervals, the size and other characteristics of population.

CENSUS is the process of taking account of total number of people in a country. In India, the census is taken every 10 year.

### Density of Population

Population density is the number of people living per unit of area of the earth's surface. It is normally expressed as per square km. The population density of the whole world is 45 persons per square km.

On the basis of density of population, the regions of the world can be classified into:

Area of high population density (above 100 persons per square km) The density of population is very high along the fertile river valleys and industrial region of the world.

Areas: Eastern Asia- China, Japan, Korea and Philippines, together account for nearly 25% of the world population.

South Asia- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia together account for another 25% of world population.

Area of moderate population density (50 to 100 persons per square km)

These are the regions found between the densely populated and sparsely populated region.

Areas: The costal parts of Africa, Europe and Asia that surrounds the Mediterranean Sea, central parts of USA, Tropical region of West Africa, temperate regions of Russia, Eastern Europe, Deccan Plateau of South India, parts of Pakistan, Iran and Iraq.

Area of low population density (less than 50 persons per square km)



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Areas of low population density are found where the physical environment and climate conditions are inhospitable and harsh, like the hot and cold deserts and high mountainous tracts. Such conditions are not favorable for human settlements. Areas: Deserts like Sahara, the Kalahari, the Arabian Deserts, the Gobi, Atacama and Great Australian desert are sparsely populated. The northern parts of Russia, Norway's, North America.

### Factors Affecting Distribution Of Population

#### Geographical Factors

**Topography:** people always prefer to live on plains rather than mountains and plateaus because these areas are suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities.

**Climate:** people usually avoid extreme climates that are very hot or very cold like Sahara desert, Polar Regions of Russia, Canada and Antarctica.

**Soil:** fertile soils provide suitable land for agriculture. Fertile plains such as Ganga and Brahmaputra in India.

**Water:** people prefer to live in the areas where fresh water is easily available. The river valleys of the world are densely populated while deserts have sparse population.

**Minerals:** areas with mineral deposits are more populated

Social, cultural factors

**Social:** areas of better housing, education and health facilities are more densely populated.

**Cultural:** places with religion or cultural significance attract people.

Economic factors:

Economic factors include availability of minerals, locations of industries, development means of transport and communication and government policies.

1. **Minerals:** mineral deposits play a dominant role in population distribution. The presence of coal and iron ore in different parts of the world has attracted huge population in these areas because these are key minerals required for iron and steel industry.
2. **Industries:** development of industries in any region has a very favorable impact on employment opportunities. An industrial laborer earns a higher wage than an agricultural labour.
3. **Developed means of transport:** people have settled down in distant places due to the development of efficient system of transport network.
4. **Government policies:** political unrest in a region or discriminatory policies of a government against a group of people has made millions of refugees.

### Population Change

The population change refers to change in the number of people during a specific time. The world population has not been stable. It has increased manifold. This is actually due to changes in the numbers of births and deaths. Births are usually measured using the birth rate i.e. the numbers of live births per 1,000 people. Birth rate is a measure of the number of live birth.



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Deaths are usually measured using the death rate i.e. the number of deaths per 1.000 people. Migrations are the movement of people in and out of an area. Births and deaths are the natural causes of population change. The difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country is called the natural growth rate. Migration is another way by which population size changes. People may move within a country or between countries. Emigrants are people who leave a country; immigrants are those who arrive in a country. Countries like the United States of America and Australia have gained in numbers by in-migration or immigration. India is an example of a country that has experienced a loss in population numbers due to out-migration or emigration. The general trend of international migrations is from the less developed nations to the more developed nations in search of better employment opportunities’.

### Population Composition

To understand the role of people as a resource we need to know more about their qualities. People vary greatly in their age, gender, literacy level, health condition, occupation and income level. It is essential to understand these characteristics’ of the people. Population composition refers to the structure of the population. The composition of population helps us to know how many are males or females, which age group they belong to, how educated they are and what type of occupations they are employed in, what their income levels and health conditions are.

**Sex ratio** is defined as number of females per thousand males. In the European and African countries the number of females is more than males. In India, the sex ratio is not balanced. Except in Kerala, in all the other states of India female population is less than the male population.

**Literacy** is another important component of an economically productive population. According to the UN, ‘literacy’ to read and write with a certain level of understanding. Developing countries like Bangladesh have low rates of literacy, while developed countries of the world like Russia and USA show a high literacy rate.

**Life Expectancy** at birth can be defined as the average number of the years to be lived by a group of people born in the same year. The life expectancy of a country depends on the health conditions of people, which depends, in turn, on both the standard of living and the nutrients intake. The life expectancy (both sexes, at birth) of the world is 67.2 years (65 years for males and 69.5 years for females) for 2005-2010 according to the United Nations World Population Prospects 2006. It ranges from a high of 82.4 years in Japan to a low of 32.2 in Swaziland. India has a life expectancy rate of 68.59 years (66 for the men and 71 for the women). The future of every country depends on its skilled, spirited and hopeful young people. We in India are lucky to have such a resource. It is important to invest in the health, education and skill development of these young people and help them explore every opportunity to become able highly productive.

