

9th – POPULATION I



People are the nation's most valuable resource. A well-educated healthy population provides potential power to the nation. The people are important to develop economy and society, they make resources and use them. The people are themselves a resource with varying qualities. A census is an official enumeration (numbering) of population done periodically. First census in India (partial) was done in 1872. While, the first complete census done in 1881. It is done every 10 years. The recent census was done in 2011. The census of India provides information regarding the population. The three aspects concerned about population are as follows:

1. Size and distribution of population: It refers to the total number of people country and where they are located.
2. Population growth and processes of population change: It refers to how the population has grown and changes in its composition.
3. Characteristics or qualities of the population: It refers to age, sex-ratio, levels, occupational structure, and health conditions of people.

Population size and distribution: The arrangement or a spread of people of a country in different places is Population distribution. Size of population and its distribution can be studied under two heads— ONE population size and distribution by numbers and other is population distribution by density.

India's Population Size and Distribution by Numbers: As per 2011 Census, population of India stood at 1,210 million, which is 17.5% total world population. It is unevenly distributed over the various states, with Uttar Pradesh having the highest population (199 million accounts for about 16.49 per cent of the country's population) and Sikkim the lowest population (0.6 million accounts for about 0.05 per cent of the country's population). Among Union Territories, Delhi has the highest (16.75 million) and Lakshadweep the lowest (64,429) population.

Almost half of India's population lives in just five states comprising Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, while Rajasthan being largest state accounted for only 6% of the total population.

India's Population Distribution by Density: The uneven population distribution can be better judged by the population density in the various states. **The number of people living per unit area (sq. km) in an area (state or country) is called population density of that area.** India's is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. After Bangladesh and Japan, it is the third most densely populated country. India's population density in 2001 was 324 persons per sq km (this increased to 382 persons per sq km in the 2011 Census), with West Bengal having the highest density of 904 persons per sq km and Arunachal Pradesh the lowest with only 13 persons per sq. km. According to 2011 Census, Bihar has the highest population density 1,102 persons per sq km and Arunachal Pradesh having the lowest population density of 17 persons per sq km.

On the basis of population density whole country is divided into three regions:

1. High population density states: these states are characterized by flat plains with fertile soils and abundant rainfall. E.g. states of Northern plains and Kerala.
2. Moderate population density states: these states are characterized by hilly and rocky nature of terrain, moderate to low rainfall, shallow and less fertile soil. E.g. Assam and most of peninsular states.





3. Low population density states States with low population density below 250 people per sq. km are characterized by rugged terrain (mountainous and desert) and unfavorable climatic condition. E.g. Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir etc.

Population growth and processes of population change: Due to births, deaths and migrations the number, distribution and composition of population change continuously.

Population Growth: The change in the number of people of a country or state during a specific period of time is called growth of population. Usually, it is mostly calculated at the interval of 10 years. The change can be expressed either in terms of absolute numbers or in terms of annual growth rate.

Absolute Increase of Population: It means the absolute numbers added each year or in each decade in the population. It is obtained by simply subtracting the earlier population (e.g. that of 1991) from the later population (e.g. that of 2001).

Annual Growth Rate of Population: The rate, at which the number of individuals in a population increases in 1 year as a fraction of the initial population, is called annual growth rate of population. It is expressed in terms of per cent per annum. For example, a rate of increase of 2% per annum means that there was an increase of 2 persons for every 100 persons in the initial population.

Population Growth Rate since Independence: India's annual growth rate of population increased steadily till 1981. Since then, then the annual rate of population growth started declining. Still the population growth of India in 1990s was 182 million (in terms of number). This addition of people was larger than ever before. In spite of decreasing annual growth rate (in per cent), the largest addition in people (in terms of number) is due to the large population the country. A low growth rate results a large absolute increase due to very high population. However, the declining growth rate is a positive indicator for the efforts of birth control but the total additions to the population continue to grow. If this rate of increase continues, then India will surpass China by 2045 to become the most populous country in the world.

Processes of Population Change/Growth: Population changes due to the processes of births, deaths and migrations. The natural increase of population or the growth rate is the difference between birth rates and death rates.

Birth Rate: The number of live births per thousand persons in a year is called birth rate. The birth rate is a major component of population growth as in India; it has been always higher than the death rate.

Death Rate: The number of deaths per thousand persons in a year is called death rate. The main cause of the rate of growth of the Indian population has been the rapid decline in death rates. There has been a rapid decline in death rates during the last 50 years due to better healthcare and nutrition, which have made this factor also important for growth of population.