

## 2 THE WORLD POPULATION:



- **Population Density:** Each unit of land has limited capacity to support people living on it. Population density refers to the ratio between numbers of people to the size of land in a country. It is usually measured in persons per sq km.

$$\text{Density of Population} = \frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Area}}$$

- **Growth of Population:** Change of population in particular area between two points of time is known as growth of population.
- **Growth Rate** of Population: This is the change of population expressed in percentage.
- **Natural Growth** of Population: This is the population increased by difference between births and deaths in a particular region between two points of time. Natural Growth = Births – Deaths
- **Actual Growth** of Population : This is Births – Deaths + In Migration – Out Migration.

### DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION

Q.1 Describe the **uneven** patterns of population distribution in the world.

Ans. The term population distribution refers to the way people are spaced over the earth's surface

1. George B. Cressey "Asia has many places where people are few and few place where people are very many"
2. Broadly, 90 per cent of the world population lives in about 10 per cent of its land area.
3. The 10 most populous countries of the world contribute about 60 per cent of the world's population.
4. Of these 10 countries, 6 are located in Asia. E.g. China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Russia.
5. Asia has 59.5% of world's population.

### FACTORS OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY

Q.2 Explain with suitable examples any five geographical and economic or social and cultural factors which influence the population distribution and density in the world.

Ans. The factors are grouped into three categories:

i. **Geographical factors:**

(i) ***Availability of water:***

- a. People prefer to live in areas where fresh water is easily available for drinking, and for cattle, crops, industries and navigation.
- b. E.g. it is because of this that river valleys are among the most densely populated areas of the world.

(ii) ***Landforms:***

- a. People prefer living on flat plains and gentle slopes rather than on mountainous and hilly areas. This is because plain areas are favourable for the production of crops and to build roads and industries.
- b. Whereas, the mountainous and hilly areas are unfavourable for the development of transport network, agriculture and industries.
- c. E.g. the Ganga plains are among the most densely populated areas of the world while the mountains zones in the Himalayas are barely populated.

- (iii) **Climate:**
  - a. Areas with a comfortable climate, where there is not much seasonal variation have high population.
  - b. Whereas, extreme climates such as very hot or cold, deserts and heavy rainfall are uncomfortable for human living and have low population.
  - c. E.g. Mediterranean regions were inhabited from early periods in history due to their pleasant climate.
- (iv) **Soils:**
  - a. Fertile soils are important for agricultural and related activities. Therefore, areas which have fertile loamy soils have more people living on them as these can support intensive agriculture.
  - b. E.g. Thar desert is thinly populated due to poor soil fertility.
- ii. **Economic Factors**
  - (i) **Minerals:**
    - a. Areas with rich mineral deposits attract Mining and industrial activities therefore skilled and semi-skilled workers move to these areas for employment and make them densely populated.
    - b. E.g. Katanga Zambia copper belt in Africa is one such good example.
  - (ii) **Urbanisation:**
    - a. People migrate in the cities for better employment opportunities, educational and medical facilities, and better means of transport and communication and good civic amenities.
    - b. Mega cities of the world continue to attract large number of migrants every year. E.g.
  - (iii) **Industrialisation:**
    - a. Industrial belts provide job opportunities and attract large numbers of people. These include not just factory workers but also transport operators, shopkeepers, bank employees, doctors, teachers and other service providers.
    - b. E.g. the Kobe-Osaka region of Japan is thickly populated because of the presence of a number of industries.
- iii. **Social and Cultural Factors**
  - (i) **Religious:**
    - a. Some places attract more people because they have religious or cultural significance.
    - b. E.g. in USA people of different nationalities prefer their own regions where common culture and traditions are present.
  - (ii) **Political unrest and wars:**
    - a. In the same way – people tend to move away from places where there is social and political unrest.
    - b. E.g. refugees from Ethiopia, Sudan, Sri Lanka have moved out from their own countries.
  - (iii) **Government policies:**
    - a. Many a time governments offer incentives to people to live in sparsely populated areas or move away from overcrowded places.

#### COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH/CHANGE

Q.3 Explain three components/factors responsible for population growth in the world.

Ans. There are three factors responsible for population change.

1. **Birth Rate:**

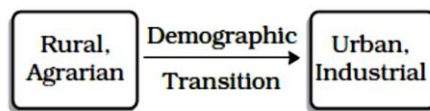
- a. The crude birth rate (CBR) is expressed as number of live births in a year per thousand of population. It is calculated as:  $CBR = \frac{B_i}{P} \times 1000$
- b. If the births exceed deaths, within a given year there will be a net population increase.

2. Death rate:
  - a. CDR is expressed in terms of number of deaths in a particular year per thousand of population in a particular region.
  - b. If the death exceeds births, within a given year there will be a net population decrease.
3. Migration: The permanent or semi-permanent change of a person's place of residence is called migration. Immigration increases population of a place whereas emigration decreases population of a place.

### DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY

Q.4 Define the term Demographic cycle/Theory.

Ans. This theory describes and predicts the future population of any area. Population of any region changes from high births and high deaths to low births and low deaths as society progresses from rural agricultural and illiterate to urban industrial and literate society. These changes occur in stages which are collectively known as the **demographic cycle**.



Q.5 Describe the three-stage model of Demographic Transition Theory.

Ans. As a country changes from a rural society into an urban society there are changes in its demographic trends. These changes are represented in three stages, they are:

1. **Primitive Demographic growth**:
  - a. In this stage the birth and death rates are high because people reproduce more to compensate for the deaths due to epidemics and variable food supply.
  - b. Life expectancy is low. The population growth rate is slow.
  - c. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture. People are mostly illiterate and have low levels of technology.
  - d. It is basically found in primitive agriculture dominated countries.
2. **Expanding or youthful demographic**:
  - a. In this stage birth rate remains high.
  - b. Death rate decline due to technological advancements in health and improvements in sanitation conditions.
  - c. Because of this gap between death and birth rate the net addition to population is high and the population growth is rapid.
3. **Late expanding demographic**:
  - a. In this stage the birth and death rates declines.
  - b. The population becomes urbanised, literate and has high technical knowhow and deliberately controls the family size.
  - c. The population is either stable or grows slowly.

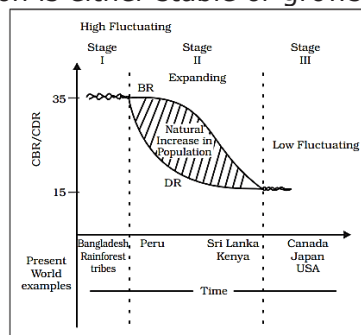


Fig. 2.2: Demographic Transition Theory