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Gg. 122 Population and Settlement Geography

**Unit 1 :- Introduction of Population
Geography**

• presented by,
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Introduction of Population Geography

Introduction:

A population is the number of living things that live together in the same place.

- A city population is the number of people living in that city. These people are called inhabitants or residents. The population includes all individuals that live in that certain area. Population density is the average number of people in a place.
- Urban areas such as big cities have a high population density. People there live close to each other. In areas with a low population density, people usually live far away from each other, such as in rural areas out in the countryside.
- Usually population refers to the number of humans in a certain area. Sometimes it is used about animals. The maximum population that can be supported in an area is called the carrying capacity.

Population Geography:

Population is not the study of population but it is meant for the population awareness and population consciousness of the bad effects of population growth and Its remedial measures.

- It is the education about population growth and its remedial measures.
- It is the education about population matter like fertility, mortality and migration and its remedial measures to check the rapid growth of population.
- It aims at the growth of the qualitative life of the people. In the various fields of healthcare, a population study is a study of a group of individuals taken from the general population who share a common characteristic, such as age, sex, or health condition. This group may be studied for different reasons, such as their response to a drug or risk of getting a disease.

- Population studies Major areas studied include broad population dynamics; fertility and family dynamics: health, aging, and mortality; and human capital and labour markets. Researchers in population studies also focus on methodology.
- A population study is interdisciplinary area of study: scholars from demography, epidemiology, sociology, economics, anthropology, and various other disciplines study populations.

Meaning:

The geographical study of population involving its spatial distribution, dynamics, and movement. As a sub discipline, it has taken at least three distinct but related forms, the most recent of which appears increasingly integrated with human geography in general.

- Pioneered by Glenn Trewartha, Wilbur Zelinsky, William A. V. Clark, and others in the USA, as well as Jacqueline Beujeau- Garnier and Pierre George in France, it focused on the systematic study of the distribution of population as a whole and the spatial variation in population characteristics such as fertility and mortality.

Definition:-

According to Trewartha, population geography is concerned with the understanding of the regional differences in the earth's covering of people.

John I. Clarke, suggested that population geography is mainly concerned with demonstrating how spatial variation in population and its various attributes like composition, migration and growth are related to the spatial variation in the nature of places.

Wilbur Zelinsky defines it as “a science that deals with the ways in which geographic character of places is formed by and, in turn, reacts upon a set of population phenomena that vary within it through both space and time interacting one with another, and with numerous non-demographic phenomena.”

In short precise and comprehensive definition of Population Geography
“ Population Geography studies the distribution of population over the surface of the earth along with its characteristics and relation with geographical personality of the region.”

Nature of Population Geography:

In the expression 'population geography', the term 'population' signifies the subject matter and 'geography' refers to the perspective of investigation. Population geography implies the investigation into human covering of the earth and its various facets with reference to physical and cultural environment. Although population geography is, in the early 21st century, a well-established subfield of human geography, this was not always the case.

- G. T. Trewartha, 1953 is recognized as the original call for the establishment of a population geography subfield within the discipline. Since most of the world humanity lives in the less developed parts of the world, a significantly larger proportion of the net addition in world population during the first half of the twentieth century came from this part.

- The need for a more detailed account of demographic characteristics resulted in a switch over from macro to micro level studies, which, in turn, facilitated population mapping.
- World population continued to grow at increasing pace. The growing availability of population data after the Second World War facilitated mapping of the other demographic attributes pertaining to different regions of the world. There was a growing consciousness among the people regarding population expansion and its effects on economic development.
- The less developed countries had also begun experiencing redistribution of population within their boundaries from rural to urban areas. The emergence of large cities and their manifold problems became a compelling focus for research by geographers.

Trewartha proposed a very comprehensive outline of the content of the sub-discipline, which many subsequent geographers seem to have adhered to.

Broadly speaking, the concerns of population geography, according to Trewartha, can be grouped into three categories:

1) A historical (pre-historic and post-historic) account of population: Trewartha suggested that where direct statistical evidence is not available, geographers should adopt indirect methods, and collaborate with anthropologists, demographers and economic historians.

2) Dynamics of number, size, distribution and growth patterns: In Trewartha opinion, an analysis of world population patterns, population dynamics in terms of mortality and fertility, area aspect of over and under population, distribution of population by world regions and settlement types and migration of population (both international and inter-regional) form an important part of analysis in population geography.

3) Qualities of population and their regional distribution: He suggested two broad groups **physical qualities** (e.g., race, sex, age, health etc.), and **socio-economic qualities** (e.g. religion, education, occupation, marital status, stages of economic development, customs, habits etc.)

Population geography studies the formation of the population in different territories in terms of structure, density, specific clustering (cities and rural communities), and the conditions that determine the particular forms of settlement.

The main concern of population geography revolves round the following three aspects of human population:

1. Size and distribution, including the rural-urban distribution of population
2. Population dynamics past and present trends in growth and its spatial manifestation; components of population change, viz., fertility, mortality and migration.
3. Population composition and structure: They include a set of demographic characteristics (such as age-sex structure, marital status etc.), social characteristics (such as caste, racial/ethnic, religious and linguistic composition of population; literacy and levels of educational attainment etc.), and economic characteristics (such as workforce participation rate and workforce structure etc.)

- Population geography receives important primary data from demography, which reveals the geographic aspects of natural and migration population change.
- Population geography also uses field teams for observation and investigation. It studies the physical forms of inhabitation (types of residences according to spatial differences, the nature of planning and engineering for populated points, and so on), because all of these features are reflected in the regional characteristics of the physical makeup of cities and rural settlements.
- The location of the population both throughout the country and within its regions and the territorial organization of the population are basically determined by the nature and geography of production.
- The population density of individual populated points is usually related to their national economic functions, and the population density of regions and reflects the degree of their economic development.

- At the same time the established location of population exerts in its turn an influence on the geography of production. The natural environment's influence on settlement occurs primarily through production. It can be seen that the study of population is multidisciplinary in nature, involving an understanding of biology, genetics, mathematics, statistics, economics, sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, politics, geography, medicine, public health, ecology, etc

Scope of Population Geography

The scope of population studies is quite wide. The quantitative aspect is concerned with quantitative study of the size, structure characteristics and territorial distribution of human populations and the changes occurring in them. Under the planned socialist economy, the practical tasks of population geography include quantitative and qualitative assessment of labor resources and a search for the forms of settlement most responsive to the requirements of production and the cultural and domestic needs of the population.

- A study of the conditions of habitation in different natural geographic regions reveals the connections between population geography and medical geography. Research on ethnography and the economics of labor is closely associated, and sometimes intertwined, with population geography.

- The development of methods of making population maps is very important. Hence, while describing, comparing or explaining the determinants and consequences of population phenomena, social phenomena have to be taken into consideration.
- Population geography has a special place in economic geography because people, as the main productive force, are employed in all economic sectors and, up to a point, their location has an all encompassing significance.
- The population is at one and the same time the producer and consumer of material goods.
- Population geography studies, systems and structures the forms of settlement in relation to the spatial nature of production, the characteristics of the geographical environment, the economic geographical condition of population employment, and population migrations.
- Together with differences in the natural growth of population, migrations determine the course of territorial redistribution of population.

- A prominent place is given to the classification and typology of populated points.
- One statement that can be made without reservation is that the boundary between population geography and demography, sociology, or economics can be difficult to locate.
- The consensus is that demographers focus more on fertility research, whereas population geographers tend to focus on migration. With the advent of more-sophisticated methods, in particular those related to geographical information systems (GIS) or remote sensing, and the ever-increasing availability of data at multiple spatial scales, the fundamental importance of space and geography has become more mainstream in population studies across the social sciences.
- This evolution is apparent in the development of a multidisciplinary subfield called spatial demography that is neither traditional population geography nor pure demography.

Sources of Population Data:

Population data are the indicators of the various information of population like birth, death, migration, age, sex, marital status, religion, literacy, language, occupation, etc. Such data help to formulate and implement the various policies and planning in a country. Economic, social, cultural and political development takes place on the basis of the data. Population data can be found from various sources.

1) Census

2) Registration

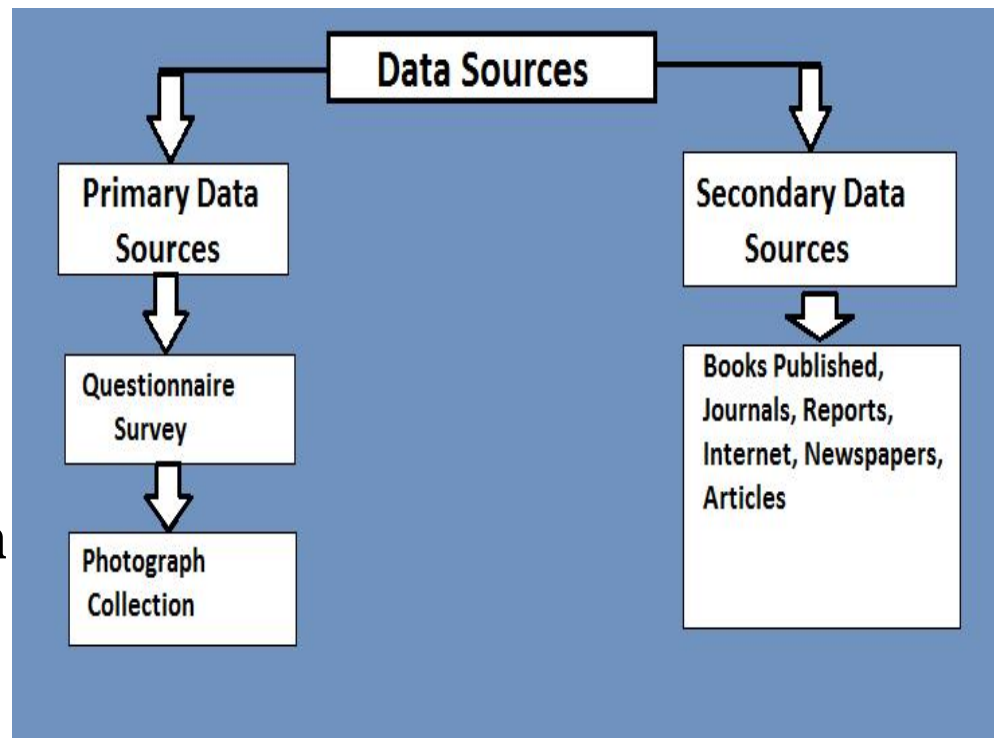
A) Vital Registration

B) Population Register

C) Other Records

D) International Publication

3) Demographic Sample Surveys



1. The Census:

The most important source of demographic data is the census. The word “census” is derived from the Latin word “censere” which means “to assess”.

Census is the single largest source of data for population studies all over the world. Though modern census is the phenomenon of a more recent time in past – in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, evidences indicate that enumeration of people were carried out in different parts of the world even during the ancient time. The purpose of such enumeration was, however, very limited, i.e., tax collection, or military conscription, or both.

A census has the following features:

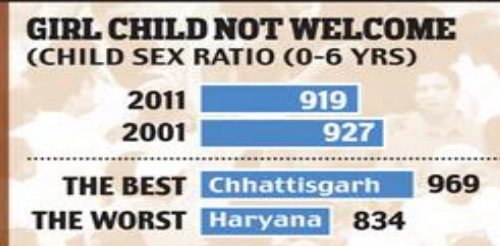
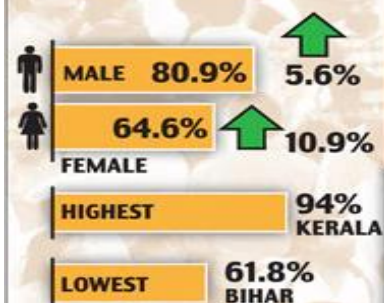
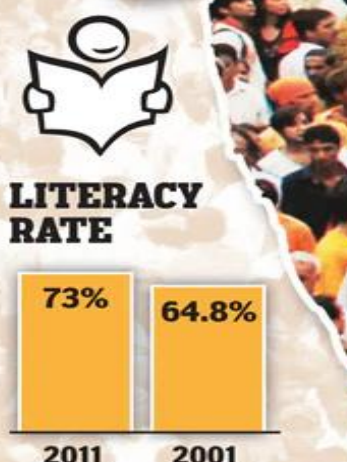
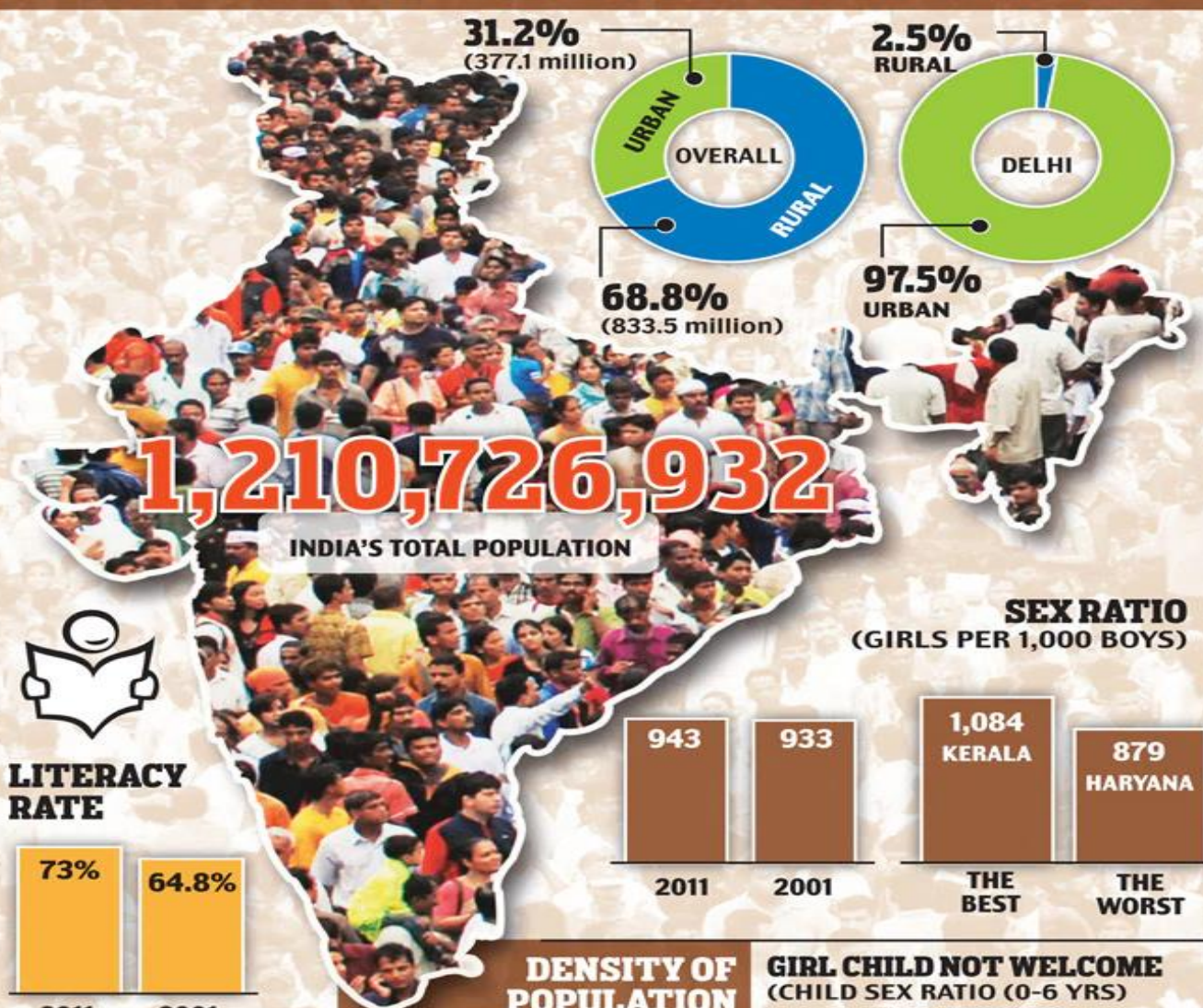
1. A census is usually conducted after an interval of 10 years.
2. The census covers the entire country or a part of it.
3. The census operations are completed within specified dates.
4. It is organised and conducted by the Government through the Census Commission of the country.

5. For conducting the census a reference period is determined by the Census Commission at that point of time.
6. A household or family is treated as a unit. However in large census operations, migrant individuals and homeless persons are also enumerated at night at their places of rest or sleep.
7. Before starting the census operations, some preliminary steps are taken by the Census Commission such as preparation of schedules, lists of households in each area, training of enumerators, etc.
8. The filled up census schedules are collected, examined and analysed statistically by the Census Commission.
9. The census data are published for circulation.
10. The census operations involve collection of information from households from door to door by enumerators. In some countries, schedules are sent by post and the required information is collected.
11. A census is a process whereby information is collected relating to age, sex, marital status, occupation, education etc. from people residing in a country.

12. Every country is legally bound to undertake a census after an interval of 10 years and people are bound to cooperate and provide the required information.

Uses of Census:

1. It provides primary population data relating to age, sex, marital status, economic activities, occupations, migration, literacy, etc.
2. Population data throw light on the socio-economic problems of the country such as the status of women, male-female sex ratio, population density, literacy level, urbanisation, living standards, etc.
3. These data help researchers, administrators, planners and social organisations to suggest and adopt measures to solve the various problems.
4. They are highly useful for making population projections.
5. Census data are used for carrying out sample surveys.
6. They guide the city planners in planning measures for the future growth of cities regarding their future needs relating to housing, transport, flyovers, sanitation, water, educational institutions, etc.



CASTE STORIES

Individual ethnic groups: 1,241

ST population: 104.3 million; up by 23.7% since 2001

SC population: 201.4 million; up by 20%

2. Registration :

Another source of population data is the registration of life or vital statistics. Every person is required by law to register with a specified authority such demographic events as birth, death, marriage, divorce, etc. Unlike the census, registration of vital events is a continuous process throughout the year.

It is an important source of information about citizenship, marital status, succession rights and settlement of disputes regarding birth and death.

Registration is a secondary source of demographic data which is available from four sources:

- A) Vital Registration;**
- B) Population Register;**
- C) Other Records, and**
- D) International Publications.**

A) Vital Registration:

- Recording of vital events (or vital statistics) like births, deaths, marriages, divorces, etc. is obligatory on the part of every citizen in a country. For instance, the birth of a child has got to be registered with the municipal corporation of the town where the child is born in India.
- Similarly, the occurrence of a death is required to be registered.

B) Population Register:

- This is another secondary source of collecting population data. A number of European and Asian countries like Belgium, Sweden, Korea, Israel, etc. maintain permanent population register for administrative and legal purposes.
- It contains the names, addresses, age, sex, etc. of every citizen, of those who migrate to other countries and who enter the country. The population registers helps in verifying the correctness of the census figures for that year.

C) Other Records:

- Besides the population register, there are other records which are secondary sources of demographic data in developed countries. They maintain population records to meet social security schemes like unemployment insurance and allowance, old age pension, maternity allowance, etc.
- In some countries, insurance companies maintain life tables relating to births and deaths and population trends. Selective demographic data are also available from electoral lists, income tax payers' lists, telephone subscribers' lists, etc. Though such administrative data are limited, they are helpful in providing for carrying out sample surveys.

D) International Publications:

- Other sources of demographic data for the world and different countries are the United Nations Demographic Year Book and Statistical Year Book. The World Health Organisation (WHO) publishes a monthly journal Epidemiological and Vital Records which gives data on public health and mortality of different countries.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its Human Development Report and the World Bank in its World Development Report publish annually demographic data relating to population growth, projections, fertility, mortality, health, etc. for countries of the world.

3. Demographic Sample Surveys:

- Demographic sample surveys form another important source of population data. In sample surveys data are obtained from selected samples and the extent of statistical error in the data is minimized by regulating the size of the samples. The data thus obtained have several uses such as bringing up-to-date the results of a complete count taken some time in past, checking the accuracy and supplementing the data of current complete count etc.
- The collection of data through sample surveys has many advantages over periodic complete counts. It requires a smaller number of staff or interviewers, and thus, is less expensive. With the help of more skilled interviewers and properly designed questionnaires, information on some specific topics can be obtained in detail through sample surveys, which are ordinarily not possible in periodic complete counts. The data obtained through a sample survey are more reliable. Further, sample surveys can be conducted more often and questions asked can be varied from time to time.

- Despite these advantages, sample surveys cannot replace the complete counts. Sample surveys and periodic complete counts are basically complementary to each other. An efficient sampling requires stratification, and this can be achieved only if there is a suitable reference framework based on a recent complete count of some sort. Likewise, sampling becomes indispensable at every stage of census enumeration: at the planning stage, in the enumeration itself, in the course of processing and tabulation of data, and in the post-enumeration checks of the accuracy of the data.

The sampling method has certain limitations.

1. It is highly subjective and it is possible to arrive at different data with different samples of the same population.
2. There are bound to be errors in coverage, classification and sampling of population data.
3. As the survey requires many surveyors who may not be efficient and sincere, it is subject to large errors.
4. If the informants in the sample do not cooperate with the surveyors, the survey will not give accurate results.

The important sources of vital statistics in India are:

1. Population Census
2. Civil Registration System
3. Demographic Sample Surveys such as those conducted by the National Sample Surveys Organization(NSSO)
4. Sample Registration System (SRS)
5. Health Surveys, such as National Family Health Surveys, (NFHS)
6. District Level Household Surveys (DLHS-RCH) conducted for assessing progress under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme..



Thank You