

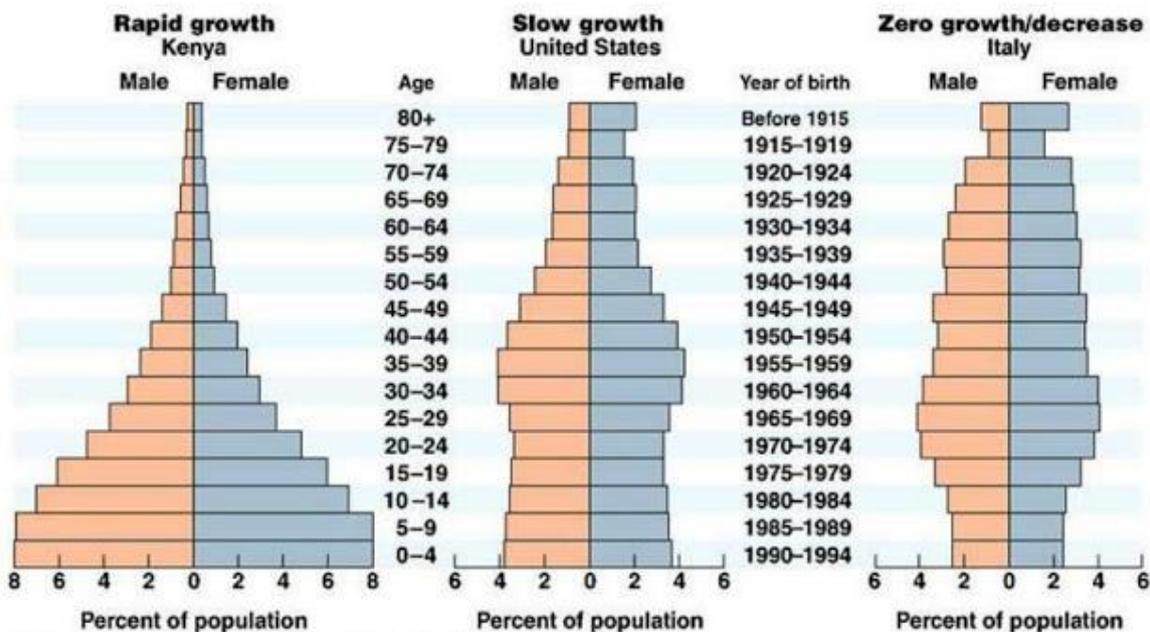
Age -sex composition of population

When we study the population of any area, the population is divided into groups according to age and sex to arrive at meaningful conclusions. Age group of population is divided into three types.

- They are- :
- 1) Children (0 to 15)years
 - 2) Young (15-59) years
 - 3) Old (60 and above)

Age-sex pyramid is the most effective tool to demonstrate the age sex composition of various countries. Males are shown on the left-hand side and females are shown in the right-hand side. They may be measured by count or as a percentage of the total population. Age sex pyramid shows the overall age distribution of population, an indication of the reproductive capabilities and likelihood of the continuation of a species.

Three Shapes of Population Pyramids



In the first figure, the age sex composition of Kenya (developing

country) is shown. Here the base is broad showing more number of children and it narrows when it reaches the top. The second figure is of USA . Here the base is narrow compared to the first one and the share of younger population is more and the share of older population is little bit higher compared to the population of Kenya. In the last figure the share of older population is relatively more compared to the previous two figures. In this figure the share of the children is lowest.

- 1) The population pyramid gives a clear picture of how a country is passing from high to low fertility rates. If the shape of the pyramid has a broad base this shows high fertility rate. In such a case the older population is declining with age due to a combination of mortality and an increasing in the number of births over time.
- 2) Population with a high proportion of children and or elderly people have a higher dependency ratio.
- 3) Population pyramid can even give insight on the economic status of a country from the age stratification since the distribution of supplies are not evenly distributed through a population.