



People are the nation's greatest resource. Nature's beauty becomes significant only when people find it useful. People turn them into resources according to their demand and abilities. Thus human resource is the ultimate resource. Healthy, educated and inspiring people develop resources according to their requirement.

Human resource is not evenly distributed over the world like other resources. They differ in their educational level, age, gender, numbers and characteristics.

Distribution of Population

The manner in which the people are spread across the earth is called the pattern of population distribution or population division. The world's population in 1999 AD was about six billion. More than 90 per cent of the world's population live in about 30 per cent of the land's surface. The distribution of population in the world is very uneven. Some are densely populated and some areas are very sparsely populated. Southeast Asia, Europe and Northeast North America are densely populated. High latitude regions, tropical deserts, mountains and tropical forests are sparsely populated. More number of people live in Northern Hemisphere as compared to the Southern Hemisphere. About three fourths of the world's population live in Asia and Africa. World's 60 per cent population live in only 10 countries.

Density of Population

Population density is the number of people living in a unit geographic area of the earth's surface. It is normally expressed as per square kilometer. Population density can also be expressed according to this formula :

$$\text{Density of Population} = \frac{\text{Total population of the country}}{\text{Total area of the country}}$$

India has an average population density of 382 persons per square kilometre as per the census of year 2011 whereas the world average population density is 54 (2011), persons per square kilometre. The highest population density is in South Central Asia. Apart from this, it is in East Asia and South East Asia respectively.

Know This				
Population Density (per sq km) in various states of India in the year 2011				
Sr. No.	India/State/Union Territory	Population Density	Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate
	India	382	943	74.04
(1)	Jammu and Kashmir	124	889	68.74
(2)	Himachal Pradesh	123	972	83.78
(3)	Punjab	551	895	76.68

(4)	Chandigarh	9258	818	86.43
(5)	Uttarakhand	189	963	79.63
(6)	Haryana	573	879	76.64
(7)	Delhi NCR	11320	868	84.94
(8)	Rajasthan	200	928	67.06
(9)	Uttar Pradesh	829	912	69.72
(10)	Bihar	1106	918	63.82
(11)	Sikkim	86	890	82.20
(12)	Arunachal Pradesh	17	938	66.95
(13)	Nagaland	119	931	80.11
(14)	Manipur	115	985	79.85
(15)	Mizoram	52	976	91.58
(16)	Tripura	350	960	87.75
(17)	Meghalaya	132	989	75.48
(18)	Assam	398	958	73.18
(19)	West Bengal	1028	950	77.08
(20)	Jharkhand	414	948	67.63
(21)	Odisha	270	979	73.45
(22)	Chattisgarh	189	991	71.04
(23)	Madhya Pradesh	236	931	70.63
(24)	Gujarat	308	919	79.31
(25)	Daman and Diu	2191	618	87.07



(26)	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	700	774	77.65
(27)	Maharashtra	365	929	82.91
(28)	Andhra Pradesh	308	993	67.66
(29)	Karnataka	319	973	75.60
(30)	Goa	394	973	87.40
(31)	Lakshadweep	2149	946	92.28
(32)	Kerala	860	1084	93.91
(33)	Tamil Nadu	555	996	80.33
(34)	Puducherry	2547	1037	86.55
(35)	Andaman and Nicobar	46	876	86.27

(Source : Ministry of Census of India Year: 2011)

Activity

Prepare a bar-graph of population density of any five states on the basis of information given in the above table.

Factors Affecting Distribution of Population

Geographical Factors :

Topography :

Man has always preferred to live in the plains rather than in the mountains and plateaus, because these areas are suitable for agriculture, industry and service activities. The Gangetic plain is the most densely populated area in the world, while mountains like the Andes, the Alps and the Himalayas are sparsely populated.

Climate

People usually avoid to live in extreme hot or cold places like Sahara desert, polar region of Russia, Canada and Antarctica.

Soil

Fertile soil is suitable for agriculture. The fertile plains such as Ganges and Brahmaputra in India, the Hwang-ho and Yangtze in China and the Nile in Egypt are densely populated.

Water

People prefer to live in the areas where fresh water is easily available. The river valleys of the world are densely populated. While desert areas are very sparsely populated.

Mineral

Mineral rich regions are more populous. Diamond mines of South Africa and discovery of oil in the Middle East lead people to settle in these areas.

Social, Cultural and Economic factors

Social factor : Areas with good housing, education and health facilities are more densely populated. For example, Pune.

Cultural Factor : Place with religious or cultural significance attract people. Examples are Varanasi, Jerusalem and Vatican City.

Economic Factors : Industrial areas provide employment opportunities. Large number of the people are attracted to these areas. Osaka in Japan and Mumbai in India are both densely populated.

Distribution of Population

India's population is distributed unevenly. The plains are more populated than the mountains, deserts and forests. Usually states having large area are more populated, but this rule applies on presence of plain land particularly. As a result, the population is higher in the riverine states, district and urban areas. If we look at the state wise population distribution in India, lot of disparity is there. This is especially so, because there is a lot of diversity in the areas of the states and presence of resources. Example; small Himalayan state Sikkim has a population of only 6.10 lakh, while Uttar Pradesh has a population of 19.98 crore. There are ten states with more than 50 million population. Only five states - Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have more than half the country's population. This does not mean that the population of a state with a large area is huge. Rajasthan is the largest state in India in terms of area but only about 5.66 per cent of the country's population live there. Similarly, in terms of area, Madhya Pradesh is the second largest state in the country where about 6 per cent of the country's population live. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh has an area of 7.26 per cent, with a population of about 16.51 per cent, and Bihar, with an area of 2.6 per cent, has a population of about 8.60 per cent.

World Agricultural and Industrial sector

There is a lot of imbalance in India's business structure. Even today, about two thirds of our population is dependent on agriculture. These include fisheries, forestry and animal husbandry. In countries like the USA, only 5 per cent of the population is involved in such primary activities. In Japan, the figure is slightly higher, but less than 10 per cent. In developed countries almost one fourths of its workers are engaged in industrial sector. This sector is very important because it is directly responsible for growth value. It increases national wealth and income. In India, only 10 per cent of the population is engaged in this important sector. Lack of capital and modern technology are huge obstacles. One fourths of the total labour force in our country is associated with the third sector i.e. social facilities like health, education, transport, communication, banking, insurance, entertainment, arts etc.

Thus, it is clear that under employment prevails in very large part of agriculture sector. We will have to connect them to another sector, which will increase the gross national product resulting in increase in national income. This is the only way to improve the living standard of the people of our country.



The proportion of the population dependent on agriculture in our country is approximately 66 per cent. The proportion of people engaged in secondary and tertiary occupations is about 13 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. India has more young population compared to other countries. As a result, India is expected to grow by 32 per cent in 20 years. Achieving quality health, education and training skills at a high level of development can lead to an increase in growth potential with demographic benefits. Further, favourable environment should be created which not only leads to rapid growth in the economy but also provides excellent employment opportunities to meet the aspirations of the youth. Thus, we can say that the demographic benefit will give the young population an opportunity for human resource transformation. 19.4 per cent of India's population is young, whereas in Gujarat it is 19.45 per cent of the population.

Sex Ratio

The ratio of females per 1000 males is called the sex ratio which can be expressed by the formula as follows :

$$\text{Sex ratio} = \frac{\text{Population of Female}}{\text{Population of Male}} \times 1000$$

The proportion of males is high in our country. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the sex ratio in India was 972 females per 1000 males (1901 AD). In the following decades, that rate continued to decline. It has improved a bit in the last decade. It has increased to 943 in 2011 AD. Kerala has a sex ratio of 1084 while Puducherry has 1037. Here the sex ratio is in favour of women.

(Source : Ministry of Census of India Year : 2011)

Literacy Rate

If any person in the age group of 7 years or above can read and write any one language then S/he is considered as literate.

$$\text{Literacy rate} = \frac{\text{Population of literate person aged seven years and above}}{\text{Population of 7 years age or more}} \times 100$$

Literacy is usually associated with going to school, whether formal or informal. The literacy rate in India has risen from 5 per cent (1901) to 74.04 per cent (2011). About 82.1 per cent of men and 65.4 per cent of women in our country are literate today. Kerala has literacy rate of 93.91 per cent which is higher than any other state in the country, followed by Lakshadweep with 92.28 per cent and Mizoram with 91.58 per cent. In our country, Bihar has the lowest literacy rate of 63.82 per cent. There is a positive correlation between population growth and illiteracy as per census of 2011. Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh are the states where the literacy rate is very low and the rate of population growth is high in these states. Women literacy is more important in this regard.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions :

- (1) Why is population perceived as a resource ?
- (2) What are the causes of unequal distribution of population in the world ?
- (3) What is meant by population density ?
- (4) Describe the role of any two factors affecting population distribution.



2. Choose the correct option and write the correct answer :

- (1) The term population distribution means,
- (A) Which type of population changes take place in a particular area over time.
- (B) The number of people who died in relation to the number of people born in a particular area.
- (C) How the people are spread in a given area.
- (2) Which are the three main factors that lead to population change ?
- (A) Birth, death and marriage (B) Birth, death and migration (C) Birth, death and life expectancy
- (3) What was the world's population in 1999 AD ?
- (A) One billion (B) 3 billion (C) 6 billion

3. Explain the terms :

- (1) Sex ratio (2) Literacy (3) Population density

4. Fill in the blanks :

- (1) India ranks in the world in terms of population.
- (2) Sex ratio in India is
- (3) state has the highest literacy rate in India.
- (4) Population density in Gujarat is

