

# Chapter 2

## The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society

### IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Demography:** Demography is the systematic study of population.

**Social demography:** Focuses on socio, economic or political aspects. that means demographic data and methods to describe, explain and predict social phenomenon.

**Formal demography:** Focuses on quantitative study of population that means statistical study.

**Demographic factors:** Socioeconomic characteristics of a population expressed statistically, such as age, sex, education level, income level, marital status, occupation, religion, birth rate, death rate, average size of a family, average age at marriage. A census is a collection of the demographic factors associated with every member of a population.

**Social statistics:** Quantitative data on various aspects of the population and economy.

**Census:** An official, usually periodic enumeration of a population.

**Malthusian theory:** Malthusian theory of population growth is explained the relationship between population growth and food supply.

**Positive checks:** Famines, diseases, starvation, war, etc. These measures will increase the death rates.

**Preventive checks:** These checks are designed to lower the birth rates, examples postponing marriage, practicing sexual abstinence or celibacy.

**Birth rate:** The number of births per 1,000 members of the population during a specific period of time – usually a year.

**Death rate:** The number of deaths from all causes during one year, per 1,000 persons alive at the middle of the year.

**Infant mortality:** The number of infants who die before their first birthday for every 1,000 live births.

**Growth rate/natural increase:** The surplus of births over deaths in a given country for a particular year.

**Dependency ratio:** A measure of a country's development. It compares the number of dependents with the number of economically productive people. The productive population are those between age 15-64, while the dependents are the elderly, those 65 and over and the young, those under 15 years old.

**Sex ratio:** The proportion of men to women in a population, and is stated as the number of males to 100 females. It is argued that men tend to have a higher death rate than females. This is so as males tend to have more dangerous experiences than females. They fight in wars; are involved in more strenuous sports; are involved in more physically dangerous jobs; and seem to have more auto accidents.

**Fertility:** The actual reproduction that occurs in a population. One measure of fertility is the birth rate. It is usually expressed as the number of children who are born to every 1,000 women.

**Maternal mortality:** Number of women dying in child birth per 1000 live birth.

**Replacement level:** This is the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out.

**Age structure of population:** Proportion of persons in different age specified time period.

## IMPORTANT NOTES/CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

**Demography** is the statistical study of populations, including of human beings. As a very general science, it can analyze any kind of dynamic living population, i.e., one that changes over time or space (see population dynamics).

Demography is the systematic study of population. The term is of Greek Origin and composed of two words, 'demos' means people and 'graphein' means describe i.e., description of people.

Demographic studies associated with population including changes in population site, patterns of births, deaths, migration and structure and composition of the population.

All demographic studies are based on processes of counting or enumeration such as the Censuses or the Survey.

## SOME THEORIES AND CONCEPTS IN DEMOGRAPHY

Demography has its role and functions in the development of public health management, policing and maintenance of law and order, economic policies relating to agriculture, industry, taxation and revenue generation and governance of cities.

The demographic data collected is essential for planning and implementation of state policies, for economic development and public welfare.

### **The Malthusian Theory of Population Growth**

The Malthusian theory of population growth is based on the work of Thomas Robert Malthus, an English political economist (1766-1834). This theory explains the concerns of Malthus with regard to the relationship between population growth and food supply. Malthus stated that the world's population would increase exponentially (geometric progression – 2,4,8,16....) and food supply would increase arithmetically (2,3,4,5.....).

Prosperity can be achieved by controlling growth of population through preventive checks postponing marriage, sexual abstinence, celibacy, etc. And positive checks- through famines and diseases.

Malthus was criticised by Marxists and liberals for his theory:

1. Food production and standards of living rise despite population growth as seen in the historical experience of European countries.
2. Poverty and starvation caused not due to rise in population but due to unequal distribution of economic resources (Liberal and Marxists).

### **The Theory of Demographic Transition**

**Four-Stage Theory.** A commonly used phrase in the discussion of population growth is demographic transition, which describes a progressive movement from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.

Epidemic has been controlled due to mass vaccination, better sanitation. But malaria, TB, diarrhoea and dysentery kill people even today.

### **Common Concepts and Indicators**

**Birth Rates :** Birth Rates slow to change due to socio-cultural phenomenon. Low TFRs in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra high TFRs states – Bihar, MP, Rajasthan and UP.

The rate of natural increase or the growth rate of population refers to the difference between the birth rate and the death rate.

The fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1000 women in the child-bearing age group, usually taken to be 15 to 49 years.

The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of babies before the age of one year per 1000 live births. One concept which is somewhat complicated is that of life expectancy. This refers to the estimated number of years that an average person is expected to survive. It is calculated on the basis of data on age-specific death rates in a given area over a period of time.

The sex ratio refers to the number of females per 1000 males in a given area at a specified time period

The age structure of the population refers to the proportion of persons in different age groups relative to the total population

The dependency ratio is a measure comparing the portion of a population which is composed of dependents.

## **SIZE AND GROWTH OF INDIA'S POPULATION**

India is the second most populous country in the world after China, with a total population of 121 crores (or 1.21 billion) according to the Census of India 2011. The growth rate of India's population has not always been very high.

## **AGE STRUCTURE OF THE INDIAN POPULATION**

The age structure of Indian population is young a demographic dividend which is an advantage for India here the average age is less than most of the countries, e.g., Kerala is acquiring an age structure of developed countries and UP has a high population of younger age group and lower proportion among aged.

## **THE DECLINING SEX-RATIO IN INDIA**

Sex ratio is low/declining in India because of increased risk of death in child birth the women face, differential treatment of girl babies, neglect of girl babies in infancy and specific sex abortion.

## **LITERACY**

Literacy leads to the empowerment of the population though it varies across gender, regions and social groups. Literacy can lead to health awareness and fuller participation in the cultural and economic well being of the community. Literacy levels have improved considerably after independence, and almost two-thirds of our population is now literate. But improvements in the literacy rate have to struggle to keep up with the rate of growth of the Indian population, which is still quite high.

Literacy varies considerably across gender, across regions, and across social groups.

## **RURAL-URBAN DIFFERENCES**

Rural urban differences also do exist with respect to vast majority of the population. But it is the mass media and communication channels that are gradually bringing in images of urban life styles and patterns of consumption into the rural villages, thus bridging the gap between rural and urban.

City may be preferred because of the anonymity that it offers hence it is an attractive destination for the villagers.

City may be preferred because of social and economic reasons such as decline of common property resources.

## POPULATION POLICY IN INDIA

National family planning programme was introduced with the objective of slowing down the rate and pattern of population growth, through birth control methods and other coercive measures as introduced during emergency period (1975-1976). With the coming of new Govt., the program was renamed as national family welfare program. New set of guidelines were introduced to achieve the objectives.

Mass sterilization was introduced under coercive programme and mostly the poor and powerless people were victims of it.

### NCERT TEXTBOOK EXERCISES

(Page no. 34)

**Q. 1.** Explain the basic argument of the theory of demographic transition. Why is the transition period associated with a 'population explosion'?

**Ans.:** Theory of demographic transition suggests that population growth is linked to overall vessels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development related to population growth. There are three basic phases of population growth:

**Stage I:** Primitive Stage [Underdeveloped countries]

Low population growth in a society that is underdeveloped and technologically backward.

In such societies like Africa birth rate is high since people are unaware of the advantages of having small families, they are not educated.

Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available, therefore population is low.

**Stage II:** [Developing countries]. The birth rate and the death rate rank very high, the net growth rate remains low.

Birth rate is high as in this society people live in a patriarchal society in which men decide how many children must be born and male child preferred. People are illiterate and ignorant. Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available.