

## Chapter-2

# The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society

### **2 MARKS QUESTIONS**

**1.What is the significance of studying the demographic structure of the Indian population in sociology?**

**Answer:**

Studying the demographic structure helps sociologists understand population trends, age distribution, and other social aspects crucial for comprehending societal dynamics.

**2.How does the demographic structure contribute to social significance in India?**

**Answer:**

The demographic structure is socially significant as it influences issues such as workforce distribution, education planning, and policy-making based on age groups.

**3.Explain one aspect of the Indian population discussed in Chapter 2 that is considered socially significant.**

**Answer:**

One socially significant aspect discussed is the age distribution, which impacts various social and economic factors, including labor markets and education policies.

**4.How does sociological analysis differ from demographic analysis, as mentioned ?**

**Answer:**

Sociological analysis involves understanding the social implications of demographic trends, while demographic analysis primarily deals with statistical aspects of population characteristics.

**5.Why is India projected to become the most populous country in the world, according to demographic studies discussed?**

**Answer:**

India's high birth rates, coupled with improvements in healthcare leading to reduced mortality rates, contribute to its projection as the most populous country.

**6.Discuss the role of sociologists and demographers in understanding the Indian population as highlighted ?**

**Answer:**

Sociologists and demographers contribute by analyzing social implications of demographic trends, such as the impact on education, healthcare, and social structures.

**7. How does the demographic structure of India impact economic policies, as discussed ?**

**Answer:**

The demographic structure influences labor markets, workforce dynamics, and consumption patterns, shaping economic policies for the nation.

**8. Provide an example of a socially significant demographic factor discussed and its impact on society.**

**Answer:**

The youth bulge is a socially significant factor that influences education policies, job markets, and societal expectations for the younger population.

**9. Explain the concept of the demographic dividend in the context of India's population, as presented?**

**Answer:**

The demographic dividend refers to the economic advantage of having a large working-age population, potentially boosting economic growth.

**10. In what ways do sociologists contribute to addressing challenges related to the demographic structure of the Indian society?**

**Answer:**

Sociologists contribute by providing insights into societal implications, helping formulate policies addressing challenges like unemployment, education, and healthcare associated with the demographic structure.

## **4 MARKS QUESTIONS**

**1. Discuss the concept of the demographic dividend in the context of India. How does it impact the country's economic and social development?**

**Answer:**

The demographic dividend refers to a period when a large proportion of a country's population falls within the working-age group. In the context of India, the demographic dividend is characterized by a significant youth population. This demographic structure can have both positive and negative impacts on economic and social development.

### **Positive Impacts:**

**Economic Growth:** A youthful population can contribute to economic growth as it means a larger workforce. If this workforce is well-educated and employed in productive sectors, it can lead to increased productivity and economic development.

**Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** A young population often brings creativity and innovation. It can lead to the emergence of a vibrant entrepreneurial culture, fostering economic innovation and development.

### **Negative Impacts:**

**Employment Challenges:** While a large working-age population presents an opportunity, it also poses a challenge in terms of providing employment opportunities for everyone. The economy must create a sufficient number of jobs to absorb the growing workforce.

**Social Strains:** Rapid population growth, if not accompanied by adequate social and economic development, can lead to social challenges such as poverty, inadequate healthcare, and education facilities, potentially hindering overall development.

In conclusion, India's demographic dividend can be a double-edged sword, presenting opportunities for growth but also posing challenges that require strategic planning and policy interventions.

## **2: Explain the significance of age distribution in the demographic structure of India. How does age distribution impact various aspects of social and economic life?**

### **Answer:**

Age distribution is a crucial component of the demographic structure of India, influencing several aspects of social and economic life.

**Significance of Age Distribution:**

**Dependency Ratios:** Age distribution determines the dependency ratios in a population, indicating the proportion of dependents (children and elderly) to the working-age population. This ratio affects the burden on the workforce to support dependents economically.

**Workforce Dynamics:** The age distribution directly impacts the size and composition of the workforce. A larger working-age population can contribute to economic productivity and development, while a disproportionate distribution may lead to employment challenges.

**Impact on Social Life:**

**Education Policies:** The age distribution shapes educational policies, as a higher proportion of children might necessitate more investments in primary and secondary education.

**Healthcare Planning:** Age distribution influences healthcare planning, with a focus on age-related healthcare services. An aging population, for instance, may require more healthcare facilities catering to elderly needs.

### **Impact on Economic Life:**

**Labor Markets:** Age distribution affects labor markets by influencing the supply of skilled and unskilled workers. It is crucial for businesses and industries to align their workforce strategies with the age distribution for optimal productivity.

**Consumer Behavior:** Different age groups exhibit distinct consumption patterns. Understanding age distribution helps businesses tailor their products and services to meet the diverse needs of consumers at different life stages.

In summary, age distribution is a key determinant of the demographic structure, impacting social services, economic planning, and overall societal dynamics. It plays a vital role in shaping policies that address the needs of various age groups within the population

### **3. What is the significance of studying the demographic structure of the Indian population in sociology?**

#### **Answer:**

The study of the demographic structure in sociology is significant because it provides insights into the composition of the population, including age distribution, gender ratios, and other factors. Understanding these demographic aspects helps sociologists analyze societal trends, plan for social services, and comprehend the challenges and opportunities presented by the population structure

**4: Explain the concept of the demographic dividend and its relevance to India.**

**Answer:**

The demographic dividend refers to a period when a large proportion of the population is in the working-age group. In India, this demographic dividend is characterized by a significant youth population. It is relevant because it can potentially boost economic growth and development if the workforce is well-educated and employed productively. However, it also poses challenges such as providing sufficient employment opportunities for the growing youth population.

**5: How does age distribution impact social and economic aspects of a society?**

**Answer:**

Age distribution influences social and economic aspects by determining the proportion of people in different age groups. It affects social services such as education and healthcare, as well as economic factors like labor markets and consumer behavior. Understanding age distribution helps in planning for the specific needs and challenges associated with different age groups in a population.

**6: Discuss one positive and one negative impact of India's demographic dividend.**

**Answer:**

**Positive Impact:** The demographic dividend can contribute to economic growth by providing a large and potentially productive workforce.

**Negative Impact:** It may lead to challenges in terms of creating enough job opportunities for the growing workforce, potentially resulting in unemployment issues.

**7: How does the demographic structure of India influence economic policies?**

**Answer:**

The demographic structure influences economic policies by shaping factors such as labor markets, consumption patterns, and workforce dynamics. Policymakers consider the age distribution and demographic trends when formulating strategies related to employment, education, and economic development.

**8: What role do sociologists play in understanding and addressing challenges related to the demographic structure of India?**

**Answer:**

Sociologists contribute by analyzing the societal implications of demographic trends. They provide insights into issues like unemployment, education, and healthcare associated with the demographic structure. Sociological perspectives help in formulating policies that address the challenges and leverage the opportunities presented by the population dynamics.

**9: How does the concept of dependency ratios relate to the demographic structure?**

**Answer:**

Dependency ratios, which indicate the proportion of dependents to the working-age population, are directly related to the demographic structure. A higher dependency ratio, caused by a larger proportion of children and elderly individuals, can impact the economic burden on the working-age population to support dependents. Understanding dependency ratios is crucial for social and economic planning.



## **7 MARKS QUESTIONS**

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

**Answer.**

Theory of demographic transition suggests that population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development related 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 death rate remain 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 is preferred. People are illiterate and ignorant.

Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available.

**Stage III:** [Developed countries]. Birth rate is low because people are educated and aware and use contraceptives, birth control is popularised. Death rate is also low because of availability of health and medical facilities, therefore population is low.

Transitional Stage: The stage between backwardness and skilled people]: In this stage growth rate of population is very high whereas death rates are brought down due to better medical facilities, nutrition and better medical and technological advancement therefore this transition period is associated with a population explosion.

## **2. Why did Malthus believe that catastrophic events like famines and epidemics that cause mass deaths were inevitable?**

### **Answer:**

English political economist Thomas Robert Malthus argued that human population tend to grow at a much faster rates than the rate which the means of human subsistence (land, agriculture) can grow.

He said population rises in geometric progression whereas agricultural production can only grow in Arithmetic progression.

Malthus believed that positive checks to population growth in the form of famines and diseases, was inevitable. These are nature's way of dealing with the balance between food supply and increasing population.

According to him, these natural checks are extremely painful and difficult. Although it helps to achieve a balance between population and subsistence by increasing the death rate.

## **3.What is meant by 'birth rate' and 'death rate\*? Explain why the birth rate is relatively slow to fall while the death rate declines much faster.**

### **Answer.**

Birth rate and death rate are fundamental concepts in Demography.

Birth rate: It refers to the total number of births in a particular area, which can be the entire country, a state or any territorial unit during a specific period.

- Crude birth rate is expressed through the following method :  $B/p \times 1000$

B = Number of births P = Entire population

- It is crude birth rate because it does not include the ratio of bearing age.

- Birth rate can be defined as the number of live births per thousand persons in a years.

- Birth rate gets significantly affected by Age of marriage, infertility, climatic conditions, social condition, religious beliefs and education.

**Death rate:** It is the number of deaths per thousands persons in a year in a particular area, which can be the entire country, a state or any other territorial unit.

### **Causes of slow birth rate:**

Birth rate is relatively slow while the death rate can be brought down at much faster rate for the following reasons:

- Public health measures and medical advancement can control the death rate immediately. Everybody wants good health and wants to live a long life. Because of the love for life everybody adopts all medical and technological measures with high level of motivation.

Birth rate continues to be high because it is related to attitude, beliefs and values of people. Birth rate is related to religious beliefs and by and large it is socio-cultural phenomena which is significantly slow to change.

**4. Which states in India have reached or are very near the 'replacement levels' of population growth? Which ones still have very high rates of population growth? In your opinion, what could be some of the reasons for these regional differences?**

**Answer.**

Replacement level refers to the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out.

Replacement level refers to giving birth to two children that replacement completes. States at the replacement level of population growth: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

States very near to the replacement levels of population growth: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal.

States having very high rates of population growth: U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

Reasons of regional differences:

- Difference in Literacy Percentage in different states.
- Societal conditions vary in different states. Terrorism, war-like conditions and insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East.
- Socio-Economic conditions vary in different states.

(i) Number of BPL people is highest among states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

(ii) Socio-cultural formation: A belief that more children means more hands to earn or religious beliefs.

**5.What is meant by ‘the age structure’ of the population? Why is it relevant for economic development and growth?**

**Answer.**

- India has a very young population. The average age of an Indian is less than that for most other countries. Majority of Indians are between the age group of 15 and 64 years.

- Age structure of the population refers to the proportions of persons in different age groups relative to the total population.

- Population under the age of 15 has decreased from 42% in 1971 to 31% in 2011. During this period the ratio of age group 15 to 64 was gone up from 53% to 63.7%.

- Age structure in a country changes with development poor medical facilities, prevalence of disease reduce the life expectancy.

- Age structure of population can be put in following age groups:

0-14 years. [Children]

15-59 years. [Working population]

60 + Years. [Old people]

This age structure of the Indian population can be understood by following table.

**Table. Age Structure of the Indian Population 1961-2026**

Year	Age groups (Percentage round up)			Total
	0-14 years	15-59 years	60 + years	
1961	41	53	6	100
1971	42	53	5	100
1981	40	54	6	100
1991	38	56	7	100
2001	34	59	7	100
2011	29	63	8	100
2026	23	64	12	100

This table indicates that the share of the under 15 age group in the total population has come down from higher level of 42% in 1971 to 34% in 2001 and it is expected to be reduced to 23% in 2026. It means birth rate in India is gradually decreasing.

### **Relevance for economic development and growth:**

- Due to the advancement in medical sciences, public health measures and nutrition the life expectancy is at rise. This is due to economic development and growth.

- Need of family planning in being u

nderstood. Decrease in 0-14 years age group reveals that National population policy is implemented properly.

- Because of socio-cultural changes in Indian society and economic growth Age structure of population is moving towards positive young India.

- Dependency ratio is decreasing and increase in working population is causing positive growth in Indian economy.

- Economic development and improvement in quality of life improve life expectancy and changes the structures of the population.

- High infant mortality rate and material mortality rate due to poor economic growth hence an adverse effect of age structure on the population.

**6.What is meant by the ‘sex ratio’? What are some of the implications of a declining sex ratio? Do you feel that parents still prefer to have sons rather than daughters? What, in your opinion, could be some of the reasons for this preference?**

### Answer

Sex ratio refers to the number of females per thousand males in a given area at a specified period of time.

- This ratio is an important indicator of gender balance in population.

- Historically there were more females than males in most countries of the world. This phenomena occurred due to two reasons:

(i)Girl babies enjoy better immune system and resistant to diseases in comparison of male child.

(ii)Females live longer than males in most of the societies.

- The ratio between female babies and male babies is roughly 1050 female to 1000 male.

- In India sex ratio is declining significantly and continuously for more than a century. From 972 female per thousand males at the turn of 20th century the sex ratio declined to 933 at the turn of 21st century.

- The state level child sex ratio is alarming. As many as 6 states and union territories have a child sex ratio as low child sex ratio of 793. The highest child sex ratio of 986 is found in Sikkim.

Sex ratio seems to be declining in countries like India, China and South Korea.

In India, parents still prefer male child. This is basically due to social and cultural reasons. Being agricultural society the village population preferred

male child to look after the land. The reason of preference of male child is definitely not linked with economic reasons. The states like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh and Maharashtra are most prosperous states of India and should have highest child sex ratio, but things are just different.

The census of 2001 reveals that these are states with the lowest sex ratios i.e., 950 female babies per 1000 male babies. This data is a reliable evidence that selective abortion in these states is not due to poverty, ignorance or lack of resource. Predisposing factors for low child sex ratio in India:

- Religious or Cultural Beliefs:** Belief that only son is entitled to perform funeral and related rituals of his parents. Only son is the waaris of family. In the absence of male child the family will not continue.
- Economic Reasons:** The main occupation of Indian society is agriculture. Villagers have a thinking that landed property cannot be given to girls because after marriage they will go to another village, town or city. Neither girl child can get her share of land nor she can take care of the land.
- Lack of Awareness:** People in Indian society having ignorant conservative attitude are still not ready to give equal status to daughter because they think that during old age they will be dependent on the son. Only he will share food, house, customs and responsibilities.

Implications of child sex ratio: Low child sex ratio, if continues, will have serious implications on our social network, particularly the Institution of marriage. It will also cause severe law and order problem related to women.



## **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**1. What does the term "demographic structure" refer to in the context of Chapter 2?**

- A. The political landscape of India.
- B. The composition of the Indian population based on age, gender, and other factors.
- C. The economic policies implemented by the government.
- D. The religious diversity within India.

**Answer: B. The composition of the Indian population based on age, gender, and other factors.**

**2. Why is the demographic structure of a population considered crucial for sociological analysis?**

- A. It has no impact on societal dynamics.
- B. It helps in understanding the composition of the labor force.
- C. It determines the political ideologies of the population.
- D. It influences social and economic trends.

**Answer: D. It influences social and economic trends.**

**3. What is the demographic dividend?**

- A. The ratio of young to old individuals in a population.
- B. A period of economic decline.
- C. A strategy for reducing population growth.

D. The potential economic advantage of having a large working-age population.

**Answer: D. The potential economic advantage of having a large working-age population.**

**4. How does age distribution impact a society's workforce?**

A. It has no impact on the workforce.

B. It influences the size and composition of the workforce.

C. It only affects the elderly population.

D. It determines the political affiliations of workers.

**Answer: B. It influences the size and composition of the workforce.**

**5. What is the significance of understanding dependency ratios in demographic analysis?**

A. It helps predict future political trends.

B. It determines the birth rate in a population.

C. It indicates the proportion of dependents to the working-age population.

D. It has no relevance to demographic analysis.

**Answer: C. It indicates the proportion of dependents to the working-age population.**

**6. Why is India projected to become the most populous country in the world, as discussed in Chapter 2?**

- A. Due to high mortality rates.
- B. Due to a declining birth rate.
- C. Due to a large youth population and declining mortality rates.
- D. Due to a shrinking workforce.

**Answer: C. Due to a large youth population and declining mortality rates.**

**7. What challenges does the demographic dividend pose for a country like India?**

- A. Insufficient workforce for economic development.
- B. Aging population leading to healthcare challenges.
- C. Overwhelming demand for jobs and resources for the growing youth population.
- D. Decreased consumption patterns.

**Answer: C. Overwhelming demand for jobs and resources for the growing youth population.**

**8. In sociological terms, why is age distribution considered a crucial factor for understanding societal needs?**

- A. It impacts the political landscape.
- B. It influences the consumption patterns of individuals.
- C. It shapes the provision of social services like education and healthcare.
- D. It has no bearing on societal needs.

**Answer: C. It shapes the provision of social services like education and healthcare.**

**9. What role do sociologists play in analyzing the demographic structure of a society?**

- A. They focus solely on political aspects.
- B. They analyze the economic policies of the government.
- C. They provide insights into societal implications and challenges associated with demographic trends.
- D. They only study historical events.

**Answer: C. They provide insights into societal implications and challenges associated with demographic trends.**

**10. How does the demographic structure influence economic policies, as mentioned in Chapter 2?**

- A. It has no impact on economic policies.
- B. It shapes labor markets, consumption patterns, and workforce dynamics.
- C. It determines the country's political ideologies.
- D. It only affects the agricultural sector.

**Answer: B. It shapes labor markets, consumption patterns, and workforce dynamics.**

## **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. The demographic structure of a population refers to the composition of the population based on factors such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer: age, gender**

2. The demographic dividend is characterized by a significant \_\_\_\_\_ population, which can potentially boost economic growth.

**Answer: youth**

3. Understanding \_\_\_\_\_ ratios is crucial for assessing the economic burden on the working-age population to support dependents.

**Answer: dependency**

4. The demographic structure of India is projected to make it the most populous country due to a large \_\_\_\_\_ population and declining mortality rates.

**Answer: youth**

5. Sociologists contribute by providing insights into societal implications and challenges associated with \_\_\_\_\_ trends.

**Answer: demographic**

6. Age distribution influences social services like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ planning.

**Answer: education, healthcare**

7. The overwhelming demand for jobs and resources for the growing youth population poses a challenge associated with the \_\_\_\_\_ dividend.

**Answer: demographic**

8. The concept of dependency ratios relates to the proportion of \_\_\_\_\_ to the working-age population.

**Answer: dependents**

9. Age distribution directly impacts the size and composition of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer: workforce**

10. Sociologists analyze the societal implications of demographic trends, providing insights into issues like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ associated with the demographic structure.

**Answer: unemployment, education**