

8

POPULATION AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

What we have Learnt

- Resource can be classified into two categories-Natural resource and Human resource.
- By increasing human resource more and better economic progress can be achieved.
- The human resource required by a country is provided by its population.
- Birth rate, death rate, life expectancy and literacy are some of the factors of population.

People are to be equipped to achieve progress in social and economic fields. For this, all countries give special significance on human resource development. The quality and size of population are two factors that are emphasised in the development of human resource. Rapid growth in population will create many obstacles to economic progress. Also, it affects the quality of human resource adversely. In this background, let us examine in detail the world population, the Indian population, growth and its reasons, problems, population policy etc.

What is population?

The significance of population in the production-consumption sector of an economy is very great. The demand for consumer goods depends mainly on the size of population, sex ratio, population-density,

age-structure of the people, income, preferences etc. Since there is day-to-day variation in the population of a country, it is difficult to calculate the exact population.

Population

Total number of people living in a country at a given time is called its population.

Analyse the data given in figure (8.1) and prepare a table of countries having population of more than ten crores.

- America - 28.14 crores.
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List out the countries having population of more than hundred crores in the world today?

World Population and Countries

According to the census 2001, world population is 613.7 crores. Note the population of some countries given in the figure.

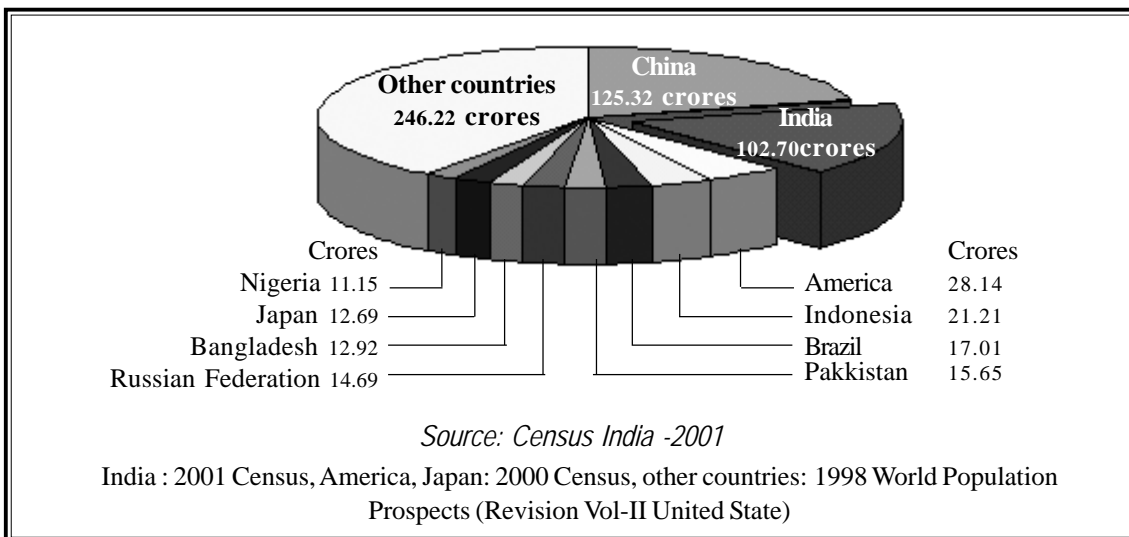


figure 8.1

Country	Population in the mid 2003 (in crores)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)	Birth Rate (per 1000)	Death Rate (Per 1000)	Life expectancy	
					Male	Female
China	131.98	0.7	15.2	6.5	69	73
India	106.85	1.7	23.7	8.5	63	65
Indonesia	21.99	1.3	20.6	7.3	65	69
Pakistan	15.36	2.4	35.8	9.5	61	61
Russian Federation	14.32	-0.6	8.6	14.6	61	73
Bangladesh	13.57	1.9	28.1	8.6	61	62
Japan	12.75	0.1	9.4	7.7	78	85

Source: 2003 ESCAP - Population Data Sheet (Projected)

Table 8.1

Features of population in selected countries

Based on growth rate, birth rate, death rate and life expectancy in table 8.1, analyse the position of India and note down conclusions.

Significance of the Study of Population

We know that family includes parents and children. We need better food, clothing, shelter, health, education and other facilities. Think how these are related to the number of members of the family. In addition to the number of members, age difference, number of males and females, their preferences and income also play an important role in estimating the quantity of essential commodities and services required for the family.

The study of population of a country can be made use of for the following purposes.

- To assess the availability of human resource needed for production.
- To estimate the required basic infrastructure.
- To estimate the requirements of products and services.
- To understand the social and cultural structure of a population.
- To compare with the population of other countries.
- To assess the quality of standard of living.

For your information

- World Population Day was observed for the first time on 11 July, 1987
- The year in which world population reached 100 crores - 1804
- The day on which world population reached 600 crores - 12 October, 1999

Population of India

The process of calculating population is known as census. The first census in India was conducted in 1881. Find out the intervals at which census is taken and complete the table of census for the post-independence period of India.

- 1951
-
-

Indian Population reached 100 crores on 11, June 2000.

population of India (1,02,70,15,247) is 16.87% of world population. Of this, 51.73% (53,12,77,078) are males and 48.27% (49,57,38,169) are females. Population of Kerala comes to 3.10% (3,18,38,619) of the population of India. Out of this, 48.58% (1,54,68,664) are males and 51.42% (1,63,69,955) are females. The population of India which was 23.83 crores in 1901 increased by 78.87 crores within 100 years.

Every Sixth Person

One among every six persons of world population is an Indian.

Census

Census is the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of different types of information related to the people living in a country in a given period.

India has only 2.4% of the land area of the world. According to the census 2001, the

Look at the following table showing population growth in India and Kerala from 1951 to 2001.

With the help of the table draw a multiple graph representing the population growth in India and Kerala. Analyse the table according to the indicators given below and note down the conclusions.

Year	India		Kerala	
	Population (in crores)	Decadal growth %	Population (in crores)	Decadal growth %
1951	36.10	13.31	1.35	22.82
1961	43.92	21.64	1.69	24.76
1971	54.82	24.80	2.13	26.29
1981	68.63	24.66	2.55	19.24
1991	84.34	23.86	2.91	14.32
2001	102.70	21.34	3.18	9.42

Source: Census Report 2001. India Series 1 & Series 33 Kerala Provisional Population Totals.

Table 8.2

Population growth India - Kerala 1951-2001

Indicators

- The period in which growth rate of population in Kerala stands above the national growth rate.
- The period in which growth rate stands below the national growth rate.
- The period in which growth rate of population in India and Kerala are equal.

The present figures state that in India 29 children are born in every one minute. Due to the rapid increase of population, we have to explore more resources for economic development. We have learned about the factors such as birth rate, death rate and immigration which influence the population. Let us see how the other factors of population are related to the economic scenario.

Sex Ratio

The number of females per thousand (1000) males in a population is known as sex ratio or female to male ratio. On the basis of Census 2001, in India there are 933 females per 1000 males, while in Kerala it is 1058. Increase in the death rate of females (female mortality) is the main reason for the low sex ratio at all India level. The reasons for higher sex ratio in Kerala are better health, literacy, better standard of living, economic security etc. More programmes are planned and carried out in the economic sector to reduce the death rate of females.

Age Structure

On the basis of age, population is classified into three divisions. They are:

- Children upto the age of 14.

- Those between the age of 15 and 59.
- Those who are above the age of 60.

Age Structure of population in India

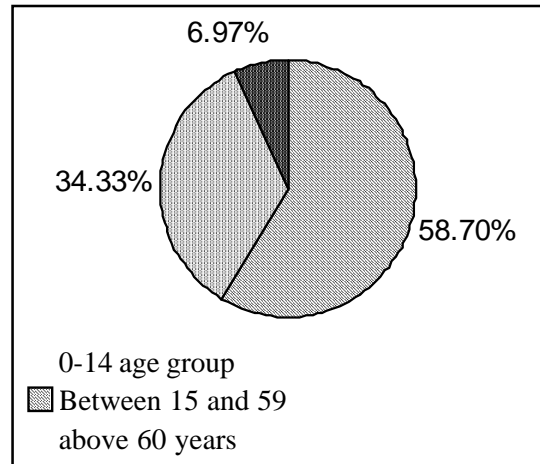


Figure (8.2)

Look at figure (8.2). It can be understood that only 58.70% of the people come under the employed sector. The remaining 41.30% of people live depending upon them. Increased rate of dependency affects economic activities adversely.

Dependency Rate

Dependency rate is the percentage of people depending on those who are employed (below 15 years and above 60 years of age.)

Occupational Structure of Population

It is the distribution of population on the basis of employment in sectors like agriculture, industry and services. In developed nations, most people work in the service sector. But in developing countries like India, it is the agricultural sector which provides employment to more people. This is

because the industrial and service sectors are not so developed. Employment structure helps us to know the participation of population in production sectors.

Literacy

The literacy rate of the population of a country can be considered as an indicator of the economic progress achieved by that country. According to the census 2001, literacy rate in India is 65.38% and that in Kerala is 90.92%. In literacy, men are at a higher level than women. In India, 75.85% of men and 54.16% of women are literates. In Kerala, they are 94.20% and 87.86% respectively.

Population growth at a higher rate makes universal education difficult. This interrupts economic growth.

Life expectancy

You have learned about the relation between human resource and life expectancy. On the basis of the Census -2001, life expectancy of males in India is 63.9 and that of females is 66.9. In Kerala they are 74.47 and 80.47 respectively. While life expectancy in Kerala stands equal to that in developed countries, it is lower in the other states of India. Life expectancy can be increased by providing basic comforts, employment, improved health care etc.

Do you know?

In 2001:

Country having highest density of population - *Japan*

Urban population of India - 28%

State having highest population - *Uttar Pradesh*

State having highest population density - *West Bengal*

Population density in India - 324

Population density in Kerala - 819

You have seen the important characteristics of the population of India. On the basis of a discussion, prepare note on how these affect the economic progress of a country and present it in the class.

Kerala - 2001

- **State having 12th place in population in India**
- **State having 3.1% of Indian population**
- **State having lowest population growth rate.**
- **State having third place in population density.**
- **The only state where females outnumber males.**
- **State having the longest life expectancy.**
- **State having the highest literacy rate.**

Population growth - Reasons

We have seen that the population of India is growing. It is estimated that the present population will become double in 36 years. We shall examine the reasons for population growth in developing countries like India.

- Poverty
- Superstitions
- Religious beliefs
- Illiteracy and ignorance
- Early marriage
- High fertility
- Increased birth rate
- Decreased death rate
-

Economic Problems

Rapid increase in population may give rise to many economic problems. We shall look into some important problems.

Poverty and Unemployment

India is an agricultural nation. As industrial and service sectors do not develop in proportion to the growth of population, most people depend on agriculture. Due to the increase in the cost of production, agriculture is becoming unprofitable. Besides, there is no increase in the employment opportunities in other sectors and this creates more unemployment problems.

Unemployment

Unemployment is a situation in which employment opportunity is not available to an adult person who is willing to work.

It is obvious that when there is decrease in employment and income, purchase of food stuffs for maintaining health becomes impossible. Such people naturally come below poverty line. In India, those people who

do not get 2100 calories of food in rural areas and 2400 calories of food in urban areas are considered to be Below Poverty Line (BPL). As per the estimate of the year 2000, 26.1% of people are below poverty line in India. About 40 per cent of people are poor. Poverty encourages child labour.

Today in India, unemployment continues to be the most serious problem. The reasons might be

- Collapse of agricultural sector
- Decline of indigenous/traditional industries.
- Lack of industrial enterprises
- Inadequate development of service sector
- Lack of capital
- Lack of entrepreneurship
- Mechanisation
-

Shelter / Housing

Among the basic needs of man, shelter is very important. As population increases corresponding increase in the housing facilities should also be there. According to the figures available, there are 103297 households in Kerala that do not have shelters. The government extends subsidy relief, income tax relief etc. through various institutions and agencies to promote construction of houses. Besides, the government gives housing finance also.

Find out from news papers, the names of agencies and institutions which grant housing finance and complete the table

- Life Insurance Corporation of India. (LIC).
- General Insurance Corporation of India. (GIC).
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Environmental problems

When population increases, there is an increased and unscientific exploitation of resources. This type of exploitation of resources creates obstacles in sustainable development. Shortage of shelter paves the way for the growth of slums and insanitation. Pollution of environment causes different types of communicable diseases. Diseases like Rat fever and Dengue fever, wide spread in Kerala now a days, are the outcome of environmental pollution. This has placed a heavy financial commitment on the primary healthcare scenario for the government and the people.

The government has to mobilise more funds from time to time for furnishing the increasing population with health, education, drinking water and other basic needs. If population is controlled properly, these funds can be utilised for other productive developmental activities. In short, population growth has to be checked so as to face the challenges raised by population explosion in the economic field.

We have seen many factors related to population and economic problems. You can visit five houses in your ward and conduct a survey regarding population and economic problems. The format and questionnaire shall be prepared in the class with the help of your teacher.

What particulars can be incorporated in the format?

- House name / House No.
- Head of the household
- Age
- Occupation
- Number of members
- Male/Female/Total
- Educational qualification
-

Discuss in the class the data collected and on the basis of it prepare a project on “Features of Population and economic problems.”

Population Policy

Now you are aware of the problems created by rapid growth of population. To solve these problems and to attain national welfare, a population policy is essential. In India, it was in 1976 that population policy (Population control policy) was declared. Many schemes were also implemented for family planning and family welfare.

Need for Population Policy

We shall see why population policy is essential:

- To improve the economy of a country
- To maintain population suitable to the economy.
- To attain economic and social progress.
- To improve the standard of living.
- To improve education and health.
- To solve unemployment problem.

National Population Policy 2000- NPP 2000

This policy lays emphasis on health care of the people especially, that of women and children. Following are the aims of the new population policy.

- To meet the basic needs in public health sector.
- To ensure free and compulsory education to all children upto the age of 14.
- To reduce infant mortality rate below 30 in every 1000 live births.

- Popularise preventive measures against the communicable diseases
- To take steps for raising the age at marriage of women, above 20.

Let us hope that by implementing the policy, the declared objects can be attained by the year 2010.

There are commissions at the national and state levels to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policies. You will collect more details about National Population Policy 2000 from magazines and various media, won't you?



SUMMARY

- Population of a country is the total number of people living in that country at a given time period.
- Demand of consumer items varies in accordance with the size of the population, sex ratio, population density, age structure, income and preferences.
- Study of population is essential to know the availability of human resources required for production, to estimate the basic needs, commodities and services required, and to make a comparison with the population of other countries.
- An estimate of population is known as Census. In India, census is conducted in every ten years.
- Poverty, unemployment, lack of shelter, environmental problems etc., are the economic problems arising out of rapid increase in population
- Population policy 2000 emphasises the health care of women and children and the welfare of the nation.

QUESTIONS

1. A factor determining the demand for consumer goods is population density. What are the other factors?
2. The study of population of a country helps to estimate the demand for basic needs of the country. What are the other significant reasons for the study of population?
3. In India census is conducted in every ten years. Find out the interval of census in Britain, America, Japan, Russian Federation and China?
4. Compare the population of Kerala with that of other states, and find out the peculiarities.
5. How are different factors of population such as birth rate related to economic progress. Elucidate?
6. One of the reasons for population growth in India is increase in birth rate. What are the other reasons?
7. Prepare a note including your suggestions, on solutions for the economic problems raised by population growth.
8. To popularise preventive measures against the communicable diseases is an aim of the population policy of 2000. What are the other aims?
9. Prepare a note on
 - a. Population and environmental problem
 - b. Population Policy
10. According to the figures of the year 2001, 58.7% of Indian population is between 15 and 59 years of age. How does this peculiar feature affects the Indian economy?

