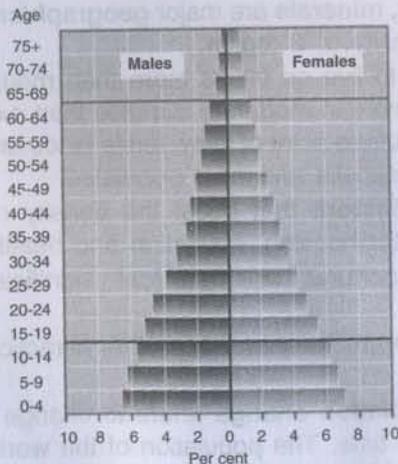# Human Resources

Lesson at a Glance

- Human beings are the most important resource of a nation. They are significant because had they not utilised their brains, the other resources of nature would not have found any utility. In other words, **human resource** is the ultimate resource.

- The way in which people are spread across the earth's surface is known as **the pattern of population distribution.** Some areas are very crowded (high density) while some are less crowded (low density). Population density depends on the climate conditions and topography of the place, like few people live in high latitude areas, tropical deserts, mountainous terrains, and forest areas, whereas a large number of people reside in plains.

- **Density of population** is defined as the average number of people living in a unit area of the earth's surface. The density of a particular region is calculated by dividing the population of the region by its area.

- **Topography, favourable climate, fertility of soils, availability of fresh water, minerals** are major **geographical factors** affecting population density of a region.

- People prefer to live on plains more than mountains or plateaus and they live more in moderate climates than extreme hot or cold. From the agriculture point of view, fertile lands are preferred. Areas with mineral deposits are more populated.

- Some **social factors** that boost the density of population in a region are better housing, education and health facilities.

- Places with **cultural** or **historical** significance are usually populated.

- **Employment opportunities** are another attraction for large chunks of population.

- The term **population change** refers to change in the population with respect to time. The population of the world is never stable; the number of births and deaths affect its change.

- With better health facilities due to development in medical science, now the number of deaths is lower than before.

- **Birth rate** is a statistic that measures the number of live births per 1000 people. **Death rate** is a statistic that measures the number of deaths per 1000 people.
- When we talk of the population of a particular region, country or continent, and not the whole world, then along with birth and death rate, another factor affecting population change is **migration.** Migration refers to the movement of people from one area to another.
- Since births and deaths are natural causes of population change, the difference between the birth and death rate is called **natural death rate.**
- People leaving a country are called **emigrants** and the phenomenon is called **emigration.** People arriving in a country are called **immigrants** and the phenomenon is called **immigration.** People usually migrate from less developed areas to more developed ones, in search for better employment opportunities, among other facilities.
- The pattern of population change is different for different parts of the world.
- The structure of the population with various respects like age, sex, literacy, occupations, health facilities, economic condition, etc is called **population composition.**
- A **population pyramid** is a pictorial way to describe the population composition. An age-sex pyramid of India is shown in the figure.

Population Pyramid of India

- The shape of population pyramid of a country is indicative of a lot of information about the country. The size towards the bottom may be used to estimate the birth rate, while the size towards the top to estimate the death rate.
- The youngsters (ages 0-15) and senior citizens (aged 65 above) are said to fall under the "dependent" group. They are considered to be economically inactive; they depend on the working class for their living. The middle age group constitutes the working class.
- A population pyramid in which the base is broad and the top part is narrow means that although a large amount of births take place, not all grow up to be adults and old; it means many die before reaching these ages. This indicates a large death rate and Kenya shows such a pyramid. This means a high population growth rate.
- In countries like India, the death rate is decreasing, so the pyramid is broad in the younger age groups, and the size of the pyramid decreases steadily.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. *Answer the following questions.*

   (i) *Why are people considered a resource?*

   (ii) *What are the causes for the uneven distribution of population in the world?*

   (iii) *The world population has grown very rapidly. Why?*

   (iv) *Discuss the role of any two factors influencing population change.*

   (v) *What is meant by population composition?*

   (vi) *What are population pyramids? How do they help in understanding about the population of a country?*

Ans.   (i) Human beings are the most important resource of a nation. They are significant because had they not utilised their brains, the other resources of nature would not have found any utility. In other words, **human resource** is the ultimate resource.

   (ii) Population density depends on the climate conditions and topography of the place, like few people live in high latitude areas, tropical deserts, mountainous terrains, and forest areas, whereas a large number of people reside in plains. Fertility of soils, availability of fresh water, minerals are

other major geographical factors behind this. Some social factors that boost the density of population in a region are better housing, education and health facilities. Places with cultural or historical significance are usually populated. Employment opportunities are another attraction for large chunks of population.

(iii) The world population has grown very rapidly because of the development in medical science which has caused decrease in death rate. Since lesser people die now of diseases than before, whereas there was no way to decrease the birth rate, the population has increased at a fast rate.

(iv) **Geographical factors:** People prefer to live on plains more than mountains or plateaus and they live more in moderate climates than extreme hot or cold. From the agriculture point of view, fertile lands are preferred. Areas with mineral deposits are more populated.

Economic factors: People prefer to industrial areas since they provide more and better employment opportunities. Due to this, industrial cities are thickly populated.

(v) The structure of the population with various respects like age, sex, literacy, occupations, health facilities, economic condition, etc is called population composition.

(vi) A population pyramid is a pictorial way to describe the population composition. The shape of population pyramid of a country is indicative of a lot of information about the country. The size towards the bottom may be used to estimate the birth rate, while the size towards the top to estimate the death rate.

A population pyramid in which the base is broad and the top part is narrow means that although a large amount of births take place, not all grow up to be adults and old; it means many die before reaching these ages. This indicates a large death rate and Kenya shows such a pyramid. This means a high population growth rate.

In countries like India, the death rate is decreasing, so the pyramid is broad in the younger age groups, and the size of the pyramid decreases steadily.

Q. 2. *Tick the correct answer.*

    (i) *Which does the term population distribution refer to?*

        (a) *How population in a specified area changes over time*

        (b) *The number of people who die in relation to the number of people born in a specified area*

        (c) *The way in which people are spread across a given area.*

    (ii) *Which are three main factors that cause population change?*

        (a) *Births, deaths and marriages*

        (b) *Births, deaths and life expectancy*

        (c) *Births, deaths and life expectancy*

    (iii) *In 1999, the world population reached*

        (a) *1 billion*   (b) *3 billion*

        (c) *6 billion*

    (iv) *What is a population pyramid?*

        (a) *A graphical presentation of the age, sex composition of a population*

        (b) *When the population density of an area is so high that people live in tall buildings*

        (c) *Pattern of population distribution in large urban areas.*

Ans. (i) (c),   (ii) (b),   (iii) (c),   (iv) (a).

Q. 3. *Complete the sentences below using some of the following words.*

sparsely, favourably, fallow, artificial, fertile, natural, extreme, densely

When people are attracted to an area it becomes .... populated.

Factors that influence this include .... climate; good supplies of .... resources and .... land.

Ans. When people are attracted to an area it becomes **densely** populated. Factors that influence this include

favourable climate; good supplies of **natural** resources and **fertile** land.

Q. 4. *Activity*

Discuss the characteristics of a society with "too many under 15s" and one with "too few under 15s".

Ans. The society with too many under 15s need more schools to be able to educate them. There should be efficient and laborious teachers. There should be provisions for items necessary for a child's amusement, like toys. Children are prone to diseases; facilities for hospitals should be improved in such a society.

In a society with too few under 15s will have more and more mature people. Pension schemes will work there fruitfully. There may be the need for wheelchairs. Labour supply will be easier. These people will also need hospitals.

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