UNIT 13 : POPULATION GROWTH AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to –

- describe the meaning of population growth
- explain the relationship between population growth and quality education
- discuss the impact of adult education on population growth
- explain the relation between population growth and vocational educations
- explain the relationship between population growth and non formal education

13.2 INTRODUCTION

The growth in human population is a continuous process and in the last 10,000 years the population of the world has increased over a thousand-fold, to about 4.5 billion, and much of that change actually has occurred in the last few hundred years. According to United Nations estimates, the population growth rate at present hangs around 2.5 per cent annually. The rate of increase is staggering. Every 30 seconds, about 117 live babies

are born and some 46 people die for a net increase of 71 new inhabitants. This means, over 2, 00,000 new mouths to be fed each day or nearly 75 million a year. Since 1921 population growth of India is increasing at very faster rate. The current population is estimated at 136.65 crores in 2019 at midyear according to UN data. If current trend of population growth continues, India may overtake China in 2045 to become the most populous country in the world. The consequences of population growth have great impact on education system, economic development, employment opportunities and over all environment of the country. Many studies have proved that education has direct impact on family size and fertility aspects.

In this Unit we shall to study the population growth and its impact on quality education. Further, the unit will discuss the relationship between population growth with adult education, vocational education and non-formal education.

13.3 MEANING OF POPULATION GROWTH

Generally, population growth is the increase number of individual in a particular country or a place. This term refers to how the number of individuals in a population increases or decreases with the time. There are three main aspects of population growth; they are fertility, mortality and mobility or migration. Population is primarily determined by the excess of births over deaths. The gap between the birth rate and death rate is the major factor responsible for rapid growth in population. High rate of population growth is putting strain on natural resources, food supplies, fuel supplies, employment, water scarcity, housing etc. Population growth has effect on standard of living also. The population growth means growth of the human population in a particular area during the specific period of time. This term refers to how the number of individuals in a population increases or decreases with the time the world population grew from 1 billion to 7 billion from 1800 to 2011. According to L.B.Johnson 'Hungry world cannot feed until and unless the growth of its population come into balance.' Each man and woman must make concrete decisions regarding the population growth. Decline in the mortality rate is the main factor towards the rapid growth of population.

13.3.1 Nature of population growth

- Population growth is a social issue,
- Population growth is a climate change issue,

- It is a food security issue,
- It is a conflict issue,
- Population growth is a gender issue,
- It is an economic issue,
- Population growth is a health issue and
- It is a developmental issue.

13.3.2 Causes of population growth in India

- The decline in death rate is one of the main causes of population growth. Major factor responsible for reducing the death rate is the modern discoveries in public health and medicine. The medical services have been approved. There is control of epidemics and various diseases. There is decline in infantile mortality. All this is possible due to large numbers of public health measures which are taken across the country by the government. On the contrary, constant birth rate is also contributing to the population growth in India.
- In our country migration of human population has great effect on population growth. Many people migrate from the rural areas to urban areas and also from the neighbouring countries of India. As a result of that there is over-population specially in urban areas in the country. It creates problems like scarcity of resources, low quality of life and social evils etc.
- Another cause of population growth is poverty and illiteracy.In India, poverty is both the cause and effect of population growth. A big family size is the poor person's way to fight poverty as the children are sent to work to supplement the household income. According to the 2011 census the literacy rate in India is 74.04% while male literacy at 82.14% and female literacy rate at 65.46% which is considerably lower than many countries of the world. It is observed that the states where the literacy is very low particulary among females the birth rate is very high.
- In India early marriage of child is the cause of population growth. Even though legal marriageable age for girls is 18 years and that of boys is 21 years, most of the girls particulary in rural areas are married during the age group of 15-20 years and this lengthens their reproductive years.

- There is lack of consciousness about family planning on the part of the married couples. The use of family planning methods is still unknown to the illiterate people. The absence of family planning habit among rural and low income urban families act as a cause of high population growth.
- Many research studies have revealed that most of the Indian copules have a strong preference for sons over daughters. In an effort to have sons many couples continue to have children even after achieving their desired family size.
- Cultural factors influence family size and consequently affect population growth rate. From a cultural standpoint, religion does have a profound effect on family palnning. Many religions promote large families and strictly prohibit artificial means of birth control. The other socio-cultural factors include restricting education and employment opportunities to women, in other words the general attitude of men towards women is not positive. When women are educated and they can gain economic security, they will definitely make appropriate decisions regarding limiting the family size.

13.4 POPULATION GROWTH AND QUALITY EDUCATION

Quality education enables people to develop all of their attributes and skills to achieve their potential as human beings and members of society. Quality education is a human right and a public good. Quality education provides the outcomes needed for individual communities and societies to prosper. One of the most powerful instruments for reducing population growth is education. Uneducated parents give birth many children. Quality education helps lower birth rate and slow population growth. Educated women have decision making power in the family, which has great impact on population growth. Through education we can remove some superstitious beliefs, customs and social taboos regarding birth control. Research has proved that women who are better educated are more knowledgeable about options for limiting fertility. So, educated families have fewer children. Small families can provide quality education and better environment to their children. Due to rapid growth of population in India education has become costly, for which average man finds difficult to have quality education. Frequent growth of population has effect on student's indiscipline, quality education, wastage and stagnation etc.

W CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is meant by population growth?

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Q 2: What does quality education mean?

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Q 3: Mention the nature of population growth.

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13.5 IMPACT OF ADULT EDUCATION ON POPULATION GROWTH

Adult education is a practice in which adults engage in systematic sustained self educating activities in order to gain new forms of knowledge, skills, attitudes or values. It aims to provide self reliance, confident and self dependent. For social and economic development also adult education is necessary. Through adult education married couple can know about small family norm, benefits of controlling family members, heath condition of mother and child, economic prosperity of their family, proper education of their children and standard of living. Adult education can reduce superstitions and wrong conception regarding fertility. Government of India launched National Adult Education Programme in 1978. The aim of this programme was to educate non-literate adults within five years. Again National Literacy Mission launched not only for spreading literacy but also for family welfare, immunization, mother and child health care, conservation of environment etc. Literacy enables a person think rationally and aware of his responsibilities. The biggest achievement of adult education is girl's education and empowerment of women, which have far reaching effect on population growth. Thus, adult education plays an important role in population growth of a country.

13.6 POPULATION GROWTH AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Vocational education aims at training people for suitable jobs, taking into account the service conditions, the opportunities and the special abilities required on one hand and the abilities, aptitudes, physical and emotional aspects of individual on the other. If the population growth rate of country increases rapidly then problem of employment arises. Employment opportunities and economy are interrelated. Due to rapid growth of population young people do not get opportunities for employment. Vocational education can help the new generation for their self employment and to choose their career. Now Indian government has taken various steps regarding vocational education. This will help the future development of the country. In formal system of education there is provision for vocational education. Through this students become independent and also help their families.

W CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 4: What is adult education?

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Q 5: Is there any relationship between adult education and population growth?

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Q 6: Define vocational education.

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13.7 RELATION BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Non formal education is the alternative of formal system of education. It provides various learning opportunities. This system of education is flexible and inexpensive. It would meet the needs of school drop-outs, neo-literates, working people and disadvantaged group of the society. It provides opportunities for employment. It is an organized programme of learning. Non formal education programmes aims at removal of ignorance, superstition

from the society and help to develop equality, economic status, specific needs and empowerment. Another important aspect of non formal education is that it helps in women empowerment. Women become conscious about their rights, duties, health, child care, benefits of bearing fewer children. So, non formal education has great contribution regarding population growth. Now government of India has taken bold steps for spreading non formal education.

13.8 LET US SUM UP

- Population growth means growth of the human population in a particular area during the specific period of time. This term refers to how the number of individuals in a population increases or decreases with the time.
- There are three main aspects of population growth; they are fertility, mortality and mobility or migration. High rate of population growth is putting strain on natural resources, food supplies, fuel supplies, employment, water scarcity, housing etc.
- Quality education helps lower birth rate and slow population growth. Educated women have decision making power in the family, which has great impact on population growth. Through education we can remove some superstitious beliefs, customs and social taboos regarding birth control.
- Adult education is a practice in which adults engage in systematic sustained self educating activities in order to gain new forms of knowledge, skills, attitudes or values. Through adult education married couple can know about small family norm, benefits of controlling family members, heath condition of mother and child, economic prosperity of their family, proper education of their children and standard of living. Adult education can reduce superstitions and wrong conception regarding fertility.
- Vocational education aims at training people for suitable jobs, taking into account the service conditions, the opportunities and the special abilities required on one hand and the abilities, aptitudes, physical and emotional aspects of individual on the other. Due to rapid growth of population young people do not get opportunities for employment. Vocational education can help the new generation for their self employment and to choose their career.

- Non formal education is the alternative of formal system of education. It provides various learning opportunities. It would meet the needs of school drop-outs, neo-literates, working people and disadvantaged group of the society. Non formal education programmes aims at removal of ignorance, superstition from the society and help to develop equality, economic status, specific needs and empowerment.

13.9 FURTHER READING

1) Gupta P.K (2008), Population Education, Vinay Rakhaja, R.Lall Book Depot.
2) V. Krishnamacharyulu, School Management and System of Education, Neelkamal Publications Pvt. LTD.
3) S.K. Nanda, Population Education, Published by DOABA HOUSE, Delhi-110006.

13.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Population growth is the increase number of individual in particular country or place. There are three main aspects of population growth; they are fertility, mortality and mobility or migration. This term refers to how the number of individuals in a population increases or decreases with the time.

Ans to Q No 2: Quality education enables people to develop all of their attributes and skills to achieve their potential as human beings and members of society. Quality education is a human right and a public good.

Ans to Q No 3: Nature of population growth:

- Population growth is a social issue,
- Population growth is a climate change issue,
- It is a food security issue,
- It is a conflict issue,
- Population growth is a gender issue,
- It is an economic issue,
- Population growth is a health issue and
- It is a developmental issue.

Ans to Q No 4: Adult education is a practice in which adults engage in systematic sustained self-educating activities in order to gain new forms of knowledge, skills, attitudes or values. It aims to provide self- reliance, confident and self-dependent.

Ans to Q No 5: For social and economic development also adult education is necessary. Through adult education married couple can know about small family norm, benefits of controlling family members, heath condition of mother and child, economic prosperity of their family, proper education of their children and standard of living. Adult education can reduce superstitions and wrong conception regarding fertility. Thus, there is close relation between adult education and population growth.

Ans to Q No 6: Vocational education aims at training people for suitable jobs, taking into account the service conditions, the opportunities and the special abilities required on one hand and the abilities, aptitudes, physical and emotional aspects of individual on the other.

13.11 MODEL QUESTIONS

A .Short questions (Answer the questions within 150 words)

Q 1: What is meant by population growth?

Q 2: What is meant by adult education?

Q 3: Define non formal education.

B. Long questions (Answer the questions within 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the relation between non formal education and population growth.

Q 2: What is the role of adult education in reducing rapid growth of population?

Q 3: Explain the role of vocational education in population growth.

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