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Social Demography

SEMESTER IV

SOCIOLOGY

BLOCK: 2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Subject Experts

Professor Chandan Kumar Sharma, Tezpur Central University

Dr. Sanjay Barbora, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati

Course Co-ordinator: Dola Borkataki, KKHSOU

SLM Preparation Team

UNITS	CONTRIBUTORS
9	Prajna Borah, Assistant Assistant Professor, Royal Global University
10,11,12,15	Dr. Bimla, Cotton University
13, 14	Upashana Duwarah, Gauhati University

Editorial Team

Content : Dr Sambit Mallick, IIT, Guwahati

Language : Dr. Abhigyan Prasad, B.Barooah College, Guwahati

Structure, Format & Graphics : Dola Borkataki, KKHSOU

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BLOCK INTRODUCTION

This is the second block of the course titled 'Sociology of Northeast India' offered in M.A. Fourth Semester Sociology Programme of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. The block consists of six units (Unit 8-13) of the course and mostly gives us an understanding of the contemporary scenerio of the region. By going through this block, we will have an understanding of the various issues and concerns of the region.

Unit 8 explains the meaning of Border dispute and discusses some major border disputes in the region. **Unit 9** discusses an very pertinent issue of the region i.e immigration. By going through this unit, the learners will have an understanding of the issues and concerns relation to the problem of immigration in Northeast India. **Unit 10** discusses the traditional land management system in Northeast India. This unit will enable the learners to have an understanding of the traditional land relations and land holding patterns of Northeast India. **Unit 11** discusses the changing patterns of traditional land holding system. After going through this unit, the learners will be able to critically analyse the changing land holding patterns among the people of Northeast India, issues of land alienation so on and so forth. **Unit 12** will help the learners develop a critical understanding regarding the development discourse in the region. This unit discusses the various issues and concerns pretaining to development of the region and learners will learn how most often than not development has not taken place in the region as it should have. **Unit 13** is the last unit of the course and deals with the State -Society relaionship in the region. The learners will be able to understand the nature of State-Society interaction through the lens of ethnicity.

While going through the units of the block, you will find that unit is further divided into certain sections and sub-sections, wherever necessary, for your better understanding. Again, the units carry certain *activities* after a particular section where needed. These "ACTIVITIES" will provide you the opportunity to practically apply your own thoughts based on the knowledge gained from reading the text in a particular section. Besides, in order to give you additional information on certain relevant topics, you will find a category called "LET US KNOW" after the sections in each unit. Another category that has been included at the end of each section of a particular unit is "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS". The purpose of this category is to help you to asses for yourself as to how thoroughly you have understood a particular section. You may then match your answers with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit. The section "FURTHER READING" in each unit contains the names of a few books which you might want to consult if you are intereted in learning more elaborately about the concepts discussed in a particular unit. Furthermore, the category called "POSSIBLE QUESTIONS" is intended to give you a hint of the type of questions you are likely to get in the examination.

UNIT 9 : DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

9.1 Learning Objectives

9.2 Introduction

9.3 Age Structure

9.4 Sex Structure

9.5 Religious Structure

9.6 Ethnic and Racial Composition

9.7 Let Us Sum Up

9.8 Further Reading

9.9 Answers To Check Your Progress

9.10 Model Questions

9.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will able to-

- describe the age structure of Indian Population
- explain how sex composition affects the demographic structure of India
- discuss the religious and ethnic structure of Indian demography.

9.2 INTRODUCTION

A study of the structure and characteristics of population is an important aspect in demographic study. It is also known as 'composition of population' which embraces the following basic personal, social and economic attributes or characteristics of any population—age, sex, religion, race, ethnicity, etc. A population may be distributed into many sub-groups according to each of the above mentioned factors. For instance, when sex is considered, the entire population may be classified into two groups, males and females; when religion is considered, the entire population may be divided into different religious groups. This type of analysis helps us to understand the proportional

distribution of males and females in a given population, the percentage of illiteracy, etc. Such a study also aims at measuring changes, if any, in these characteristics over a period of time. India, being a diversified country on the basis of different attributes, can be studied vastly and in this chapter these attributes are discussed.

9.3 AGE STRUCTURE:

- **Nature of Age Data:**

  The United Nation has defined age as "the estimated or calculated interval of time between the date of birth and the date of census, expressed in completed solar years." It has also recommended that information on age should be collected in the census by asking the date of birth of the individual (day, month and year) or by asking direct questions to get information on the age at the last birthday, or by applying both the methods together. Although the first attempt helps to collect more accurate information about age, it is not always possible to get date of birth from a population where the majority is illiterate or semi-literate. In such a situation, information about age is gathered by asking about "the age completed on the last birthday."

  Sometimes it becomes very difficult to obtain correct information about age when people are illiterate or semi-literate and are ignorant about their own age. In India, for enumerators or investigators in a census or demographic survey, the collection of information about age becomes difficult when it comes to ignorant and illiterate people. Moreover, the practice of registering births is not yet followed widely in India and therefore, birth certificates are not available with them. There is a great deal of apathy on the matter of accurate age because Indians do not always have to face situations where they have to produce proof of age. Therefore, the Indian age data show concentration of population at a certain age, for Indians prefer to report their age in numbers ending with 0 or 5. But due to deliberate wrong statement and misunderstanding about questions and carelessness in reckoning age, errors in age reporting have been observed.

- **Analysis of the Age Structure:**

  Age data are usually available in the form of single years, that is the number of persons in the population of age 13, 14, 15, etc. But for demographic analysis, age data are used in different form. It is customary to classify them in five-year age groups, such as 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24 and so on. The age data thus classified into mutually exclusive age groups are used for age structure analysis of any population.

  The age structure of any population is generally studied with the help of a simple mathematical measure such as percent distribution and the age pyramid. The other measures used to analyze the age structure are the average age (mean, median, mode, etc). Moreover, other indices based on the distribution of population of various age groups are also used to analyze age structure of a given population. Among all these, the simplest measure is the percentage distribution of the population based on the absolute numbers in various five- year age groups that indicate the number of persons in an age group if the total number of persons in the age group considered is 100. This measure is also helpful in forming an idea about the age structure of any population and is used for analyzing it.

- **Effects of Fertility and Mortality:**

  Until 1950 demographers did not understand well enough the effects of changes in fertility and mortality on the age structure. Fertility measure is the rate at which population adds to itself by births. This measurement may be related to something like the total population of women in the country or the region. Human fertility is responsible for biological replacement and for maintenance of the human society. Any society replenishes itself through the process of human fertility. The size of births in a country depends on many factors, for example, relative position of child bearing females and males, marriage behavior, attitude towards children, outside marriage, conception control practices and attitudes, certain social and biological characteristics of population, political and religious attitudes and the state of medical facilities. Even though birth rate is a biological process, it also includes a social

component. The number of children is mainly determined by the social environment in which they live. No aspect of human behavior is more regulated by cultural perception, more subjected to idealization, more conditioned by the process of socialization and subject to inhibition of animal drive by human personality. High fertility societies are often the result of the accumulation of a large number of individual decisions to have children who are treated as a form of insurance of their parents for their old age or for a variety of risks, such as a drought or a poor harvest. India which is dominated by the Hindus in terms of population carries the deep cultural significance of having sons. Contrary to the high fertility societies, the low fertility societies are affected by changing overall social environment wherein wealth, prestige, status, education and other related causes often help to lower fertility through the change in attitude of the people. Declining mortality is the root cause of current world population because, if the mortality rate is high, fertility is bound to be higher because after the death of a child, family will like to add one more, so that there should be surviving children in the family. The United Nations and World Health Organization have defined death as follows, “death is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after birth has taken place and the death can only occur after a live birth.” Fertility is the most crucial variable among the two variables to affect population growth—the other one being mortality. Fertility rates in India are quite high in comparison with those of the US or of Western Europe. But they are lower than rates in other developing countries such as Pakistan and the Latin American countries. High birth rate is due to two reasons: i) Socio-economic conditions, and ii) if the rate of national income is too slow so as to influence the transformation of pattern of births. In the last 50 years, the birth rate has been falling. Even in the crucial decade of 1921-31, the birth rate reduced by two points only. The main aspect of birth rate is its dependence on objective factors such as socio-economic reproduction.

9.4 SEX STRUCTURE

Sex and age are the basic characteristics or the biological attributes of any demographic group. Sex is an easily identifiable attribute of demography. For the study of the sex-structure of any population, the following two measures are generally adopted:

- The percentage of males in the population or masculinity proportion
- The sex ratio

Of these two measures, the latter is more frequently used in the study of population.

The sex ratio of a population may either be calculated as the number of males per 100 females or as the number of females per hundred males. The Indian census has preferred to follow the latter definition. When the sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females, the sex ratio above 100 indicates a high sex ratio, while that below 100 is considered to be a low sex ratio. According to the 1991 Census of India, the overall sex ratio of the total population was 107.9, that means there were 107.9 males for every 100 females in India in 1991.

- **Factors affecting the overall sex ratio:** While the sex-age structure of any population is determined by past trends in fertility, mortality and migration, the overall sex ratio is the result of the effect of the following three factors:
  - The sex ratio of new born babies or the sex ratio at birth.
  - The sex ratio of deceased persons
  - The sex ratio of net migrants

Sex Ratio at Birth:

It is a fact that there is no 1:1 correspondence in the male and female births; the number of male babies is always slightly higher. Sex ratio at birth is determined biologically, and therefore, only slight variations are observed from population to population. It appears that nature's balance is slightly more favorable to males at birth. The sex ratio at birth depends upon the sex ratios of two biological antecedent events: i) sex ratio at the time of conception ii) sex ratio of fetal losses or deaths. The sex of the fetus is determined at the

time of fertilization; but there is no direct means of observing this ratio at conception. Many researchers have attempted to estimate it indirectly on the basis of the sex ratio of fetal deaths. They have arrived at the conclusion that the sex ratio at conception, known as the primary sex ratio, is much higher than the sex ratio of live births or fetal deaths. An examination of these ratios of stillbirths shows that there are a comparatively higher proportion of male babies among stillborn babies.

Though the sex ratio at birth is determined primarily by biological factors, variations (though only of small magnitude) are caused due to some demographic factors such as the age of mothers and the order of live births. It is observed that there is an inverse relationship between the age of the mother and the birth order of the child on the one hand and the sex ratio at birth on the other. Due to the advanced technology, in countries like India, where preference for sons has persisted for a long time, determining the sex of the fetus and sex selective abortions have become common. In India, a very large number of couples practice induced abortion of the female fetus and hence, the sex ratio at birth has become increasingly favorable to male babies. Thus the socio-cultural factor of 'son preference', with the help of modern techniques, can also influence the sex ratio at birth.

Sex Ratio of Deceased Persons:

Differential mortality of males and females is an important factor affecting the overall sex ratio and the sex ratio at various ages. Compared to the sex ratio of births, that of deceased persons shows greater variation from country to country. Data on dead sex ratios in various countries indicate that, with the exception of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the values of the sex ratios of the deceased are much above 100. In other words, more than 100 males die per 100 females. The male fetus is biologically more delicate than the female fetus and is, therefore, at a disadvantage, with the result that there is a higher proportion of stillborn male babies. Even after birth, the male baby continues to be biologically disadvantaged. This fact is reflected in the higher male mortality rates not only on the first day, in the first week, the first month or the first year, but throughout life. In fact, in most countries, the crude death rates for males are higher than those for females.

It has also been observed that the expectation of life at birth for females is almost universally higher than that for males, including India. In India, female life expectancy was lower than male life expectancy until recently. In developed countries, at each age, the death rates are usually higher for males than for females. Though the same pattern has not been observed in developing countries, the over-all mortality for males is generally higher for females.

Table: Sex Ratio for Three Main Age Groups for Various Regions of the World, 1995

Regions	Age Groups			
	Below 15	15-64	65+	All ages
World Total	105	103	75	102
Africa Latin	101	99	83	99
America	102	99	85	100
Northern America	103	99	66	96
Asia	107	105	85	105
Europe	104	99	60	96
Oceania	106	103	73	101

Source: United Nations, Demographic Year Book, 1995, New York, pp. 130-131

The table shows that sex ratios for the age group below 15 are above 100 because of the high sex ratio at birth, but these ratios decline for higher age groups as a result of higher male mortality. In fact, for the age group of 65 and above, the sex ratio shows a decrease in all the regions of the world. Thus, it may be observed that sex differentials in mortality tend to make the overall sex ratios more favorable to females in spite of the fact that males have advantages numerically at the beginning of life; that means more male babies are born than that of female babies. Unusual mortality conditions, especially losses during wars, widen the gap between male and female survivors.

Sex Ratio of Net Migrants:

The third factor affecting the overall sex ratio of any population is the sex ratio of the net migrants, which is essentially socio-economic in nature.

Migration is ordinarily sex-selective, in the sense that persons of either sex participate in migration rather than persons of both sexes participate equally. In most countries, the volume of international migration is not significant enough to have any marked impact on the sex structure of the population.

Internal migration is also sex-selective, but more so in the case of males. When persons of one sex dominate among internal migrants, the sex ratios of the various regions of the country are affected. For example, it is observed that, in India, among the migrants who go from rural to urban areas, the proportion of males is high. As a result, the sex ratio of the urban population in India has always been higher (111.9 in 1991 and 111.0 in 2001) than that of the rural population (106.6 in 1991 and 105.7 in 2001). Indian cities have unusually high sex ratios. The sex ratios of some important Indian cities having more than one million population in 1991 are presented in the table below.

Table: Sex Ratios of Populations in Indian Cities with One Million or More Population in

1971 and 1981

Sex Ratio= (M ÷ F) x 100

City	1971	1981	1991	2001
Calcutta Urban Agglomeration	142.6	127.7	120.87	120.8
Greater Bombay	139.6	129.4	120.69	123.3
Delhi Urban Agglomeration	125.3	123.7	107.86	121.2
Madras Urban Agglomeration	110.7	107.5	108.23	105.2
Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration	109.1	108.7	112.39	105.8
Ahmadabad Urban Agglomeration	120.5	115.3	110.80	112.9
Bangalore Urban Agglomeration	114.4	111.9	119.52	109.2
Kanpur Urban Agglomeration	131.2	123.5	110.55	115.0
Pune Urban Agglomeration	116.2	113.6	110.55	109.2

Source: Computed from Census of India, 1971, Series I, India, Part IIA (i) General Population Tables, pp. 241-250, Census of India 1981, Provisional Population Tables, Rural- Urban Distribution, p.65. Computed from Census of India 2001, Series 2. Provisional Population Totals, Paper 1 off 2001,

India.

This table indicates that the value of sex-ratio of each city has gone down considerably compared to 1971. This suggests that over a period of 30 years, the number of females among migrants has increased.

In India, the sex ratio in urban areas is favorable to males.

Sex Ratio in India

Overall Sex Ratio in India 1901-2001

Sex Ratio = (M ÷ F) x 100

Census Year	Sex Ratio
1901	102.9
1911	103.8
1921	104.7
1931	105.3
1941	105.8
1951	105.7
1961	106.3
1971	107.5
1981	107.1
1991	107.9
2001	107.2

Sources: 1. 1901-1971 computed from Census Centenary 1972, Pocket book of Population Statistics, pp. 18-19. 2. Computed from Registrar General and Census commissioner of India, Census of India 1981, Provisional population Totals, Series 1, India Paper 1 of 1981. 3. Computed from Registrar general and Census Commissioner of India, Census of India, 1991, Provisional Population totals, series I, India Paper 1 of 1991.4. Computed from registrar general and Census.

Here the table indicates that the sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavorable to females and the sex ratio which was 102.9 in 1901 has increased to 107.2 in 2001 showing more and more preponderance of males in the population.

During 1961-71 there was a sharp increase in the sex ratio from 106.3 males per 100 females to 107.5 males per 100 females. After 1971,

the sex ratio has fluctuated from 107.1 to 107.9. During 1991-2001 there is slight improvement in the sex ratio from 107.9 males per 100 females to 107.2 females per 100 females.

The sex ratio in India which is increasingly becoming unfavorable to females since the past three censuses has been a matter of great concern for the Indian Demographers.

9.5 RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF INDIA

Since religion influences various types of demographic behavior, therefore it plays a very important role among the various social characteristics of a population. While sociologists study religion from various angles, demographers treat it as a variable when studying marriage, fertility, mortality, migration, etc. Societal customs and practices regarding marriage are greatly influenced by religion and hence, it becomes necessary to study age at marriage and dissolution of marriage, the practice of widow remarriage, the prevalence of polygamy, etc. in relation to religious affiliations.

An understanding of these practices regarding marriage is important in the study of fertility because societal fertility is affected by them. The acceptance of family planning, the status of women and religion are all inter-related. For the study of mortality too, it is necessary to know the religious affiliations of the groups that are studied, for the diet of a population and their customs and practices of personal and social hygiene are greatly influenced by religion. Even migration, internal as well as international, is greatly influenced by religion. The variable 'religion' thus has occupied an important position in demographic analysis.

As some difficulties are experienced at the time of collecting and classifying information on the religious affiliations of a population at the international level, this type of demographic analysis is undertaken only at national levels.

In the societal structure, India occupies an important position, and therefore, information on religion has been collected since the inception of census operations. Prior to independence greater emphasis was placed on this variable and data on religious affiliation were cross-classified with other

variables, such as age, sex, marital status, literacy, rural- urban residence etc. The earlier census reports contain a detailed discussion on various religious groups in India. The differential growth of these groups and an analysis of the reasons for such differential growth were undertaken by census scholars. However, since independence, the emphasis of the analysis has shifted to economic aspects of population.

A demographic analysis of religion is usually undertaken by describing the percentage distribution of the people in various religious groups. This type of analysis is done by sex and by rural- urban residence for various states and Union Territories right up to the district level.

9.6 ETHNIC AND RACIAL COMPOSITION

India's present day demography is a conglomeration of people belonging to different racial groups with different ethnic backgrounds. People entered India from different regions at different point of time. India has been a meeting point of different races and tribes from time immemorial. Various races are found in India. Consequently, India has a varied population and diversified ethnic composition. On the other hand, the present population of India is divided broadly into several racial groups. Such as-

- **The Negritos**- Perhaps they were the first of the racial groups that came to India. They got settled in the hilly areas of Kerala and the Andaman Islands. Kadar, Irula and Puliyan tribes of Kerala resemble the Negritos to a great extent. They are related to Africa, Australia and their neighboring islands. The Negritos have black (dark) skin, woolly hair, broad and flat nose and slightly protruded jaws.
- **The Proto-Australoids**- The people belonging to the Proto-Australoid race came here just after the Negritos. Their sources are Australian aborigines. They are settled in the central India from the Rajmahal hills to the Aravalis. Santhal, Bhil, Gond, Munda, Oraon, etc. are tribes are related to this group. They are physically different from the Negritos in many ways, for example, their hair is coarse and straight instead of being woolly. It is considered that they were the people who, in collaboration with Mediterranean race, had developed the Indus Valley

Civilization.

- **The Mongoloids**-The original homeland of this race was Mongolia (China). The Mongoloids came to India through the passes of northern and eastern mountain ranges. These people are concentrated in the nearby areas of the Himalayas such as Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and other areas of the north-eastern India. The Mongoloids have pale or light pale skin, short height, comparatively large head, half open eyes, flat face and broad nose. In India, they can be divided into two branches-
  - **Paleo-Mongoloids**- They were the first of the Mongoloids who came to India. These people are settled mainly in the border areas of the Himalayas. They are found mostly in Assam and the adjacent states.
  - **Tibeto-Mongoloids**- These people came from Tibet and are settled mainly in Bhutan, Sikkim, areas of north-western Himalayas and beyond the Himalayas in which Ladakh and Baltistan are included.
- **The Mediterraneans**- They came to India from the south-west Asia. They may be divided into three groups-
  - **Paleo-Mediterraneans**: They were the first of the Mediterranean race that came to India. They were of medium height, black skin, well- built body and long head. Perhaps they were the people who had begun cultivation for the first time in the north-west India. The group which came later pushed them towards central and south India.
  - **Mediterraneans**: They came to India later on. They developed the Indus valley civilization in collaboration with the Proto-Australoids and initiated the bronze culture for the first time during 2500-1500 BC. Later on, the new invading group coming from north-west pushed them from the Indus valley to the Ganga valley and towards the south of the Vindhyas. Today, most of the population of lower castes in the north India belongs to this race.
  - **Oriental-Mediterranean**: They came to India very late. They

are populated mostly in the north-western border areas of Pakistan and Punjab. They are also found in sufficient number in Sindh (Pakistan), Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh.

- **The Brachycephalics (Western race with broad head):** Apart from Mongoloid, some other races found in India having broad head are: Alpinoids, Dinarics, Armenoids
- **The Nordics:** They are the last of the racial groups that came to India. They came from Taiga and Baltic regions. They were Aryan speaking families with long head, fair complexion, sharp nose and well-developed and well-built body. They are found in the region of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Jammu.

The Indo-Aryan people are part of the various Indo-European ethno-linguistic groups who speak one of the many Indo-Aryan languages. It is estimated that the Indo-Aryans first migrated to the Indian Subcontinent of South Asia around 1800 BCE. Indo-Aryans make up the majority of the Indian population and are mostly located in north and central India.

The Indo-Aryans are the most diverse group of people in India, being made up of Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri, Konkani, Marathi and Punjabi.

The Dravidian people are any of the native speakers of the Dravidian languages in the Indian Subcontinent of South Asia. Almost all the Dravidians of India live in the south of India. The five major ethnic groups of Dravidian people in India are Kannadiga, Malayali, Tulu, Tamil, and Telugu. The ancient Indus Valley civilization in India was believed to have been of Dravidian origin in northern India, but then the Dravidian people were pushed south when the Indo-Aryans came in and the Kuru Kingdom in northern Indian arose. Later south India was dominated by the three Dravidian kingdoms of the Cheras, Cholas, and the Pandyas. The major languages spoken by the Dravidian people are Brahui, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu.

The Brachycephalic people were the first to arrive in India, having travelled all the way from Africa. In modern mainland India, only small groups of the Brachycephalic peoples like the Irulas, Kodars, Paniyans, and Kurumbas live in small areas in southern India in hill tribes. They are mostly found in the

Indian territories of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The next group of people to arrive in India was the Austrics who were the group that paved the way for the modern foundation for Indian civilization. They were the first in India to have cultivated vegetables and rice, as well as made sugar. There are very few Austrics found in India now, but their languages still can be found in Eastern and Central India. The Mongoloids are found in the various states in the northeastern part of India, as well as in the northern areas in the states of Ladakh, parts of West Bengal, and Sikkim. The last minority group in India are the Western Brachycephals who mostly live in the western part of India is areas like Kashmir, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is the UN definition of Age?

.....

.....

Q 2: Who are the Brachycephalic people?

.....

.....

Q 3: What are the factors affecting the overall sex ratio?

.....

.....



9.7 LET US SUM UP

- Age is the estimated or calculated interval of time between the death of birth and the date of census, expressed in completed solar years.
- Whether a population of any country is 'young' or 'old' is mainly determined by the fertility of the women in that country.
- Sex and age are the basic characteristics or the biological attributes of any demographic group.
- Ethnicity is considered to be shared characteristics such as culture,

language, religion and traditions which contribute to a person or group's identity.



9.8 FURTHER READINGS

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9.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: The United Nation has defined age as "the estimated or calculated interval of time between the death of birth and the date of census, expressed in completed solar years."

Ans to Q No 2: The Brachycephalic people were the first to arrive in India, having travelled all the way from Africa. In modern mainland India, only small groups of the Brachycephalic peoples like the Irulas, Kodars, Paniyans, and Kurumbas live in small areas in southern India in hill tribes.

Ans to Q No 3: The overall sex ratio is the result of the joint effect of the following three factors:

- The sex ratio of new born babies or the sex ratio at birth.
- The sex ratio of deceased persons
- The sex ratio of net migrants



9.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Questions (Answer each Question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What is primary sex ratio?

Q 2: Who are the Negritos?

Q 3: Define ethnicity.

Long Questions (Answer each Question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: How can age composition affect the population structure?

Q 2: Discuss how sex composition affects the population structure. Elucidate India's population structure in this regard.

Q 3: Analyze religious structure of a population elucidating India's population structure.

Q 4: Explain the ethnic and racial structure of India.

*** ***** ***

UNIT 10 : POPULATION POLICIES IN INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

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10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- explain the population policies
- describe the various programmes related to population
- describe the initiatives taken by government of India.

10.2 INTRODUCTION

Population policy may be defined as deliberately constructed or modified institutional arrangements and/or specific programs through which governments influence, directly or indirectly, demographic change. In simpler terms, population policy is a strategy for achieving a particular pattern of

demographic change. The change could be both quantitative as well as qualitative. Policies can broadly group those for under developed countries and other for developing countries. Since the 1950's, the population policy in the developing world has become essentially synonymous with family planning programs. Financial and administrative limitations within developing countries necessitated the heavy involvement of foreign assistance in launching and sustaining family planning programs. Declared demand for birth control does not necessarily translate into effective willingness to practice it: conflicting desires may interfere. Weakness of measures of latent demand, or "unmet need," is reflected in the requirements that programmes are supposed to satisfy if they are to be successful. These, typically, included such items as "doorstep accessibility of quality services," "broad choice of contraceptive methods," "forceful IEC [information, education, and communication] programs," "sound financing strategies," "sound management with proper logistics," "evaluation systems," "a continuous process of strategic thinking, planning and management, " and "staff leadership for program parameters". The effectiveness of family planning programs in reducing fertility remains a matter of controversy.

10.3 POPULATION POLICIES

The population policy of a nation can no longer confine itself to the reduction of birth rate alone; instead, it must be all encompassing and comprehensive strategy for overall improvement of social, economic and demographic fabric of a nation. There are two distinct approaches to the family welfare and planning programmes. ***One,*** advocating long-term measures with a view to improving overall social, economic and demographic structure of a country, and ***two,*** short-term measures with a view to reaping immediate results by way of averting the number of births.

The long-term measures include: promoting well-conceived population education, increasing the marriage-age, preventing child labour, compulsory education and adult literacy campaigns, restricting the maternity benefits to small families, providing old-age security, introduction of new life insurance policies carrying special benefits for the small families, developing intense

network of small scale industries based upon agro-livestock raw material, utilising scheduled castes and schedule tribes manpower, diversifying economy by way of rapid urban industrial development, and better health, and enhancing education and employment facilities in general and for females in particular. On the other hand, short-term measures include: temporary and permanent methods of preventing child birth such as contraception, voluntary sterilisation, compulsory abortion after the birth of second and third child in the family, and social and economic benefits for small families and penalties for large families. All such measures need people's approval and participation.

During the 1991 Census, it was observed that there is a clear cut demographic divide between Northern BIMARU (BI stands for undivided Bihar, MA stands for undivided Madhya Pradesh, R stands for Rajasthan and U stands for undivided Uttar Pradesh) States in comparison to southern states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Major factors responsible for this are differences in literacy, particularly female literacy, and health care facilities. Accordingly, the development rationale of family planning programs was gradually dropped and was replaced by the argument that the programs satisfy important health needs and help people exercise a fundamental human right.

10.3.1 Concept of a Population Policy

The size of the population, its characteristics, spatial and rural-urban distribution, rate of growth and its determinants decide the quantum, pattern and distribution of consumption and production. It is, therefore, only natural for the state or the government to be concerned about population. Such concern is most essential for a complex democratic society seeking to eradicate poverty and ensure adequate standards of living for its people. Of course, even an authoritarian leader must consider the actual or potential supply of workers (including army personnel), the requisite equipment and the consumption needs of people. A policy is defined as a statement of important goals, accompanied by a specified set of means to achieve them. A well-elaborated set of means constitutes a programme. A

good policy has to be based on a sound theory linking the means with the ends, although on social issues it is often likely to involve an element of judgement about the connection between inputs and outcomes or the process. The choice between alternative policies has to be made not just in terms of their prospective contribution to the achievement of goals but also their legitimacy, cost, potential popularity and, among other things, effect on other goals. Given the large number of variables that are influenced by and that influence population trends, there is a temptation to make it into a comprehensive development plan. Population policy could easily be drowned in an elaborate framework. However, a flexible, broad framework is certainly imperative.

10.3.2 Need for State Intervention in Population Control

In 1952, India was the first country in the world to launch a national programme, emphasizing family planning to the extent necessary for reducing birth rates "to stabilize the population at a level consistent with the requirement of national economy". After 1952, sharp declines in death rates were, however, not accompanied by a similar drop in birth rates. The National Health Policy, 1983 stated that replacement levels of total fertility rate (TFR) should be achieved by the year 2000. Currently, Indian population is second only to China. The comparison with China, however, is misleading since China has about 20% of the world population and 7% of total land area. In contrast, India has about 16% of the world population but has only about 2.4% of the total land area. Population and reproductive health facts of India, recently released by the United Nations Population Fund states that 'the country was not a role model in terms of population control'. The Report also comes down heavily on sex ratios which are among the 'worst in the world.' The adverse ratio of 960 females to 1000 males is due to 'sex preference for sons' and prevalent practices of female foeticide and infanticide.

10.4 POPULATION PROGRAMME

Population policy began with the beginning of five year plans. Although India was the first developing country to adopt a positive population policy in 195 1 - 52 'to stabilise population at a level the national economy could absorb', yet its achievements in controlling its numbers have been far from satisfactory. A brief review of population policy since the beginning of the planning era is presented below**:**

- **The First Five Year Plan (1951 -56)** enunciated that the programme for family limitation and population control should:
  - present an accurate picture of the factors contributing to the rapid population increase in India; b) discover suitable techniques of family planning and devise methods by which Population Control Measures: Individual, knowledge of these techniques could be widely disseminated; and c) give National and international advice on family planning as an integral part of the service of government hospitals and public agencies, with the focus in the beginning remained on promoting the safe period method and a gradual popularisation of mechanical and chemical contraceptives.
- The population policy of the First Plan continued unaltered during **the Second Five Year Plan (1 956-61)** except that the voluntary sterilization scheme was introduced in 1956. The Second Five Year Plan recognised that the rate of economic development would depend upon:
  - The rate of growth of the population
  - The proportion of current income of the community devoted to capital formation.
  - The return by way of additional out put on the investment thus undertaken.
  - The planning commission was aware of the possible constraints on the impact of family planning during this period and was apprehensive of future economic growth.
- Due to unexpected high population growth rate in 1961 Census, the 'clinical approach' of the population policy was replaced by an 'extension

education approach' during the **Third Plan (1961-66)**. There were no changes during 1966-69 when there were only annual plans, due to delay in formulation of the fourth five-year plan.

- The population policy became more posit during the **Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74).** The Plan also set up a time-bound target of reducing the birth rate from 39 per thousand to 23 per thousand by 1978-79. This plan achieved the target of the sterilisation of about 61 million couples, averting about 6.9 million births.
- **The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)** introduced basic change in the population policy by integrating family planning services with welfare services covered 'under the minimum needs programme. The programme sought to integrate most of the basic social services like education and public health services with family planning and nutrition for children, and expectant and nursing mothers.
- During the **Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)** the family welfare continued to be accorded a high priority. The plan adopted a strategy to integrate health, family welfare and nutrition services at all levels. Enhanced cash-compensation for voluntary sterilisation and fill rebate in income tax for specified donations for welfare purposes were some of the incentives popularised during the plan.
- The population policy during the **Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)** took a significant turn to make family planning programme more effective. Its major objectives included:
  - increasing the mean age at marriage for females to over 20 years;
  - promoting 'two-child family' norm;
  - protecting over 42 per cent eligible couples by way of variety of contraceptives;
  - enhancing child survival rate by reducing the infant mortality rate through universal immunization of infants and of prospecting mothers;
  - generating environment for fertility decline through relevant socioeconomic interventions;
  - promoting female literacy and employment programmes; and

- providing population education to all children in 11 - 15 age-group and also to those out of educational institutions through Adult Education and Non-formal Education programmes.

- **The Eighth Plan (1992-97)** fixed up the target of achieving the crude birth rate of 26 per thousand, infant mortality rate of 70 per 1000 live births and the couple protection rate of 56 per cent. The plan initiated an Action Programme with main features of:
  - improving the quality and out-reach of family welfare services in the field;
  - introducing new package of compensation incentives giving more flexibility to State governments;
  - initiating innovative programmes in urban slums for propagating family welfare activities;
  - adopting a differential strategy for focusing attention on 90 districts of the country where the crude birth rate is above 39 per 1000;
  - increasing the involvement of voluntary agencies and non-governmental organisations in family welfare programmes;
  - linking the rural development and poverty-alleviation grants to districts and panchayats on the basis of their performance in the control of birth rate; and
  - reducing the strong son-preference in many parts of the country.
- **Ninth Five-Year Plan (1995-2000):** The planning commission observed that given the present situation in the country the achievements are lagging behind the proposed goals for the year 2000.

  In 1996, the existing family welfare programme was transformed into the new Reproductive and Child Health (RGH) Programme. This new programme integrates all family welfare and women and child health services with the explicit objective of providing beneficiaries with high quality integrated RCH services..
- **Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)** To achieve 8% GDP growth rate. - Reducing of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007. - Providing gainful high quality employment to the addition to the labour force over the tenth plan period. - Reducing in decadal rate of population growth

between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2%. - Increase in literacy rate to 72% within the plan period and to 80% by 2012. - Reducing of infant mortality rate to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012.

- **Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012)** Accelerate GDP Growth from 7% to 10%. Increase agricultural GDP growth rate to 4% per year. Create 70 million new work opportunities and reduce educated unemployment to below 5%. Increase literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or above to 85%. - Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 and maternal mortality ratio to 1 per 1000 live births. - Raise the sex ratio for age group 0-6 to 935 by 2011-12 and to 950 by 2016-17.
- **Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017)** The twelfth five year plan of the Government of India has decided for the growth rate at 8.2% but National Development Council (NDC) on 27 December, 2012 approved 8% growth rate for 12th Five Year Plan. The government intends to reduce poverty by 10 per cent during the 12th Five Year Plan.

10.4.1 National Population Policy

The National Health Policy of 1983 emphasized the need for "securing the small family norms, through voluntary efforts and moving towards the goal of population stabilization." While adopting the health policy, Parliament emphasized the need for a separate National Population Policy. The National Development Council had appointed committee endorsed by the National Development Council in 1993 recommended "a national policy on population should be formulated by the government and adopted by the Parliament." The present population policy is in response to this national requirement and for guiding the strategies and programmes for achieving the goals set in this policy statement. India was the first country in the world to have a National Family Planning Programme in 1951. Since the beginning, the programme has remained fully effort of the government has been to provide services on the one hand and to encourage the citizens by information, education and communication on the other hand and to use such services, the guiding objectives of the family welfare

programme of the country has remained to stabilise population at a level consistent with the needs of the national development. Some of the salient features are:

- The National Population Policy states that the objective of economic and social development is to improve the quality of lives people lead to enhance their well being, and to provide them with opportunities and choices to become productive assets in society.
- Population growth in India continues to be high on account of the large size of population in the reproductive age group, high total fertility rate due to the unmet need for contraceptive, and high wanted total fertility rate due to the high infant mortality rate and early marriage of girls.
- The immediate objectives of the National Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health personnel, and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environment protection

On the basis of the suggestions, a fresh draft was submitted to Cabinet which formed the basis for National Population Policy, 2000. It is under implementation till date. The NPP 2000 has laid down objectives at three time frames: immediate, medium term, and long term. The medium term objective is to effectively implement inter sectoral strategies to bring down the total fertility rate (TFR) to a replacement level by 2010. The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and eco-conservation. It has special focus on health and education, and envisages the target of stable population by 2045. This National Population Policy 2000 affirms the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing

of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target-free approach in administering family planning services. It is based upon the need to simultaneously address, issues of child survival, maternal health and contraception, while increasing outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services by government, industry and the voluntary non-government sectors, working in partnership. The National Population Policy 2000 has set the following goals:

- universal access to quality contraceptive services in order to lower the total fertility rate to 2.1 and attaining two-child norm.
- full coverage of registration of births, deaths and marriages.
- universal access to information of birth-limitation methods and availability of totally free choice to citizens for planning their families.
- to reduce infant mortality rate below 30 per thousand live births and bring in sharp reduction in the incidence of low birth-weight (below 2.5 kg.) babies.
- universal immunisation of children against vaccine-preventable diseases, elimination of polio by 2000 and near elimination of tetanus and measles.
- reduction in the incidence of marriage of girls below the age of 18 to zero.
- increase in the percentage of deliveries conducted by trained persons to 100% containing of sexually transmitted diseases.
- reduction in maternal mortality rate to less than 100 per one lakh live births.
- universalisation of primary education and reduction in the drop-out rates at primary and secondary levels to below 20% both for boys and girls.

10.5 INITIATIVES AND THEIR CRITIQUE

The National Measures of Population Control are:

10.5.1 Decentralised Planning and Programme Implementation

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Act, 1992 made health, family welfare and education a responsibility of village panchayats. The panchayati raj institutions are an important means of furthering decentralised planning and programme implementation in the context of the NPP 2000. These committees may identify area-specific unmet needs for reproductive health services, and prepare need-based, demand-driven, socio-demographic plans at the village level, aimed at identifying and providing responsive, people-centred and integrated basic reproductive and child health care.

10.5.2 Convergence of Service Delivery at Village Levels

Efforts at population stabilisation will be effective only if we direct an integrated package of essential services at village and household levels. Inadequacies in the existing health infrastructure have led to an unmet need of 28 percent for contraception services, and obvious gaps in coverage and outreach. Health care centres are over-burdened and struggling to provide services with limited personnel and equipment. A vast increase in the number of trained birth attendants, at least two per village, is necessary to universalise coverage and outreach of ante-natal, natal and post-natal health care.

10.5.3 Empowering Women for Improved Health and Nutrition

The complex socio-cultural determinants of women's health and nutrition have cumulative effects over a lifetime. Discriminatory childcare leads to malnutrition and impaired physical development of

the girl child. Impaired health and nutrition is compounded by early child-bearing and consequent risk of serious pregnancy related complications. Maternal mortality is not merely a matter of health disadvantage; it is also a matter of social injustice. Low social and economic status of girls and women limits their access to education, good nutrition, as well as money to pay for health care and family planning services.

Programmes for Safe Motherhood, Universal Immunisation, Child Survival and Oral Rehydration have been combined into an Integrated Reproductive and Child Health (IRCH) Programme, which also includes promoting management of STIs and RTIs. Women's health and nutrition problems can be largely prevented or mitigated through low cost interventions designed for low income settings. The voluntary non-government sector and the private corporate sector should actively collaborate with the community and government through specific commitments in the areas of basic reproductive and child health care, basic education, and in securing higher levels of participation in the paid work force for women.

10.5.4 Meeting the Unmet Needs for Family Welfare Services

In both rural and urban areas there continue to be unmet needs for contraceptives, supplies and equipment for integrated service delivery, mobility of health providers and patients, and comprehensive information. It is important to strengthen, energise and make accountable the cutting edge of health infrastructure at the village, sub-centre and primary health centre levels, to improve facilities for referral transportation, to encourage and strengthen local initiatives for ambulance services at village and block levels, to increase innovative social marketing schemes for affordable products and services and to improve advocacy in locally relevant and acceptable dialects.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What are population policies?

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Q 2: What are population control policies?

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Q 3: What are the main objectives of India's population policy?

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Q 4: What are the main objectives of national population policy (NPP) 2000?

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10.6 LET US SUM UP

- Population and development have a very close relationship because human beings are at the centre of concerns for any developmental activities, and people are the most important and valuable resource of any nation. Therefore, to understand the complex relationship between population and development, there is a need to study various aspects of population and its related theories and policies.
- If the population is not well controlled in India, instead of attaining her economic prosperity and scientific glory will remain a poverty stricken and backward country. Thus, the family planning programme must be tackled on a war footing and relentlessly pressed forward.
- The NPP 2000 has laid down objectives at three time frames: immediate, medium term, and long term. The medium term objective is to effectively implement inter sectoral strategies to bring down the total fertility rate

(TFR) to a replacement level by 2010. The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and eco-conservation.



10.7 FURTHER READING

1) Chaubey, P.K. (2001). *Population Policy for India – Perspectives, Issues and Challenges,* Kanishka Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi, p. 307.

2) Stycos, J.M. (1977), Population Policy and Development, *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 3, 1 /2 / 103-112.

3) Government of India, (1998), Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002, Planning Commission, New Delhi.



10.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: A population policy is a set of measures taken by a State to modify the way its population is changing, either by promoting large families or immigration to increase its size, or by encouraging limitation of births to decrease

Ans to Q No 2: A policy of attempting to limit the growth in numbers of a population, in poor or densely populated parts of the world, by programmes of contraception or sterilization.

Ans to Q No 3: The main objective is to achieve a stable population at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

Ans to Q No 4: The objective of the NPP 2000 is to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure, and health personnel, and to provide integrated service delivery for basic

reproductive and child health care.



10.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What are the two approaches to the family welfare and planning programmes?

Q 2: List out the measures to control population?

Q 3: What are the features of the National Population Policy launched by the government of India?

Long Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 350-500 words)

Q 1: Describe the concept of a population policy

Q 2: What are the milestones in the evolution of population policy in India?

Q 3: What are the goals of National Population Policy 2000?

Q 4: Elaborate in detail the different population programmes of India?

Q 5: Briefly describe the initiatives of the government of India for population control?

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UNIT 11 : DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURES IN NORTH EAST INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

11.1 Learning Objectives

11.2 Introduction

11.3 Demographic Structures in North East India

- 11.3.1 Total Population
- 11.3.2 Decadal Growth Rate of Population
- 11.3.3 Density of Population
- 11.3.4 Sex Ratio
- 11.3.5 Rural-Urban Composition of Population
- 11.3.6 Religious Composition of Population
- 11.3.7 Fertility and Mortality Rates

11.4 Inter-State and Inter-Community Population Dynamics

11.5 Gender Perspective

11.6 Let Us Sum Up

11.7 Further Reading

11.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

11.9 Model Questions

11.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will able to-

- explain the demographic structures of North East India
- explain the different dimensions of population in the States of Northeast India.
- analyse the inter-state and inter-community population dynamics.

11.2 INTRODUCTION

India is a land of numerous cultures and people. The term “tribe” means a group of people that have been living at a particular place since time immemorial. The tribal people reside in approximately 15% of the

country's area. The Indian tribal population primarily resides in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions such as plains, forests, hills and inaccessible areas, scattered throughout India. According to Article 342 of the Indian Constitution, at present, there exist 697 tribes recognized by the central government. These Indian tribal groups have been recognized to reside in more than one state. It is due to the presence of these tribes that the country has such a diverse and varied flavour. Scheduled Tribes people constitute about 8% of the total population in India, with varying proportions in different States. They live in unique physical, socio-economic and cultural environment, isolated from general population. In view of their habitat and food habits, they form a distinct group compared to other populations. Their food intake is influenced by nature, with large seasonal variations, depending upon availability of agricultural and forest produce.

India‘s north-eastern region is extraordinarily diverse, distinct, and indeed distinguished on several counts. Apart from bordering itself with a few neighbouring countries, the entire land is a mixture of disparate races, civilizations, culture, and languages. The so-called north-eastern region (NER hereafter), which gained a definite geographical identity only after India‘s independence, comprises currently of the eight states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Topographically, the region is a mixture of hills and plains, with abundance of rainfall, wide bio-diversities, and varied climatic conditions. While Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim are almost entirely hilly, Assam is largely a plain. The hills, while spreading across as much as 70 per cent of the entire landscape of NER, accommodate only about 30 per cent of its total population. There are more than 160 scheduled tribe groups in the region, with estimated 220 languages of Indo-Aryan, Sino-Tibetan, and Austric language families being spoken.

11.3 DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURES IN NORTH EAST INDIA

India is having the largest concentration of tribal population of the

world (8.1%) and the north east region occupies 8.55% of the tribal population in India. The region is shared by the tribal and non-tribal people. The percentage of non-tribal is 47.22 percent but the land area under the tribal as a whole is more than the area under non-tribal. Among the eight states, four states have the tribal population as majority; specifically, Mizoram (94.5 per cent), Nagaland (89.1per cent), Meghalaya (85.9per cent), and Arunachal Pradesh (64.2 per cent).

11.3.1 Total Population

The region is the home of extraordinarily diverse mosaic of ethnic groups having distinctive social, cultural and economic identity. The population of North Eastern region is 38.49 million. 69.20 percent of the population live in Assam (2001) while the rest is distributed in the other states in the region. The population of the region constitute only 3.57 percent of the population of India while it covers 7.57 percent of the total territorial area. The population of Assam is 31,205,576. Nagaon district has the highest population of 2,823,768and lowest population in Dima Hasao with 214,102. Arunachal Pradesh total population is 1,383,727, Papumpare records the highly populated district with 176,573 and Dibang Valley has 8,004 as the lowest. The population of Sikkim is 610,577, East Sikkim which has the highest population of 283,583 and North Sikkim has the lowest 43,709. Tripura state is 3,673,917 with West Tripura has 1,725,739 and Dhalai has378,230 population which is the lowest. Mizoram total population is 1,097,206 and

Aizawl has the highest with 400,309 and Saiha having the lowest population of 56,574. The population of Meghalaya state is 2,966,889. East Khasi Hills has the highest population of 825,922 and South Garo Hills has the lowest with 142,334. Manipur state is 2,855,794.

Imphal West is highest population of 517,992 and Tamenglong has 140,651 which is the less populated district in Manipur. In

Nagaland state the total population is 1,978,502.

Dimapur has the highest population of 378,811 and Longleng has the lowest population of 50,484.

There was negligible increase in population growth rate in the North Eastern region. Nagaland recorded an exceptionally very high population growth rate which is to the extent of 4.4 percent from 1991-2001. The growth rate of Nagaland is more than 3 times as compared to India's population growth rate, more than 4 times to that of population growth rate of Assam and Tripura and double than that of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram. The population growth rate in other five states except Manipur has decreased during the last two decades. In Manipur the annual growth rate is only 0.10 percent during 1991-2001 from 1981-1991.As per census data from 1971 to 2011 about four percent of India's total population has been contributed from the north-eastern region. According to the census 2011, the total population of the region is about 45 million, of which Assam contributes the highest (68%) of the total population followed by Tripura (8 %). The population of Assam is 31 million compared to only 3.67 millions in Tripura, 2.96 in Meghalaya and 2.72 millions in Manipur. Sikkim records the least with 0.61 million population.

11.3.2 Decadal Growth Rate of Population

The growth of population in the north eastern states has been higher than the national average. The decadal growth rate ever since 1971-81 census shows that, except for Assam, the growth rate of population in all the north eastern states is higher than the national average of 24.66. Tripura recorded the highest growth rate (50.77 percent) followed by Nagaland (50.05 percent) in the period 1971-81. In the next decade (i.e. 1981-91), Assam has reported the lowest growth rate of population (24.24 percent) which is higher than the national average of 23.85 percent. During the period 1981-91 to 1991-

2001, Nagaland records the highest growth rate of 56.08 per cent and 64.46 per cent consecutively. Except Assam and Sikkim all other states have recorded growth rate of population higher than the national level of 21.54 percent in the period 1991-2001. It is worth noting that Nagaland is the only state which has recorded negative growth rate of -0.47 per cent during the period between 2001 and 2011, while other states like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram exhibit higher growth rate exceeding national figure of 17.64 per cent.

11.3.3 Density of Population

The north east region has been experiencing not only high population growth rate but also uneven distribution of population across the states. The region is basically a rural economy which covers about 84 per cent rural population having an average population density of 173 people per sq. km. of area according to the 2011 census report. Along with increase in the size of population, the density of population per sq. km. has been increasing gradually in all the eight states.

In the last two decades, there has been a 15.23 per cent increase in density of population in the north eastern region compared to 17.53 per cent increase for the nation as a whole. In the period between 2001 and 2011, the region recorded high variability in the density of population. Assam has recorded high density of population even above the national average in 2001. The most sparsely populated found 13 persons per sq. km. in 2001. Out of the eight states, Assam and Tripura are the most densely populated states sharing almost 76.4 per cent of total NER population in 2011. In 2011, the North East region occupied total population of 45,588 thousand, with density varying from 17 persons per sq. kilometre in Arunachal Pradesh (the biggest state in the region) to 397 in Assam followed by Tripura (350), Meghalaya (132), Manipur (122), Nagaland (119) and Sikkim (86).

Thus, unevenness of concentration of population has been the typical nature of the region. There is a high degree of population concentration in the central part of the region, where economic conditions and better infrastructural facilities ensure a quality life. In the peripheral mountainous portion of the region negligible concentration has been found due to isolation and inaccessibility.

11.3.4 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is a significant demographic indicator in which a closer balance between the sexes has been recognized as a healthy sign of population composition. It signifies the status of women in the society. In this regard the north eastern states show no widespread discrimination against females as found in other parts of India. The region witnessed improved sex ratio during the last decade as it has risen from 937 in 2001 to 956 in 2011. In this period the north-eastern region experienced a higher sex ratio than the sex ratio of nation total. Thus, it is noticed that the picture of the north east region has not been bad overall insofar as sex ratio is concerned. As per 2001 Census, sex ratio of total ST population in Nagaland is 943. Zunheboto district recorded the highest sex ratio of 976 while Mon district has the lowest ratio of 899. Tripura sex ratio was 962 in 2001 which had increased to 959 in 2011. the sex ratio of ST population in Mizoram as a whole is 984. Sex ratio among Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes is above the state average; so is the case in respect of Pawi. Low sex ratio has been registered among Any Kuki Tribes (914), Chakma (929), and any Naga tribes (941). In Meghalaya Synteng (1024) and Khasi (1017) have recorded sex ratio higher than 1000 mark. Although Garo have recorded comparatively low sex ratio (979) in the state.

11.3.5 Rural-Urban Composition of Population

The pace of urbanization in the Northeast has been lower than the national figure since 1981. Sector-wise distribution of

population in north east region reveals that 81.64 per cent of the population covers rural area and urban population constitutes only 18.36 per cent which is much below the all India figure of 31.16 per cent in 2011. In recent period though Mizoram claims as the highest urbanized state in the region yet it records 48.49 per cent shortfall in the share of urban population. Assam is the least scorer in this regard since 1981 having a huge shortfall of 85.92 per cent in 2011. Thus, North East India signifies the dominance of rural economy in the region with inaccessibility of all urban amenities for major part of the region.

11.3.6 Religious Composition of Population

The distribution of population according to religion reveals that not only Hinduism, Christianity has also been the predominant religion in north east region. Christians now comprise the majority of the population in Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya. As per the 2001 Census report, the concentration of Christians is very high in Nagaland (90%), Mizoram (87%), Meghalaya (70.3%), Manipur (34%) and Arunachal Pradesh (18.7%). Hinduism is predominant in Tripura (85.6%) followed by Assam (64.9%), Sikkim (60.9%), Manipur (46%), and Arunachal Pradesh (34.6%). The concentration of Muslims is highest in Assam (30.9%) followed by Manipur (8.8%) and Tripura (8%). Typically, the Buddhists are largest in Sikkim (28%), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (13%). Though the concentration of Christians are the smallest in Tripura (3.2%) and Assam (3.7%) as far as the north east region is concerned yet these States record higher concentration of Christian population than the all- India figure of 2.3%.

11.3.7 Fertility and Mortality Rates

Birth rate and death rate are the two major demographic features that greatly affect the population dynamics of any region. According to the Sample Registration System of the Registrar General

of India, the birth rates of the States of the region are comparatively lower than the rest of India. Out of the eight states, Manipur and Tripura record the lowest birth rate followed by Nagaland (16.8), Mizoram (17.1) and Sikkim (17.8) in recent period. During the last three decades, the birth rates have been found higher only in two states, viz., Meghalaya and Assam than the national average. This indicates a very healthy demographic scenario of the region. Assam shows the poorest performance concerning reduction of death rate over the period of the last four decades. Over time since 1981, death rate of Assam has been higher than the national average. Here Manipur shows comparatively better result. Manipur records lower death rate not only than the states of the region but also the national average. Overall, north eastern states (except Assam) attain lower death rate than India which presents the evidence that all the States of the region are trying to comply with the desired goal of national population policy.

11.4 INTER-STATE AND INTER-COMMUNITY POPULATION DYNAMICS

The Northeast Region comprises the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. In this greater region, excluding Sikkim, more than two hundred ethnic communities, having distinctive cultural characteristics, inhabit in diverse ecological stretch. The north-eastern part of India is a vast topographical expanse comprising the mountains and hills of the eastern Himalayas wherein gracefully flows the mighty Brahmaputra, Barak, etc. The tribes such as Jaintias, Apatamis, Khasis, Garos, Mizos, Angami Nagas, Bodos and Kacharis as well as other tribes have sustained their cultures and traditions. This region, therefore, is stated as the most heterogeneous part of India with different food habits, languages, religions, dresses, customs, etc.

Nagaland is inhabited by 16 major tribes and other sub tribes. Lotha is the most urbanized tribe with 28.8 per cent urban population, while Tikhir

is the least urbanized (0.6%). In Mizoram the Mizo (Lushai) tribes have the major community constituting 77 per cent of the total population followed by Chakma 8.5 per cent of total population and other tribes like Pawi, Lakher, Kuki and Hmar together have a sizeable population constituting 14 per cent of total population in the state. Meghalaya is predominantly a tribal state. Khasi constitute more than half of the total population of the state (56.4%). Garo is second with 34.6 per cent and together constitute 91 per cent of the total ST population. Synteng is listed both as a sub-tribe under Khasi and also as a separate ST which constitute 0.9 per cent of total STs. Sikkim is a multi-ethnic state. Broadly, the population can be divided into Tribal and Non- Tribal groups. The Nepalese comprise over 70 percent of Sikkim's population. There are 26 major tribes and more than 100 sub tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. The Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh their population of around 300,000. The Meitei ethnic group represents around 53% of the population of Manipur state, followed by various Naga tribes at 24% and various Kuki-Zo tribes at 16%. In Assam 61.67% were Hindus, 34.22% were Muslims. Christian minorities (3.7%) are found among the Scheduled Tribe and Castes population. The Scheduled Tribe population in Assam is around 13%, of which Bodos account for 40% according to 2011 census.

In this greater region, excluding Sikkim, more than two hundred ethnic communities having distinctive cultural characteristics inhabit in diverse ecological stretch. Northeast is home to around four hundred million people including two hundred and thirteen of the six hundred thirty five tribal groups listed by the anthropological survey in India. Though each community is characterized by distinct identity, they have much in common with the culture and traditions of the neighbours. Indeed conflicts among the various communities are observed in this region. Despite the present situation of fractured relations, tensions and misunderstandings between the communities, there is still some hope of rebinding the ties of inter-community understanding and appreciation if we go dip into the resources of folklore and myths. Therefore, an attempt is made to explain how history mixing the folklore entered into determining relations between myriad communities

inhabiting in the hills and plains of North-East India and to show some of these relations that still exist today. There is some hope of rebuilding the bridge of inter-community understanding if we revive the historical ties among these communities. Some of the examples of inter community in North East India are given below:

The Sherdukpen, a small tribe of Mahayana sect in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, has an interesting myth which has it that they are the descendents of a Tibetan prince who married an Ahom princess. Tibet lies in the far north of Sherdukpen habitat while Assam plains (Darrang and Sonitpur District in the northern bank of Brahmaputra) lie to the south. Influences emanating from both these regions characterize their life and culture. The Sherdukpens and their northern neighbours, the Monpas, have the tradition of winter visit to the plains of Darrang and Sonitpur districts close to the foot-hills region. They used to move down to a place called Doimara in the foothills and camp there for about three months for visit to the villages. From Doimara they would make several trips to the villages in the plains with their horses loaded with their produce and return with loads of paddy collected from the villagers.

The Nyishis of Arunachal Pradesh too has similar tradition of close cultural ties with the Assamese villagers of the plains. In many cases, the Ahom rulers even granted them temporary fishing rights in the ponds and marshes in the plains during the winter months. Like the Sherdukpen, the Nyishis too have great regard for items such as *endi-chadar* from the plains. The ceremonial attire of the Nyishi is incomplete without endi woven by the Assamese villagers.

11.5 GENDER PERSPECTIVE

According to the Gender Perspective, gender is different than sex. Sex refers only to the biological reality of male or female, gender refers to socially constructed roles which can change. While in principle there is nothing wrong with distinguishing between the biological reality and the cultural or personal expression of masculinity and femininity, those promoting

mainstreaming the Gender Perspective hold that all social differences between men and women are the result of oppressive stereotypes and should be eliminated so that men and women participate in every activity of society in statistically equal numbers. While it is true that stereotypes have in the past prevented some from achieving their full potential, it is also true that there are real differences between men and women, particularly as regards motherhood and fatherhood. These differences affect the free choices of women and men, and even when stereotypes and sex-based restrictions are eliminated, women and men cannot be expected to achieve statistical equality. The concern with gender emerged as feminist theorists sought to understand the complexities of women's subordination. The word came into mainly academic usage some 15 years or so after the re-emergence of late twentieth century feminism which, unlike its earlier manifestations, has made a significant dent in the male-dominated or andocentric society.

Gender inequality in north-eastern states of India can be observed in four different areas viz., education, employment, health and political participation. The gender related development indices of the eight states were compared with the corresponding national figure. It was found that four states had GDI above national level and the remaining four states had GDI values marginally below than that of India implying that women of the region enjoyed less disparity in terms of longevity, educational attainment and thus control over resources. The gender gap was estimated in areas like literacy rate, enrolment rate, work participation rate, sex ratio, infant mortality rate, life-expectancy at birth, women's political participation, etc. The gap was narrow for the states like Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland in respect of literacy rate. The gender gap in literacy was the largest for Arunachal Pradesh among the north-eastern states. However it was always better than the national figure. Similarly, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim had done well in case of enrolment rate. Even in high school level, the enrolment rate of girls was more than that of boys in those states. But in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam the gender gap was wide in enrolment rate at different levels of education. Gender gap in work participation rate was less in Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram. The prevalence of women market in Manipur might

be the cause of the low gender gap in the state. However the situation was worse in Tripura, Assam and Sikkim where tribal population were relatively lower in comparison to other north-eastern states. As regards sex ratio we found that Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam had better sex ratio and states like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland had sex ratio much lower than that of the national average. Infant mortality rate was lower for the north-eastern states. Female infant mortality rate was higher than male infant mortality rate in the region except in the states of Sikkim and Tripura.

Similarly life expectancy at birth was more for women than for men in North East India. So it seems that the women of the region enjoyed better health status as compared to national level. Political participation of women at state and national level was lower for those states except Assam. However the participation at local level was almost one third for all the states of the region. But this might not indicate that women of the region are politically empowered or aware. There might be influence of male members of the family on the women as a result of which they acted as proxies of their male counterparts in the political domain. Although the status of women were relatively better in north-eastern states viz., Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya as compared to national level yet there were gaps in educational attainment, access to employment, health, political participation, etc. Giving property right, access to employment and educational opportunity to women thus might not change the picture. A revolutionary change in the social and cultural values and behavioural pattern is necessary to foster the process of achieving gender equality. As soon as women feel that they have the capability to operate the society at the same term as men then achieving gender equality would not remain as a distant dream.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Briefly state the density of population of North East India?

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.....

Q 2: What are the different factors of demographic structures?

.....

.....

Q 3: What do you mean by gender perspective?

.....

.....



11.6 LET US SUM UP

- No less significant are the effects of such demographic trends on the socio-cultural mores of the original inhabitants, particularly the tribal population, of NER. It is interesting that high proportion of tribal population, though population-wise smaller than many major tribes put together outside NER, brings in some dilemmas.
- On the other hand, the tribal groups that wish to maintain their identities might resort to pre-fertility proclivities (these trends are manifest, as we have seen, in the recent slowdown in pace of fertility decline in some states of NER). Of course, the exact mechanisms through which the envisaged symbiosis between demographic and socio-cultural forces thickens and takes shape are complex and do deserve further meticulous research.
- Present fractured relations, tensions, conflicts and misunderstanding amongst the different plains and hill tribes of North-East India, there is some hope of rebuilding the bridge of inter-community understanding if we dip into the resources of history and folklore of the region. The oral history partly real and partly fictional created the environment of inter-community relations between diverse communities living in the hills and plains area. History, cited with folklore enters into determining content and quality relations between hundreds of communities inhabiting the hill and plains of Assam and rest of the North-East India.



11.7 FURTHER READING

1) Pandey, M.C. and Goel, N.P. (1994): "Population Trend in the North-Eastern Region", in S. Mukherjee, et al (eds), *Demographic Profile of North-East India*, Omsons Publications, New Delhi, pp. 1-7.

2) Anand, S. and A. Sen (1995) "Gender Inequality in Human Development: Theories and Measurement" in Fukuda Parr and A.K. Shiv Kumar (eds.) *Readings in Human Development*, OUP, New Delhi.



11.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: In 2011, the North East region occupies total population of 45,588 thousand with density varying from 17 persons per sq. kilometre in Arunachal Pradesh (the biggest state in the region) to 397 in Assam followed by Tripura (350), Meghalaya (132), Manipur (122), Nagaland (119) and Sikkim (86).

Ans to Q No 2: The different demographic factors are age, sex, education level, income level, marital status, occupation, religion, birth rate, death rate, average size of a family, average age at marriage.

Ans to Q No 3: The gender perspective looks at the impact of gender on people's opportunities, social roles and interactions. Gender relations are accordingly defined as the specific mechanisms whereby different cultures determine the functions and responsibilities of each sex.



11.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What is the Religious Composition of Population in northeast India?

Q 2: Briefly state the Rural-Urban Composition of Population of northeast India?

Q 3: Write short notes on the fertility and mortality rate of northeast India?

Long Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 350-500 words)

Q 1: Elaborate the demographic structures of northeast India?

Q 2: Describe the inter-community interaction among the tribes of northeast India?

Q 3: Explain the demographic dynamics in Northeast from gender perspectives.

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UNIT 12 : DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

12.1 Learning Objectives

12.2 Introduction

12.3 Poverty

- 12.3.1 Causes of Poverty
- 12.3.2 Poverty in Northeast India

12.4 Unemployment

12.5 Child and Women Trafficking

- 12.5.1 Causes of Human Trafficking:
  - 12.5.1.1 Push or Supply Factors
  - 12.5.1.2 Pull or Demand Factors
- 12.5.2 Government Policy adopted as anti-human Trafficking Measures

12.6 Immigration

- 12.6.1 Factors of immigration

12.7 Inter-Community Feuds

12.8 Outmigration

12.9 Let Us Sum Up

12.10 Further Reading

12.11 Answers to Check Your Progress

12.12 Model Questions

12.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will able to-

- discuss the different demographic problems in Northeast India
- explain the causes behind the demographic problems
- analyse the consequences of these problems.

12.2 INTRODUCTION

North Eastern region of India comprises of eight states- Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim, respectively. This region covers a geographical area of 2, 62185 sq.kms which is nearly 8% of the total geographical area of the country. This region is located between latitudes 29 degree and 22 degree North and longitudes about 89.46 and 97.5 East. Although the region has plenty of natural resources with bio-diversity, hydro-potential, oil and coal reserves and wealthy forest covers, economically this region is still lagging behind the other states of India. Due to different demographic problems in the region like poverty, unemployment, immigration, ethnic conflicts, human trafficking and outmigration, the region is still undeveloped. In this unit we shall discuss the different demographic problems in Northeast.

12.3 POVERTY

Poverty has been usually defined in economic terms like income levels, property and living standards. People, whose income cannot fulfil their basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, are considered to be poor. In India and the USA, the concept of "poverty line" is based on the income. Poverty is not only a condition of economic insufficiency; it is also a condition of social and political exclusion. Poverty is therefore to be seen not merely in economic terms but also in its social and political aspects. Poverty is linked with social and economic deprivations.

12.3.1 Causes of Poverty

Some of the causes of poverty are:

- Unequal distribution of income;
- Large families/joint families;
- Illiteracy;
- Low productivity;
- High population growth;
- Failures of the poverty eradication programmes.

12.3.2 Poverty in Northeast India

According to the Planning Commission, there has been a rise in poverty levels in the Northeastern states of India. 116.4 lakh people in Assam, followed by 12.5 lakh in Manipur, 6.3 lakh in Tripura, 4.9 lakh in Meghalaya, 4.1 lakh in Nagaland, 3.5 lakh in Arunachal Pradesh, and 2.3 lakh in Mizoram live below the poverty line. Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh have shown a decrease in the poverty scale as Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh are affected with less poverty in 2009-10 than in 2004-05. Nagaland has registered an increase of 12 per cent in poverty followed by Manipur at 9.2 per cent, Mizoram 5.7 per cent, Assam 3.5 per cent and Meghalaya one per cent. India Spend has reported Meghalaya and Sikkim show the largest decrease in poverty in India. In Sikkim the percentage of population below the poverty line was 13.1% in 2009-10 and it decreased to 8.2% in 2011-12. In the same way, the poverty line in Meghalaya in 2009-10 was 17.1% and it decreased to 11.9% in 2011-12. In 2004-05, all the north eastern states showed a higher poverty ratio vis-à-vis India (37.2), except Tripura (40.0) and Manipur (37.9). In this regard Nagaland presents better performance than other states of the region as it recorded least poverty ratio of 8.8, followed by Mizoram (15.4) and Meghalaya (16.1). Poverty estimate in 2009-10 showed improved picture for some of the states in the region, viz., Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, compared to 2004-05 estimate of poverty ratio. The poverty estimates provide a deteriorating trend in states like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur and Assam. These states show higher poverty ratios vis-à-vis 2004-05 estimates. It is observed that rural-urban gap in reducing poverty ratio has been greater in Mizoram, where urban and rural areas account for 11.5 per cent and 31.1 per cent poverty ratio respectively in 2009-10. Urban poverty ratio is found to be higher for states like Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland than the national average figure. Manipur and Assam record worse off situation than India in rural

poverty estimation. Manipur is poorest; Sikkim is the richest. Results also show that there is less than 10 per cent poverty level in 2011-12 in the urban area in states of Sikkim, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. In all the states the urban poverty is lower than rural area.

Some of the important problems of poverty include malnutrition, illiteracy, diseases and long-term health problems, unhygienic living conditions, lack of proper housing, high infant mortality rate, injustice to women and social ill-treatment of certain sections of society. Factors like restricted access to employment opportunities and income; lack of proper housing facilities; unhygienic environment; lack of opportunity to quality health and educational services prevail in the region. Some of the poverty alleviation programmes are the IRDP and Employment Programmes, Women and Youth and Area Development Programmes, etc.

12.4 UNEMPLOYMENT

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim (added in 2002) and Tripura have high rates of education in India. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people but with the increase in education rate their dependence on agriculture is reducing. India Spend research has revealed that though the education rate is high and it is growing fast, there are not enough jobs and livelihood opportunities for the people. Almost all the educated persons are unemployed. In all north-eastern states unemployment in urban areas is higher than rural areas. The highest unemployment rate was in Tripura urban areas with 25.2% in 2011-12 which is the highest jobless rate India, followed by Nagaland (23.8%), the second-highest rate, and Manipur (7.1%). Meghalaya (0.4% in rural areas and 2.8% in urban areas) has the second-lowest unemployment rate (after Gujarat) in India in 2011-12.

There are highly diverse and vibrant natural resources in the north eastern states, but the region is underdeveloped as compared to other states of India. The infrastructural deficiency, insurgency and market failure are the reasons for the underdevelopment of the region. In this state of

underdevelopment, creation of employment opportunities is a grave concern for the region. The overall development is the only solution to bring out the region from its underdeveloped stage.

12.5 CHILD AND WOMEN TRAFFICKING

The word 'trafficking' is a legal term which means dealing or trading with something that is illegal. In other words, this is an act criminalized by the existing legal norms. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in the year 2000, defined trafficking by the process, means and purpose of exploitation. According to this report, India is a source, destination and transit country for men, women and children trafficked.

The most important factor for fuelling human trafficking in northeast region is the fact that it is surrounded by international borders like China in the North, Bhutan in the West, Myanmar or Burma in the East and Bangladesh in the South. The threat of child and girl trafficking has assumed alarming proportions. Though child trafficking is prevalent all over the country, its incidence is quite high in the North-Eastern region. From the office of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Assam, it is found that during the period 2005-2010, 42.03 per cent children have been trafficked to states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and West Bengal, whereas 31.88 per cent children are sent to metro cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, etc., 14.49 per cent children are sent to unknown destinations, 7.25 per cent children are trafficked around the North Eastern region and 4.35 per cent are sent to other places. Women and children are the most vulnerable in the state. Due to open national and international border and loose security condition of North East India, the problem of human trafficking has become an unsolvable one.

Among these eight states, Assam ranks top in human trafficking cases during 2006-2013. In 2014, it occupied 4th rank with 407 cases contributing 7.4% of the total cases in India and in 2015, it occupied first rank with 1494 cases contributing 21.7% of the total of India. The statistics of women trafficking for the year 2015 is both alarming and a wake-up call for any civilized society. Engulfed by recurring flood and ethnic violence along with

high poverty and illiteracy, Assam is one of the major sources of human trafficking victims in the country. Further, plagued by recurring ethnic conflicts and natural calamities such as flood, a large group of people tend to move outward. The targets of traffickers are refugee camps of internally displaced persons who are victims of ethnic conflicts, natural calamities, etc.

In Mizoram, the Government has taken several steps to curb the evils of human trafficking. It is the first state in the North East to formulate the 'Victims of Crime Compensation Scheme'. However, in spite of these novel measures, human trafficking is still active in the state. In Meghalaya, human trafficking has spread even into the rural areas of the state and has the largest incidence of child trafficking after Assam. Tourism is the major industry in the state which has contributed to the recent mushrooming of guest houses and hotels. The recent cases that came to light of these service industries engaging in flesh trade is evidence of the seriousness of human trafficking in the state. Until recently, most of the children were trafficked to be employed as bonded labour in the mining of coal, or in tea stalls and other services.

Nagaland has witnessed growth in education, upward mobility, and urban population over the years. However, there is tremendous uneven development between urban towns like Kohima, Mokokchung and Dimapur and the far-flung districts. With growing urbanisation, there is also a huge demand for domestic helps, especially minor boys and girls. Over the years, there is an increasing flow of children as domestic helps from remote villages to urban towns. These children have become vulnerable targets for child trafficking. Since there is a dearth of employment opportunities in Nagaland, many young semi-educated girls of underprivileged background are lured with offers of jobs in economic establishments, massage parlours and find themselves duped or coerced into the commercial sex trade by ill-intentioned employers in metropolitan cities like Bangalore, Pune, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Goa.

12.5.1 Causes of Human Trafficking

12.5.1.1 Push or Supply Factors

The push factors which operate in any under developed region can generally be divided into three categories viz., (i) economic, (ii) socio-cultural, and (iii) political and legal factors. The economic factors include poverty arising out of illiteracy, ignorance, lack of access to knowledge and resources, unemployment, absence of livelihood opportunities, drug addiction of women and children either voluntarily or by force. Children kept in substitute homes run by dubious organisations or individuals also seem to enhance the chances of the vulnerable to fall prey to trafficking.

12.5.1.2 Pull or Demand Factors

The pull factors emerge from the demand for women and children's bodies by immoral individuals, and organised criminals, who see trafficking as a lucrative and easy business, facilitate such men's cruel desire by setting up the sex industry. Some of the other pull factors include legal acceptance of prostitution as an industry in some regions which generate demand for women and children. The prospective victims, who usually fall prey to the designs of organised criminals, often come from the economically, socially, and culturally vulnerable sections of the society. The available evidence suggests the causes found in underdeveloped or backward societies are grounded in the culture that prejudices against women, the girl child and the downtrodden.

12.5.2 Government Policy adopted on Anti-Human Trafficking

In India also, the government has taken several anti trafficking

measures to prevent the exploitation of women and children from the threat of human trafficking. In the Indian Constitution, Article no. 23 (1) provides that, 'trafficking in human beings are prohibited and any contravention of this prohibition shall be an offence and punishable'. Article no. 39 (1) imposes duty on the state to direct its policy towards saving 'that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in condition of freedom and dignity and children and youth are protected against exploitation'. In 1998, the Indian Prime Minister approved a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.

12.6 IMMIGRATION

The Northeast India has always been facing the problem of illegal immigration from Bangladesh. There is an absence of estimates of the post-1971 illegal migrants to Assam and the other north eastern states based on sound demographic tools. The unusual population growth of Muslim population in Assam in different census periods can be attributed to large scale Muslim immigrants pouring in to Assam. It is also important to note that the growth of Muslim population in Bangladesh has declined during 1974-2001 and the growth rate is lower than the growth of Muslim population in Assam. In Assam, the growth of Muslim population has been higher than the growth of Muslims in the all India level. Regarding undocumented migration in other north eastern states, it is very high in Nagaland (532438) and low in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim (42,098 and 52,800 respectively) during the period 1991-2001. In Nagaland the population growth was highest (64.5) among all north eastern states during 1991-2001 which was also far above the natural increase (16, approximately). Similarly the illegal migrants of other three states of Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya are 147030, 166894 and 148330 respectively during the period 1991-2001 and during this period the total estimated undocumented migrants in all the north eastern states (except Mizoram) is 16, 24409.

12.6.1 Factors of Immigration

- Increasing pressure on land and mounting unemployment in Bangladesh due to uncontrolled steep rise in population and high density of population (964 per sq. km, according to 2011 estimate).
- The large scale migration from Bangladesh to India has been possible mainly due to the porous India-Bangladesh border of 4,096 kilometres, the fencing of which has not been completed
- Better economic opportunities across the border.
- Large segments of population in Bangladesh uprooted by severe floods and cyclones.

12.7 INTER-COMMUNITY FEUDS

The inter-community feuds are experienced due to distrust, conflict, tension and disharmony. The problem of ethnic conflict is engendered through grievances based on perceived deprivations and non-reciprocated expectations of the ethnic communities toward one another. The north-eastern region of India also bears witness to the problem of ethnic conflict. In fact, the region is often regarded as a conflict ridden area. The last decade of the twentieth century is best remembered in Manipur for the violent ethnic clashes between the Kukis and the Nagas which started in 1992 and continued till the year end of 1998. It was followed by clashes between Meiteis and Muslims in May 1993, Kuki- Paite clashes in 1997-1998. Nagaland has also experienced numerous ethnic conflicts which includes the Chakhesangs-Tangkhuls conflict in Phek district during 1995-1996. Assam was one of those states where linguistic issues have emerged as a dominant issue in the post-independent period. The most notorious language riot started in 1960-1961, before and after the passing of the Official Language Bill by the state Assembly. In both instances, there were violent conflicts between ethnic Assamese and Hindu Bengalis and there were deaths, destruction and sufferings as a result of inter-ethnic conflicts as well as of police attempt to control protest demonstration and movements. Socio-political development

and economic growth have also contributed to ethnic tensions. In the mid-1980s there was tension and conflict between the Assamese and the Bengali Muslims, because of the agitation against the influx of foreigners. This conflict has now re-emerged in violent form under the leadership of the NDFB (National Democratic Front of Bodoland) and the ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam). The state has also witnessed another ethnic clash between Bodo and Santhals in early 1996. In the same way, the other ethnic conflicts witnessed by the state include Karbi-Kuki and Dimasa-Hamr conflicts in the year 2003, Karbi-Dimasa conflict in the year 2005, Garo-Rabha Conflict in 2011, Bodo- Muslim conflict in the year 2008 & 2012 and so on. The aspiration for a distinct identity among the ethnic groups resulted in a number of ethnic movements demanding autonomy. As a result, at present there are several Autonomous Councils in the state. Slowly the non-Assamese groups developed a desire to be separate and hence have come up with a struggle for a separate state.

The northeast region also experiences extremism and insurgency besides ethnic violence. There are a number of extremist organizations like United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland, National Socialist Council of Nagalim, Kuki National Army, Garo Liberation Front, Bru National Liberation Front, National Liberation Front of Tripura, Hmar People's Convention (Democratic), Zomi Revolutionary Army, All Tripura Tigers Force, Liberation Tigers of Arunachal, National Liberation Army of Arunachal, United Liberation Tigers of Arunachal, Revolutionary Army of Arunachal Pradesh, etc.

12.8 OUT MIGRATION

The economies of Northeast region are underdeveloped with very weak industrial sectors and inflated service sectors. Moreover, industrialization has failed to take off in the region. The culture of bandhs in the region has created disorder within the education system. The rapid educational development, unemployment, underdeveloped economy and industrialisation, ailing educational system and infrastructure are the causes of outmigration in the northeast region. There is an increase in males from about 26 to 31

per cent during the same period that implies that unemployment issue in their region was becoming a major reason for outmigration. A study found that in 2001 about 6000 people migrated to Bangalore and 67000 people to Delhi for better availability of opportunities, facilities and services such as employment, education, infrastructure, amenities, etc. The migration of males was high in Bangalore (989 females per thousand males in 1991 and 685 in 2001) and in Delhi (868 in 1991 and 784 in 2001) and females in Delhi than Bangalore in the year 2001.

The state of Tripura has lost its population by 27400 persons due to high outmigration. Assam has also lost a significant number of persons due to outmigration. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur are the least affected ones of outmigration. Considering the net effect of migration, it can be observed that all the constituent units of the region have gained by population, except Tripura which has lost. The main stream of out-migration from Assam is directed towards West Bengal, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. The distribution of migrants from Manipur shows that the bulk (constituting more than half) is spread over Assam. Nagaland also received one-fourth of the total out-migrants from Manipur. About 89 per cent of the migrants from Meghalaya· are found in Assam, another 3 per cent in West Bengal and 2 per cent in Nagaland. The latter are the other states which have received significant proportion of migrants from Meghalaya. About two-third of the total migrants from Nagaland is directed towards Assam. The other states which have received persons from Nagaland are Meghalaya (7 per cent) and 6 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh. The main out-flow from Tripura is directed towards Assam, West Bengal and these two states of the Indian Union attract about 60 per cent and 26 per cent respectively, i.e. around 86 percent of the total out-migrants from Tripura. Manipur attracted about 3 per cent and Meghalaya 1.89 per cent. Out of the total out-migrants from Arunachal Pradesh, a heavier proportion (about 63 per cent) has gone to Assam, while only 7.51 per cent went to Meghalaya and 3.07 per cent to West Bengal.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Mention the Causes of poverty?

.....

.....

Q 2: Define Unemployment.

.....

.....

Q 3: Mention the reasons behind immigration.

.....

.....



12.9 LET US SUM UP

- According to the Planning Commission, in Northeast states there is a rise in poverty levels; there are 116.4 lakh of people in Assam, followed by Manipur 12.5 lakh, Tripura 6.3 lakh, Meghalaya 4.9 lakh, Nagaland 4.1 lakh, Arunachal Pradesh 3.5 lakh, and Mizoram 2.3 lakh living below the poverty line.
- The highest unemployment rate was in Tripura urban areas with 25.2% in 2011-12 that is the highest jobless rate India, followed by Nagaland (23.8%) second-highest rate, and Manipur (7.1%). Meghalaya (0.4% in rural areas and 2.8% in urban areas) has the second-lowest unemployment rate (after Gujarat) in India in 2011-12.
- The northeast region is economically weaker compared to other parts of the country due to ethnic violence, armed conflicts and political movements for autonomy that intersect and create an environment that is not conducive for steady employment and social stability. These factors create an environment and a situation where the people, especially women and children, become highly vulnerable to human trafficking.

- The continuous exodus of people from Bangladesh to India's Northeast region is changing the demography of the north-eastern states which is being resented by the local population.
- Ethnic conflict in its extreme from is characterised by large scale violence, widespread insurgency and extensive civil war causing death, decay, destruction, misery and sufferings. A prolonged continuation of such a situation may seriously weaken and disturb the social order and lead to its political-economic disintegration.
- The rapid educational development, unemployment, underdeveloped economy and industrialisation, ailing educational system and infrastructure are the causes of outmigration in the northeast region



12.10 FURTHER READING

1) Marickan S.J. (1988) Poverty in India.
2) Goswami N. (2006) Illegal migration in Assam: A Concern for India's national security.
3) Kumar B.B. (2005) Tension and Conflict in North East India.
4) Sen S. and P.M. Nair (2005) Trafficking in Women and Children in India.



12.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs cannot be met. Poverty-stricken people and families might go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention. Each nation may have its own threshold that

determines how many of its people are living in poverty. Causes of poverty are changing trends in a country's economy that is associated with the lack of education, unemployment, illiteracy, overpopulation, epidemic diseases and environmental problems.

Ans to Q No 2: Unemployment is defined as a situation where someone of working age is not able to get a job but would like to be in full-time employment.

Ans to Q No 3: Immigration involves the movement of people from their home country to a host country or region, to which they are not native, to live. There are many reasons why immigrants choose to leave their home countries, including economic issues, political issues, family reunification, and natural disasters. The causes of immigration are economic issues, political issues, family reunification, or natural disasters. Economic reasons include seeking higher wages, better employment opportunities, a higher standard of living, and educational opportunities.



12.12 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Explain in brief Push and Pull factors of human trafficking?

Q 2: Differentiate between immigration and outmigration.

Long questions (Answer each question in about 350-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss poverty and unemployment in Northeast India?

Q 2: Explain the immigration and outmigration in Northeast India?

Q 3: Elaborate in detail the child and women trafficking in Northeast India?

Q 4: What are the causes of immigration and outmigration in Northeast India?

Q 5: Discuss the intercommunity feuds in the northeast region?

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UNIT 13 : CENSUS 2011 (MAJOR FEATURES FROM NATIONAL DATA)

UNIT STRUCTURE

13.1 Learning Objectives

13.1 Introduction

13.1 Major features of 2011 census

- 13.3.1 Growth of Population
- 13.3.2 Density of Population in the Country
- 13.3.3 Sex Ratio in the Country
- 13.3.4 Literacy Rate in the Country
- 13.3.5 Rural Urban Dichotomy

13.4 Let Us Sum Up

13.5 Further Reading

13.6 Answers to Check Your Progress

13.7 Model Questions

13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- descibe the basic features of the census of India conducted in the year 2011
- explain the factual informations pertaining to different aspects of the population of India as per census 2011
- discuss in details the population composition of the country, sex ratio in the population, density of population in the country, religious affiliations of the population and so on as per the 2011 census data.

13.2 INTRODUCTION

India conducted its 15th decennial census in the year 2011, which was carried in two successive phases: house listing phase and population enumeration phase. House listing phase continued for about six months (from April 2010 to September 2010) while the population enumeration phase started

in the month of February 2011 and ended in the same month. It is important to note that information for national population register was also collected during the house listing phase of 2011 census (the information collected so will be used to issue a 12 digit unique identification number to all the residents of India under UIDAI).

Census 2011 collected the requisite information on various heads in 16 languages and the training manual for carrying out the census operations was also prepared in 16 languages. It is also important to note here that for the first time ever in history India collaborated with Bangladesh to conduct their first ever joint census in the areas along their border in 2011.

Census 2011 has also become the first census to collect the biometric information and it has also collected information on caste counts of the country for the first time (on an all India basis) after Independence. C. Chandramauli was the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of the 2011 census. Let us have a look at the major features of the 2011 census:

13.1 MAJOR FEATURES OF THE 2011 CENSUS

13.3.1 Growth of Poulation

Census 2011 shows that India's population has increased up to 1.21 billion. India is now home to a whopping 1.21 billion people which accounts for around 17.5 per cent of world's total population. The 2011 census provisional figures, released on March 21st, reveal that around 181.5 million people were new addition to India's total population since 2001.The current rate of population growth in India is around 17.6 per cent.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) has become most populous state in India and Sikkim became the lowest populated state of the country. As per the 2011 census, UP has around 199 million people and the state alone shares around 16 % of India's total population .The state is immediately being followed by states like Maharashtra and Bihar (shares around 9 % of the total population growth and is being followed by the state of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and so on in context of the growing population composition).

Table 1: Population Growth in India

STATE/ UT CODE	STATE/UNION TERRITORY#	TOTAL POPULATION	MALE	FEMALE	% OF DECADAL GROWTH
	JAMMU & KASHMIR	*12,548,926*	*6,665,561*	*5,883,365*	*23.71*
	HIMACHAL PRADESH	*6,856,509*	*3,473,892*	*3,382,617*	*12.81*
	PUNJAB	*27,704,236*	*14,634,819*	*13,069,417*	*13.73*
	CHANDIGARH#	*1,054,686*	*580,282*	*474,404*	*17.10*
	UTTARAKHAND	*10,116,752*	*5,154,178*	*4,962,574*	*19.17*
	HARYANA	*25,353,081*	*13,505,130*	*11,847,951*	*19.90*
	NCT OF DELHI#	*16,753,235*	*8,976,410*	*7,776,825*	*20.96*
	RAJASTHAN	*68,621,012*	*35,620,086*	*33,000,926*	*21.44*
	UTTAR PRADESH	*199,581,477*	*104,596,415*	*94,985,062*	*20.09*
	BIHAR	*103,804,637*	*54,185,347*	*49,619,290*	*25.07*
	SIKKIM	*607,688*	*321,661*	*286,027*	*12.36*
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	*1,382,611*	*720,232*	*662,379*	*25.92*
	NAGALAND	*1,980,602*	*1,025,707*	*954,895*	*-0.47*
	MANIPUR	*2,721,756*	*1,369,764*	*1,351,992*	*18.65*
	MIZORAM	*1,091,014*	*552,339*	*538,675*	*22.78*
	TRIPURA	*3,671,032*	*1,871,867*	*1,799,165*	*14.75*
	MEGHALAYA	*2,964,007*	*1,492,668*	*1,471,339*	*27.82*
	ASSAM	*31,169,272*	*15,954,927*	*15,214,345*	*16.93*
	WEST BENGAL	*91,347,736*	*46,927,389*	*44,420,347*	*13.93*
	JHARKHAND	*32,966,238*	*16,931,688*	*16,034,550*	*22.34*
	ORISSA	*41,947,358*	*21,201,678*	*20,745,680*	*13.97*
	CHHATTISGARH	*25,540,196*	*12,827,915*	*12,712,281*	*22.59*
	MADHYA PRADESH	*72,597,565*	*37,612,920*	*34,984,645*	*20.30*
	GUJARAT	*60,383,628*	*31,482,282*	*28,901,346*	*19.17*
	DAMAN & DIU#	*242,911*	*150,100*	*92,811*	*53.54*
	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI#	*342,853*	*193,178*	*149,675*	*55.50*
	MAHARASHTRA	*112,372,972*	*58,361,397*	*54,011,575*	*15.99*
	ANDHRA PRADESH	*84,665,533*	*42,509,881*	*42,155,652*	*11.10*
	KARNATAKA	*61,130,704*	*31,057,742*	*30,072,962*	*15.67*

	GOA	*1,457,723*	*740,711*	*717,012*	*8.17*
	LAKSHADWEEP#	*64,429*	*33,106*	*31,323*	*6.23*
	KERALA	*33,387,677*	*16,021,290*	*17,366,387*	*4.86*
	TAMIL NADU	*72,138,958*	*36,158,871*	*35,980,087*	*15.60*
	PUDUCHERRY#	*1,244,464*	*610,485*	*633,979*	*27.72*
	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR				
	ISLANDS#	*379,944*	*202,330*	*177,614*	*6.68*

Source: *Census of 2011*

Table 1 will give an overall idea of the growth percentage of population in the country and across the states of India. It will also help you to have the exact figures of total male and female population residing in the various states of the country. Among the states of India the highest decadal growth rate has been recorded in the state of Meghalaya (27.82%) while the least has been recorded in Kerala (4.86). Among the Union Territories the highest percentage of decadal growth rate has been recorded in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and least has been recorded in Lakshadweep.

It is important to note that though the overall population of the country has been increasing since the last census, the rate of growth of population recorded during the present census is much lower than that of the previous census. While the growth percentage of census was 21.15 per cent in 2001, it has lowered down to 17.6 in 2011. It is also important to note that the downfall in the rate of growth has happened after so many decades as such a trend was witnessed last only during the decade 1911-1921.

13.3.2 Density of Population in the Country

Density of population in the country has shown a significant rise. The overall density of population in India has risen from 325 to 382 since 2001. Bihar has the highest density of population with around 1102 persons living per sq km in the state. Bihar is followed by States like West Bengal (1029 sq km), Kerala (860 person per sq

km), Uttar Pradesh (829 person per sq km) and so on. The minimum population density was recorded in state of Arunachal Pradesh (17 person per sq km) for both 2001 and 2011 Census. Among the Union Territories Delhi (11,320) occupies the first place becoming the most densely settled Union Territory of India followed immediately by Chandigarh (9258), Puducherry (2547), Daman and Diu(2191) and Lakshadweep (2149) and so forth .The table below will give you an overall idea about the densities of population state wise.

TABLE II: Density of population in India as per 2011 census:

Sl no	***State/Union Territory#***	***Density of population***
1.	*Uttar Pradesh*	*829*
2.	*Maharashtra*	*365*
3.	*Bihar*	*1,106*
4.	*West Bengal*	*1,028*
5.	*Andhra Pradesh*	*308*
6.	*Madhya Pradesh*	*236*
7.	*Tamil Nadu*	*555*
8.	*Rajasthan*	*200*
9.	*Karnataka*	*319*
10.	*Gujarat*	*308*
11.	*Orissa*	*270*
12.	*Kerala*	*860*
13.	*Jharkhand*	*414*
14.	*Assam*	*398*
15.	*Punjab*	*551*
16.	*Chhattisgarh*	*189*
17.	*Haryana*	*573*
18.	*Delhi*	*11,32*
19.	*Jammu and Kashmir*	*56*
20.	*Uttarakhand*	*189*
21.	*Himachal Pradesh*	*123*
22.	*Tripura*	*350*
23.	*Meghalaya*	*132*

24.	*Manipur*	*128*
25.	*Nagaland*	*119*
26.	*Goa*	*394*
27.	*Arunachal Pradesh*	*17*
28.	*Puducherry*	*2,547*
29.	*Mizoram*	*52*
30.	*Chandigarh*	*9,258*
31.	*Sikkim*	*86*
32.	*Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	*46*
33.	*Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	*700*
34.	*Daman and Diu*	*2,191*
35.	*Lakshadweep*	*2,149*

Source: *census 2011*

13.3.3 Sex Ratio of the country

Sex Ratio of the country shows an upward trend. Sex ratio reveals an important dynamic about the gender situation of the country. It has been a valuable source to access the total population of women in India and the ratio of women to that of men in the country. It has been observed in India that "though the population sex ratio in the country has declined through most of the 20th century, recently it has shown an upward trend. It rose from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001 and to 940 in 2011."

As per the 2011 census, the overall sex ratio of the country is 940 females against 1000 males. The present number is statistically 10 per cent more than the overall sex ratio recorded during the previous census, when the sex ratio of the country was 933 out of every 1000 males. Kerala has become the best state in the context of maintaining the gender parity in the population while Haryana has become the worst performing state in context of maintaining the same. 2011 census hold that the sex ratio of Haryana is 879 out of every 1000 males which is a comparatively skewed ratio when compared to the overall sex ratio of the country. The states of Jammu and Kashmir

(889), Punjab (895), Uttar Pradesh (912) and Bihar (918) are also the worst performing states in the context of maintaining gender parity in its population. All these states thus need to work holistically and judiciously in the line of maintaining gender scenario to minimize the imbalance in their population composition

The top-performing states in context of the maintaining the sex ratio of the country are Kerala (1084), Tamil Nadu (996), Andhra Pradesh (993), Chhattisgarh (991) and Orissa (979). However, all the states have shown better performances in the context of maintaining their overall sex ratio if we compare their present ratio to that of the ratio in the previous census.

Point of concern: The census 2011, however, has recorded a serious anomaly in the context of the overall sex ratio of the country. As per the 2011 census there has been an annoying downward fall which can be observed in the context of the child sex ratio of the country. The ratio as per the census has declined from 927 to 918 between 2001 and 2011. Such a declining trend clearly reflects the persistence of continuing biasness against females in Indian society, which is not a healthy sign. The census data also held that the decline is drastic in rural India from 934 to 923, but in absolute terms the urban ratio is equally worse at 905 in 2011, even marginally lower than the figure of 906 in 2001. Thus, both in the rural and the urban India a declining trend can be observed in the context of child sex ratio, which is going to affect negatively the overall sex ratio of the country in the coming decades. The gap so created hence needed to be corrected/mitigated as soon as possible to maintain gender ratio in the country.

Let us now look at the sex ratio of the country in a tabular form. The table below will give you an overall glimpse and comparative understanding about the sex ratio across all the states in the last two census periods.

Table III: Sex ratio of India (2001/2011 census):

SL NO	STATES /UT	Overall SEX RATIO 2011 census	Sex ratio 2001 Census
1	UTTAR PRADESH	912	898
2	MAHARASHTRA	929	922
3	BIHAR	918	919
4	WEST BENGAL	950	934
5	ANDHRA PRADESH	993	978
6	MADHYA PRADESH	931	919
7	TAMIL NADU	996	987
8	RAJASTHAN	928	921
9	KARNATAKA	973	965
10	GUJARAT	919	920
11	ORISSA	979	972
12	KERALA	1084	1058
13	JHARKHAND	948	941
14	ASSAM	958	935
15	PUNJAB	895	876
16	CHHATTISGARH	991	989
17	HARYANA	879	861
18	DELHI	868	821
19	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	889	892
20	UTTARAKHAND	963	962
21	HIMACHAL PRADESH	972	968
22	TRIPURA	960	948
23	MEGHALAYA	989	972
24	MANIPUR	985	974
25	NAGALAND	931	900
26	GOA	973	961
27	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	938	893
28	PUDUCHERRY	1037	1001
29	MIZORAM	976	935
30	CHANDIGARH	818	777

31	SIKKIM	890	875
32	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	876	846
33	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	774	812
34	DAMAN AND DIU	618	710
35	LAKSHADWEEP	946	948

Source: *census 2011*

13.3.4 Literacy Rate in the Country

Literacy rate of the country has improved since the last census; this indicates a positive trend of school enrolment rate in the country. The overall literacy rate of India has increased by an average percentage of 8 per cent.73 per cent is the total percentage of literacy in India as per 2011 census, which has increased from 64.8 per cent in 2001. The total percentage of male literacy is 80.9 per cent and the female literacy rate is 64.6 per cent. Male literacy has increased by an average of 5.6 per cent while in case of female literacy an increase of 10.9 per cent has occurred since 2001. All this indicates a progressive trend towards education in the country. Again as per the census, the overall literacy rate for members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) is 66.1 per cent, (76.2 per cent in the urban area) which is nearly seven percentage points lower than that of the entire population of the country and of Scheduled Tribes (STs) are also lower at 59.0 per cent overall and 56.9 per cent in rural areas. It is only in urban areas that the STs have a literacy rate that marginally exceeds that of the SCs, (at 76.8 per cent against 76.2 per cent for the SCs). According to the 2011 census, 4.14 crore households have at least one graduate in the home. The census held that there has been a total 4.5% point increase in the number of households with at least one graduate or above in the last decades.

It is important to note that the five states and Union Territories which have performed best in the context of the literacy rate in the

country as per the census 2011 are: Kerala (94 per cent), Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent), Mizoram (91.3 per cent), Goa (88.7 per cent) and Tripura (87.2 per cent). The bottom five states and UTs in context of literacy as per 2011 census are: Bihar (61.8 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (65.4 per cent), Rajasthan (66.1 per cent), Jharkhand (66.4 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (67 per cent).

The census also held that the highest percentage of increase has taken place in the UT, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, an increase of 18.6 points (from 57.6 per cent to 76.2 per cent) has occurred in the UT. It is followed by the state of Bihar which witnessed an overall increase of 14.8 points (from 47.0 per cent to 61.8 per cent), Tripura by 14.0 points (from 73.2 per cent to 87.2 per cent) and so forth.

The census also held that the extent of female literacy is higher than male literacy in all states and UTs, except Mizoram where there exists an exact parity in the context of both male and female literates during 2001-11.The census also held that the gender gap in the literacy rate of urban and rural areas has been steadily declining in the country. The table below will give detail information about the rate of literacy in the country.

Table IV: Literacy rate of the country

SL NO	STATES /UT	LITERACY RATE in percentages in 2011
1	UTTAR PRADESH	67.68
2	MAHARASHTRA	82.34
3	BIHAR	61.80
4	WEST BENGAL	76.26
5	ANDHRA PRADESH	67.02
6	MADHYA PRADESH	69.32
7	TAMIL NADU	80.09
8	RAJASTHAN	66.11
9	KARNATAKA	75.36
10	GUJARAT	78.03
11	ORISSA	72.87

12	KERALA	94.00
13	JHARKHAND	66.41
14	ASSAM	72.19
15	PUNJAB	75.84
16	CHHATTISGARH	70.28
17	HARYANA	75.55
18	DELHI	86.21
19	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	67.16
20	UTTARAKHAND	78.82
21	HIMACHAL PRADESH	82.80
22	TRIPURA	87.22
23	MEGHALAYA	74.43
24	MANIPUR	76.94
25	NAGALAND	79.55
26	GOA	88.70
27	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	65.38
28	PUDUCHERRY	85.85
29	MIZORAM	91.33
30	CHANDIGARH	86.05
31	SIKKIM	81.42
32	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	86.63
33	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	76.24
34	DAMAN AND DIU	87.10
35	LAKSHADWEEP	91.85

Source: *census 2011*

13.3.5 Rural and urban dichotomy

The census 2011 holds that, "The growth in population has been more rapid in urban areas than in rural areas, and the share of the urban population has risen from 27.81 percent to 31.14 percent." But despite such an increase in country's urban population, India continues to remain predominantly a rural country.

Altogether, 833.5 million persons live in the rural area as per Census 2011, which was more than two-thirds of the total population of the country; 377.1 million persons however live in urban areas of the country. The census also held that the urban population of the country has gone up from 17.3 per cent in 1951 to 31.2 per cent in 2011, but despite such a growth India continues to remain rural. 833 million people of the country continue to live in rural India. This reveals that little changes have actually taken place in the context of the development demography of rural India in the last few decades. In fact, the total number of villages has actually increased from 6,38,588 (2001 census) to 6,40,867 (2011 census) which has been an increase of 2,279 villages (Kurukshetra,2012). Table below will give you an overall idea about the rural urban growth in the country.

TABLE V: Rural urban distribution of population as per 2011 census

State /UT	**Percentage of rural population**	**Percentage of urban population**
INDIA	68.84	31.16
JAMMU & KASHMIR	72.79	27.21
HIMACHAL PRADESH	89.96	10.04
PUNJAB	62.51	37.49
CHANDIGARH #	2.75	97.25
UTTARAKHAND	69.45	30.55
HARYANA	65.21	34.79
NCT OF DELHI #	2.50	97.50
RAJASTHAN	75.11	24.89
UTTAR PRADESH	77.72	22.28
BIHAR	88.70	11.30
SIKKIM	75.03	24.97
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	77.33	22.67
NAGALAND	71.03	28.97
MANIPUR	69.79	30.21
MIZORAM	48.49	51.51
TRIPURA	73.82	26.18

MEGHALAYA	79.92	20.08
ASSAM	85.92	14.08
WEST BENGAL	68.11	31.89
JHARKHAND	75.95	24.05
ORISSA	83.32	16.68
CHHATTISGARH	76.76	23.24
MADHYA PRADESH	72.37	27.63
GUJARAT	57.42	42.58
DAMAN & DIU #	24.84	75.16
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI #	53.38	46.62
MAHARASHTRA	54.77	45.23
ANDHRA PRADESH	66.51	33.49
KARNATAKA	61.43	38.57
GOA	37.83	62.17
LAKSHADWEEP #	21.92	78.08
KERALA	52.28	47.72
TAMIL NADU	51.55	48.45
PUDUCHERRY #	31.69	68.31
A & N ISLANDS #	64.33	35.67

Source: *Census of India 2011*

The table above shows that the rural population is highest in Himachal Pradesh and is less in Goa. Again among the union territories the highest concentration of rural population can be found in UT Andaman and Nicobar Island and less in Delhi. Among the states, urban population is highest in the state Goa and is lowest in Himachal Pradesh. Among the union territories, urban population is highest is in NTC Delhi while lowest is in Andaman and Nicobar

Table VI: Comparative view on rural urban growth in the country

Year	Percentage Of Rural Urban Population		Rural urban ratio
	Rural	Urban	
1901	89.1	10.9	8.2
1911	89.7	10.3	8.7
1921	88.8	11.2	7.9

1931	88.0	12.0	7.3
1941	86.1	13.9	6.2
1951	82.7	17.3	4.8
1961	82.0	18.0	4.6
1971	80.1	19.9	4.0
1981	76.7	23.3	3.3
1991	74.3	25.7	2.9
2001	72.2	27.8	2.6
2011	68.8	31.2	2.2

Source: *census of India various years.*

The above table provides a vivid picture of the changing pattern of rural urban demographic divide in India. The table statistics reveal that the total percentage of urban population was as high as 89.1 in the year 1901. During those decades the percentage of urban population was very less which accounted only up to a 10.9 per cent of the total population. However, the percentage of population living in urban areas has risen in the subsequent decades. This clearly reveals India's march towards a phase of rapid and speedy urbanization. It is significant to note that that for the first time since Independence there has been an absolute increase in urban population as compared to the rural population. As revealed by the census though India even today continues to be predominantly rural as only 31.2 % of India's population today lives in urban India. The earlier persistence huge gap between rural and urban India has been gradually diminishing to an extent when we observe such demographic variances.

Religious inclination and the people of the country: India has been a multi-religious country. It is a secular nation where people have the freedom to profess the religions of their own choices. Census 2011 reveals that out of 121.09 crores of total Indian population 96.63 crores (around 79.8 per cent) follow the religion 'Hinduism'. This clearly indicated that Hinduism is the dominant form of religion in India. Among the other religions, around 17.22 crore population of the country

profess and practice Islamism (14.2 per cent), 2.78 crores follow Christianity (2.3 per cent), 2.08 crores follow Sikhism(1.7 per cent), 0.84 crore follow Buddhism(0.7 per cent), 0.45 crores Jainism (0.4 per cent), and 0.79 crore (0.7 per cent) have other religions & persuasions and 0.29 crore (0.2 per cent) have not stated any religion. Muslim population is the second largest group in the country after the Hindus and who are then followed by groups like Christians, Sikhs, Jains and so on in the country

The 2011 census also depicted that the "Proportion of the Hindu population to the total population had declined by 0.7 percentage point since the time of last census enumeration. Similar is the case with the proportion of the Sikh population, it got declined by 0.2 percentage point. Again, Buddhist population of the country has also declined by 0.1 percentage point when compared to the last census data. However, an opposite trend can be observed in the case of the Muslim population. As the total proportion of Muslim population has increased by 0.8 percentage there was no significant change in the proportion of Christians and Jains.

Caste enumeration in 2011 census: After 1931, the census 2011 has made the caste count in the country. This is the only instance of caste count on an all India level in the country in the post-Independence era. This happened on the insistence of coalition of the then several ruling party leaders including Lalu Prasad Yadav, Sharad Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav who also held support from the opposition parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party, Akali Dal, Shiv Sena and Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in the subject. As a result, census 2011 has collected information about ones caste during its enumeration. First findings of caste enumeration however have been revealed only on 3rd July 2015 by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. According to many assumptions, this was said to be done to collect the exact information about the OBCs population in the country.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is the total size of India's Population according to 2011 census?

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.....

Q 2: Which State in India has the highest density of population?

.....

.....

Q 3: What is the Sex ratio of the Country according to 2011 Census?

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13.4 LET US SUM UP

- Census of 2011 is the 15th census of India since 1872 and seventh census in operation since Independence.
- The tagline of 2011 census is **"Our Census Our Future".**
- Census of 2011 was held in two phases:
  - House-listing and housing census (carried between April to September 2010)
  - Population Enumeration (9 to 28 February 2011)
- It covered 35 States/Union Territories, 640 districts, 5,924 Sub districts, 7933 towns both statutory as well as the census towns and a total of 640,930 villages.
- 11th March 2011 was set as the reference date for 2011 census, while in snow bound areas of the country 1st October 2011 was set as the reference date to carry out the census operations. In such areas population enumeration has happened during 11th to 30th September, 2010.
- As per Census 2011, the total population of India at 0.00 hours of 1st

March 2011 is 1210.6 million. Of this total population 833.5 million is the rural population and other 371.1 million was the urban population.

- The population of India has increased by more than 181 million during the decade 2001-2011 The absolute addition of the population to the total population is slightly lower than the population of Brazil, the fifth most populous country in the world.
- 2011 census makes the milestone in the demographic history of the country as the percentage decadal growth during 2001-2011 has registered the sharpest decline since Independence. For 2001-2011 this decadal growth has become 17.64 percent which has declined by 3.90 percent points (i.e : from 21.54 percent) since the earlier census decade.
- India still remains predominantly rural with nearly 68.6% of Indian population still residing in villages. Out of the total of 1210.2 million populations the overall size of rural population has been 833.1 million.
- The total number of villages has India has increased during the phase of 2011 census. As per the record of the census 2011 goes, the total number of villages in India has increased from 6,38,588 (2001 census) to 6,40,867 (2011 census) which accounted for an increase of 2279 villages in total.
- Uttar Pradesh has the largest rural population of 155.3 million (18.6% of the country's rural population) whereas Maharashtra has the highest urban population of 50.8 million (13.5% of country's urban population) in the country.
- The overall sex ratio of the country has increased from 933 in 2001 to 940 in 2011.However the child sex ratio has slipped to its lowest since Independence .The gap in the rural urban sex ratio in India has been recorded to be 21 (urban :926) (rural: 947) as per 2011 census.
- The percentage of rural literacy is 68.91 per cent, while the percentage of urban literacy is 87.97 per cent in the country .The gap existing in rural and urban literacy rate is 16.06 per cent.
- Indian population accounts for 17.5% of the world's total population. The population of the country has been estimated to reach 1.3 billion

by 2020, despite the decline in the overall population growth rate and slowdown of the birth rate in the last decade. India is the second most populated country in the world after China which hosts 19.4 percent of world's total population.

- India's population is said to be equal to the population of six countries namely Brazil, Pakistan, United States, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Japan, when put together. This indicates the magnanimous scale of population that India holds. Such a population composition often put immense pressure on the vitality and the growth of the nation as when observed from a close angle, we can see that India suffers from many of the symptoms and the problems of overpopulation.
- The data of present census is also indicative of such a trend. India's low per capita income, over crowdedness of the cities, lack of employment opportunities, persistence of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, low standard of living, widespread unemployment, persistence of illiteracy, etc all are the symptomatic factors that indicate that the country needs to put a check on its population growth.



13.5 FURTHER READING

1) Census of India website, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

2) Kurushetra : A Journal of Rural Development, vol 60, no 9, July 2012.



13.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: According to 2011 Census the total population of India is 1.21 Billion.

Ans to Q No 2: Bihar has the highest density of population.

Ans to Q No 3: As per the 2011 census, the overall sex ratio of the country is 940 females against 1000 males.



13.7 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Qestions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What does the literacy rate of the country signify?

Q 2: Can you see any improvement in the context of the sex ratio of the country? If so explain how? What does sex ratio of the country signify?

Q 3: Write a brief note on growth of population in India according to 2011 census.

Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the main features of 2011 census? Elucidate if you find any difference in the context of the 2011 census when compared to the previous censuses of the country?

Q 2: Write an essay on the rural-urban dichotomy in the country?

Q 3: *"Population itself is not a problem, qualitatively good population with manageable size represents the strength of the nation, but if it becomes unmanageable, it eats up the vitals of the nation and become an evil".* Critically elucidate the above statement in the light of contemporary population scenario of India.

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UNIT 14 : CENSUS 2011 (MAJOR FEATURES FROM NORTHEAST REGION)

UNIT STRUCTURE

14.1 Learning Objectives

14.2 Introduction

14.3 States of Northeast India and its features as per 2011 census

- 14.3.1 Arunachal Pradesh
- 14.3.2 Assam
- 14.3.3 Meghalaya
- 14.3.4 Manipur
- 14.3.5 Mizoram
- 14.3.6 Tripura
- 14.3.7 Nagaland
- 14.3.8 Sikkim

14.4 Comparative analysis of NER Based on 2011 Census

14.5 Let Us Sum up

14.6 Further Reading

14.7 Answers to Check your Progress

14.8 Model Questions

14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- describe the major features of Northeast Region of India on the basis of the 2011 census data
- explain the major statistics of census 2011 and its analysis across the eight states of N.E India.

14.2 INTRODUCTION

North East is the eastern most frontier region of India. It comprises of eight contagious states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, and Sikkim. The entire Northeast India is known

for its diversities and heterogeneity in almost all the aspects of society , be in terms of its culture, race, ethnicity, language, dialects, cuisines etc. Alongside sharing its Geo spatial boundaries with neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, China, Bangladesh, the entire region has been a multiculturally fabricated hub, where melts diverse races, civilizations, cultures, and languages. Until independence, North Eastern Region (NER) consisted of Assam and the princely state of Manipur and Tripura. The state of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Mizoram has been carved out of Assam in subsequent time. Physiologically the entire northeast India covers an area of 255,037 sq km, which is nearly 8 percent of the total geographical area of the country.In this unit we shall briefly discuss the major features of each of the States in North East India like population frowth, density of population, lieracy rate, sex ratio etc on the basis of Census 2011 data.

14.3 STATES OF NORTHEAST INDIA AND ITS FEATURES AS PER 2011 CENSUS

Census 2011 has been carried out in all the eight states of Northeast India and its reveals important information's about the social and demographic features region.

Let us have a look at the various statistics as being revealed by the 2011 census to have a better understanding about each of the state in the NER. Let us first start our discussion with Arunachal Pradesh.

14.3.1 Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh is the frontier state located in the extreme North Eastern corner of India Union. Being formed as a separate state in the year 1987, the state shares a unique social, cultural, and demographic history of its own. Physiologically, the state is predominantly hilly and hence it accommodates a thin population when compared to the other states of India. Both Patkai hills and Himalayas range covers much of the Arunachal Pradesh. Geo spatially, the state also shares its boundary with the neighbouring

countries like China, Bhutan, and Myanmar. Area wise, though the state of Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state among the North eastern states of India, the population of the state is comparatively less when compared to its neighbouring states like Assam and the rest. Nevertheless, like all the other states of India, the census 2011 has been carried out in this state too and the census so conducted has made important revelations about the state and its demography. Let us try to learn the basic statistics of 2011 census about the state under following heads:

- **Total population:** As per 2011 census, the total population of the state is 13, 82,611, out of which 720232 are male population and 662,379 female population.
- **Sex ratio:** The sex ratio was recorded to be 920 per 1000 males during 2011 which is slightly higher than the ratio being recorded in the previous census (i.e. 2001) but less when compared to the all India's rate of sex ratio (i.e. 940)
- **Literacy rate:** The overall literacy rate of the state was 66.95 percent, out of which percentage of female literacy is 59.57% and male literacy is 73.69%.Male literacy was highest in the state.
- **Density of population:** The density of population per sq km in the state was recorded at 17 person sq km which clearly indicates that the state Arunachal Pradesh is a sparsely populated state.
- **Child population and child sex ratio in the state:** The total child population of the state is 202759 and the child sex ratio is 960 as per 2011 census.

14.3.2 Assam

Area wise, Assam is 2nd largest landlocked state of North East India. From the ancient time, the state has been a home to the various linguistic, racial and cultural groups. The state has been a

composite whole, a melting terrain of the diverse ethnicities, cultures, religions etc. Since primordial times the state has a baffling variety of demography. Among all the neighbouring state of the N.E region, Assam has its unique identity and is being known for its socio-cultural and structural diversities. The 2011 census reveals some of the important features about this state. Let us try to learn about them under following heads:

- **Total population of the state:** According to the 2011 census, the state comprises a total of 3,11,692,72 population, out of which 15,954,927 are the male population is and 15,214,345 are the female population. According to the demographic statistics of the state, Assam shares the highest concentration of population among all the other states of the North East region. Further, the population of the state has increased by around 16.93% since the last census as per the latest census data.
- **Sex ratio:** The sex ratio of the state is 958 females per 1000 males. The ratio hence is slightly higher in the state when compared to the all India level,i.e. 940 (as per 2011 census)
- **Literacy:** Overall rate of literacy in the state is 73.18%, out of which the percentage of male literacy is 78.81% and female literacy rate is 67.27 %. There have been significant increases in the literacy rate when compared to the earlier recorded data i.e. 63.25 % during 2001 census. Thus there has been an upward shift in case of literacy in the state.
- **Density of population:** The density of population in the state is 397 per sq km, which is slightly higher than the all India level i.e. 382. Significantly the density of population has gone up when compared to the previous census which was 340 in 2011 census. This signifies that the population of the state has been growing rapidly.
- **Child population and child sex ratio:** The child population of Assam is 4511,307 and the child sex ratio is 957 as per the census 2011 data.

14.3.3 Meghalaya

Meghalaya is the landlocked territory of lovely hills and mountains. Being known for its abounding beauty, Meghalaya, the once colonial capital of NER is an important state of N.E India. Meghalaya or popularly being called as "The Adobe of clouds" shares its boundary with districts like Goalpara, Kamrup, and Karbi-Anglong Of Assam in North, have Cachar and North Cachar hills in the east and is bounded by Bangladesh in both the west and south. The 2011 census data about the state can be known under the following heads below:

- **Total population of the state:** The total population of the state was 2,964,007 out of which 14,92,668 are the male population and 14,71,339 are the female population. The number of the child population in the state is 555,822 and the child sex ratio is 970 which is a comparatively decent number as compared to the other states of North East India.
- **Sex ratio:** The sex ratio of the state is 989 females per 1000 males. When compared to the all India level the sex ratio shows an upward trend, which is definitely a progressive sign in the context of the gender scenario of the state.
- **Literacy :** The overall literacy rate of the state is 75.48%. 77.17 is the percentage of male literacy while 73.78% is the percentage of female literacy in the state. Thus the rate of female literacy is slightly lower than the male literacy.
- **The Density of population:** the density of population in the state is 132 persons per sq km. When compared to the other states of North east India or the India as a whole the state seems to be sparsely populated.

14.3.4 Manipur

Manipur popularly acclaimed as the jewelled land is another landlocked state of N.E India. It shares its boundary with the sister

states of Nagaland and Mizoram and with the neighboring international country Myanmar.Geographically, the state have been bounded by Nagaland to the North, Mizoram to the South. Assam lies to its extreme west while Burma lies to its east. Let us have a look at, what census of 2011 has revealed about this state under the following heads:

- **Total Population of the state:** As per the statistics of 2011 census goes, the total population of the state was 1091014 out of which 1369764 is the number of male population and 1351993 was the number of female population.
- **Sex ratio of the state:** The sex ratio of the state is comparatively promising with 987 in every 1000 males.
- **Literary rate:** The overall literacy rate of the state was recorded to be around 79.89 %.which is a comparative decent percentage when compared to states like Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan and so on. Out of total literacy percentage, the percentage of male and female literacy was 86.49% and 73.17% respectively.
- **Density of population:** The density per sq km in the state is being recorded at 122 per sq km which indicated that the state is sparsely populated when compared to the other various states of India.

14.3.5 Mizoram

Every state of North East India is known for its scenic beauty and mesmerizing uniqueness. Mizoram is one such beautiful state of North East India known for its kaleidoscopic landscape and pleasant weather. The demographic parameters about the state have been revealed by the 2011 census. And as per the statistics of the census 2011 goes:

- **Population of the state :** The total population of the state as per 2011 census was 3671032.The male population was 5,52,339 and the female population was 5,38,675 in total.

- **Density of the population:** The density of population was recorded to be around 52 people per sq km which are lesser when compared to all India level. This also clearly indicates that the state is sparsely populated.
- **Sex ratio:** The sex ratio of the state was recorded at 975 females per 1000 males which indicate the state like many other states of NER needs to work on to bring a parity on sex composition of the state.
- **Literacy:** The overall literacy rate of the state is 91.58%, out of which 93.72% was the percentage of male literacy and 89.40% was the percentage of female literacy.
- The child population of the state is 165,536 and child sex ratio of the state is 971 as per 2011 census.

14.3.6 Tripura

Tripura, the third-smallest state in the country, is a mountainous state of the Northeast India. The state is bordered on its three sides by Bangladesh. The state since its origin has been a home to diverse cultural and religious groups. Like its culture and religion, the demography of the state is equally diverse and heterogeneous. Let us have a look at the important features of the state as per 2011 census data under the following heads:

- **Total population of the state:** The 2011 census reveals the important statistics about the tiny state of north east India. As per the data of 2011 census goes the state share 0.3% of country's total population. The 2011 census also revealed that the total population of this Tripuri dominated land is 2964007 out of which 1,871,867 are the male population and 1,799,165 was the female population.
- **Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio of the state is 961 per 1000 males which is comparatively higher than the all India ratio.
- **Literacy rate:** The overall literacy rate of the state is 87.75 percent, out of which the rate of male literacy is 92.18% and

the rate of female literacy is around 83.15 %.

- **Density of population:** However the density of population in this small state is as high as 350.The state is known for its dense settlements. The situation so arisen has aroused because of its geophysical condition. This is so because around 60% of the lands in the state are hilly and remaining 40% is only the flat and habitable lands. The flat land of the state ironically accommodates 65% of its total population.

14.3.7 Nagaland

Nagaland is a narrow mountainous territory between the Brahmaputra valley of Assam and Myanmar. Formed back as the separate state in the year 1963, the state is blessed with picturesque, landscapes, valleys and greenery.

- **Total Population of the state:** As per 2011 census,1,980,602 is the total population of Nagaland 1,025707 is the male population and 954895 is the number of female population .285981 is the total number of child population
- **Sex ratio:** the sex ratio of the state as per 2011 census is 931 in every 1000 males. Birth preferences of the male are clearly visible through the sex ratio of the state. The state has the lowest sex ratio even when compared to the all India ratio of sex. The child sex ratio is 944 which is slightly better than the overall sex ratio in the state.
- **Literacy:** overall literacy rate is 80.11 out of which rate of male literacy is 83.29% and the rate of female literacy is 76.69%
- **Density of population:** Density of population per sq km is 119 in the state. The state since is hilly is sparsely populated .

14.3.8 Sikkim

Sikkim is a small landlocked state in North East India, formed in the year 1975.This state shares its international boundary with

countries like Bhutan, Tibet, and Nepal. Being surrounded by the mighty Himalayas, the state is blessed with picturesque mountains, mesmerizing valleys, glacier, alpine meadows and thousand of variety. The highest mountain of India, Kanchenjunga is situated on the western border of the state enhancing the natural allure of the state.2011 census has revealed the demographic data about the state.

- **Total Population:** As per 2011 census goes, this hilly state of India has a total of 6,07,688 population out of which male population is 3,21,661 and female population is 2,86,027. The sex ratio of the state is 889 females per 1000 males.
- **Literacy:** Overall literacy of state is 82.20% out of which the percentage of male literacy is 87.55% and female literacy rate is 76.43 %.
- **Density of population:** The density of population in the state is 86 per sq km, which indicates that Sikkim can be counted among the sparely populated states of India.
- Child population in the state is 61,007 and the child sex ratio in the state is 944 which is quite a decent number.

14.4 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NER BASED ON 2011 CENSUS DATA

Since we have already discussed about the basic data of each of the North Eastern states let us now have a look at the tables below to have a more vivid idea about the features of NER as per the census data of 2011. The tables below will also help you to develop a comparative understanding status of the different states pertaining to various factors.

Table 1: Overall Statistics about North Eastern States

State	Population	Males	Females	Area (km^2)
Arunachal Pradesh	13,83,727	7,13,912	6,69,815	83,743

Assam	31,169272	159,54927	15214345	78,438
Manipur	2721756	1369764	1351992	22,327
Meghalaya	2964007	14,92,668	14,71,339	22,429
Mizoram	3671032	5,52339	5,38,675	21,081
Nagaland	19,78,502	10,24,649	9,53,853	16,579
Sikkim	6,07688	3,21,661	2,86,027	7,096
Tripura	2964007	18,71,867	17,99,165	10,486

Source: Census 2011. India

Table 1 one will help you to gather a comparative understanding about the states of N.E India on aspects like overall population composition, number of males and females in the states, the dichotomy persists between rural and urban population across the state and total land area of each states. The table shows that among the North Eastern States it was Assam which has the highest concentration of population. The state was followed by the state like Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim. As per the above table total population of NER is 474, 59,991 out of which 233, 01,787 are the males and 222, 85,211 are the females.

Table 2 : Decadal growth rate of the North Eastern States

Name of State	Decadal growth rate IN PERCENTAGES(2011)
All India	17.64
Assam	16.93
Arunachal Pradesh	25.92
Manipur	18.65
Meghalaya	27.82
Mizoram	22.78
Nagaland	-0.47
Sikkim	12.36
Tripura	14.75

Source: Census 2011,India

Table 2 represents the decadal growth rate of the N.E states are shown. The decadal growth rate is highest in the state of Meghalaya (27.82%) while lowest in Nagaland. Nagaland in fact has set a negative trend in the overall growth rate of population. Nevertheless all the other states of NER

except Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have been able to maintain the parity with the all India growth rate which is 17.64 %.

Table 3: Density of population in the North Eastern States:

State	Area (km^2)	Density ($/km^2$) 2011	Density km 2001
ALL INDIA	-	382	324
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	83,743	17	13
ASSAM	78,438	397	340
MANIPUR	22,327	122	107
MEGHALAYA	22,429	132	
MIZORAM	21,081	52	42
NAGALAND	16,579	119	120
SIKKIM	7,096	86	76
TRIPURA	10,486	350	304

Source: Office of Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Statistical Year Book, 2013, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi.

The above table represents the density of population in NER: The density of population in Assam is 397 per sq km in 2011 which has shot up from 340 in 2001.In Arunachal Pradesh, the density of population is as less as 17 while in the Manipur and Meghalaya it was been recorded as 122 and 132 respectively. Again in the state of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura the density of population per sq km has been 52, 119, 86 and 350 respectively. Assam by virtue of being the largely plain state of the entire regions have the highest density of population per sq km and Tripura although being a smaller state area-wise in NER have the second highest density of population after Assam.

TABLE 4: SEX RATIO IN N.E STATES/REGION

Name of State	2001 CENSUS	2011 CENSUS
All India	933	940
ASSAM	935	958
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	893	920
MANIPUR	974	987

MEGHALAYA	972	986
MIZORAM	935	975
NAGALAND	900	931
SIKKIM	875	889
TRIPURA	948	961

SOURCE: Census 2011: Provisional population totals Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India Ministry of Home Affairs, 31st March 2011.

The above table represents the sex ratio of all the states of North East India. The sex ratio at birth (SRB) indicates 'the number of live female births per 1000 male live births'. Sex ratio is a better indicator of the recent trends of gender preferences in the society. The ratio quantitatively represents 'relative male or female deficits at birth'

From the above table, it has been clear that there is a comparative paucity of females in the region except Manipur where sex ratio has been as high as 992 females per thousand males. However when compared to the overall sex ratio of India(i.e:940), five states of North eastern states namely Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura shows a promisingly upward trend while state like Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Nagaland's still lags much behind the all India ratio. Further when we compare the sex ratio of 2011 census and 2001 census then we, however, can observe an upward trend in the context of the gender dynamics of NER.

TABLE 5 : LITERACY RATES IN N.E R

Name of State	TOTAL NUMBER OF LITERATES	MALE LITERATES	FEMALE
All India	74.04	82.14	65.46
ASSAM	73.18	78.81	67.27
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	66.95	73.69	59.57
MANIPUR	79.85	86.49	73.17
MEGHALAYA	75.48	77.17	73.78
MIZORAM	91.58	93.72	89.40
NAGALAND	80.11	83.29	76.69
SIKKIM	82.20	87.29	87.29
TRIPURA	87.75	92.18	83.15

SOURCE: Census 2011: Provisional population totals Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India Ministry of Home Affairs, 31st March 2011

The above table represents the literacy rate of the entire eight states of the N.E. region. Among the north eastern states Mizoram has the highest rate of literacy and is being followed by the states like Tripura, Sikkim , Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Meghalaya. The rate of literacy is lowest is Arunachal Pradesh. When compared to the all India rate of literacy, all the states of North East India except Arunachal Pradesh has shown an upward trend and has performed well in race of attaining universal literacy.

TABLE 6 : RELIGION IN NORTHEAST INDIA (2011 CENSUS)

RELIGION	TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF FOLLOWERS
Hinduism	(54.02%)
Islam	(25.05%)
Christianity	(17.24%)
Buddhism	(1.37%)
Jainism	(0.07%)
Sikhism	(0.07%)
Other religions	(1.97%)
Not Stated	(0.19%

SOURCE: Census 2011 India , 31st March 2011.

The religion in North east India is equally diverse like the rest of India. All religiously affiliated communities live across the eight state of the region. The above the table clearly indicated the percentages of followers in each religions prevalent in the North Eastern region of India .As far the data of the table shows, Hinduism is the largest followed religion in the region with as many as 54.02% of population profess the religion Hinduism. Next to the religion Hindu, it was the religion Islam which has the second highest number of followers. Christianity is the third most professed religion in the region. Buddhism, Jainism Sikhism followers are comparatively meagre when compared to the previous three religions.

TABLE 7: URBAN AGGLOMERATION IN NORTH EAST INDIA

RANK	URBAN AGGLO-MERATION/CITY	STATE	TOTAL POPULATION as per 2011 CENSUS
1.	GUWAHATI	ASSAM	1,260,419
2.	AGARTALA	TRIPURA	522,613
3.	IMPHAL	MANIPUR	414,288
4.	DIMAPUR	NAGALAND	379,769
5.	SHILLONG	MEGHALAYA	354,325
6.	AIZAWL	MIZORAM	291,822
7.	SILCHAR	ASSAM	228,985
8.	DIBRUGARH	ASSAM	154,019
9.	JORHAT	ASSAM	153,249
10.	NAGAON	ASSAM	147,137
11.	TINSUKIA	ASSAM	125,637
12.	DHUBRI	ASSAM	109,234
13.	TEZPUR	ASSAM	100,477
14.	KOHIMA	NAGALAND	100,000
15.	GANGTOK	SIKKIM	98,658
16.	ITANAGAR	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	95,650

SOURCE: Census 2011: Provisional population Totals, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India Ministry of Home Affairs, 31st March 2011.

The above table represents the concentration of urban population in the North Eastern State. Rank-wise it was the metropolitan Guwahati which has the highest concentration of population and has been ranked as the most urbanized urban agglomerates of the North East India. Next to Guwahati was the urban concentration of Agartala, Imphal, Dimapur, Shillong which occupies the second to fifth rank in order, in the series of the most urbanized region of the North East India. Though we can observe a significant rise of urban population in the N.E region during the last the few years, the region is yet to make its distinct mark when comes to the case of rapid urbanization.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is the Sex ratio of Arunachal Pradesh according to 2011 Census?

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Q 2: Which State has the highest literacy rate in NER?

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.....

Q 3: In Which States of NER is Christianity a major religion?

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.....



14.5 LET US SUM UP

- The total population of N.E states as per 2011 census is 4,54,86,789 out of which are 233,01,787 are the males and 222,85,211 are the females.
- Assam is the highly populated state in the N.E Region, while Mizoram is the lowest populated state.The total population of the N.E Region is around 46 million out of which 60% of the population lives in the state of Assam alone.
- Assam is the most densely populated state when compared to the other states of N.E region. Area wise though Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state of the region, the population residing in the state is much lesser when compared to state like Assam
- The overall density of population in the NE region is 159 person per sq km according to the 2011 census. Among the north-eastern states, the density of population is highest in the state of Assam with 398 people living per sq km and lowest in Auranchal Pradesh of N.E India with only 17 people living in per sq km.

- According to 2011 census, highest rate of literacy in the north eastern region has been recorded in the state of Mizoram. Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest literacy rate compared to its sister states in the region. Interestingly Mizoram occupies the second position in the all India ranking after Kerala in context of the literacy.
- Hinduism is the predominant religion in the entire north east India as per the statistics of 2011 census. The region has with around 54% population who follows the religion Hinduism. The next dominant religion in the region is Islamism.
- As per the 2011 census Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya are the three states of the North Eastern region, where Christians people are in majority and people in these three states follow Christianity as their major religion.
- As per 2011 census, Sex ratio is highest in the state of Manipur and is lowest in the state Sikkim. Although in general, the sex ratio 2011 of NER shows an upward trend, the preferential tendency towards males in birth continues. Almost all the state shows have a male centric gender preference. Gender disparity thus exists in almost all the states of NER like the rest of India.
- According to 2011 census of India, Guwahati, the primate city of Assam have evolved as the largest urban agglomeration in the entire North Eastern Region. The city is then being followed by urban settlements like Agartala, Imphal, Dimapur ,Shillong, Aizwal, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and so forth.(refer to the table)
- The entire north eastern region like the rest of India continues to remain predominantly rural. The available rural urban statistics from the 2011 census reveals a vivid disparity that exists in the context of the rural and urban growth in the region.
- 2011 census also holds that the Northeast India has as many as 220 ethnic groups and almost an equal number of dialects. Among the ethnic groups, Bodos are the largest ethnic group in the region.
- The hills states of the region like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, are the states which are predominantly inhabited

by tribal population with diversities and differences existed even within each such tribal groups. Of all these states, Mizoram of North East India has the highest maximum number of tribal population in the entire north-eastern region as per 2011 census. Statistically around 94.4% of its population belongs to the tribal categories of population.



14.6 FURTHER READING

1) Census of India website, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.



14.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: The sex ratio of Arunachal Pradesh is 920 female per 1000 males according to 2011 census.

Ans to Q No 2: Mizoram has the highest lieratcyrate in NER.

Ans to Q No 3: In NER Christianity is a major religion in the states of Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya.



14.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What kind of trend the population dynamics of each state shows according to Census 2011?

Q 2: Write briefly on the growth rate of population in the N.E region.

Q 3: Does gender disparity exist in North eastern states of Assam? If so, explain how?

Long Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 350-500 words)

Q 1: "Was northeast predominantly a rural region? Elucidate your answer with proper facts and data's.

Q 2: How does a male literacy rate vary from the female literacy rate of N.E region? What kind of trend does such variances portrays. Discuss In details.

Q 3: Give a comparative overview of the population dynamics of the different states of NER.

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UNIT 15 : TRENDS IN WORLD POPULATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

15.1 Learning Objectives

15.2 Introduction

15.3 Distribution of World Population

- 15.3.1 Distribution and Density of Population
- 15.3.2 Patterns of Population Composition
- 15.3.3 Factors Influencing the Distribution of Population

15.4 World Population C 600 A.D.

15.5 Population Estimates and Distribution: Medieval Period

- 15.5.1 Changes in Demography in Medieval Period: Various Factors
  - 15.5.1.1 Migration and Urbanism
  - 15.5.1.2 Economic Changes/Growth
  - 15.5.1.3 Famines, Diseases and Epidemics
  - 15.5.1.4 Life Expectancy and Death Rate
  - 15.5.1.5 Birth and Fertility
  - 15.5.1.6 Marriage
  - 15.5.1.7 Family and Household

15.6 Recent Trends of World Population

15.7 Let Us Sum Up

15.8 Further Reading

15.9 Answers to Check Your Progress

15.10 Model Questions

15.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will able to-

- know about the distribution of world population
- understand the patterns of population composition
- explain about the estimate of world population around 600 AD
- discuss the world population in the medieval period

- discuss the factors for changes in world population
- elucidate the recent trends in world population.

15.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit attempts to include a crucial aspect to the study of historical development of societies. The study of population has been constrained due to paucity of detailed data available for different parts of the world. However, the available data, though limited, helps in reconstructing the trends and transition in population during the medieval period. The role of population (which in fact forms the basic unit of any society) and changes within them have also led to change in various aspects of human life. In this sense, they are not merely passive statistical data. The variations in the population of any society (more so in the case of medieval world) have led to changes in family structure, marriage and social interaction patterns on the one hand, while they have also forced large-scale changes at macro-levels to announce transition from the medieval to the modern, as in the case of Europe. This unit is an attempt to locate changes in the medieval society through the prism of populations.

15.3 DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD POPULATION

World population is unevenly spread all over the globe. Some places have a low concentration of population, like deserts, dense forests, and mountainous areas, whereas many areas are heavily populated, like coastal and deltaic plains, moderate climates, fertile areas, industrialized areas, and urban centres. This spread of population is known as the distribution of population. If we look at the factors responsible for the distribution of population, then all the factors may be broadly grouped under two categories: (i) geographical factors – latitude, altitude, relief, climate, mineral and energy resources, and (ii) socioeconomic factors, like industrialization, urbanization, type of economy, political scenario and public policies. Density is one way of expressing distribution. Density of population is expressed as the number of persons per sq. km. This is popularly known as arithmetic density.

15.3.1 Distribution and Density of Population

Population distribution can be analyzed by different criteria. In terms of continents, Asia has the largest share of population (about 60 per cent) followed by Africa, Latin America and Europe. According to the Population Reference Bureau, World Population Data Sheet, even by 2050, Asia will still have the largest share of population, but it would decline from about 60 per cent to 57 per cent. But the major increase of population would take place in Africa, i.e., 12.7 per cent to 22.4 per cent and a major decline in population would take place in Europe, i.e., 7.2 per cent to 4.1 per cent. As the world's population has risen from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 6.7 billion in 2008, the proportion of those living in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and the Caribbean has expanded from 68 per cent to more than 80 per cent. India and China, with a billion plus each in 2008, make up about 37 per cent of the total. Projections for 2050 show this shift to developing countries continuing. The share of those living in the more developed countries is projected to drop from about 18 per cent in 2008 to less than 14 per cent in 2050.

15.3.2 Patterns of Population Composition

The population of the world as a whole is ageing (5.6 per cent in 1975 to 7.4 per cent in 2005) both in more developed countries and less developed countries. The proportion of population below 15 years of age for the world as a whole has declined from 36.9 per cent in 1975 to 28.2 per cent in 2005. The proportion of the population in the age group of 15-64 has increased from 57.5 per cent in 1975 to 64.5 per cent in 2005. The continent of Europe is far ahead of all other continents in terms of proportion of young population in the below 15 years of age group, which is less than 16 per cent in 2005, and highest proportion in the age group of above 65 years, i.e., 15.9 per cent. It implies that the people of European origin, wherever they may be settled at present, are ageing at a faster rate, while the people

of African origin are ageing at snail's pace. In case of people of Asian origin, the process of ageing has picked up during the recent decade.

15.3.3 Factors Influencing the Distribution of Population

15.3.3.1 Geographical Factors

- *Availability of water:* It is the most important factor for life. So, people prefer to live in areas where fresh water is easily available. Water is used for drinking, bathing and cooking – and also for cattle, crops, industries and navigation. It is because of this that river valleys are among the most densely populated areas of the world.
- *Landforms:* People prefer living on flat plains and gentle slopes. This is because such areas are favourable for the production of crops and to build roads and industries. So, these areas tend to be less populated. The Ganga plains are among the most densely populated areas of the world while the mountain zones in the Himalayas are scarcely populated.
- *Climate:* An extreme climate such as very hot or cold deserts is uncomfortable for human habitation. Areas with a comfortable climate, where there is not much seasonal variation attract more people. Areas with very heavy rainfall or extreme and harsh climates have low population. Mediterranean regions were inhabited from early periods in history due to their pleasant climate.
- *Soil:* Fertile soil is important for agricultural and allied activities. Therefore, areas which have fertile loamy soil have more people living on them, as it supports intensive agriculture.

15.3.3.2 Economic Factors

- *Minerals:* Areas with mineral deposits attract industries. Mining and industrial activities generate employment. So, skilled and semi–skilled workers move to these areas and make them densely populated.
- *Urbanisation:* Cities offer better employment opportunities, educational and medical facilities, better means of transport and communication. It leads to rural to urban migration and cities grow in size. Mega cities of the world continue to attract large number of migrants every year.
- *Industrialisation:* Industrial belts provide job opportunities and attract large numbers of people. These include not just factory workers but also transport operators, shopkeepers, bank employees, doctors, teachers and other service providers

15.3.3.3 Social and Cultural Factors

Some places attract more people because they have religious or cultural significance. Many a times governments offer incentives to people to live in sparsely populated areas or move away from overcrowded places.

15.4 WORLD POPULATION *C* 600 AD

The population at the beginning of the common AD era, according to average estimates, was about 170-185 million. By the beginning of the seventh century AD, it seems to have increased to 195-220 million. The three main areas of population concentration in Europe and Asia in the first six centuries AD were the Mediterranean basin, India and China. The most populated areas of Europe were those lying under Roman rule, especially around the Western Mediterranean: Italy, Gaul (France) and Iberia (Spain and Portugal).

Most cities of Western Roman Empire in Italy, Gaul and Iberia suffered a similar fate. Even when population growth resumed in North-West Europe, population density remained very low.

In Asia, population rose steadily in India as a result of progress in agriculture. But China's population suffered repeated losses as a result of invasions by the Huns. While population growth in Western Asia suffered as a result of frequent wars between Byzantines and Persians. Egypt, the most densely populated area in Africa, too suffered demographic losses as a result of these wars in the late sixth century. In sub-Saharan Africa, population growth continued to remain slow, only small pockets of population practised slash-and-burn agriculture, while south of the Sahara, hunter-gatherer economy prevailed.

15.5 POPULATION ESTIMATES AND DISTRIBUTION: MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Due to paucity of data it is very difficult to work out population figures for different parts of the world during the medieval period. These estimates have been made based on different methods for different regions. These estimates give us only a broad idea. However, a lot of work has been done on the demography of Europe.

Asia

China's population estimated at 50-60 million in AD 600 rose to 110-120 million in AD 1500. The Chinese were far more advanced in technology than medieval Europe. The art of printing; use of navigational compass and gunpowder gave it an edge over Europe during the period. In India, population estimated at 50-55 million in AD 600 rose to 100-110 million in AD 1500. Its main demographic concentrations lay along the River Ganges. Moreland for the first time provided an estimate for the population of India for the year 1600 A.D. This estimate was a population of around 100 million.

Europe

As already indicated the population estimates for Europe are available in a much organised manner. They help us to get an idea of trends in population over a long period of time. The population in Western Europe

which had witnessed a slow rise from AD 500 suffered a setback as a result of epidemics in the latter half of the sixth century which persisted well into the seventh century. In West and Central Europe there was a three-fold growth between 1000 and 1340. The big decline started around the middle of 14th century (mainly because of plague) and by 1450 the total population of Europe was estimated around 50 million as compared to 73.5 million in 1000 A.D. The real increase was evident in around 1500 A.D. when the population of Europe was 81.8 million.

The demographic growth during 1050 to 1250 was also a result of expansion in cultivation, increase in productivity, spread of technology and growth of towns which contributed to better living conditions, a better diet and a rise in birth rate. Famines too were receding even though subsistence crises struck the whole of Europe in 1005-6, 1031-3, 1050 and 1090. The twelfth and thirteenth century saw famines recur at almost regular intervals but as they affected only isolated regions the average population growth was not affected. The decline in wars and conflicts also had a positive effect on population growth. Infanticide, contraception or abortion procedures too seem to have declined in the thirteenth century. However, by the late thirteenth century population growth seems to have levelled off and may even have declined in the fourteenth century much before the demographic losses inflicted by the Black Death. The beginning of fourteenth century saw population levels peak in Europe.

15.5.1 Changes in Demography in Medieval Period: Various Factors

World population estimates from AD 600 to AD 1500 witnessed an overall increase from 195 million to 440 million, a slow average increase of less than one person per thousand in a year. Even this growth varied not only between regions but also within the same region. As far as Europe is concerned the period from AD 500 to AD 1450, witnessed an overall increase in European population from 27.5 million to 73.5 million in 1340 and declined to 50 million around 1450 AD. During this period the growth was not constant. In between

there were periods when the population dipped sharply (especially after 1348) and again started ascending.

Thus, demographic changes have been attributed to the development in modes of production. Improvements in farming led to an expansion in land under cultivation aided by the development and spread of ferrous metallurgy (iron axes, iron spades, iron edged hoes and ploughs). Population densities were highest where agricultural technology, urban development and spread of trade formed the salient features of the economy. Migration and Urbanisation were two other important factors of demographic change. Other factors which influenced the fluctuations in population were the marriage pattern, fertility, birth and death trends, family and household structure, diseases, famines and natural calamities etc. In this section we will analyse major factors which were responsible for fluctuations in population.

15.5.1.1 Migration and Urbanism

Europe experienced continuous wars and conflicts from the sixth to the tenth century as a result of migration of Germanic tribes towards the east, while Slavonic tribes pushed south into the Balkans and eastwards till Volga. In the seventh century Arab tribes, under the banner of Islam, moved into North Africa and by the eighth century crossed over and conquered nearly whole of Spain. In the ninth century invaders from the east, the Magyar tribes occupied Hungary from where they invaded neighbouring countries of Europe.

Urbanisation was yet another factor which contributed to changes in population distribution and its redistribution. The size of cities, despite elements of uncertainty, has been used to estimate total population, particularly where distribution of settlements is the only variable for demographic assessment. By the fourteenth century many urban sites may have accounted for nearly 7 to 8 per cent of the total population

particularly in the Mediterranean Europe. By fifteenth century, population of Paris was 274,000, Bruges 125,000, Milan 125,000, Venice 111,000, Genoa 100,000 and Grenada 100,000.

15.5.1.2 Economic Changes/Growth

The fall in population could also be a result of population outstripping resources. M.M. Postan suggested a 'crises of subsistence' in early fourteenth century and that a malnourished population had become 'calamity sensitive'. Decline in food production should have led to a rise in prices (due to scarcity). On the contrary there was a slump in food prices after 1350 and evidence of persistent stagnation. So if the prices of wheat fell it was because of lack of demand and not lack of production. Trade and commerce also showed signs of contraction. Exclusivity of craftsman and urban regulations discouraged competition leading to decline in production.

15.5.1.3 Famines, Diseases and Epidemics

The economic stagnation was accentuated by the famines, diseases and epidemics. The crowded urban centres, unhygienic living and poor medical facilities caused spread of epidemics. Famines that affected most parts of Europe after 1315 – Germany, Low Countries and France as a result of harvest failures caused by extremely rainy summers and very cold winters; epidemics of livestock diseases and warfare all contributed to increasing death rate. But the towns, although severely affected by the Plague, continued to show signs of vitality with new towns coming up as a result of trade and commercial activities. Agricultural revival as a result of decline in demand for land meant that peasants could improve

their volume of production, with a consequent rise in living standards and a fall in mortality rate.

15.5.1.4 Life Expectancy and Death Rate

According to Russell there was rise in life expectancy from twenty two to thirty five years between 1100 and 1275. The life span of medieval women was not very high (frequent child bearing and heavy field work resulting in poor health made them more susceptible to disease), although their mortality rate is difficult to ascertain. However, it is difficult to examine the exact variations between the end of thirteenth and beginning of fifteenth century, the difference in death rate dependent on age and gender remain equally little known.

15.5.1.5 Birth and Fertility

The birth rate and nuptiality too suffers from an absence of data on total population. Female population was much less documented and recorded than male, except perhaps for a small upper section of society and even in those registration of birth was partial and irregular. In the long run this gives a relatively low average growth rate but because it lasted for nearly a century there is considerable evidence for population growth between 1050 and 1250. It appears likely that after the epidemic of 1363-4, the birth rate increased for two or three years. There is also evidence of extreme fecundity of women after the plague. This is obvious from comparison of fertility and ultimate descendents of couples made just before and after the epidemic.

15.5.1.6 Family and Household

Marriage and family among other social bonds have become central objects for the understanding of past

populations. 'Family Structure' not only influenced demographic trends but was in turn affected by population movements. The 'hearth' (household) statistics are the only source available for understanding family structure for the middle Ages. In Coltishall, Norflok, between 1349 and 1359, the fall in number of women holding a farm corresponded to replacement ratio of deceased tenants by their surviving sons. Thus socio-economic and cultural factors which influenced family structures in turn affected demographic variables.

15.6 RECENT TRENDS OF WORLD POPULATION

"Family reconstitution" is another method that exploits the nominative character of parish registers. French demographer Louis Henry's pioneering study in this area was followed by Michael Flinn and many others. This method involves the linkage of baptism and burial records in a single parish in order to reconstitute the life histories of whole families. For example, the linkage of a woman's marriage record to her own baptism establishes her age at marriage. The linkage of the baptisms of children born to her establishes the number of her children and the ages at which she bears them; her age at death reveals her life span. Thus when a sufficient number of families can be reconstituted, they form a population for which fertility and other rates such as birth rate can be calculated.

The proportion of people in developing countries who live in cities has almost doubled since 1960 (from less than 22 per cent to more than 40 per cent), while in more developed regions the urban share has grown from 61 per cent to 76 per cent. Urbanization is projected to continue well into the next century. By 2030, it is expected that nearly 5 billion (61 per cent) of the world's 8.1 billion people will live in cities. India shares this global trend toward urbanisation. As a consequence cities are facing the problem of expanding urban slums. Like many other demographic changes, urbanization has both positive and negative effects. Cities and towns have become the engines of social change and rapid economic development. Urbanisation is associated with improved access to education, employment, health care;

these result in increase in age at marriage, reduction in family size and improvement in health indices. As people have moved towards and into cities, information has flowed outward. Better communication and transportation now link urban and rural areas both economically and socially creating an urban-rural continuum of communities with improvement in some aspects of lifestyle of both. The ever increasing reach of mass media communicates new ideas, points of reference, and available options are becoming more widely recognized, appreciated and sought. This phenomenon has affected health care, including reproductive health, in many ways. For instance, radio and television programmes that discuss gender equity, family size preference and family planning options are now reaching formerly isolated rural populations. This can create demand for services for mothers and children, higher contraceptive use, and fewer unwanted pregnancies, smaller healthier families and lead to more rapid population stabilisation. But the rapid growth of urban population also poses some serious challenges. Urban population growth has outpaced the development of basic minimum services; housing, water supply, sewerage and solid waste disposal are far from adequate; increasing waste generation at home, offices and industries, coupled with poor waste disposal facilities result in rapid environmental deterioration. Increasing automobiles add to air pollution. All these have adverse effect on ecology and health. Poverty persists in urban and peri-urban areas; awareness about the glaring inequities in close urban setting may lead to social unrest.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is the pattern of population distribution?

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Q 2: What is an example of population distribution?

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Q 3: What are the factors of population distribution?

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Q 4: How the world population is distributed?

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15.7 LET US SUM UP

- This Unit focuses on important aspects of demographic changes in the medieval period. It also attempts to link the position to the modern period with changes in population patterns. Aspects like family, marriage patterns, births and death rates, urbanisation etc. affected various population shifts and were also responsible for bringing about new social, economic patterns.
- World population is unevenly spread all over the globe. Some places have a low concentration of population, like deserts, dense forests, and mountainous areas, whereas many areas are heavily populated, like coastal and deltaic plains, moderate climates, fertile areas, industrialized areas, and urban centres. This spread of population is known as the distribution of population.
- The study of medieval demography in recent times reflects a shift in emphasis in research. Increasing interest in the social institution of family, the functioning of the 'domestic unit of production and reproduction' has taken precedence over the study of population estimates of a particular time or region.
- Urbanisation is associated with improved access to education, employment, health care; these result in increase in age at marriage, reduction in family size and improvement in health indices. As people have moved towards and into cities, information has flowed outward.

Better communication and transportation now link urban and rural areas both economically and socially creating an urban-rural continuum of communities with improvement in some aspects of lifestyle of both.



15.8 FURTHER READING

1) Cassen, Robert et. al. (1994), *Population and Development: Old Debates, New Conclusions,* New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.

2) Chandna, R. C. (2008), *Geography of Population: Concept, Patterns & Determinants*, 7th edition, Ludhiana: Kalyani Publishers.



15.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: The individual organisms that make up a population can be more or less equally spaced, dispersed randomly with no predictable pattern, or clustered in groups. These are known as uniform, random, and clumped dispersion patterns, respectively.

Ans to Q No 2: Three patterns of distribution in populations of organisms: A population may have a uniform, random, or clumped distribution. Territorial birds, such as penguins, tend to have uniform distribution. Plants with wind-dispersed seeds, such as dandelions, are usually distributed randomly.

Ans to Q No 3: The main factors determining population distribution are : climate, landforms, topography, soil, energy and mineral resources, accessibility like distance from sea coast, natural harbours, navigable rivers or canals, cultural factors, political boundaries, controls on migration and trade, government policies.

Ans to Q No 4: World population distribution is uneven. Places which are sparsely populated contain few people. Places which are densely populated contain many people. Population density is calculated by dividing the number of people by area.



15.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What are the sources of computing populations in the medieval world?

Q 2: Explain in brief recent trend in world population

Q 3: How did the famines, diseases and epidemic affect the population in medieval period?

Q 4: Explain in brief the World Population *c* 600 A.D.

Long Answer Questions (Answer each question in about 350-500 words)

Q 1: Describe the different factors influencing the distribution of population?

Q 2: Describe the factors for change in demography of population in medieval period?

Q 3: Elaborate the recent trends in distribution of world population.

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