# UNIT 10 : METHODS OF TEACHING POPULATION EDUCATION

## UNIT STRUCTURE

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## 10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- explain the various methods of teaching population education;
- identify the merits and demerits of various methods of population education; and
- discuss the importance of various methods of teaching population education.

## 10.2 INTRODUCTION

The concept of population education emerged due to rapid growth of population in the world. It is generally known fact that population explosion has taken place all over the world. The increasing number of population enhances poverty and pollution to a greater extent in everywhere in the present world. The rapid growth of population makes it difficult to meet the

basic needs of human and deteriorates the quality of life of the people. So, it is necessary that all citizen need to be aware of the fast growing population. It is right time for us that we should understand the adverse effects of overpopulation on the quality of life. In this regard famous Economist Malthus stated that 'Population increases at a geometric rate, while food increases at an arithmetic rate.' Malthus is known as father of modern population study and his theory is really applicable in the developing country in the world.

## 10.3 VARIOUS METHODS OF TEACHING POPULATION EDUCATION

Population education is the new field of study. This new field implies a change in the attitude and behavior pattern of the individual. It enables us to make rational decisions regarding population education. There are various important methods for teaching population education. To overcome the problems related with population education, methods are necessary. At present, rapid growth of population creates many problems in the society. So we must be conscious about it. We should be well informed about the consequences of population growth. Here, we will discuss about the various methods of population education.

### 10.3.1 Observation method

Observation method is one of the most common, popular and simplest methods of studying population education. It is a social science research technique which involves the direct observation of phenomena in their natural settings. It is the oldest method of study which mainly concerns with various social problems. In this method, the observer himself observes the problem situation for collecting data. There are so many issues related with population education, like small family norm, mother and child health, illiteracy, family planning etc. for which we can use observation method. The data collected through this method is very accurate and reliable.

There are different types of observation- controlled

observation, non-controlled observation, participant observation and non-participant observation. When observation takes place according to definite pre-arranged plan, involving experimental procedure, the same is then termed controlled observation. On the other hand, non-controlled observation takes place in natural settings and this type of observation helps to get a spontaneous picture of life and persons. In participant observation, the observer becomes more or less one of the groups under observation. The observer will be in sight of the person being observed and may actually take part in some activity with the observed individual or groups. In non-participant observation, the observer takes a position where his presence is not disturbing to the group.

**Merits of observation method:**

1. Observation method makes the teaching learning process easy and purposeful.
2. It develops social qualities such as cooperation, team spirit, sympathy etc. among the students.
3. This method can remove dullness, monotony of class room teaching.
4. This method leaves permanent impression of the objects in the minds of the students.
5. Through this method students can fulfill their curiosity and observe realities by themselves.

**Demerits of observation method:**

1. Observation method is time consuming and expensive.
2. This method is not suitable for lower classes.
3. For the proper implementation of observation method, special trained teachers are necessary.
4. Sometimes parents feel hesitation to send their children for observation.

## 10.3.2 Self study method

Self-study is a method of population education which studied by himself without any kind of help by teacher or trainer. In this method, students himself is responsible for his\her work. No one tell him\her or guide in this respect. So, this method is known as 'learning on your own'. It is most effective method because the students get freedom of learning which increase self confidence and responsibility. This method is basically taking information, processing it and retaining it. For the proper implementation of self study method, the guide or teacher himself has to demonstrate the skill of study before the students. He should guide them to collect necessary resources and facilities for carrying out the independent study.

**Merits of self study method:**

1. Self study method develops some personality traits of the students, such as –self reliance, self dependence, self confidence etc.
2. It develops the creativity in the students.
3. It makes the students systematic and organized.
4. It develops mental horizon and intellectual capacity of the students.
5. This method makes the students to utilize the leisure time fruitfully and increase their knowledge.
6. This method helps the students to study any subject of study.

**Demerits of self study method:**

1. There is no teacher or guide to correct the mistake of the students.
2. Self study method is not suitable for the lower classes.
3. This method needs very careful and proper planning.
4. In the absence of good environment and facilities, it is not possible to conduct the method.
5. If the students have no interest and attitudes towards self study, it is mere wastage of time and energy of the students.



**ACTIVITY -10.1**

Visit the households of your locality and collect data on percentage of literacy, health condition of mother and child of the area etc. and observe their standard of living. Prepare a report on it.



**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q 1:** Write about observation method of teaching population education.

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**Q 2:** What is meant by self study method?

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## 10.3.3 Discussion method

Teaching- learning process is a co-operative process between teachers and taught. In this method the students participate actively in the learning situation. Discussion method is an important method for discovering various problems of population education. It involves study and preparation, selection and organization of subject-matter, enhancing ideas and learning procedures. It is a systematic procedure of collective decision making. Discussion may be debate, symposium, a panel discussion and conference etc.

The factors of discussion- According to Johnson, discussion includes the following-

1. The leader
2. The group
3. The problem
4. The content

1. **The leader:** In discussion method, the teacher plays the role of leader. He does the planning of the discussion, selection and organization of subject matter. As a leader the teacher has to guide the discussion and observe that all the members of the group participate in discussion.
2. **The group:** The all members of the group may be encouraged by the leader to participate actively in the discussion.
3. **The problem:** The topic or the problem of discussion should be selected by the teacher as well as by the students. The topic must be based on real life situation.
4. **The content:** In this method, we have constantly to resort to facts and generalizations. Here different points of view are to be discussed, so that an agreement is reached.

**Principles of discussion:**

1. Principle of active participation
2. Principle of freedom for work
3. Principle of group and actual participation

**Merits of discussion method:**

i) Discussion provides equal opportunities to each and every members of the group to express their views on the topic of discussion. It helps to improve verbal expression.

ii) Discussion method is a process of collective decision making.

iii) The members of the group have arguments and develop their points of view logically, which develop their critical thinking and reasoning.

iv) Discussion develops the habit of tolerating others opinion, understand other points of view and forward own view in the group.

v) Discussion method develops better understanding of the various topics of discussion.

**Demerits of discussion method:**

i) This method does not give direct experiences to the members of the group.

ii) In this situation there is very little scope for reading and writing, which are essential for the students.

iii) The discussion method is very time consuming.

iv) All the members of the group do not participate equally in discussion. Some students do not have confidence and feel shy to express their feeling. So the bright students may dominate and do not give scope to others.

### 10.3.4 Lecture method

Lecture method is another method of teaching population education. It implies teaching by means of the spoken form. In the higher stage of education teachers mainly use this method. The students should encourage asking question to solve their doubts. Teacher should use maps, charts, models, picture etc. in his lecture to motivate the students. Well prepared and well presented lecture is fruitful for the students.

In the lower classes, the lecture method can be presented through storytelling, conversation etc. A liberal and smooth atmosphere is created in the class room situation, where the students can freely ask questions to teacher and thus increase their knowledge.

In the higher level of education, this method assumes the form of a formal talk or lecture. Teacher should prepare the lecture on the selected topics to present in front of the students. The teacher should deliver his lecture with full confidence and he should give opportunity to his students for asking questions. He should observe the students in the class.

**Merits of lecture method:**

i) Lecture method is very effective method of population education, through which teacher can motivate students properly.

ii) Proper delivery of lecture method can clarify the doubts of the

students.

iii) This method can save time and energy of students as well as teacher. Through this method a teacher can present his topic properly and easily.

iv) Lecture method can be used for various purposes. The teacher presents the main points of the lesson through lecture method.

**Demerits of lecture of method:**

i) Students are passive learner in the lecture method and cannot properly participate in the learning situation.

ii) All teachers cannot properly deliver their lecture.

iii) Lecture method makes teaching –learning situation dull and monotonous.

iv) This method gives only theoretical knowledge.



**ACTIVITY-10.2**

Choose a topic on problems of population explosion and organize a debate competition among school students in your locality. Prepare a report of the activity.



**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q 3:** Define discussion method.

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**Q 4:** Discuss about lecture method.

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## 10.3.5 Project method

Teacher can very effectively use the project method to teach the concept of population education to the students. This method has evolved as a reaction against the theoretical, bookish and away from life type of education. It emphasizes on activity and responsibility

of the students. It involves the study of all the components of a given problem and thinking about their probable solutions. The problem selected for project must relate to the real life situation. Famous educationist Kilpatrick said- "A whole hearted purposeful activity, proceeding in social environment." There are some basic principles underlying the project method. They are as follows-

i) The principle of purpose
ii) The principle of activity
iii) The principle of reality
iv) The principle of experience
v) The principle of freedom
vi) The principle of utility

The students take interest only when there is a purpose of their work or learning, which involves activity, provides experience, which are related with their real lives, where they get freedom for doing their work, which have usefulness for them.

**Steps of project method:**

There are some steps for conducting project method. They are as follows-

i) Providing a situation: The teacher must create a situation, which helps students to think about a project.
ii) Selecting a project: The students select a project with the help of their guide or teacher. The project must be related with real life situation.
iii) Planning: In the next step the students should prepare a plan for execution of the project. The responsibility of the project should be divided according to the interest and capacity of the participants. Proper cooperation is necessary for implementation of the project.
iv) Executing the project: The project is completed by the students under the guidance of their teacher or supervisor. The students perform various activities while doing the project. They learn by doing themselves. It is practical and useful for them.

v) Judging and evaluating: After the completion of the project the students sit together for the evaluation of the project.

vi) Recording: The students should keep the record of the execution of the project. They should maintain complete record of the project from the first step to the last step. This will be beneficial for the future.

**Merits of project method**:

i) Project method is based on three laws of learning, i.e. laws of exercise, laws of readiness and laws of effect, which were put forth by Thorndike.

ii) As the students do every step by themselves, so it develops self confidence in them.

iii) Project method develops sense cooperation among the students.

iv) They understand about the dignity of labour.

v) Students get practical knowledge from the project.

vi) This method helps the students for their future preparation. Project method develops many attitudes in the students, such as cooperation, organization, correct pronunciation, style of speaking, self –consciousness etc

**Demerits of project method:**

i) Project method is expensive. It requires a lot of material.

ii) Dominating students do not give chances to the other students. So, they cannot participate properly.

iii) Successful completion of a project requires specially trained teacher. Without the trained teacher the project cannot fulfill its aim.

iv) There is too much workload of teacher in project method, because the teacher is required to guide the students individually. He has to perform ultimate responsibility of the project.

v) No systematic knowledge is provided through project method. Whole syllabus of a subject cannot be provided through this method.



**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q 5:** Discuss the steps of project method.

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**Q 6:** What are the demerits of project method?

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## 10.3.6 Assignment

Generally, assignment means work that is allotted to the students in fixed time duration. Because, school time is insufficient to complete the whole prescribed syllabus in due time. So, the assignment is necessary. It encourages the child to use his \her own resources.

**Types of assignment:**

1. Essays: Essays are used to measure student's comprehension over a specific area or topic and their ability to explain the matter.
2. Writing: This type of assignment measures student's innovation capacity.
3. Oral presentation: Oral presentation is used to assess skills, understanding and ability to organize material.
4. Projects: Projects measure student's creativity and innovation.
5. Group discussion: Through group discussion teacher can measure student's communication and co-operative skills, quality of leadership.

**Merits of assignment:**

1. Assignment can create interest and attention of the students and motivate them to study.
2. It develops self study habits among the students.
3. It can create link between teachers and parents.
4. It helps students in achieving their goal.

5. It develops self confidence and self dependence of the students.
6. Assignment develops reading habits of the students.

**Demerits of assignment:**

1. Assignment is dull and monotonous method of learning.
2. Too much home assignment make children bore.
3. Some teachers do not check the home assignment.
4. In assignment method there is no provision for direct experience.

## 10.3.7 Field study

Field study is the most effective method of giving direct experience of things. Through this method the students can correlate between theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge. They can collect first hand data properly about a thing. They can find out the difference between bookish knowledge and real life situation. For the field study must be properly planned. The leader should guide all the members. After visiting the trip the students are able to know about the various consequences of population growth in the society. Visual experience gives them real picture of the population problem. After the field study, the student must review it, describing the experience in detail also helpful.



**ACTIVITY-10.3**

Organise a field study on an over-populated area of your locality to know the consequences of rapid growth of population in the area and prepare a report on it.



## 10.4 LET US SUM UP

- The increasing number of population enhances poverty and pollution to a greater extent in everywhere in the present world. The rapid growth of population makes it difficult to meet the basic needs of human and deteriorates the quality of life of the people.
- There are various methods of studying population education, they are-observation, self study, discussion, lecture, project method, assignment, field study etc.
- Observation method is one of the most common, popular and simplest methods of studying population education. It is a social science research technique which involves the direct observation of phenomena in their natural setting.
- Self-study is a method of population education which studied by himself without any kind of help by teacher or trainer. In this method, students himself is responsible for his\her work
- Discussion method is a important method for discovering various problems of population education. It involves study and preparation, selection and organization of subject matter, enhancing ideas and learning procedures. .
- Lecture method implies teaching by means of the spoken form. In the higher stage of education teachers mainly use this method. The students should encourage asking question to solve their doubts.
- Project method has evolved as a reaction against the theoretical, bookish and away from life type of education. It emphasizes on activity and responsibility of the students.
- Assignment means work that is allotted to the students in fixed time duration. Because, school time is insufficient to complete the whole prescribed syllabus in due time. So, the assignment is necessary. It encourages the child to use his \her own resources.
- Through field study method the students can correlate between