UNIT 7 : POPULATION EDUCATION CURRICULUM AT HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

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7.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- recognise the place of population education at the higher level of education;
- identify the objectives of population education at higher level of education;
- explain the different needs for introducing population education curriculum at the higher level of education; and
- explain the different components of population education curriculum at higher level of education.

7.2 INTRODUCTION

The size and growth of population are two very vital factors to determine the feasibility of economic development of a country. While a growing population is advantageous to an under-populated developing

country, the same cannot be said about an over-populated developing as growth of population acts as a serious drag on the economic development of such a country. Rate of growth of population in the over-populated country still remains high despite their poor rate of economic growth. There is no doubt that population explosion in India has been eroding its natural resources and diluting all economic and social gains. So, apart from primary and secondary education, in higher education too, population education should be included in the curriculum. In this unit, we shall discuss about population education at higher education level, objectives of population education at higher education level and importance of population education curriculum in higher education. The contents of population education curriculum in higher education level will also be discussed in this unit.

7.3 POPULATION EDUCATION AND HIGHER LEVEL EDUCATION

The extension of the National Population Education Project to the level of higher education in India provided an opportunity for population education to young people in universities/colleges and through them to those in the community. The UNFPA agreed to assist the UGC for strengthening population education activities during 1986-90. UGC decided to involve all the universities and colleges in a phased manner in the programme of population education during the period April 1986 to March, 1990. The steps taken by UGC to promote the cause of population education through universities and colleges include the following (UGC, 1986, pp.184-186):

(i) Circulation of a set of 15 lectures series on various aspects of population education for use by universities and colleges.

(ii) Inclusion of population education in the scheme of restructuring of courses at the undergraduate level in foundation and applied courses.

(iii) Strengthening of population education at the post-graduate level and provision of UGC assistance under its normal developmental programmes.

(iv) Assistance to universities and colleges for surveys/research projects on population education with particular reference to small family norm, infant mortality, malnutrition, marital age, sex ratio, indigenous practices of population control, knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP), etc.

(v) Population education as one of the major activities under the Programme of Adult, Continuing and Extension Education through universities and colleges.

(vi) Promotion of television series on population education.

(vii) Institution of Population Education Clubs through universities and colleges for students and the general community.

Twelve Population Education Resource centres (PERCs), distributed all over the country have been set up to provide resource support to universities, colleges and adult education centres. Though the project document had visualised the setting up of these PERCs in three phases-six in 1986, three in 1987 and another three in 1988, in view of the rapid expansion of population education clubs all over the country, it was found essential to locate all the 12 PERCs in the very first year. PERC is a sub-structure created under the Population Education in Higher Education Project. Of the 12, one PERC is specialised in population education programmes for women and one for rural populations. Each PERC has been assigned a service area within which it is expected to provide resource support to the strengthening and extension of population education in universities and colleges. For that, UGC has provided staff and programme support to each PERC with a view to enabling it to promote implementation and overview the programme. Each PERC receives guidance from UGC for its work. It receives support from the six task forces have been constituted under the project,-one each in training, curricular development, learning materials (print), learning materials (audio-visual), research, documentation and dissemination, and monitoring and evaluation with a convener for each.

The National Steering Committee on Population Education constituted by the Ministry of Education and Culture in the Government of India has the overall authority to coordinate the implementation of the

project. There are advisory committees in universities and colleges for target-oriented, time-bound implementation of population education activities. These committees have adequate representation from the universities/ colleges, Government departments, voluntary organisations at the national, state and district levels for ensuring effective implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

7.4 OBJECTIVES OF POPULATION EDUCATION AT HIGHER LEVEL

The major objectives of incorporation of Population Education within the University and from there to the Community are both academic and social. These objectives intend to provide opportunities to the University/ College youth and from them to the Community for creating awareness of a relationship between the population and quality of life through access to information and transmission of knowledge. Objectives of the PE Programmes through Universities are highlighted below:

- To undertake and prepare Under Graduate/Post Graduate /Diploma/ Certificate/Short courses to benefit students at all levels of the Universities-/ Communities concerned, among others, and to augment and update university curricula commensurate with national and global developments in the areas related to Population Education.
- To integrate population education / studies in the curriculum at Under Graduate / Post Graduate / B.Ed/ M.Ed level and incorporate population education in distance education as well.
- To promote capsule course on core components of population education in Training / Orientation of teachers through Academic Staff Colleges for widening the base of population education among teachers and through them among students.
- To make attempts to bring desirable changes in the attitude, practices and values in the society on gender related issues including equal opportunities for participation in social, economic and political processes, and in national and global developments.

- To identify areas of priorities in Teaching, Research and Extension Outreach and to find out strengths and weaknesses in implementing the programme Scheme by the Department / Centres.
- To create and develop learning materials using Audio-Visual cassettes/DVD.
- To bring Universities closer to population by establishing Population Education Clubs, Population Education Cells and Population Education Resource Centres (PERCs) and to provide suitable solutions to population related issues.
- To produce sensitive and quality human resources for committed meaningful roles and to play special responsibilities in different spheres including teaching, research, curriculum and training and to take up challenges in promoting values such as gender equality, secularism, socialism and democracy.
- To coordinate and collaborate with various Universities/Institutions in teaching, designing and restructuring curriculum, research, and extension activities in view of inter-disciplinary nature of the population studies.
- To create UGC Non-Formal Education Field Investigators (UNFEF) and enable them to have better understanding of population issues and problems related to the people - children, men and women (within the family, community or at the workplace) and to have close contact to deal with and - to assist specific-issues/item-based solutions in the right perspective without any bias or otherwise.
- To make a survey of the status of population education, Education Extension and Outreach to a few target groups (BPL and Educationally Backward groups) district- wise as per GOI/States declaration with the help of UGC-NFE Field Investigators and thereby to prepare further activities and programmes of practical utility or benefit of the scheme and to the cause of services of the target groups.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Mention three steps taken by UGC to promote the cause of population education through universities and colleges.

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Q 2: Mention two objectives of population education in university level.

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7.5 NEED OF POPULATION EDUCATION CURRICULUM AT HIGHER LEVEL

The teacher in the population education programme is required to achieve the prefixed aims and objectives. For the purpose s/he has to employ suitable instructional methods and procedures. But this can do only when s/he knows what effects s/he is to make and in what order. In other words, s/he should know the content of population education. Curriculum consists of subjects, activities and experiences in a properly graded form. The need and importance of curriculum in population education may be summed up as follows:

- **Achievement of Aims:** Merely defining the aims of population education in higher education level is futile. There should be well-planned efforts and organisations to achieve the aim of population education. We must think of knowledge, activities, experiences and other influences which help in the achievement of aims of population education.
- **Criteria for Suitable Teachers:** It is the curriculum, which can show what type of teachers are required for these new types of education in higher level of education. We should know what type of work they are required to do and this should be according to the requirements of the curriculum.
- **Selection of Suitable Methods:** The curriculum of population

education of higher education level enables the teacher to select suitable methods of teaching. “What to teach” will determine “How to teach”.

- **Reflects Trends in Education:** The curriculum is the means to achieve the aims of population education at higher education level which are dynamic and keep changing with the changing social requirements. Naturally, the curriculum will reflect the trends and growth of population in education.
- **Easy to Prepare:** Unlike the school level of education, it is easy to prepare the curricular material at higher level because students of this stage are advanced in terms of age and have broader experiences. They can easily understand the fundamental relationship between population growth and other variables related to it. Therefore, not only in our country but also the globe as a whole need to prepare varied programmes of population education for the students of higher level.
- **Easy to Teach and Explain:** As the students of higher education are more matured and have better comprehension level, it is easy to discuss with them about different population related problems. It is not possible to include some topics in the population education curriculum of school education like physiology of human reproduction, structure and functions of sex glands.
- **Leader of Society:** Students of higher education are the leader of society. They can influence the masses to a considerable extent. Their knowledge on population helps them in transmitting the knowledge on population growth to the masses.
- **Research:** Main purpose of higher education is teaching, extension and research. In higher education level, main importance is given on research work. For developing new theories, there must be effective planning and new innovations in the field of population education. Research in the field of population education is of utmost importance.

7.6 CONTENTS OF POPULATION EDUCATION CURRICULUM AT HIGHER LEVEL

The First National Seminar on Population Education (1969), held at Bombay (present Mumbai) recommended the following steps:

- At college level, the universities should design a course in demography at the undergraduate level so that those students who are interested in population problems could specialise at the post graduate level in demography.
- Guidance Bureaus at the college level should be strengthened by qualified staff to help the students to solve personal problems in connection with family life and marriage counselling.
- Universities should organise extension lectures every year in each college on issues related to population education to ensure a widespread awareness of the problems among the youth and teachers.

In the college and university stage of education, population education is to be introduced as a separate subject. It should not be integrated with other subjects. But there is no separate Department of Population Education in the universities to make the people aware about the recent population related matters and problems. It is only included in the M.A syllabus as one of the papers in the department of Education in many Indian universities. Population Study Centres are there in universities which do not really serve all the purposes.

The following contents are included in the Population Education paper at Masters' level by the department of Education which are mentioned below:

1) Basic Concepts:

- Concept of Population Education
- Nature, objectives and scope of population education
- Need and importance of population education
- Theories of population education.

2) Population Growth and Population Dynamics

- Distribution of population- Age, Sex, Rural-Urban.
- Causes of population growth.
- Consequences of population growth
- Policies and programme of government of India regarding population control

3) Population and Quality of life

- Population in relation to socio–economic development
- Health status, heath services and nutrition
- Effect of population growth on natural resources and environment
- Population and literacy campaign in India

4) Family Planning

- Family planning programme in India.
- Efforts regarding family planning in pre and post independent India.
- Operational goals of the family planning programme.
- Aspects and organisational structure of family planning programme.
- Approaches of implementation of family planning programme.

5) Sex Education

- Concept and nature of sex education.
- Need and importance of sex education.
- Objectives and methods of sex education.
- Scope or content of sex education.

6) Population Education and Educational Institutions

- Scope of population education in educational institutions.
- Population Education in Different Levels- Primary, Secondary and Higher.
- Role of teachers in creating awareness of population problems.
- Methods and approaches: Inquiry approach, Observation, Self-study, Discussion, Assignment.
- Use of Mass media – Newspapers, Radio, T.V and Audio-Visual Aids.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 3: Write two points regarding importance of population education curriculum at higher education level.

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Q 4: Mention the contents of sex education at higher education level.

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7.7 LET US SUM UP

- Apart from primary and secondary education, in higher education too, population education should be included in the curriculum.
- The extension of the National Population Education Project to the level of higher education in India provided an opportunity for population education to young people in the universities/colleges and through them to those in the community.
- UGC decided to involve all the universities and colleges in a phased manner in the programme of population education during the period April 1986 to March, 1990.
- Inclusion of population education in the scheme of restructuring of courses at the undergraduate level in foundation and applied courses.
- Population education as one of the major activities under the Programme of Adult, Continuing and Extension Education through universities and colleges.
- The major objectives of incorporation of Population Education within the University and from there to the Community are both academic and social. These objectives intend to provide opportunities to the

University/College youth and from them to the Community for creating awareness of a relationship between the population and quality of life through access to information and transmission of knowledge.

- Main purpose of higher education is teaching, extension and research. In higher education level, main importance is given on research work. For developing new theories, there must be effective planning and innovations in the field of population education. Research in the field of population education is of utmost importance.
- Universities should organise extension lectures every year in each college on issues related to population education to ensure a widespread awareness of the problems among the youth and teachers.
- At college level, the universities should design a course in demography at the undergraduate level so that those students who are interested in population problems could specialise at the post graduate level in demography.
- There is no separate Department of Population Education in the universities to make the people aware about the recent population related matters and problems. It is only included in the M.A syllabus as one of the papers by the department of Education.



7.8 FURTHER READING

1) Aggarwal, J. C. (2013). *Population Education.* New Delhi: Shipra Publications.
2) Akhtar, Parveen R. (2014). *Environmental and Population Education.* Guwahati: Assam Book Depot.
3) Chandel & Nand (2011). *Population Education.* Agra: Shri Vinod Pustak Mandir.
4) Goswami, Meena Kumari (2013). *Environmental Education and Population Education.* New Delhi: Asian Books Private Limited.