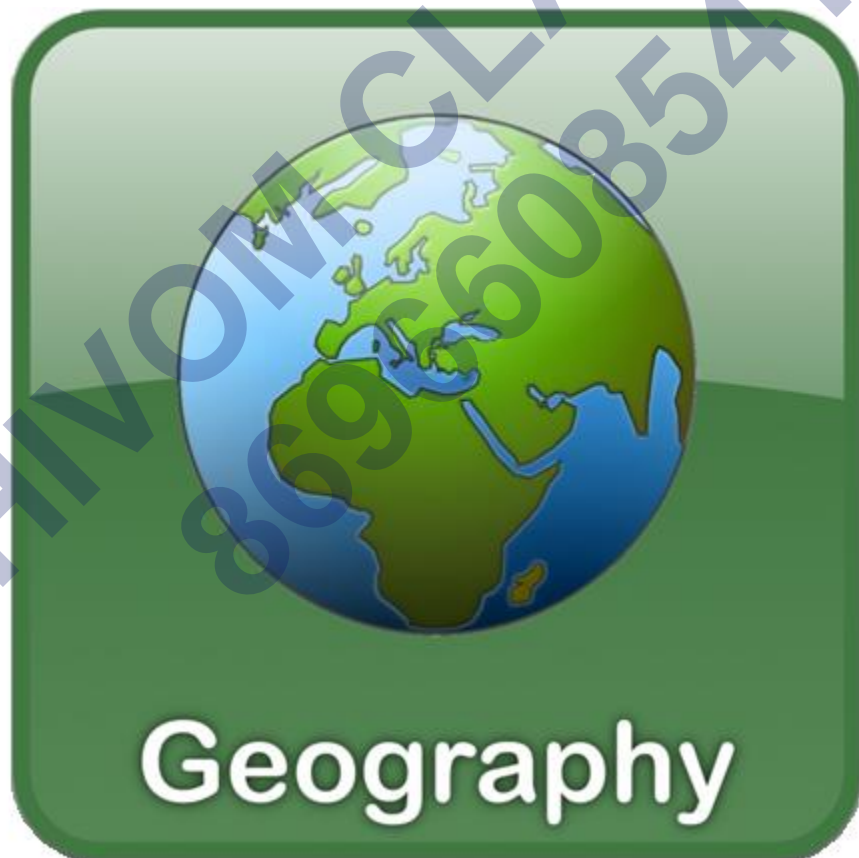# GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 6: Human Resources

Human Resources

Human Resources

People are a nation's greatest resource. Nature's bounty becomes significant only when people find it useful. It is people with their demands and abilities that turn them into 'resources'. Hence, human resource is the ultimate resource.

Distribution of Population

The way in which people are spread across the earth's surface is known as the pattern of population distribution. Over 90% of the world's population lives in about 30% of the land surface. Distribution of population is uneven. Some areas are crowded and some areas are sparsely populated. The crowded areas are south and south-east Asia, Europe and northeastern North America. Very few people live in high latitude areas, tropical deserts, high mountains and areas of equatorial forests. Many more people live north of the Equator than south of the Equator. Almost three-quarters of the world's people live in two continents, Asia and Africa. 60% of the world's people stay in just 10 countries. All of them have more than 100 million people.

Density of Population

A number of people living in the unit area of the earth's surface are the density of population-normally expressed as per square metre. The average density of population in the whole world is 51 persons per square km. South-Central Asia has the highest density of population followed by East and South East Asia.

Factors Affecting Distribution of Population

Geographical Features

Topography: People prefer to live on plains rather than mountains and plateau as these areas are suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities.

- The Ganga plains- most densely populated areas of the world
- Andes, Alps and Himalayas—sparsely populated.

Climate: People usually avoid extreme climates that are very hot or very cold.

Examples: Sahara desert, polar regions of Russia, Canada and Antarctica.

Soil: Fertile soils provide suitable land for agriculture.

Examples: Densely populated fertile plains such as Ganga and Brahmaputra in India, Hwang-He, Chang Jiang in China and the Nile in Egypt.

Water: People prefer to live in areas where freshwater is easily available. River valleys of the world are densely populated while deserts have spare population.

Minerals: Areas with mineral deposits are more populated.

Example: Diamond mines of South Africa and the discovery of oil in the Middle East lead to settling of people in these areas.

Social, Cultural and Economic Factors

Social: Areas of better housing, education and health facilities are more densely populated e.g., Pune.

Cultural: Places with religion or cultural significance attract people.

Examples: Varanasi, Jerusalem and Vatican City

Economic: Industrial areas provide employment opportunities, so it attracts a large number of people.

Examples: Osaka in Japan and Mumbai in India are two densely populated areas.

Population Change

The population change refers to change in the number of people during a specific time. The world population is not stable. It has increased manifold due to changes in the number of births and deaths. Until the 1800s, the world's population grew steadily but slowly. Large numbers of babies were born, but they died early too. Causes: no proper health facilities- no sufficient food available for all the people-farmers not able to produce enough to meet the food requirements of all the people. This resulted in a low increase in population. In 1804, the world population hit 1 bn and later about 155 years later in 1959, the population reached 3 billion-is also known as population explosion. Also, later in 1999, about 40 years later, the population doubled reaching 6 billion. The main reason for this growth: better food supplies and medicine, deaths were reduced, while the number of births still remained fairly high.

Births are usually measured using the birth rate i.e. the number of live births per 1,000 people. Deaths are usually measured using the death rate i.e. the number of deaths per 1,000 people. Migrations are the movement of people in and out of an area. Births and deaths are

the natural causes of population change. Difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country

is called the natural growth rate. The population increase in the world is mainly due to a rapid increase in natural growth rate.

Another cause for population size change- Migration. People may move within a country or between countries. Emigrants are people who leave a country; Immigrants are those who arrive in a country. Countries like the United States of America and Australia have gained in- numbers by in-migration or immigration. Sudan is an example of a country that has experienced a loss in population numbers due to out-migration or emigration.

The general trend of international migrations is from the less developed nations to the more developed nations in search of better employment opportunities. Within countries, a large number of people may move from the rural to urban areas in search of employment, education and health facilities.

Patterns of Population Change

Rates of population growth vary across the world- Even if, the world's total population is rising rapidly, not all countries are experiencing this growth. Kenya has a high population growth rate, as well as high birth rates and death rates. With improving health care, death rates have reduced, but birth rates still remain high leading to high growth rates. In other countries like the United Kingdom, population growth is slowing because of both low death and low birth rates.

Population Composition

Economic development has little to do with how crowded a place is. Bangladesh and Japan- densely populated. But, Japan is more economically developed than Bangladesh. People vary in age, sex, literacy level, health condition, occupation and income level. Population composition refers to the structure of the population.

The composition of the population helps to know- the number of males or females, age group they belong to, how educated they are and what type of occupations they are employed in, what their income levels and health conditions are. People can study the population composition of a country by looking at the population pyramid or the age-sex pyramid.

A population pyramid shows

- The total population divided into various age groups, e.g., 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years.

• The percentage of the total population, subdivided into males and females, in each of those groups.
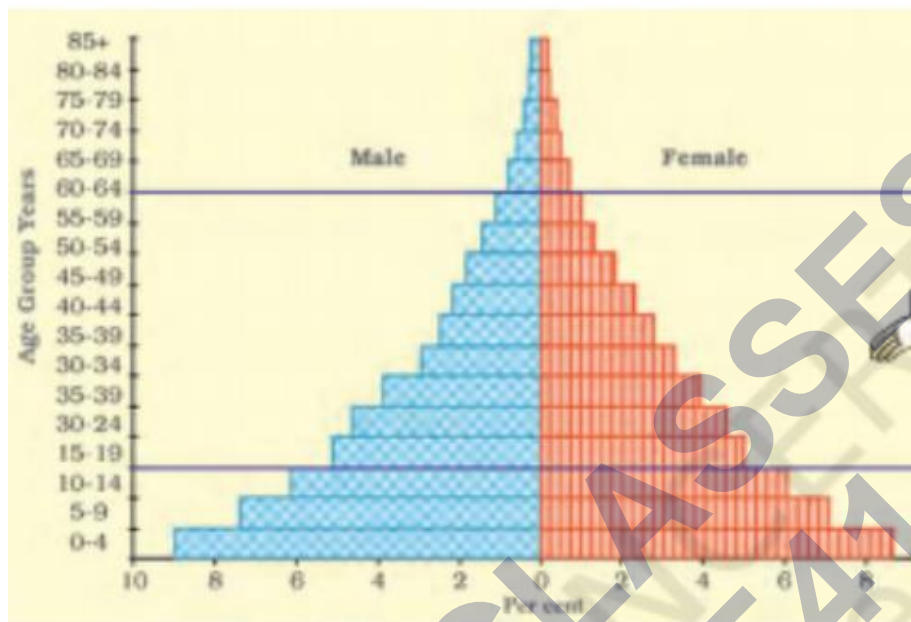
The numbers of children (below 15 years) are shown at the bottom and reflect the level of births. The size of the top shows the numbers of aged people (above 65 years) and reflects the number of deaths. The population pyramid also tells us how many dependents there are in a country. There are two groups of dependents — young dependents (aged below 15 years) and elderly dependents (aged over 65 years). Those of the working-age are economically active.

The population pyramid of Kenya
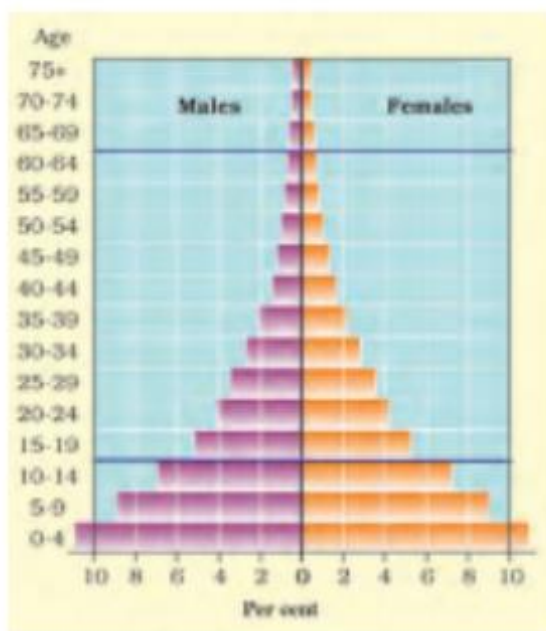
Fig. 6.7: Population Pyramid of Kenya

The population pyramid shown above for Kenya has birth and death rates both high, hence it is broad at the base and rapidly narrows towards the top. This is because although many children are born, a large percentage of them die in their infancy, relatively few become adults and there are very few old people.

Population Pyramid of India
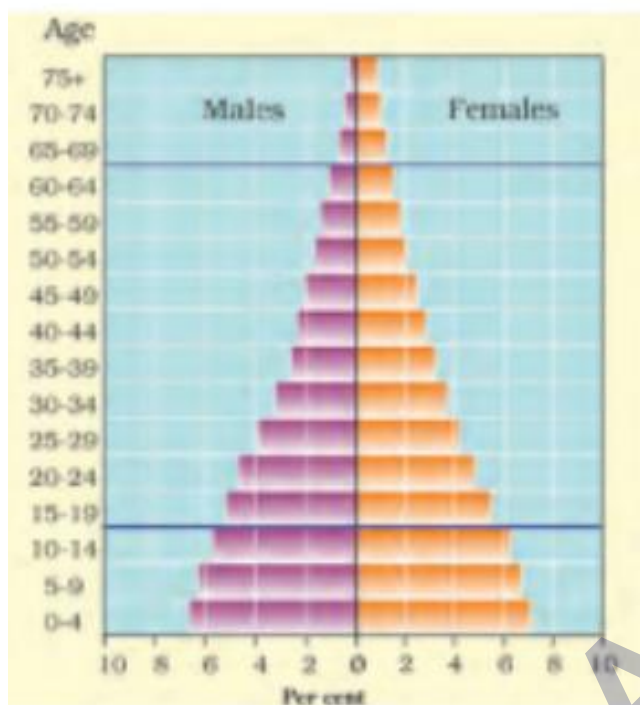
Fig. 6.8: Population Pyramid
of India

In countries like India where death rates (especially amongst the very young) are decreasing, the pyramid is broad in the younger age groups, because more infants survive to adulthood. This can be seen in the pyramid above for India. Such populations contain a relatively large number of young people, and which means a strong and expanding labour force.

Fig. 6.9: Population Pyramid
of Japan

In countries like Japan, low birth rates make the pyramid narrow at the base. Decreased death rates allow numbers of people to reach old age. Skilled, spirited and hopeful young people endowed with a positive outlook are the future of any nation.

Class : 8th Social Science
Chapter 6 Human Resources

Human Resources

Density of Population
- Number of people living in a unit area of the earth's surface.
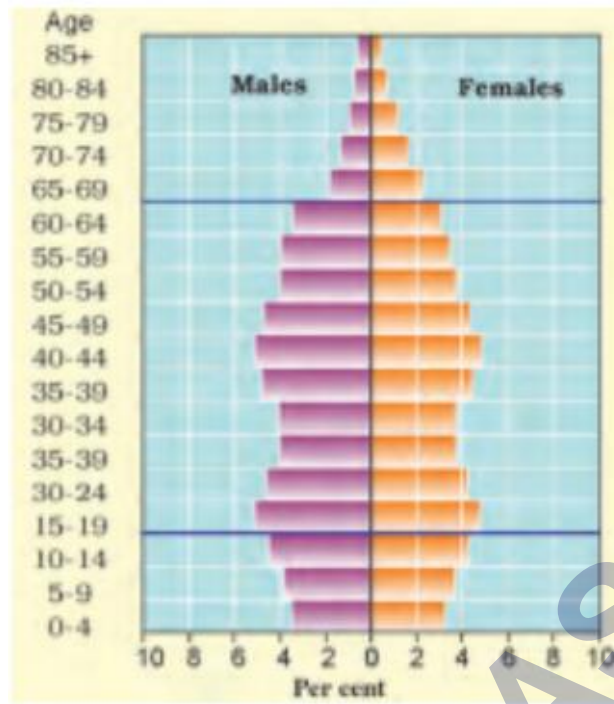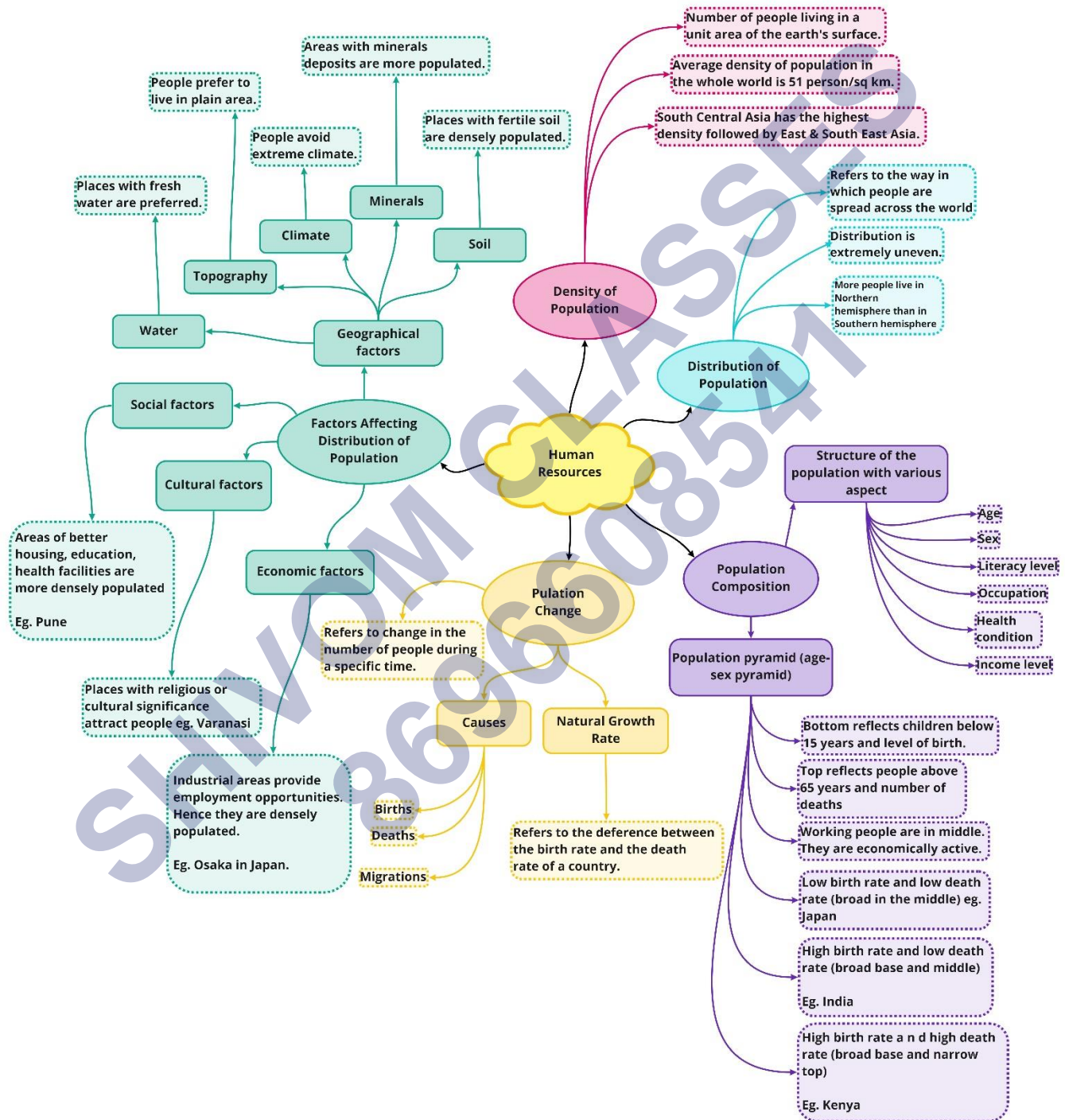- Average density of population in the whole world is 51 person/sq km.
- South Central Asia has the highest density followed by East & South East Asia.

Distribution of Population
- Refers to the way in which people are spread across the world
- Distribution is extremely uneven.
- More people live in Northern hemisphere than in Southern hemisphere

Factors Affecting Distribution of Population

Geographical factors
- **Water** — Places with fresh water are preferred.
- **Topography** — People prefer to live in plain area.
- **Climate** — People avoid extreme climate.
- **Minerals** — Areas with minerals deposits are more populated.
- **Soil** — Places with fertile soil are densely populated.

Social factors — Areas of better housing, education, health facilities are more densely populated Eg. Pune

Cultural factors — Places with religious or cultural significance attract people eg. Varanasi

Economic factors — Industrial areas provide employment opportunities. Hence they are densely populated. Eg. Osaka in Japan.

Pulation Change
- **Causes**
  - Refers to change in the number of people during a specific time.
  - Births
  - Deaths
  - Migrations
- **Natural Growth Rate** — Refers to the deference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country.

Population Composition

Structure of the population with various aspect
- Age
- Sex
- Literacy level
- Occupation
- Health condition
- Income level

Population pyramid (age-sex pyramid)
- Bottom reflects children below 15 years and level of birth.
- Top reflects people above 65 years and number of deaths
- Working people are in middle. They are economically active.
- Low birth rate and low death rate (broad in the middle) eg. Japan
- High birth rate and low death rate (broad base and middle) Eg. India
- High birth rate a n d high death rate (broad base and narrow top) Eg. Kenya

Important Questions

Multiple Choice Questions-

Question 1. Which resource is known as ultimate resources in this chapter?

(a) Natural Resource

(b) Man-made Resource

(c) Conventional Resource

(d) Human Resource

Question 2. What is the average density population in India?

(a) 384 person per sq km

(b) 382 person per sq km

(c) 389 person per sq km

(d) 390 person per sq km

Question 3. What has been termed as the number of deaths per 100 people?

(a) Migration

(b) Birth rate

(c) Extinction rate

(d) Death rate

Question 4. When a person leaves a country, ait is known as:

(a) immigration

(b) integration

(c) emigrant

(d) emigration

Question 5. What is defined as the number of years that an average person can expect to live?

(a) Birth rate

(b) Death rate

(c) Life expectancy

(d) Topography

Question 6. Which one of the following is considered as the ultimate resource?

(a) Human Resource

(b) Natural Resource

(c) Power Resource

(d) Mineral Resource

Question 7. What is the average population density of the world?

(a) 51 persons per sq. km

(b) 300 persons per sq. km

(c) 100 persons per sq. km.

(d) 14 persons per sq. km

Question 8. Which one of the following is correct?

(a) North Hemisphere is less populated

(b) Capital is the major resources of the nation

(c) Population density is high in rural areas

(d) Distribution of the population in the world is uneven

Question 9. In 1999, Where did the world population reached?

(a) 1 billion

(b) 3 billion

(c) 6 billion

(d) 9 billion

Question 10. Which does the term population distribution refer to?

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

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

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

(d) When the population of an area is so high that people live in tall building.

Question 11. On what criterions do the human resources all over the world differ?

(a) Basis of sex

(b) Basis of age

(c) Basis of education

(d) All of the above

Question 12. Which are the factors that affect distribution of population?

(a) Geographical factors

(b) Social factors

(c) Economic factors

(d) All of the above

Question 13. What is the natural growth rate?

(a) Decrease of infancy rate

(b) Increase of death rate

(c) Difference of birth rate and death rate

(d) None of these

Question 14. What are the people called who have come from other countries?

(a) Immigrants

(b) Emigrants

(c) Both a and b

(d) None of these

Question 15. Which areas are the densely populated in the world?

(a) Osaka

(b) China

(c) North Korea

(d) South Korea

Very Short:

1. In what respects do different human beings differ?

2. With the help of figures, describe how population varies across continents.

3. If 600 people live in your colony, and the area of your colony is 2 sq km, what is the population density of your colony?

4. Compare the population density of the world with that of India.

5. How does climate affect the population distribution of an area?

6. What is life expectancy?

7. What is the general trend of migrations from one country to another? Why is it so?

8. What is an age-sex pyramid?

9. Which of these countries is more densely populated: one with a small population in a large area, or one with a large population in a large area?

10. What does the population pyramid tells about dependents of a country?

11. What could be an interesting way of studying the population composition of a country?

Short Questions:

1. Describe how various factors affect population distribution.

2. Describe how the population of the world has grown in history. What has caused the population explosion?

3. What are the factors affecting the population change in a region?

4. What is meant by the term population density and what is the average density of population in whole world and in India?

5. How can we say that people's are the nation's greatest resources and human resource is the ultimate resource?

6. What do you know about Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry under the government of India?

7. What do you mean by the pattern of population distribution? How is world population distributed?

Long Questions:

1. Define population change. How do the following factors affect the distribution of population?

   (i) Topography

   (ii) Climate

   (iii) Soil

   (iv) Water

   (v) Minerals.

2. Why did world population rise from 1800 onwards?

3. Until the 1800s, the world's population grew steadily but slowly.' Why?

4. Discuss the role of any two factors influencing population change.

5. What is a population pyramid? What is its significance and what information can it give?

Answer Key:

MCQ:

1. (c) Conventional Resource

2. (d) 390 person per sq km

3. (d) Death rate

4. (B) integration

5. (d) Topography

6. (a) Human Resource

7. (a) 51 persons per sq. km

8. (d) Distribution of the population in the world is uneven

9. (c) 6 billion

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

11. (d) All of the above

12. (d) All of the above

13. (c) Difference of birth rate and death rate

14. (a) Immigrants

15. (a) Osaka

Very Short Answer:

1. Human beings differ from each other in age, sex, education, ethnicity, culture, physical and mental strength, etc.

2. Around 61% of the world's population lives in Asia, 12% in Europe, 13% in Africa, 8% in Central/South America, 5% in North America and 1% in Oceania.

3. If 600 people live in a 2 sq km area, on an average, 300 people live in 1 sq km. So density of population is 300 persons per sq km.

4. The population density of the world is around 45 persons per sq km, whereas that of India is over 320 persons per sq km.

5. People prefer to live in regions with a moderate climate, and not places of extreme cold and hot climate. So moderate climate regions are densely populated.

6. Life expectancy is the number of years an average person can expect to live, based on data.

7. Generally, people migrate from less developed countries to more developed ones. This is done for better employment opportunities and other facilities.

8. An age-sex pyramid is a graph showing the number of males and females under certain defined age groups.

9. A country with a large population in a small area is more densely populated out of the two.

10. Population pyramid tells us how many dependents are there in a country. There are two dependents – young and elderly dependents.

11. An interesting way of studying the population composition of a country is by looking at the population pyramid, also called an age-sex pyramid.

Short Answer:

Ans: 1. Topography, favourable climate, fertility of soils, availability of fresh water, minerals are major geographical factors affecting population density of a region.
People prefer to live on plains more than mountains or plateaus and they live more in moderate climates than extreme hot or cold. From the agriculture point of view, fertile lands are preferred. Areas with mineral deposits are more populated. Some social factors that boost the density of population in a region are better housing, education and health facilities. Places with cultural or historical significance are usually populated. Employment opportunities are another attraction for large chunks of population.

Ans: 2. The world population grew steadily initially. It reached a billion in the year 1820. But the next two billion were added in just a hundred and fifty years. By 1970 the population was 3 billion. In the next 29 years, i.e. by the year 1999, the population had

doubled to 6 billion. The population explosion has been mainly caused by the growth in medical facilities, which has decreased the death rate by a large extent.

Ans: 3. Factors affecting the population change in a region are birth rate, death rate and migrations. Birth rate is a statistic that measures the number of live births per 1000 people. Death rate is a statistic that measures the number of deaths per 1000 people. Along with birth and death rate, another factor affecting population change is migration. Migration refers to the movement of people from one area to another. People leaving a country are called emigrants and the phenomenon is called emigration. People arriving in a country are called immigrants and the phenomenon is called immigration.

Ans: 4. Population density is the number of people living in a unit area of the earth's surface. It is normally expressed as per sq km. The average density of population in the whole world is 51 persons per sq km. and the average density of population in India is 382 persons sq km. South Central Asia has the highest density of population

Ans: 5. People are the nation's greatest resources as nature's bounty becomes significant only when people find it useful. It is people with their demands and abilities that turn, them into resources. Hence, human resource is the ultimate resource. Healthy, educated and motivated people develop resources as per their requirements.

Ans: 6. The Government of India has a ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry was created in 1985 with an aim to develop people's skills. This just shows how important people are as a resource for the country.

Ans: 7. The way in which people are spread across the earth's surface is known as the pattern of population distribution. More than 90% of the world's population lives in about 30 per cent of the land's surface. The distribution of world population is extremely uneven.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. The population change refers to change in the number of people during a specific time. The world population has not been stable. This is how the following factors affect the distribution of population.

1) Topography: People always prefer to live on plains rather than mountains and plateaus

2) because these areas are suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities. Climate:

3) People usually avoid extreme climates that are very hot or very cold.

4) Soil: Fertile soils provide suitable land for agriculture. Fertile plains are densely populated around different parts of the world.

5) Water: People prefer to live in the areas where freshwater is easily available. The river valleys of the world are densely populated while deserts have spare population.

6) Minerals: Areas with mineral deposits are more populated.

Ans: 2. In 1820, the world's population reached one billion. A hundred and fifty years later, in the early 1970s, the world's population reached 3 billion. This is often called population explosion. In 1999, less than 30 years later, the population doubled to 6 billion. The main reason for this growth was that with better food supplies and medicine, deaths were reducing, while the number of births still remained fairly high.

Ans: 3. For an extremely long period of human history, until the 1800s, the world's population grew steadily but slowly. Large numbers of babies were born, but they died early too. This was as there were no proper health facilities. Sufficient food was not available for all the people. Farmers were not able to produce enough to meet the food requirements of all the people. As a result, the total increase in population was very low.

Ans: 4. Birth rate and death rate are the natural causes of population change. Birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 people. Death rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 people. When birth rate is more than death rate, population increases. When birth rate and death rate are same, population stays the same. When death rate is more than birth rate, population decreases. Thus, birth rate and death rate affect the balance of population.

Ans: **5 .** A population pyramid is a pictorial way to describe the population composition. An age-sex pyramid gives information about the distribution of different age groups of people based on gender. The shape of the age-sex pyramid of a country is indicative of a lot of information about the country. The size towards the bottom may be used to estimate the birth rate, while the size towards the top to estimate the death rate.

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

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