

In this chapter, you will find the answers of mainly 3 questions:-

1. Population size and distribution: How many people are there and where are they located?
2. Population growth and processes of population change: How has the population grown & changed through time?
3. Characteristics or qualities of the population: What are their age, sex composition, literacy levels, occupational structure and health conditions?

Population Size and Distribution:-

- As of March 2011, India's population was 1210.6 million which accounts for 17.5% of the world's population.
- Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state of India as it counts about 16% of the country's population.

→ Almost half of India's population lives in just five states which are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

INDIA'S POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY DENSITY

Population density is calculated as the number of persons per unit area. The population density of India in the year 2011 was 382 persons per sq. km. That's why India is considered one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

POPULATION GROWTH AND PROCESSES OF POPULATION CHANGE

The numbers, distribution and composition of the population are constantly changing. This is the influence of the interaction of the three processes:

- i) Birth
- ii) Death
- iii) Migration.

POPULATION GROWTH

Growth of population refers to the change in number of the inhabitants of a country / territory during a specific period of time. This change can be expressed in 2 ways:

1. In terms of absolute numbers: The absolute numbers are obtained by subtracting the earlier population (e.g. that of 2001) from the later population (e.g. that of 2011).
2. In terms of percentage change per year: It is studied in percent ~~per~~ per annum e.g. a rate of increase of 2 percent per annum means that in a given year, there was an increase of two persons for every 100 persons in the base population. This is referred to as the annual growth rate.

Date _____
Page _____

PROCESSES OF POPULATION CHANGE / GROWTH

Three main processes of change of population are :-

1) Birthrate :-

Birth rate is the number of live births per thousand persons in a year. In India, birth rates have always been higher than death rates.

2) Death Rates :-

Death rate is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year.

3) Migration :-

Migration is the movement of people across regions and territories. Migration can be internal (within the country) or international (between the countries).

It influences the distribution of population within the nation. In India, the rural to urban migration has resulted in a steady increase in the percentage of the population in cities & towns.