

STRUCTURE OF INDIAN SOCIETY

STUDY-NOTES

- **Sociology** seems, unlike any other subject, easy and familiar to us as everyone already knows something about society.
- As it is such an integral part of the process of growing up, knowledge about society seems to be acquired “**naturally**” or “**automatically**”.
- This prior knowledge or familiarity with society is both an advantage and a disadvantage for Sociology, the discipline that studies society.
- The **advantage** is that students are generally not afraid of Sociology – they feel that it can’t be a very hard subject to learn.
- The **disadvantage** is that this prior knowledge can be a problem – in order to learn Sociology, we need to “unlearn” what we already know about society. This is necessary because our prior knowledge about society – our common sense – is acquired from a particular viewpoint.
- This is the viewpoint of the social group and the social environment that we are socialised into. Our social context shapes our opinions, beliefs and expectations about society and social relations.
- These beliefs are not necessarily wrong, though they can be. The problem is that they are ‘partial’. The word ‘partial’ is being used here in two different senses – incomplete (the opposite of whole), and biased (the opposite of impartial).
- So, our ‘unlearned’ knowledge or common sense usually allows us to see only a part of social reality; moreover, it is liable to be tilted towards the viewpoints and interests of our own social group.
- What sociology offers is to teach us how to see the world from many vantage points – not just our own, but also that of others unlike ourselves.
- Sociology teaches us ‘self-reflexivity’, or sometimes just reflexivity. This is the ability to reflect upon yourself, to turn back your gaze (which is usually directed outward) back towards yourself.
- But this **self-inspection** must be critical – i.e., it should be quick to criticise and slow to praise oneself.
- At the simplest level, you could say that understanding Indian society and its structure provides a sort of social map on which you could locate yourself.
- Each of your identities would locate you on a social map, and among a web of social relationships.
- **Sociology** tells you about what kinds of groups or groupings there are in society, what their relationships are to each other, and what this might mean in terms of your own life.
- As noted, American sociologist C. Wright Mills has said, Sociology can also help you to map the links and connections between “personal troubles” and “social issues”.
- One version of a **social map** is already provided to us in childhood by the process of socialisation, or the ways in which we are taught to make sense of the world around us. This is the common-sense map.
- But this kind of map can be misleading, and it can distort. A sociological perspective teaches you how to draw social maps.
- In looking at the larger processes that were at work in shaping Indian society, it was in the colonial period that a specifically Indian consciousness took shape.

- **Colonial rule** unified all of India for the first time, and brought in the forces of modernisation and capitalist economic change.
- The economic, political and administrative unification of India under colonial rule was achieved at great expense.
- **Colonial exploitation and domination** scarred Indian society in many ways. But paradoxically, colonialism also gave birth to its own enemy – nationalism.
- **Colonialism** created new classes and communities which came to play significant roles in subsequent history.
- The urban middle classes were the main carriers of nationalism, and they led the campaign for freedom. They began, with the aid of western style education, to challenge colonialism on its own ground.
- Colonial interventions also crystallised religious and caste-based communities.
- In looking at the basic structure of Indian society, we first look at the **demographic structure of Indian society**
- **Demography** studies the trends and processes associated with population is - changes in population size; patterns of births, deaths, and migration; and the structure and composition of the population, such as the relative proportions of women, men and different age groups.
- The term ‘Demography’ is of Greek origin. It is composed of two words: *demos* (people) and *graphein* (describe) implying the description of people.
- There are two types of demography: formal demography and social demography.
 - (i) **Formal demography:** It deals with the measurement and analysis of the components of population change such as calculating life expectancy etc.
 - (ii) **Social demography:** (Also known as population studies) it enquires into the wider causes and consequences of population structures and changes.
- Demography is a field that is of special importance to Sociology; in fact the emergence of Sociology and its successful establishment as an academic discipline owed a lot to demography.
- This was due to two different processes which happened to take place at roughly the same time in Europe during the latter half of the 18th century: formation of nation-states as the principal form of political organisation and beginnings of modern science of statistics.
- The practice of the collection of social statistics by the state is in itself much older, but it acquired its modern form towards the end of the 18th century.
- The American Census of 1790 was probably the first modern census, and the practice was soon taken up in Europe as well in the early 1800s.
- **Census** is a procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population.
- Census was for the first time conducted by the British colonial government in India between 1867 and 1872.
- **Decennial** (10 yearly) censuses have been conducted since 1881. Independent India continued the practice, and seven decennial censuses have been conducted since 1951, the most recent being in 2011.
- Demography is a field that helps in trend analysis, policy and planning.
- **Aggregate Statistics** i.e., the numerical characteristics that refer to a large collectivity consisting of millions of people – offers a concrete and strong argument for the existence of social phenomena.
- This was a point made by **Durkheim** in his study ‘Suicide’ by collecting data about death rates across various countries.
- He argued that the rates of suicide (i.e., number of suicides per 100,000 population) had to be explained by social causes even though each particular instance of suicide may have involved reasons specific to that individual or his/her circumstances.
- Early in the 19th century, the English scholar **Reverend Thomas Malthus** published “*An Essay on the Principle of Population.*”
- In it, he argued that overpopulation was the cause of many of the social ills observed in the industrial societies of Europe; this was a mathematical inevitability as while resources tended to grow arithmetically, populations exhibit exponential growth.

- Thus, if left unrestricted, human populations would continue to grow until they would become too large to be supported by the food grown on available agricultural land. Malthus argued that the only way to increase prosperity was to control the growth of population.
- Malthus believed that 'positive checks' were inevitable – famines, epidemics, wars, etc. – nature's way of dealing with imbalance. Humanity could limit population growth through voluntary means like practicing celibacy, postponing marriages, 'preventive checks'.
- Malthus's theory was criticised by historical experience of European countries where both food production and standard of living continued to rise despite the rapid growth of population.
- He was also criticised by Liberal and Marxist scholars for asserting that poverty and starvation was caused by population growth.
- Another theory of population growth is the "**Theory of Demographic Transition**" where population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development.
- Three broad phases of population growth in a society.
 - (i) **Ist Stage:** Pre-industrial society (underdeveloped and backward) – Growth rate is low as both birth and death rate is high so the difference between the two (or the net growth rate) is low.
 - (ii) **IInd Stage:** Society in a state of transition-developing economy – High birth rate and low death rate. Growth rate is high as difference between the two (or the net growth rate) is very high. Phase of 'population explosion'.
 - (iii) **IIIrd Stage:** Industrial society (advanced and developed) – Growth rate is low as both birth and death rate is low so the difference between the two (or the net growth rate) is small.
- **Common Concepts and Indicators of Demography:**
 - ◆ **Birth Rate:** the number of live births per 1000 population.
 - ◆ **Death Rate:** number of deaths in a given area during a given time per 1000 population.
 - ◆ **Rate of natural increase or growth rate of population:** It refers to the difference between the birth rate and the death rate.
 - ◆ **Replacement level:** It is the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out.
 - ◆ **Negative growth rate:** In a society when their fertility levels are below the replacement rate.
 - ◆ **Fertility rate:** It refers to the number of live births per 1000 women in the child-bearing age group, usually taken to be 15 to 49 years.
 - ◆ **Total fertility rate:** The average number of births to a cohort of women up to the end of the reproductive age period (estimated on the basis of the age-specific rates observed during a given period).
 - ◆ **Infant mortality rate:** The number of deaths of babies before the age of one year per 1000 live births.
 - ◆ **Maternal mortality rate:** The number of women who die in childbirth per 1,00,000 live births.
 - ◆ **Life expectancy:** It refers to the estimated number of years that an average person is expected to survive.
 - ◆ **Sex ratio:** It refers to the number of females per 1000 males in a given area at a specified time period.
 - ◆ **Age structure of the population:** It refers to the proportion of persons in different age groups relative to the total population.
 - ◆ **Ageing of the population:** When relatively smaller proportions of the population are found in the younger age groups and larger proportions in the older age groups.
 - ◆ **Dependency ratio:** is a measure comparing the portion of a population which is composed of dependents (i.e., elderly people who are too old to work, and children who are too young to work) with the portion that is in the working age group, generally defined as 15 to 64 years.
 - ◆ **Falling dependency ratio** can be a source of economic growth and prosperity, can result in a situation of demographic dividend.

- **Trends in India's population on different demographic indicators:**

- ◆ Size and growth of India's population:- India is the second most populous country in the world after China, with a total population of 121 crores (or 1.21 billion) according to the Census of India 2011.
- ◆ Between 1901 and 1951 the average annual growth rate did not exceed 1.33%, a modest rate of growth.
- ◆ Between 1911 and 1921 there was a negative rate of growth of – 0.03%. This was because of the influenza epidemic during 1918–19 which killed about 12.5 million persons or 5% of the total population of the country.
- Primary reasons for decline in death rate after 1921 were increased levels of controls over famines and epidemic diseases.
- The growth rate of population substantially increased after independence from British rule going up to 2.2% during 1961-1981. Since then although the annual growth rate has decreased it remains one of the highest in the developing world.
- There are very wide variations in the fertility rates across the states of India.
 - ◆ Some states, like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have managed to bring down their total fertility rates (TFR) to 1.7 each.
 - ◆ But there are some states, notably Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, which still have very high TFRs.
 - ◆ In 2016, the TFRs of these states were 3.3, 2.8, 2.7 and 3.1, respectively.
 - ◆ According to the **Economic Survey 2018–19**, India's total birth rate was 22.4, among them rural birth rate was 22.4 and urban birth rate was 17.3. The highest birth rate in India is of Uttar Pradesh (25.9) and Bihar (26.4).

- **Trends in age structure of the Indian population:**

- ◆ India has a very young population, that is, the majority of Indians tends to be young, and the average age is also less than that for most other countries.
- ◆ The share of the under 15 age group in the total population has come down from its highest level of 42% in 1971 to 29% in 2011.
- ◆ The share of the 15–59 age group has increased slightly from 53% to 63%.
- ◆ The share of the 60 plus age group is very small, but it has begun to increase (from 5% to 7%) over the same period.
- But the age composition of the Indian population is expected to change significantly in the next two decades.
- Most of this change will be at the two ends of the age spectrum – the 0 – 14 age group will reduce its share by about 11% (from 34% in 2001 to 23% in 2026) while the 60 plus age group will increase its share by about 5% (from 7% in 2001 to about 12% in 2026.)
- There are wide regional variations as states like Kerala are beginning to acquire age – structure like that of developed countries while some states like Uttar Pradesh present a very different picture with high proportions in the younger age groups and relatively low proportions among the aged. India as a whole is somewhere in the middle.
- The bias towards younger age groups in the age structure is believed to be an advantage for India. Like the East Asian economies in the past decade and like Ireland today, India is supposed to be benefitting from a '**demographic dividend**'.
- Demographic dividend arises from the fact that the current generation of working-age people is a relatively large one, and it has only a relatively small preceding generation of old people to support. But there is nothing automatic about this advantage; it needs to be consciously exploited through appropriate policies.
- **Trends for sex ratio in India:**
 - ◆ India has had a declining sex-ratio for more than a century. From 972 females per 1000 males at the turn of the twentieth century, the sex ratio has declined to 933 at the turn of the twenty-first century.
 - ◆ The trends of the last four decades have been particularly worrying – from 941 in 1961 the sex ratio had fallen to an all-time low of 927 in 1991 before posting a modest increase in 2001.

- ◆ According to Census of India 2011 sex ratio has increased and now it is 943 females per 1000 males.
 - ◆ But what has really alarmed demographers, policy makers, social activists and concerned citizens is the drastic fall in the child sex ratio.
 - ◆ The decade 1991-2001 represents an anomaly in that the overall sex ratio has posted its highest ever increase of 6 points from the all-time low of 927 to 933, but the child sex ratio has dropped from 945 to 927, a plunge of 18 points taking it below the overall sex ratio for the first time.
 - ◆ In 2011 Census (provisional) the child sex ratio again decreased by 13 points and now it is 919.
 - ◆ The state-level child sex ratios offer even greater cause for worry. As many as nine States and Union Territories have a child sex ratio of under 900 females per 1000 males.
 - ◆ Haryana is the worst state with an incredibly low child sex ratio of 793 (the only state below 800), followed by Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh, Daman and Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Madhya Pradesh are all under 925.
 - ◆ Large states such as West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka are above the national average of 919 but below the 970-mark.
 - ◆ Even Kerala, the state with the better overall sex ratio is at 964, while the highest child sex ratio of 972 is found in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ◆ Lowest child sex ratios are found in the most prosperous regions of India: Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi are among the richest states in India in terms of per capita income; they are also the states with the lowest child sex ratio.
 - ◆ Very strong 'son preference' in India – social and cultural norms that prefer sons over daughters – results in relative neglect and/or death of girl child before or after birth aided by development of technology (sonogram).
 - ◆ The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, this law has been in force since 1996, and has been further strengthened in 2003.
 - ◆ In the long run, the solution to problems, like bias against girl children, depends more on how social attitudes evolve, even though laws and rules can also help.
 - ◆ Recently, the Government of India has introduced the programme, 'Beti-Bachao, Beti Padhao'. It can prove to be an important policy to increase the child sex ratio in the country.
- **Literacy levels in India:**
 - ◆ In India, literacy levels have improved considerably after Independence and almost two-thirds of our population is now literate.
 - ◆ But improvements in the literacy rate have to struggle to keep up with the rate of growth of the Indian population, which is still quite high.
 - ◆ The literacy rate for women is 16.3% less than the literacy rate for men. However, female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy, partly because it started from relatively low levels.
 - ◆ Female literacy rose by about 10.4% between 2001 and 2011 compared to the rise in male literacy of 7.6% in the same period. Literacy increased approximately 8% in total. Male literacy rose about 5% whereas female literacy rose about 10%.
 - ◆ Regional variations are still very wide, with states like Kerala approaching universal literacy, while states like Bihar are lagging far behind.
 - ◆ Literacy rates also vary by social group-disadvantaged communities such as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have lower rates of literacy.
 - ◆ Rates of female literacy within these disadvantaged groups (SC and STs) are even lower than the male literacy while women literacy is faster than male literacy.
 - **Trends in Urban-Rural Linkages:**
 - ◆ The vast majority of the population of India has always lived in the rural areas, and that continues to be true.
 - ◆ According to Census of India 2011, still more people are living in rural areas, but the population of urban areas has increased.

- ◆ Now 68.8% population lives in rural areas while 31.2% people live in urban areas.
- ◆ However, the urban population has been increasing its share steadily, from about 11% at the beginning of the twentieth century to about 28% at the beginning of the twenty-first century.
- ◆ This is because the city or town appears as an attractive destination for villagers due to various reasons – more employment and educational opportunities etc.
- ◆ While urbanisation has been occurring at a rapid pace, it is the biggest cities – the metropolises – that have been growing the fastest.
- ◆ These metros attract migrants from the rural areas as well as from small towns. There are now 5,161 towns and cities in India, where 286 million people live.
- ◆ More than two-thirds of the urban population lives in 27 big cities with million-plus populations.
- ◆ The larger cities in India are growing at such a rapid rate that the urban infrastructure can hardly keep pace.

• **Population Policy in India:**

- ◆ First Population Policy was explicitly announced in 1952. It took concrete shape of National Family Planning Programme.
 - ◆ Its objectives were to try and influence the rate and pattern of population growth in socially desirable directions.
 - ◆ It suffered a setback faced by the policy during the Emergency period – public outcry over forced mass sterilisation especially of poor people.
 - ◆ The policy was later renamed as the National Family Welfare Programme which now has a broad set of socio-demographic objectives.
 - ◆ A new set of guidelines were formulated as part of the National Population Policy of the year 2000.
- In 2017, Government of India came out with National Health Policy 2017 in which most of these socio-demographic goals were incorporated with new targets.

QUESTION BANK

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

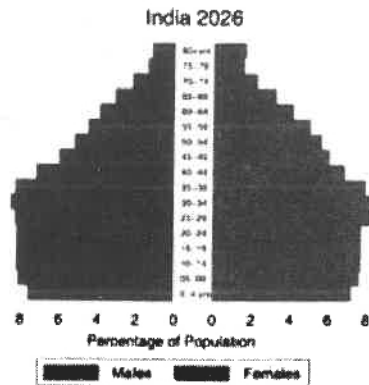
1. The prior knowledge or familiarity with society is both an advantage and a disadvantage for Sociology, the discipline that studies society. In what way is it a disadvantage?
 - (a) Students are generally not afraid of Sociology.
 - (b) Prior knowledge can be a problem, we need to unlearn some of what we know about society.
 - (c) We are already familiar with many terms used in the discipline.
 - (d) We get to learn different perspectives on social issues.
2. Our social context shapes our opinions, beliefs and expectations about society and social relations. These beliefs are not necessarily wrong, though they can be. The problem is that they are 'partial'. In what sense are they partial?
 - (a) Incomplete
 - (b) Biased
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
 - (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
3. Sociology can teach us _____. This is the ability to reflect upon yourself, to turn back your gaze (which is usually directed outward) back towards yourself.
 - (a) Thinking
 - (b) Observing
 - (c) Self-reflexivity
 - (d) Unlearning
4. As a 17-18 year old, you belong to the social group called "young people". People of your age or younger account for about 40% of India's population. You might belong to a particular regional or linguistic community. Depending on your parent's occupation and your family income, you would also be a member of an economic class. You could be a member of a particular religious community, a caste or tribe, or other such social group. Each of these identities would locate you on a _____, and among a web of social relationships.
 - (a) Hierarchy
 - (b) Field
 - (c) Social map
 - (d) None of these

5. A well-known American sociologist has written, sociology can help you to map the links and connections between "personal troubles" and "social issues". Identify this sociologist.
 - (a) C. Wright Mills
 - (b) Karl Marx
 - (c) Emile Durkheim
 - (d) Max Weber
6. The theory of population growth was given by _____.
 - (a) Malthus
 - (b) Karl Marx
 - (c) Max Weber
 - (d) M.N. Srinivas
7. _____ is the exclusion or oppression of some castes by others.
 - (a) Communalism
 - (b) Tribalism
 - (c) Nationalism
 - (d) Casteism
8. In childhood, we are taught to make sense of the world around us by the process of _____.
 - (a) Observation
 - (b) Talking
 - (c) Socialisation
 - (d) None of these
9. Colonial exploitation and domination scarred Indian society in many ways. But paradoxically, colonialism also gave birth to its own enemy _____.
 - (a) Nationalism
 - (b) Capitalism
 - (c) Modernisation
 - (d) Domination
10. Colonialism created new classes and communities which came to play significant roles in subsequent history. The _____ were the main carriers of nationalism and they led the campaign for freedom.
 - (a) Europeans
 - (b) Peasants
 - (c) Administrators
 - (d) Urban middle classes
11. The number of deaths in a given area during a given time per 1000 population is known as
 - (a) Birth rate
 - (b) Death rate
 - (c) Sex ratio
 - (d) Maternal mortality rate
12. In India, the regular decennial Censuses began to be conducted by the British government since
 - (a) 1881
 - (b) 1975
 - (c) 1875
 - (d) 2011
13. The number of stages in the theory of demographic transition are:
 - (a) Four
 - (b) Five
 - (c) Three
 - (d) Two
14. The first country in the world which explicitly announced the Family Planning Programme:
 - (a) Pakistan
 - (b) India
 - (c) China
 - (d) Vietnam
15. The National Family Planning Programme was renamed after the Emergency as:
 - (a) National Family Programme
 - (b) National Family Welfare Programme
 - (c) National Family Welfare
 - (d) National Family Demographic Programme
16. The changing age structure offers a demographic dividend for India. Identify from the following choices, the relevant age range that allows for demographic dividend.
 - (a) 0-14 years
 - (b) 15-64 years
 - (c) 64-75 years
 - (d) 75 years and above
17. The state initiative that tackles the problem of hunger and starvation in rural areas is:
 - (a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guided Act
 - (b) National Employment Guarantee Act
 - (c) National Union Employment Guided Act
 - (d) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
18. In independent India, the decennial Censuses have been conducted since the year
 - (a) 1951
 - (b) 1975
 - (c) 1947
 - (d) 1957
19. The most infamous pandemic that is thought to have killed at least 40 million people in 1918-19:
 - (a) Cholera
 - (b) Smallpox
 - (c) Spanish Flu
 - (d) Plague
20. Which of the following does not lead to population explosion?
 - (a) Low level of economic development can lead to population explosion.
 - (b) It happens due to high birth rate and low death rate.
 - (c) It takes longer for society to alter reproductive behaviour.
 - (d) Reduced fertility rate.

21. India's population is projected to increase from 1.2 billion today to an estimated 1.6 billion by 2050. This happens due to:
- (a) Population momentum (b) Population explosion
(c) Population policy (d) National Health Policy
22. Ageing population implies
- (a) Low dependency ratio (b) High dependency ratio
(c) Window of economic opportunity (d) High death rate
23. Unlike the death rate, _____ does not register a sharp fall because it is a socio-cultural phenomenon.
- (a) Birth rate (b) Maternal mortality rate (c) Life expectancy (d) Dependency ratio
24. Demographic data are not important for which of the following?
- (a) Planning and implementation of state policies (b) Economic development
(c) General public welfare (d) Preventing disintegration of joint families
25. The falling dependency ratio can be a source of economic growth and prosperity due to :
- (a) ageing population (b) larger proportion of workers relative to non-workers
(c) rising life expectancy (d) economic development
26. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act (PNDT) 1996 was enacted to
- (a) Allow parents to have more than one child (b) Know the sex of their child
(c) Curb female foeticide (d) Boost the population of the country
27. **Assertion (A):** The emergence of sociology and its successful establishment as an academic discipline owed a lot to demography.
- Reason (R):** This happened due to the rise of nation-states and the emergence of the modern science of statistics.
- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) Both A and R are false.
(d) A is false and R is true.
28. Demography studies the trends and processes associated with
- (a) Changes in population size (b) Structure and composition of the population
(c) Only (a) (d) Both (a) and (b)
29. Malthus's theory was criticised because
- (a) Pattern of population growth began to change in the early half of the 18th century.
(b) There was substantial increase in the productivity of agriculture.
(c) Birth rates had risen.
(d) Experience of China was different.
30. The growth rate of population refers to
- (a) The rate of natural increase (b) The replacement level
(c) The migration rate (d) The fertility rate
31. Which of the following factors have an impact on the age structure?
- (a) High sex ratio (b) High infant mortality rate
(c) High life expectancy (d) Both (b) and (c)
32. The Spanish Flu that broke out in 1918-19 was a _____ pandemic
- (a) Cholera (b) Small Pox (c) Influenza (d) Plague

33. According to Amartya Sen, famines are caused due to
 (a) Ignorance of farming methods (b) Lack of rainfall
 (c) Less number of people in rural sector (d) Failure of entitlements
34. In a population pyramid, if the bottom of the pyramid grows narrower, what does this imply?
 (a) The population has stagnated. (b) Fewer newer births are taking place.
 (c) More deaths are taking place. (d) The economy is getting more developed.
35. In 2020, the average Indian was only
 (a) 29 years old (b) 27 years old (c) 30 years old (d) 37 years old
36. Juvenile sex ratio is the
 (a) Sex ratio for 0-1 years age group (b) Sex ratio for 1-6 years age group
 (c) Sex ratio for 0-6 years age group (d) Sex ratio for 0-12 years age group
37. The Government of India came out with its National Health Policy in which year?
 (a) 2018 (b) 2019 (c) 2020 (d) 2017
38. **Assertion (A):** The inequalities in the literacy rate are especially important because they tend to reproduce inequality across generations.
Reason (R): Illiterate parents are at a severe disadvantage in ensuring that their children are well-educated, thus perpetuating existing inequalities.
 (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 (c) Both A and R are false.
 (d) A is false and R is true.
39. What does the regional pattern of low child sex ratios reveal about the problem of selective abortions? That is due to :
 (a) strong son preference (b) poverty (c) lack of resources (d) ignorance
40. Which state is beginning to acquire an age structure similar to that of developed countries?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Telangana
41. By and large, increased levels of prosperity exert a strong _____ pull on the birth rate.
 (a) Downward (b) Upward (c) Stable (d) Negative
42. In which decade did India experience a negative rate of growth?
 (a) 1941-1951 (b) 1911-1921 (c) 1961-1971 (d) 1951-1961
43. In the first stage of demographic transition, the growth rate is low because
 (a) Both death rate and birth rate are very high. (b) Both death rate and birth rate are very low.
 (c) The birth rate is high and death rate is low. (d) The death rate is low.
44. "The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race. The vices of mankind are active and able ministers of depopulation." Who said this?
 (a) Amartya Sen (b) Emile Durkheim (c) Thomas R. Malthus (d) Mahatma Gandhi
45. The term 'Demography' is of which origin?
 (a) French (b) American (c) Indian (d) Greek
46. Which states have managed to bring down their Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 1.7 each?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar (b) Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu
 (c) Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka

47. Which of the following did not help to control epidemics?
 (a) Programmes of vaccination (b) Cures for epidemics
 (c) Falling maternal mortality rate (d) Efforts to improve sanitation
48. Age-specific sex ratios began to be computed in:
 (a) 1951 (b) 1961 (c) 1971 (d) 1968
49. Study the figure given below and based on the shape of the population pyramid, state that this is a situation of



- (a) High dependency ratio (b) Demographic dividend
 (c) High sex ratio (d) Replacement level
50. In the theory of demographic transition, the first stage of population growth is characteristic of a society where
 (a) The society is technologically stagnant. (b) The society is technologically backward.
 (c) The society is technologically advanced. (d) None of these.
51. When countries experience a negative growth rate, their
 (a) Fertility levels are below the replacement level. (b) Girls are less than boys.
 (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
52. The numerical characteristics that refer to a large collectivity consisting of millions of people is called
 (a) Geometric Progression (b) Sample (c) Arithmetic Progression (d) Aggregate Statistics
53. In his famous study explaining the variation in suicide rates across different countries, Durkheim argued that
 (a) The rate of suicide had to be explained by social causes.
 (b) The rate of suicide was to be understood in individual context attributed to specific factors.
 (c) Suicide was an abnormality.
 (d) None of these
54. Literacy as a pre-requisite to education is an instrument of
 (a) Empowerment (b) Development (c) Urbanisation (d) Growth
55. Formal demography is considered with
 (a) Qualitative analysis (b) Population studies (c) Social demography (d) Quantitative field
56. In the long run, the solution to the problem of sex-selective abortion depends more on _____.
 (a) Strict laws (b) How social attitudes evolve
 (c) More policies (d) Abstaining from having children
57. Today agriculture contributes about _____ of the gross domestic product.
 (a) One-tenth (b) One-eighth (c) One-third (d) One-sixth
58. What percentage of the population in India lives in rural areas?
 (a) 50 (b) 68 (c) 32 (d) 40

59. Initially, what was the population policy of India called?
 (a) National Family Planning Programme (b) National Family Welfare Programme
 (c) National Population Policy of India (d) National People Policy of India
60. During the years of the National Emergency in India, the government tried to intensify the effort to bring down the rate of population growth by
 (a) Mass advertisements (b) Financial incentives
 (c) Coercive program of mass sterilisation (d) None of these
61. Sometimes the city may also be preferred for social reasons, specially the relative anonymity it offers. Name the social groups that may benefit from moving from the rural to urban areas.
 (a) Women (b) Poorer sections of socially dominant rural groups
 (c) Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (d) Both (b) and (c)
62. While urbanisation has been occurring at a rapid pace, it is the biggest cities – the _____ that have been growing the fastest.
 (a) Metropolises (b) Urban agglomeration (c) Towns (d) Satellite cities
63. In terms of the political power dynamics in the country, the _____ remain a decisive force.
 (a) Urban areas (b) Rural areas (c) Metropolis (d) Towns
64. What has prompted people to move from rural areas to urban areas in India?
 (a) The relative economic value of what they produce through agriculture has fallen drastically.
 (b) Those who cannot find work (or sufficient work) in the rural areas go to the city in search of work.
 (c) There has been a continuous decline of common property resources like ponds, forests and grazing lands.
 (d) All of the above
65. Why is literacy as a pre-requisite to education considered an instrument of empowerment?
 (a) The more literate the population the greater the consciousness of career options
 (b) There is possibility of participation in the knowledge economy
 (c) Literacy can lead to health awareness and fuller participation in the cultural and economic well-being of the community
 (d) All of the above
66. Demography is the systematic study of population. The term is of Greek origin and is composed of the two words, demos and graphein. What does graphein mean?
 (a) Analyse (b) Study (c) Describe (d) Observe
67. All demographic studies are based on processes of counting or _____.
 (a) Enumeration (b) Observation (c) Follow-up (d) Analysis
68. How did the formation of nation states as the principal form of political organisation contribute to the development of demography as a field?
 (a) The modern state had begun to take an active interest in the development of early forms of public health management, policing, economic policies etc.
 (b) The modern state was autocratic and wanted to maintain tight control.
 (c) The modern state was keen on keeping tight control on its population levels.
 (d) None of these
69. In the theory of demographic transition, in the third (and last) stage, there is low growth as
 (a) Both birth rate and death rate are high.
 (b) Birth rate is much higher than death rate.
 (c) Death rate is much higher than birth rate.
 (d) Both death rate and birth rate have been reduced considerably.
70. High rates of infant and maternal mortality are an unambiguous indicator of
 (a) High standard of medical facilities being there (b) High level of development
 (c) Backwardness and poverty (d) Rise in levels of education and prosperity

Input-Text Based MCQs

Study the passage and answer the questions that follow (71 to 74):

Demography is the systematic study of population. The term is of Greek origin and is composed of the two words, demos (people) and graphein (describe), implying the description of people. Demography studies the trends and processes associated with population including – changes in population size; patterns of births, deaths, and migration; and the structure and composition of the population, such as the relative proportions of women, men and different age groups.

71. Which of these would demography not study?
(a) Migration trends (b) Mortality levels due to pandemic
(c) Market fluctuations (d) Concentration of adivasis in different regions
72. The American Census of _____ was probably the first modern census.
(a) 1790 (b) 1890 (c) 1755 (d) 1855
73. Which classical sociologist made use of aggregate statistics in his work?
(a) Auguste Comte (b) Emile Durkheim (c) Max Weber (d) Karl Marx
74. Population studies is another name for
(a) Formal Demography (b) Aggregate Statistics (c) Social Statistics (d) Social Demography

Study the passage and answer the questions that follow (75 to 78):

The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race. The vices of mankind are active and able ministers of depopulation. They are the precursors in the great army of destruction, and often finish the dreadful work themselves. But should they fail in this war of extermination, sickly seasons, epidemics, pestilence, and plague advance in terrific array, and sweep off their thousands and tens of thousands? Should success be still incomplete, gigantic inevitable famine stalks in the rear, and with one mighty blow levels the population with the food of the world?

75. Malthus wrote this in which book?
(a) Theories of Population (b) Fundamentals of Demography
(c) Political Demography (d) An Essay on the Principle of Population
76. According to him, humanity is condemned to live in _____ forever because the growth of agricultural production will always be overtaken by population growth.
(a) Poverty (b) Misery (c) Sickness (d) Unhappiness
77. Malthus studied at Cambridge and trained to become a _____.
(a) Researcher (b) Doctor (c) Christian priest (d) Artist
78. Malthus was criticised by liberal and Marxist scholars for _____.
(a) Saying that population growth would outstrip economic growth
(b) Saying that epidemics could not be controlled
(c) Saying that poverty was caused by population growth
(d) Sating that the standard of living would not increase

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (c) | 4. (c) | 5. (a) | 6. (a) | 7. (d) | 8. (c) | 9. (a) | 10. (d) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | 14. (b) | 15. (b) | 16. (b) | 17. (d) | 18. (a) | 19. (c) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (b) | 23. (a) | 24. (d) | 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (a) | 28. (d) | 29. (b) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (c) | 33. (d) | 34. (b) | 35. (a) | 36. (c) | 37. (d) | 38. (a) | 39. (a) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (b) | 43. (a) | 44. (c) | 45. (d) | 46. (b) | 47. (c) | 48. (b) | 49. (b) | 50. (b) |
| 51. (a) | 52. (d) | 53. (a) | 54. (a) | 55. (d) | 56. (b) | 57. (d) | 58. (b) | 59. (a) | 60. (c) |
| 61. (d) | 62. (a) | 63. (b) | 64. (d) | 65. (d) | 66. (c) | 67. (a) | 68. (a) | 69. (d) | 70. (c) |

Input-Text Based MCQs

71. (c) 72. (a) 73. (b) 74. (d) 75. (d) 76. (a) 77. (c) 78. (c)