

Unit 1: Population Geography (40 marks)

Define the field of population geography: Nature and Scope; Its relation with demography:

Definition of Population Geography:

Population geography is the study of human population. It is mainly concerned with one aspect of the study of population - its spatial distribution and arrangements.

According to Clarke population geography is to study areal variations in population and their relation with the physical, cultural and economic phenomena.

Madame Beaujeu-Garnier in her book 'Geography of Population', points out that population geography is concerned with 'describing the demographic factors in their present environmental context studying also the causes, their original characteristics and possible consequences,

Willbur Zelinsky, in his book 'A prologue to Population Geography', defines population geography as the science that deals with the ways in which the geographic character of places is formed by, and in turn reacts upon, a set of population phenomena that vary within it through both space and time as they follow

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their own behavioural laws, interacting with each other and with numerous non demographic phenomena.

Nature and Scope of Population Geography

Population geography as a formal and systematic sub-field of the discipline of geography, places greater emphasis on man. Man is the main focus of study of population geography.

The subject-matter and scope of population geography can be delineated briefly as follows:

- ① study of population distribution in all its aspects, i.e., size and spacing of settlements etc.
- ② Density of population, its various types determinants and density over the regions, and world patterns.
- ③ Spatial movement of population, internal migration, inter-nation migration, types causes etc.
- ④ Growth of population - measurement of population growth, birth and death rates etc.
- ⑤ Population composition - ethnic composition, religious, linguistic composition, age and sex, occupation

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structure, marital status, educational composition, dependency ratio, work force income distribution and poverty etc.

- (6) Literacy and quality of population
- (7) Rural and urban population
- (8) Population - resources ratios etc.
- (9) A geographical overview of world population - world population growth, population projections etc.

Relation ship of Population Geography with other disciplines - (Demography, sociology etc.)

Population geography belongs to that borderland of geography which opens on economics, sociology and demography. While demography is devoted to numbers and depends heavily upon statistical methods, population geography relates numbers to area and relies on mapping. Clark pointed out that the population geography should study areal variations in population and their relationship with the physical, cultural and economic phenomena.

The analysis of numbers and demographic processes for political units belongs to the area of demography.

Population geography is also related intimately to sociology. It studies the social attributes of population such as marriage, religion, caste, literacy, family, household system and so on.

Population geography is also related to biology. It studies age, sex, health, race etc.