APPROACHES

The main concern of population geography revolves round the following three aspects of human population:

1. Size and distribution, including the rural-urban distribution of population.

2. Population dynamics – past and present trends in growth and its spatial manifestation; components of population change, viz., fertility, mortality and migration.

3. Population composition and structure. They include a set of demographic characteristics (such as age-sex structure, marital status and average age at marriage etc.), social characteristics (such as caste, racial/ethnic, religious and linguistic composition of population; literacy and levels of educational attainment etc.), and economic characteristics (such as workforce participation rate and workforce structure etc.)

RELATIONSHIP WITH DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

The discipline of the study of human population is known by two terms: (1) Population Studies and (2) Demography Population studies can be understood easily as studies concerned with population, whereas demography can be explained by pointing out that it is derived from the Greek word demos meaning people and hence is a science of population.

Though these terms are often used as synonyms it is not so. Scholars have considered Demography as a study of components of population variables and change whereas Population Studies is concerned not only with population variables but also with relationships between population changes and other variables social, political, biological, genetic, geographical and the like.

Demography may also be conceived in a broad sense to include, in addition to quantitative study of population, the study of interrelationships between population and socioeconomic, cultural and other variables. Many scholars, however, do not approve of creating artificial distinction between demography and population studies.

Population studies are not the exclusive domain of any single social sciences. Apart from geography, demography, sociology, anthropology, economics, history etc. have been making positive contributions of their own in understanding various aspects of population. While demography studies different aspects of population like its size, density, effects of birth rate, death rate, migraton etc.,

Sociology is the study of social activities of man and social relations formed out of that. Certain aspects of population geography like fertility, population changes, structure of labour force, migration come within the scope of both demography and sociology. The boundary lines between population geography and other social sciences also having their concern with population, thus cannot be drawn precisely.

Traditionally, demography is concerned with statistical analysis of vital rates. Demographers have considered themselves more with the statistics of birth, deaths and marriages and have ignored the influence of migration and spatial variations in general. Demography has often been considered as quantitative study of human population.
Demographers have shown greater concern for sources of data, their quality and availability, and mechanism of analysis. However it would be totally improper to refer to demographers as

TYPES OF SOURCE DATA

Source data are used to analyze and understand population dynamics.

1. **Census Data:** This is the most comprehensive source, providing detailed information on population size, distribution, and characteristics at regular intervals.
2. **Vital Statistics:** These include records of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces, which are crucial for understanding population changes over time.
3. **Demographic Surveys:** These are sample surveys that collect data on various demographic aspects such as fertility, mortality, migration, and health.
4. **Population Registers:** Continuous records of population data, often maintained by governments, which track changes in the population due to births, deaths, and migration.
5. **International Publications:** Organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank publish data on global population trends and projections.
6. **Historical Data:** Sources like the HYDE database and Gapminder provide long-term historical population estimates, which are useful for studying population trends over centuries.

These sources collectively help geographers and researchers analyze population patterns, trends, and their implications on various aspects of society and the environment.

HISTORY OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHY IN INDIA

Historical Context:

Originated in the late 1950s.

Significant contributions from geographers at Punjab University, Chandigarh.

G.S. Gosal's doctoral work in 1956, supervised by G.T. Trewartha, was the first systematic geographical analysis of India's population.

Punjab University first included population geography in post-graduate teaching in the early 1960s.

Educational Expansion:

Introduced at both graduate and post-graduate levels in several Indian universities.

First textbook, "An Introduction to Population Geography," published by Chandna and Sidhu in 1980.

Followed by other textbooks in the 1980s.

Research and Teaching Approaches:

Predominantly empirical research, focusing on deriving theories from facts.

The theoretical approach, applying theories to facts, has been relatively neglected.

Need for better training in quantitative techniques and exposure to other social sciences to enhance theoretical research and teaching.

Data Sources and Limitations:

Census of India is the primary source of population data.

Research focuses on population distribution, growth, composition, and migration.

Lack of emphasis on analyzing vital events like birth and death rates due to inaccuracies in the Civil Registration System and unavailability of district-level data from the Sample Registration System.

Despite growth, challenges include data inaccuracy and lack of expertise in demographic techniques.

Geographers need to acquire knowledge of demographic and statistical techniques and incorporate them into teaching and research.

RECENT RESERCH STUDIES IN POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

Urbanization and Migration:

Studies on the impact of urbanization on population distribution.

Research on migration patterns, both internal and international, and their socio-economic effects.

Population Health:

Analysis of population health metrics, including life expectancy, morbidity, and mortality rates.

Studies on the geographical distribution of diseases and healthcare access.

Climate Change and Population:

Research on how climate change affects population distribution and migration.

Studies on the vulnerability of populations to climate-related hazards.

Demographic Changes:

Examination of aging populations and their impact on social and economic systems.

Studies on fertility rates and their implications for population growth.

Technological Advancements:

Use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and remote sensing in population studies.

Application of big data and machine learning to analyze population trends.

Policy and Planning:

Research on the effectiveness of population policies and planning.

Studies on sustainable development and population management.

References

SOURCES OF POPULATION DATA SOURCE OF POPULATION DATA IN INDIA

- https://www.slideshare.net/tariquealig/sources-of-demographic-data-27397172
- https://www.slideshare.net/dumisaninhliziyo/sources-of-demographic-data

POPULATION DATA SOURCE WITH CASE STUDY

- https://www.slideshare.net/sohag92/population-data-sources

YOUTUBE LINK

- https://youtu.be/JT0q4f6QJWU
- https://youtu.be/ZJphOd5V3o