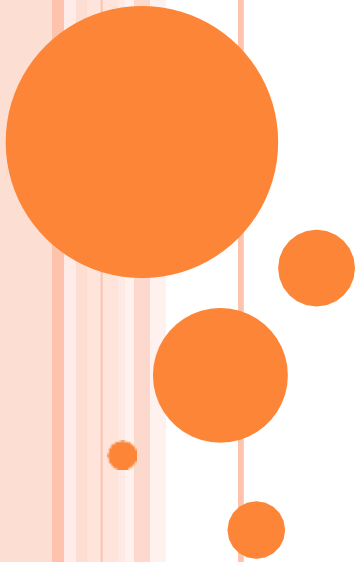


# **POPULATION GEOGRAPHY**

## **UNIT I**



# INTRODUCTION

- ◆ **Population Geography** is a sub-field of **Human Geography**.
- ◆ American Geographer **G. T. Trewartha** pioneered development of **Population Geography**.
- ◆ In **1953**, became a sub-branch of **Human Geography**.
- ◆ Associated with **Demography** in **Sociology**.
- ◆ **Population Geography** is the study of **people living** over the **earth surface**.



# Definition

**Wilbur Zelinsky (1966)** defines Population Geography as “a science that deals with the ways in which geographic character of a place is formed by and in turn, reacts on a set of population phenomena which vary within it through both space and time interacting one with another.”

## Zelinsky intends to state:

- ◆ Population Geography is a science.
- ◆ Studies interaction between geographical and demographic character of a place.
- ◆ It is a spatial and temporal study.
- ◆ The geographical characteristics influence population attributes and vice versa.



**G. T. Trewartha (1969)** defines Population Geography as "It is concern with the understanding of regional differences in the earth's covering of people".

Trewartha intends to say that :

- ◆ Population Geography is a subject.
- ◆ Studies regional and spatial variation in distribution of population.



**Jhon I. Clarke (1972)** says that "Population Geography demonstrates how spatial variation and in population and its various attributes like composition, migration and growth are related to the spatial variation in the nature of places".

Clarke intends to say that :

◆ physical and socio-economic characteristic of a place

influence

population distribution , composition, migration and growth.



**R. J. Proyer (1984)** suggests that "Population Geography deals with analysis and explanation of interrelationship between population phenomena and the geographical character of a place as they both vary over space and time".

**Proyer intends to say that :**

- ◆ Spatial and temporal analysis of population and geographical characteristic of a place is the basic theme of Population Geography.



## Nature of Population Geography:

- ◆ It deals with the **quantitative, qualitative** and **distributional** characteristics of population.
  
- ◆ The **quantitative characteristics** includes fertility, mortality and migration and consequent population growth.
  
- ◆ The **qualitative characteristic** of population and deals with demographic and socio-economic characteristic of population.
  - **Demographic characteristic** includes age and sex structure and marital status concerned population.
  
  - **Social characteristic** includes ethnic, religious and linguistic composition, caste structure, literacy and educational attainment of concerned population.
  
  - **Economic characteristic** incorporates occupational structure, work force structure and participation rate of concerned population.



- ◆ **Distributional characteristics** of population comprises distribution, density, size and type of habitation.
- ◆ Population geography is **multidisciplinary**.
- ◆ It and shares **common field of study** with biology, genetics, mathematics, statistic, economics, sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, politic, medicine, public health and ecology.
- ◆ Population geography derived its data from both **primary** and **secondary** source.
- ◆ **Census** is main source of population data worldwide.
- ◆ **Primary data** is usually generated by sampling during field study.
- ◆ The international organizations like **UNICEF**, **IMF**, **WHO** are important source of secondary data.





## Scope of Population Geography:

- ◆ Geography being "study of earth surface as home of man" implies that all geographical studies revolve around man i.e. population.
- ◆ Population geography heavily relies on **mathematical** and **statistical** techniques to deal with population data.
- ◆ **Maps** and **cartograms** are important and effective tools to represent quantitative and qualitative aspects of population.
- ◆ Maps and diagrams are quite effective for comparative studies.
- ◆ The techniques of remote sensing and geographical information system (GIS) is of great help in population studies.



## ◆ **Quantitative Aspects**

Study of the size, structure, characteristics, and territorial distribution of human populations.

Analysis of changes occurring in these populations over time.

## ◆ **Population Geography in Planned Socialist Economy**

Quantitative and qualitative assessment of labor resources.

Search for settlement forms that meet production requirements and cultural/domestic needs.

## ◆ **Connections with Other Fields**

*Medical Geography*: Study of habitation conditions in different natural geographic regions.

*Ethnography and Economics of Labor*: Intertwined with population geography.

## ◆ **Importance of Population Maps**

Development of methods for creating population maps.

Consideration of social phenomena when describing, comparing, or explaining population phenomena.

