

Population Distribution, Density, Growth and Composition

Introduction:

The number of women and men in a country is an important demographic characteristic. The ratio between the number of women and men in the population is called the Sex Ratio. The world population reflects a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females. The highest sex ratio in the world has been recorded in Latvia where there are 85 males per 100 females. In contrast, in Qatar there are 311 males per 100 females. The sex ratio is favourable for females in 139 countries of the world and unfavorable for them in the remaining 72 countries listed by the United Nations. In general, Asia has a low sex ratio. Countries like China, India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan have a lower sex ratio.

1. Population composition

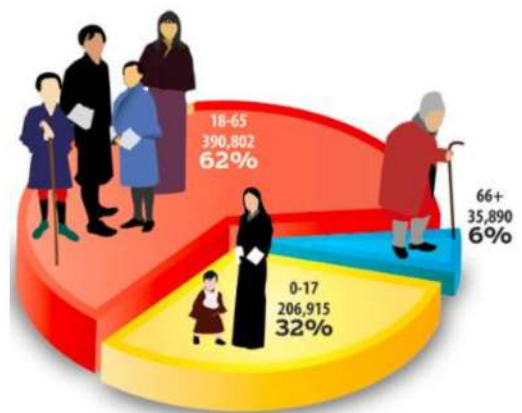
The number of women and men in a country is an important demographic characteristic. The ratio between the number of women and men in the population is called the Sex Ratio.

In some countries it is calculated by using the formula:

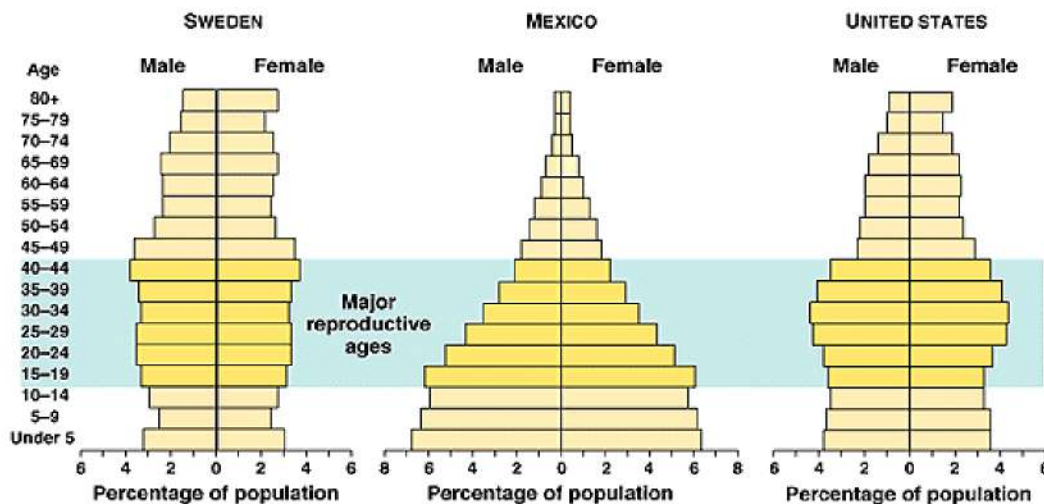
$(\text{Male Population} / \text{Female Population}) \times 1000$ or the number of males per thousand females.

In India, the sex ratio is worked out using the formula:

$(\text{Female Population} / \text{Male Population}) \times 1000$ or the number of females per thousand males. On an average, the world population reflects a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females. The highest sex ratio in the world has been recorded in Latvia where there are 85 males per 100 females. In contrast, in Qatar there are 311 males per 100 females. The sex ratio is favourable for females in 139 countries of the world and unfavorable for them in the remaining 72 countries listed by the United Nations. In general, Asia has a low sex ratio. Countries like China, India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan have a lower sex ratio.

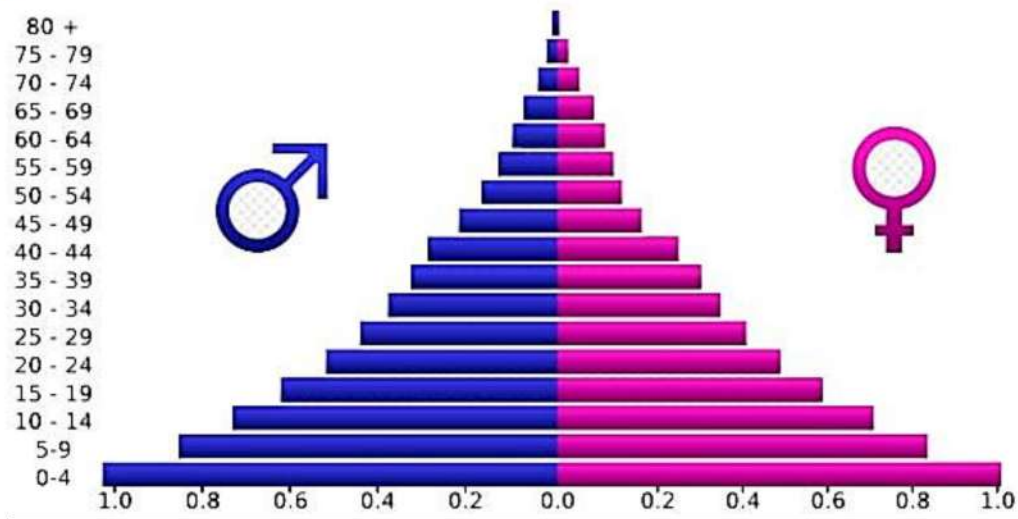


2. Age Structure:



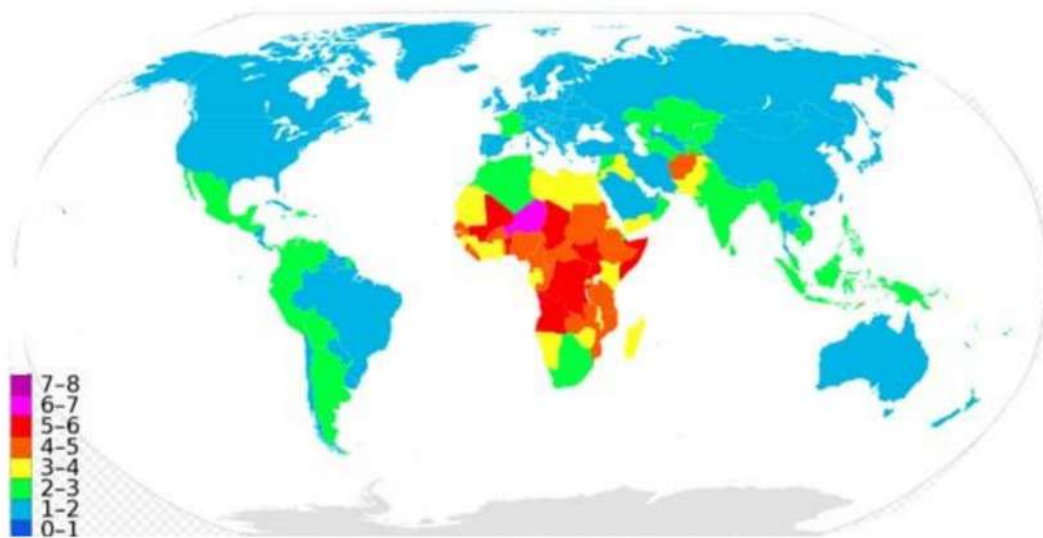
Age structure represents the number of people of different age groups. This is an important indicator of population composition. It is divided into three groups i.e., children (0-14 years), adult or working population (15-59 years) and old or aging population (60 years and above).

Age-Sex Pyramid:



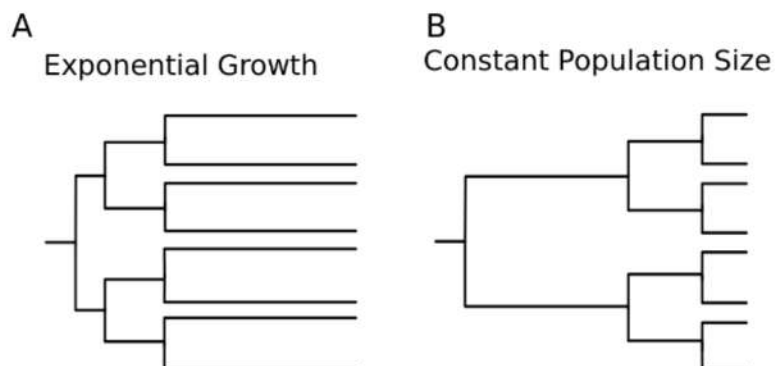
The age-sex structure of a population refers to the number of females and males in different age groups. A population pyramid is used to show the age-sex structure of the population. The left side shows the percentage of males while the right side shows the percentage of women in each age group. The pyramid is interpreted in the following ways:

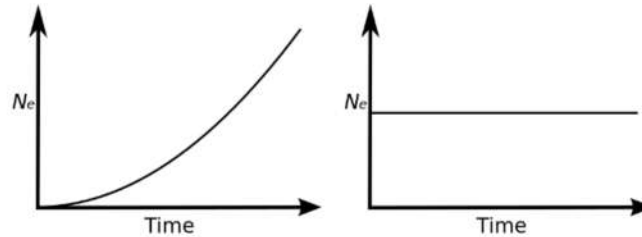
3. Expanding Populations



A triangular pyramid with a wide base due to high birth rate is mostly in less developed countries like Nigeria, Mexico and Bangladesh.

Constant Population:

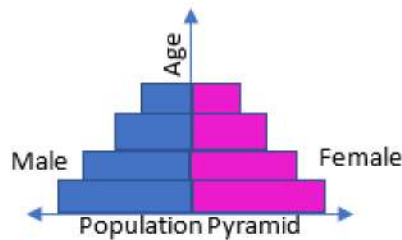




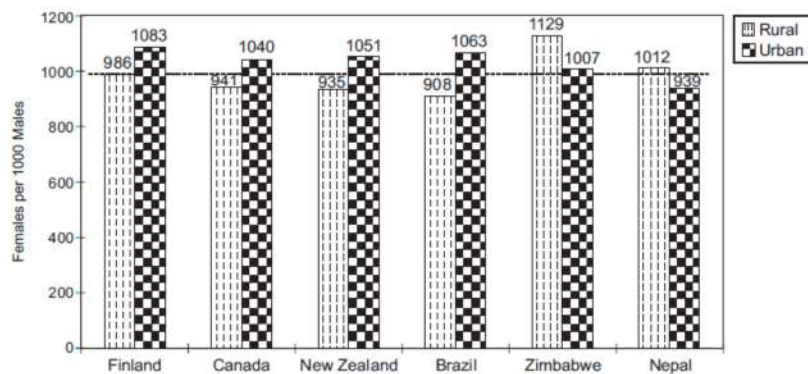
Australia's age-sex pyramid is bell shaped and tapered towards the top. This shows birth and death rates are almost equal leading to a near constant population.

Declining Populations:

A pyramid with a narrow base and top wide and a wider central part shows low birth and death rates. This is in developed countries like Japan.



4. Rural urban composition



The division of population into rural and urban is based on the residence. This division is necessary because rural and urban lifestyles differ from each other in terms of their livelihood and social conditions. The age-sex-occupational structure, density of population and level of development vary between rural and urban areas. In general terms rural areas are those where people are engaged in primary activities and urban areas are those where majority of the working population is engaged in non-primary activities. In developed countries like Canada, West European countries, females outnumber males in urban areas while in developing countries like Nepal and Pakistan, it is vice versa.

5. Literacy



Proportion of the literate population of a country is an indicator of its socio-economic development as it reveals the standard of living, social status of females, availability of educational facilities and policies of the government.

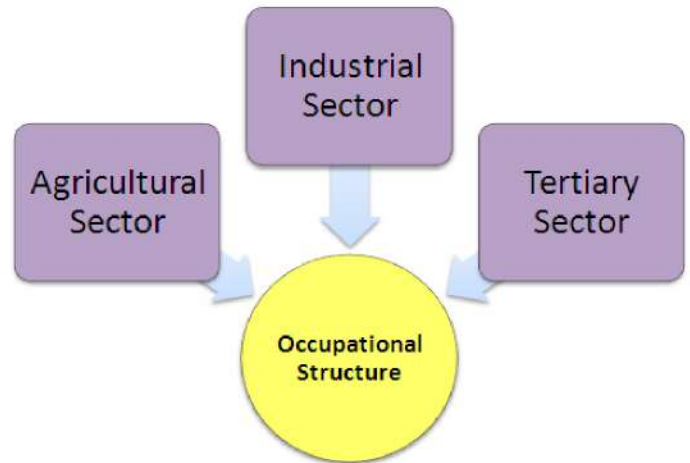
In India:



literacy rate denotes the percentage of the population above 7 years of age, who is able to read, write and have the ability to do arithmetic calculations with understanding.

6. Occupational Structure

The working population (i.e. women and men of the age group – 15 to 59) take part in various occupations ranging from agriculture, forestry, fishing, manufacturing construction, commercial transport, services, communication and other unclassified services. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining are classified as primary activities manufacturing as secondary, trade, transport, communication and other services as tertiary and the jobs related to research, information technology and developing ideas as quaternary activities. In developed economics more people are engaged in secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors than primary.



Questions For Practice

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|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Which state has the highest density of population?
(a) Haryana
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) West Bengal
(d) Bihar</p> <p>2. Where is India counted as the world's population?
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Fifth (d) Seventh</p> <p>3. Population growth per decade?
(a) 15.3% (b) 17.3%
(c) 17.6% (d) 21.3%</p> <p>4. When was the first census conducted in India?
(a) 1871 (b) 1881
(c) 1891 (d) 1861</p> <p>5. What is the percentage of the world's population in India?
(a) 10.7% (b) 12.7%
(c) 16.7% (d) 18.7%</p> <p>6. How many Million Plus cities are there in India (2001)?
(a) 25 (b) 27
(c) 30 (d) 54</p> <p>7. How long is life in India?
(a) 55 years (b) 60 years
(c) 66 years (d) 70 years</p> <p>8. The literacy rate in India is as follows?
(a) 55% (b) 60%
(c) 74% (d) 67%</p> <p>9. Which of these provinces is the most populous in India?
(a) West Bengal (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Kerala (d) Bihar</p> <p>10. Which of the following is India's largest group?
(a) Sino-Tibetan (b) Austria
(c) Indo-Aryan (d) Dravidic</p> | <p>11. Which state has the highest density of population?
(a) Haryana (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) West Bengal (d) Bihar</p> <p>12. Where is India counted as the world's population?
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Fifth (d) Seventh</p> <p>13. Population growth per decade?
(a) 15.3% (b) 17.3%
(c) 17.6% (d) 21.3%</p> <p>14. When was the first census conducted in India?
(a) 1871 (b) 1881
(c) 1891 (d) 1861</p> <p>15. What is the percentage of the world's population in India?
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(a) 55 years (b) 60 years
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(a) West Bengal (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Kerala (d) Bihar</p> <p>20. Which of the following is India's largest group?
(a) Sino-Tibetan (b) Austria
(c) Indo-Aryan (d) Dravidic</p> | <p>21. Average population density of India (2011) per km?
(a) 216 (b) 382
(c) 221 (d) 324</p> <p>22. Which is the most populous state?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) West Bengal
(c) Kerala (d) Punjab</p> <p>23. Population growth rate per decade?
(a) 15.3% (b) 17.3%
(c) 17.6% (d) 21.3%</p> <p>24. How many million cities are there in India (in 2001)?
(a) 25 (b) 27
(c) 30 (d) 54</p> <p>25. What is the life expectancy in India?
(a) 55 years (b) 60 years
(c) 66 years (d) 70 years</p> <p>26. Literacy rate in India?
(a) 55% (b) 60%
(c) 74% (d) 67%</p> <p>27. In how many years will the population of India double?
(a) 32 years (b) 34 years
(c) 36 years (d) 38 years</p> <p>28. Which of the following states has the highest proportion of urban population as per 2001 census?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala
(c) Maharashtra (d) Goa</p> <p>29. Which of the following is the largest group in India?
(a) Sino-Tibetan (b) Austria
(c) Indo-Aryan (d) Dravidian</p> <p>30. Which is the most populous state in India?
(a) West Bengal (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Kerala (d) Bihar</p> |
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Solutions

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|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 4. (b) | 7. (c) | 10. (b) | 13. (c) | 16. (d) | 19. (d) | 22. (a) | 25. (c) | 28. (d) |
| 2. (b) | 5. (c) | 8. (c) | 11. (d) | 14. (b) | 17. (c) | 20. (b) | 23. (c) | 26. (c) | 29. (b) |
| 3. (c) | 6. (d) | 9. (d) | 12. (b) | 15. (c) | 18. (c) | 21. (b) | 24. (d) | 27. (c) | 30. (d) |

