

12th Standard Geography

Population: Distribution, Density, Growth and Composition

Distribution of Population

Distribution of population means how population is distributed in any given area. In India, spatial pattern of population distribution is very uneven. As some areas are sparsely populated whereas others are dense. These states can be categorised into three categories:

- **State with High Population** Uttar Pradesh (highest population), Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. These states together account for 76% of population.
- **States with Moderate Population** Assam, Haryana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Punjab, Goa.
- **States with Low Population** Hilly and tribal areas like Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, all North-Eastern state (except Assam) and Union Territories excluding Delhi.

Density of Population

Population density means number of person living in per unit area. According to 2011 census, in India 382 person live in per sq km of area. Over the last 50 years the population density has recorded an increase of about 260 persons

per sq km, as ranging from 117 persons/sq km in 1951 to 382 persons/sq km in 2011.

Spatial Pattern of Population Density in India

Spatial pattern of population density is also uneven in India. For example:

States/UTs having High Density of population

States Bihar (1106 highest), West Bengal (1028), Kerala (860), Uttar Pradesh (829),

UTs Delhi (11320 highest), Chandigarh (9258).

States/UTs having Moderate Density of Population

Haryana (573), Tamil Nadu (555), Punjab (551), Jharkhand (414), Assam (398), Goa (394), Maharashtra (365) Tripura (350).

UTs Dadra and Nagar Haveli (700).

States/UTs having Low Density of Population

States Arunachal Pradesh (17 Lowest), Mizoram (52), Jammu and Kashmir (56), Sikkim (86), Nagaland (119).

UTs Andaman and Nicobar islands (46 lowest).

Growth of Population

Growth of population refers to the changes occurring in the number of persons living in a particular area between two points of time. Its rate is expressed in percentage. Two components in population growth are as follows:

Natural Growth

It means the change occurring by the births and deaths in any area.

Induced Growth

It means the changes occurred by the volume of inward and outward movement in an area.

Phases of Population Growth

There are four different phases of population growth:

Phase-I (1901-1921) It is stagnant or stationary phase because of very low growth rate.

Phase-II (1921-1951) It is the period of steady population growth.

Phase-III (1951-1981) This period is known as the period of population explosion in India. Rapid fall in death rate and high fertility rate were the main causes of this explosion.

Phase-IV (Post 1981 till present) Growth rate has started down gradually because of downward trend in birth rate. But in developing countries like India, growth rate is still high. According to World Development Report by 2025, Indian population will surpass the figure of 1350 million.

Regional Variation in Population Growth

The spatial pattern of population growth in India is very uneven. It ranges from -0.58% (Negative) in Nagaland to 55.88% in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

States/UTs having High Growth Rate of Population

States Meghalaya (27.95%), Arunachal Pradesh (26.03%), Bihar (25.42%), Manipur (24.50%), Jammu and Kashmir (23.64%).

UTs Dadra and Nagar Haveli (55.88%), Daman and Diu (53.76%), Puducherry (28.08%).

States/UTs having Moderate Growth Rate of Population

Chhattisgarh (22.61%), Jharkhand (22.42%), Rajasthan (21.31%), Madhya Pradesh (20.35%), Uttar Pradesh (20.23%).

States/UTs having Low Growth Rate of Population

States Nagaland (-0.58% lowest), Kerala (4.91%), Goa (8.23%), Andhra Pradesh (10.98%).

UTs Lakshadweep (6.30%), Andaman and Nicobar islands (6.86%).

Growth of Adolescent Population

The United Nation considers person aged 10-19 year as adolescents population. Since 1971, the proportion of adolescent population has remained around 21%. The decadal growth rate of adolescent population of India is 12.5% as per census 2011. India is on 4th place in adolescent population (10-

19 years) after Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh. Adolescent population has increased from 85 million in 1961 to 253.2 million in 2011. Sex-ratio of adolescent population of India is 898 females per 1000 males.

The Government of India has taken many steps by some policies like, National Youth Policy 2003, for channelisation and proper utilisation of adolescents by giving them proper education.

Population Composition

It is a detailed analysis of age and sex, place of residence, ethnic characteristics, tribes, language, religion, marital status, literacy and education, occupational characteristics, etc in population geography.

Rural-Urban Composition

In India, its 68.84% of total population lives in rural villages by 2011.

According to census 2011, India has 6,40,867 villages.

Percentage of rural population is high in Himachal Pradesh (89.97% highest) and Bihar (88.71%) and low in Goa (37.83%) and Mizoram (47.89%). Delhi has the least rural population (2.50%).

Rural Population in Indian States

States having High Proportion of Rural Population Himachal Pradesh (89.97%) and Bihar (88.71%), Assam (85.90%), Odisha (83.31%).

States having Moderate Proportion of Rural population

Meghalaya (79.93%), Uttar Pradesh (77.73%), Arunachal Pradesh (77.06%), Chattisgarh (76.76%), Jharkhand (75.95%).

States having Low Proportion of Rural Population

States Goa (37.83%), Mizoram (47.89%), Tamil Nadu (51.60%), Kerala (52.30%).

UTs Delhi (2.50%), Chandigarh (2.75%).

Urban Population in Indian States

Regions having High Degree of Urbanisation

States Goa (62.17%), Mizoram (52.11%), Tamil Nadu (48.40%) Kerala (47.70%).

UTs Delhi (97.50%), Chandigarh (97.25%), Lakshadweep (78.07%).

Regions having Low Degree of Urbanisation

Himachal Pradesh (10.03%), Bihar (11.29%), Assam (14.10%), Odisha (16.69%), Meghalaya (20.07%).

Linguistic Composition

India is a land of linguistic diversity. According to Grierson (Linguistic Survey of India, 1903-1928) there were 179 languages and as many as 544 dialects in

India. But now, there are 22 scheduled languages and number of non-scheduled languages.

Linguistic Classification

The speakers of major Indian languages belong to four language families, which have their sub-families and branches or groups.

Family

1. Austric (Nishada-1.38%)
2. Dravidian (Dravida-20%)
3. Sino-Tibetan (Kirata-0.85%)
4. Indo-European (Aryan-73%)

Religious Compositions

All India Religion Census Data 2011

Religion	Percentage	Estimated
All Religion	100.00%	121 Crores
Hindu	79.80%	96.62 Crores
Muslim	14.23%	17.22 Crores
Christian	2.30%	2.78 Crores
Sikh	1.72%	2.08 Crores
Buddhist	0.70%	84.43 Lakhs
Jain	0.37%	44.52 Lakhs
Other Religion	0.66%	79.38 Lakhs
Not stated	0.24%	28.67 Lakhs

Composition of Working Population

The proportion of working population to total population is called work participation rate.

The population of India according to their economic status is divided into three groups like:

Main workers A person who works atleast 183 days in a year.

Marginal workers A person who works for less than 183 days in a year.

Non-workers A person who does not work and depends upon working class.

According to 2011 census, it is observed that the proportion of workers (both main and marginal) is only 39.8% leaving a vast majority of about 60% as non-workers.

Occupational categories

The 2011 census has divided the working population of India into four major categories:

1. Cultivators
2. Agricultural labourers – 54.6%
3. Household labourers – 3.8%
4. Other workers – 41.6% (2011)