

Chapter 6 - Human Resources

1. Answer the following questions.

(i) Why are people considered a resource?

Answer: People are the greatest resource of the nation. All other resources of nature become significant only when people extract its usefulness. It is people with their demands and abilities that turn them into resources. Hence, human resource is the ultimate resource.

(ii) What are the causes for the uneven distribution of population in the world?

Answer: Population distribution in the world is uneven because of the two factors Geographical and Social factors.

Geographical factors include.

1. Topography: People prefer to live on plains rather than mountains and plateaus because these areas are suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities. The Ganga plains are the most densely populated areas of the world while mountains like Andes, Alps and Himalayas are sparsely populated.
2. Water: People prefer to live in the areas where freshwater is easily available. The river valleys of the world are densely populated while deserts have sparse population.

Social Factors include:

3. Social: Areas of better housing, education and health facilities are more densely populated for example Pune.
4. Economic: Industrial areas provide employment opportunities. Large number of people are attracted to these areas. Osaka in Japan and Mumbai in India are two densely populated areas.

(iii) The world population has grown very rapidly. Why?

Answer: The world population has not been stable and has increased manifold due to advancements in science and technology that has increased the food production and development in healthcare facilities has helped in reducing death rate.

(iv) Discuss the role of any two factors influencing population change.

Answer: Two factors influencing change in population are birth rate and death rate. Birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 people and death rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 people. Births and deaths are the natural causes of population change. Birth rate more than death rate means population increase and vice-versa. The difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country is called the natural growth rate.

(v) What is meant by population composition?

Answer: Population composition refers to the structure of the population. The composition of population helps us to know how many are males or females, which age group they belong to, how educated they are and what type of occupations they are employed in, what their income levels and health conditions are. An interesting way of studying the population composition of a country is by looking at the population pyramid, also called an age-sex pyramid.

(vi) What are population pyramids? How do they help in understanding about the population of a country?

Answer: The graphical representation used to study the composition of a country's population is called the population pyramid. It shows the total population divided into various age groups, percentage of the total population subdivided into males and females, and how many dependents there are in a country.

The population pyramid of a country in which birth and death rates both are high is broad at the base and narrow towards the top.

2. Tick the correct answer.

(i) Which does the term population distribution refer to?

- a. How the population in a specified area changes over time.
- b. The number of people who die in relation to the number of people born in a specified area.
- c. The way in which people are spread across a given area.

Answer c The way in which people are spread across a given area

(ii) Which are three main factors that cause population change?

- a. Births, deaths and marriage
- b. Births, deaths and migration
- c. Births, deaths and life expectancy

Answer b Births, deaths and migration.

(iii) In 1999, the world population reached

- a. 1 billion
- b. 3 billion
- c. 6 billion

Answer c 6 billion

(iv) What is a population pyramid?

- a. A graphical presentation of the age, sex composition of a population.
- b. When the population density of an area is so high that people live in tall buildings.
- c. Pattern of population distribution in large urban areas.

Answer a A graphical presentation of the age, sex composition of a population

3. Complete the sentences below using some of the following words.

(sparsely, favourable, fallow, artificial, fertile, natural, extreme, densely)

When people are attracted to an area it becomes populated, Factors that influence this include climate; good supplies of resources and land.

Answer: When people are attracted to an area it becomes **densely** populated, Factors that influence this include **favourable** climate; good supplies of **Natural** resources and **fertile** land.