

## **Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials**

**Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Second Year)**

**Subject: Geography**

**Paper Code: GEG 107**

**Paper Title: Fundamentals of Population Geography**

**Unit: Unit No.1, Introduction to Population Geography**

**Module Name: Spatial Pattern of Distribution of Population in the World**

**Module No: 09**

**Name of the Presenter: Ms. Sunayana Haldankar**

---

### **Notes**

#### **Introduction**

- Spatial distribution of population refers to the way people are spaced over the earth's surface.
- There are two sets involved here. They are people and the space they occupy. Spatial Distribution describes where a population is located and here the concern is on the pattern of spread of population.
- More than 90% of population lives in the Northern Hemisphere. In terms of continents and countries the population distribution around the world is uneven. As a result some areas are very crowded while some are sparsely populated. There are various reasons behind uneven distribution of population.
- Factors influencing global population distribution

## **Some of the Physical Factors Influencing Spatial Distribution of Population are:**

### **1. Climate**

People prefer to live in places which have favourable and moderate climatic conditions. Thus, the Sahara Desert and the Tundra and Polar Regions are hardly populated. People prefer to live in comfortable climates where there is enough rainfall and no temperature extremes. A lack of fresh water for drinking or watering crops stops people living in an area. Very high temperatures make farming difficult - dehydration and heat stroke are other issues. Areas with high humidity are also uncomfortable places to live and can have diseases such as malaria. Very cold temperatures make it difficult to grow crops or build homes and transport links as the ground can be frozen for much of the year.

### **2. Topography**

Topography affects the distribution of population as people prefer to live on flat lands rather than on the mountains. This is the reason that plain regions such as the northern plains of India and North China Plains are densely populated, and mountains such as the Himalayas and the Alps are sparsely populated.

Steep slopes make the use of machinery difficult as well as the building of houses, roads and railways. High mountainous areas are too cold which make it hard to grow crops and are often remote making access difficult. Flat, low-lying areas have deeper soil which makes it easier to grow crops.

### **3. Soils**

Areas with fertile soils, eg river deltas, are good for growing crops to feed the population. Poor soils with few nutrients mean there will be a low agricultural output. Social and cultural factors: Areas of better housing, education and health facilities are more populated. Places of religious and cultural significance also attract people e.g., Varanasi, Jerusalem, etc.

Fertile soil is important for the cultivation of crops. Therefore, regions with fertile soil such as those along the Ganga–Brahmaputra (India), Hwang Ho (China) and Nile (Egypt) are densely populated.

#### **4. Availability of Water**

The river valleys of the world are densely populated because of the availability of freshwater.

#### **5. Minerals**

Minerals contribute towards the economic development of the region and the country. Thus, the diamond mines in Africa and areas near oil fields in the Middle East are densely populated.

#### **Some of the Socio Cultural factors Influencing Spatial Distribution of Population are:**

Social factors also affect the distribution and concentration of population. Where social customs and taboos are extreme, people tend to migrate to another place, so the density of population of that area changes. If the cultural milieu is the same, people like to live permanently at that place. The African population is increasing in America because Negroes were settled there since the slavery era.

##### **1. Increased facility of Transportation and Communication**

Means of transportation and communication make the economy dynamic and increase the exchange of commodities between peoples and regions. Goods produced in one region can be made available to the whole country in a very short period of time due to fast means of transportation.

Human population centred at the banks of large rivers where cities developed. On the other hand, in hilly areas and desert regions, where transportation is difficult, human dwellings are few and far in between.

##### **2. Availability of Electric Supply**

Ready and sufficient supply of electricity is an essential feature in industrial development. Thus, places where industries are centralised develop into industrial regions with high density of population, and the demand for electric power increases.

Many cities in India are familiar with this process. Due to industrial development, the previously small regions like Durgapur, Jamshedpur and Bhilai, etc. have become large industrial areas, where the density of population keeps on increasing. This has become possible due to the availability of power supply among other factors.

### **3. Migration of Population**

Every time migration of population takes place, it has an important effect on the distribution of population. The places with more opportunities of employment or possibilities of high income generation attract people from different areas. In the past, people migrated in large numbers to America, and the present day migration to Middle Eastern countries are good examples of migration due to better employment and income generation opportunities.

### **4. Educational Factors**

In each part of the country, there remains a class which has more curiosity to gain knowledge. This class moves from one country to another according to its own economic conditions and circumstances. If the environment of the new country is adaptable to them, they tend to settle there permanently. At present, lakhs of youths from Asia and Africa have migrated to America, Canada and European countries for higher studies and after getting employment, they have settled there permanently.

### **5. Political Factors**

For changes in the world's population distribution, political factors are also responsible. In modern times, these factors have become more important. If the people feel that their expectations are not fulfilled by the government, or if the public is dissatisfied with the political system, then they leave that country and settle in another. In the past, such people have migrated to USA from Cuba. Similarly, the Tibetans with their head Dalai Lama migrated to India and settled here permanently.

### **Some of the Historical factors Influencing Spatial Distribution of Population are:**

It is a well-known fact that humans never migrate easily to a new place. Once a person settles well at a certain place, he will never leave that area to settle in a

new area. People like to settle at places where their ancestors have lived in the past. Sons and grandsons from generation to generation live at a place which they do not leave so easily.

**Some of the Economic Factors Influencing Spatial Distribution of Population are:**

This has been considered an important factor affecting the distribution and concentration of population at one place. The places which have good opportunities for employment and possibilities of trade in industrial products attract migrants from different areas.

As the migration takes place on a large scale, the density of population increases at the migrated place. Generally, during the process of economic development, migration of population takes place from the villages to the cities. People are attracted by employment opportunities in cities. Thus the population of cities increases rapidly, and so does the density of population.