

## Quadrant II – Transcript

**Course Code: ECG 104**

**Module Name: Development of Demography in India; Teaching of demography**

**Module No: 01**

---

Hello students, I am Rupali tamuly, associate professor in economics, from Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science, Margao. Today I shall be discussing module 1 titled Development of demography in India; Teaching of demography, from unit 1 of the course Demography and population studies.

Development of demography in India

- Ancient history has reference to collection of population data.

*Arthashastra*- treatise written by Kautilya during reign of Chandragupta Maurya. A detailed description about how to conduct a population census, economic and agricultural census.

- Ain-I-Akbari--- Abul Fazal during the reign of Akbar contained data on population, industry, wealth but out of purely historical interest.

Historical development:

- Before 1881 there was no formal emphasis on demographic data collection per say. Individual scholars like Dadabhai Naoroji, V. K. R. V. Rao collected information independently. The demographic data collected was not consistent and accurate.
- The system of decennial Census established in 1872. Data on population became available on a regular basis in India. The first census revealed unevenness in Indian population growth. Before 1921 India was in the first stage of demographic transition. The second stage of transition began in 1921. Kingsley Davis contribution to study of population of India and Pakistan is very valuable even today.
- Imperial Gazetteers: Tracing the development of population studies in India, 1<sup>st</sup> published in 1881- initiated by W.W. Hunter. The first volume of Imperial Gazetteers: contains a section on Public Health. Discussions on

matters such as nutrition, early marriages, birth rate, death rate, gender, religion, causes of death, residence. These topics are discussed today also.

P.K.Wattal- pioneer wrote in 1916 and His pleas went unheard.1933- he wrote a new addition- population problem in India.1<sup>st</sup> India population conference in 1936 presented the future growth of India's population.2<sup>nd</sup> All India population conference in 1938 discussed social and medical aspects of birth control.

- Forecast that India's population would reach 400 million mark by 1941. This provoked Indian to research and write on demography:Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee to writings on 'Food Planning for Hundred Million'(1938).This was followed by Prof.Gyan Chand's India's Teeming Millions in 1939.Indian National Congress set up a sub-committee of National Planning Commission under Pt. Nehru.To study food supply, nutrition, social reform, unemployment and social welfare.
- The government set up a Population Data Commission in 1944, under the Chairmanship of W.M. Yeats. This committee paid special attention to the statistical problems arising out of tabulation of 1941 census data. Recommended the use of sampling methods. In 1946 government appointed the Bhore Committee to study health conditions in India and to make recommendations for their improvement.
- 1937: Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis and the Indian Statistical Institute had taken interest in population research. Indian Statistical Institute collected data on fertility through enquiries.All India Institute of Hygiene/ Public Health initiated several studies in Calcutta. The study attempted to analyse the effects of social-economic conditions on reproductive patterns.1942: Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics Pune took interest in population studies. Prof. N.V. Sovani of this Institute Published a study entitled the Population Problem in India: A Regional Approach.
- In 1951 Census- first post-independence Census. R.A. Gopal swamy- Census Commissioner. Scope: covered the changes in the size and structure of the Indian population. Introduction of rural-urban dichotomy in the census tabulations. High rate of growth in population.

- 1951: 1<sup>st</sup> Five year plan. Focus: emerging population problem of India and its social/economic consequences. In 1962 National Family Planning Programme was launched.
- 1958-1959: National Sample Survey. Data collection: on Births/ Deaths , on differentiated fertility, family planning and internal migration. 1952-53: Mysore Population Study jointly sponsored by United Nation and Government of India. Scope: Various social and cultural factors affecting fertility in India. Model study for many other fertility surveys. Prof. V.M Dandekar and Prof. Kumudini Dandekar also contributed to better understanding of fertility behaviour in India.
- 1956: Central Family Planning Board. Focus on Demographic Studies under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.K.R.V Rao (Sub Committee).
- Recommendations: Establishment of four demographic research centres in different parts of the country Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Trivandrum and later in Dharwar, to conduct studies on fertility, mortality and associated factors. The premier institute for training and research in population studies in India is the International Institute for Population Sciences- formerly known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre.
- 1959: Demographic Advisory Committee was set up. 1960: The Family Planning Communication Action Research Committee was set up. 1961: census of India provided a wealth of data to students of demography. 1963: India Hosted first Asia Population Conference in New Delhi. Scope was to design formulas and techniques were developed by Chandra Shekar and Deming and Zachariah, Rele and Jain. The formulae developed by Chandra Shekar and Deming to estimate the missing events of births from vital registration and retrospective surveys. Jain developed new techniques for evaluating and adjusting Indian age data. Zachariah's contribution to the technique of analysing migration data collected through a census is well recognized. The formulae developed by Chandra Shekar and Deming to estimate the missing events of births from vital registration and retrospective surveys. Jain developed new techniques for evaluating and adjusting Indian age data.
- Central Family Planning Board, set up in 1956, appointed a sub-committee on Demographic Studies under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K.R.V Rao. This sub-committee recommended the establishment of four demographic research centres in different parts of the country. Studies were conducted

on fertility, mortality and associated factors. As a result, the International Institute for Population Sciences- formerly known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre was established.

- **Teaching of demographic studies and population studies in India**

- Demography has always been interdisciplinary. This multiplicity of orientations is inherent & inevitable due to the complex nature of demography. Nature: exploration of the causes and consequences of changes in fertility, mortality, and migration. Variables studied: include age, sex, race, place of birth, ethnic status, language, religion, marital status, education, literacy, employment, occupation, and income. Its discoveries and explanations underlie every social science and offer information to other fields.
  - Demographic variables are multidisciplinary is the fact that demographic variables are both independent and dependent in causal sequences. Despite of transdisciplinary character, most demographers work only within their own disciplinary cocoon. Include lack of access to others' tools or given access, avoiding misunderstanding them. Producing incomplete or misleading results leading to organization of universities and government agencies into semi-autonomous departments.
  - Conducted on 2 levels: undergraduate and postgraduate. Undergraduate courses often are broadly defined and designed to serve the needs of students from a variety of departments. In many large schools several departments have their own courses. In either situation, the degree of interdisciplinarity may be discretionary with each instructor.
  - Graduate course are designed to give the students usable knowledge of data sources, analytical techniques, and an understanding of what it is like to be a working demographer. Normally the students in a graduate population course are all or nearly all majoring in the same department and thus form a somewhat cohesive group regarding orientation and preparation.
  - Post graduate courses are designed To provide knowledge and understanding of the prevailing situation.
2. Create awareness among the students about population matters, environment, and supply and demand of essential commodities.

3. Provide necessary skill to evaluate the impact and consequence of population growth on society.
4. To give the knowledge of population policy and population measures.
5. To provide the knowledge of causes of population growth and government's efforts to check it.
6. To develop awareness on the population dynamics.

If students concentrate on demography per se instead of studying it as a part of another discipline, then they would have more time to explore the various disciplines to which demography is related. The development of demography or population studies in India indicates that tremendous progress has been achieved over the years, and that today it has been recognized as an independent discipline.

Thank you so much.

