

**Bachelor of Arts (Second Year)**

**Subject: Sociology Paper Code: SOC 104**

**Paper : society and culture in Goa**

**Unit: 03**

**Module Name: Demographic trends**

**Module No: 09**

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- ✓ The location of Goa is bordered by the state of [Karnataka](#) on the Eastern and Southern boundaries, by the mighty Arabian Sea on the Western side and the state of [Maharashtra](#) on the Northern side.
- ✓ Due to its location near the sea, [Goa](#) experiences a maritime climate which makes it perfect for a vacation.
- ✓ The Goa state is spread over an area of 3,702 sq. km and is divided into two districts – North Goa and South Goa – for administrative purposes.
- ✓ The Sahyadri range of the Western Ghats Mountains possesses the tallest peaks in Goa and they nestle some of Goa's biggest wildlife sanctuaries.
- ✓ The 105-km long Konkan coastal belt stretching across Goa is home to the stunning beaches of Goa. The beaches in north Goa are usually populated throughout the year while the ones in the south are relatively secluded.
- ✓ A poet once described the physical shape of Goa as one half of a heart, the other half being carried in the very heart of every Goan
- ✓ The Portuguese rule in Goa was marked by demographics shifts which in turn had an impact on the socio-economic life of the region.
- ✓ Limited sources indicated that information pertaining to population dispersion and composition (description of the characteristics of group of people in terms of factors such as their age, sex, marital status etc) is scanty.
- ✓ There is lot of fluctuation in population data of the period 1630-1750.

- ✓ It is possibly due to various reasons:
- ✓ Calamities like famine, earthquakes, cyclones and epidemics were quite frequent. The famine of 1648, severe cyclones and earthquakes of April 1649 and of July 1654 were responsible for the decline in the population. Besides, epidemic diseases like cholera, small pox and plague were prevalent, which took several lives.
- ✓ Due to constant wars waged between the Portuguese and the neighbouring rulers as well as with their foreign rivals. Example the invasions of Bardez and Salcete by the forces of Adil shah in 1654-5. Most of the emigrants were said to have moved towards Kanara.
- ✓ Where rice, the staple food of the Goans, was more cheaply available.
- ✓ The religious intolerance of the Portuguese and various restrictions imposed on the Hindu religious rites made them unhappy and finally gave way for their migration from the lands of Goa.
- ✓ Majority of the Kanara Christians came from Goa due to the trouble and food scarcity caused by enemy attacks.
- ✓ The blockades of the ports of Goa by the Dutch and the natural calamities and diseases. So a large number of Christians were said to have settled down in Kanara especially during the latter half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- ✓ The total population of Goa by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was said to be 1,80,000, out of which 30,000 people belonged to Ilhas, 70,000 to Bradez and 80,000 to Salcete.
- ✓ Between 1718-1720 the population increase is slightly more than double. The only reason could be during the time of peace some people might have returned to Goa. It could be partly due to the prevailing mortality conditions, increase in fertility and the natural increase in the birth rate.
- ✓ But as for the Racial composition, the percentages of the whites declined whereas the percentages of other heterogeneous groups had increased.
- ✓ The natives on the other hand in 1753 formed 88% of the population.
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