

POPULATION

Population refers to the number of people living in a given area at a particular time/ over a specific period of time.

The study of population characteristics like growth, density, distribution, and movement is known as demography.

To achieve development, proper national / international planning is seriously based on proper population statistics. The world population today is over 7 billion people.

Population concepts

1. Population growth

Refers to the increase in the number of people in a given country/ region in a given period of time.

This population growth is affected by:

- birth rate and death rate
- age structure
- migrations

2. Birth rate

Refers to the total number of children born alive per year per 1000 of the total population in a country / region.

$$\text{Birth rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of live births}}{\text{Total population}} \times 1000$$

3. Death rate

Refers to the number of people who die per year per 1000 of the total population.

$$\text{Death rate} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths}}{\text{Total population}} \times 1000$$

4. Population growth rate

Refers to the percentage ratio of the death rate to birth rate per 1000 of the population per year.

Or Refers to the rate at which the population of a country increases over a given period of time usually a year, expressed as a percentage.

$$\text{Population growth rate} = \frac{\text{Birth rate} - \text{Death rate}}{1000} \times 100$$

Examples: Kenya (2.9%), Uganda (3.5%), Somalia (3.0%), Nigeria (2.8%), Sweden (0.16%), USA (0.9%), Switzerland (0.4%).

5. Fertility rate

Refers to the average number of children a woman is capable of producing / bearing throughout her reproductive life (15-49 years).

High fertility rates of over 6 children per woman are experienced in many parts of Latin America, Africa and South East Asia.

6. Infant mortality rate

Refers to the number of children who die before they are one year old per 1000 of the population in a given year.

$$\text{IMR} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths of children under 1 year}}{\text{Total number of live births}} \times 1000$$

7. Dependency ratio

Refers to the proportion of economically unproductive population (0-14 yrs) and (65+ yrs) to the economically productive population (15-64 yrs).

$$\text{Dependence ratio} = \frac{\text{Children (0-14 yrs) and Elderly (over 65 yrs)}}{\text{Economically productive (15-64 yrs)}}$$

8. Rapid population growth

This is a situation where the rate of population growth is higher than the rate of economic growth to meet the demands of the increasing population.

9. Population census

Refers to the actual counting of the number of people living in the country at a given time.

10. Population pressure

Refers to the human weight exerted on the available resources of an area in a given period of time. It is a situation where the existing resources can no longer sustain the increasing population.

11. Life expectancy

Refers to the average number of years which people live from birth to death.

Or average number of years a new born infant is expected to live (length of life).

Examples: Uganda -52 years, Malawi 43 years, Zimbabwe—40 years, Sweden—80 years, Japan—81 years, Germany—79 years, Switzerland—81 years, USA—78 years, Canada—80 years.

12. Population density

Refers to the average measure of the total number of people per unit area of land.

$$\text{Population density} = \frac{\text{Total Population}}{\text{Total Land Area}}$$

13. Migration

Refers to the movement of people from one place (origin) to another (destination). Population migration takes a longer span than say population mobility or tourism although they are interrelated. It is also sometimes temporary or permanent, internal or international.

14. Emigration

Refers to the movement of people out of a country. The people involved are called emigrants.

15. Immigrations

Refers to the movement of people into a country. The people involved are called immigrants.

16. Net migration

Refers to the difference between emigration and immigration.

17. Net migration gain

This is where the number of people coming into a country (immigrants) is more than the number of people leaving the country (emigrants).

18. Net migration loss

This is where the number of people leaving the country (emigrants) is more than the number of people coming into the country (immigrants).

Optimum population

Optimum population refers to the population size that provides labour force that is sufficient to combine with the existing co-operant factors of production leading to maximum output per worker/highest income per capita.

It is the population size that is just enough to fully exploit the available resources, resulting into highest aggregate demand and standard of living. Below this population size there is under utilization of resources while above it there is over utilization of resources.

Under population

This refers to the population size that provides insufficient labour force to combine with the existing co-operant factors/resources, resulting into under utilization of resources and low per capita income/low average output.

A situation where a country's population is less than enough required to fully exploit the available resources, leading to low average product and low standards of living. (This is noticed in countries like DRC, Gabon, Sudan, Venezuela, and Australia)

To increase output per capita, there is need to increase the size of the population.

Effects of under population

Positive

1. Resources are not over exploited.
2. There is a high potential for employment opportunities.
3. Reduced government expenditure especially on social services due to limited number of people.
4. The standards of living are easily increased by increasing resource exploitation.
5. Inflationary tendencies due to excess demand do not occur.
6. There are less social costs such as pollution.
7. Political and social instabilities are minimized.

Negative

1. Results into wastage/underutilization of resources such as mineral, forest, water due to the small population. DRC has rich deposits of gold and diamond , extensive tropical rain forests etc all of which remaining underutilized.
2. Results into limited market size for goods and services due to small population. This undermines agricultural and industrial development.
3. Leads to labour shortages due to the small population, hence low level of a development and industrial development.
4. High/increased social over head costs per head. It is very expensive for the government to develop infrastructure and other social facilities.
5. Results into low tax revenue due to the low tax base/ small population. This undermines the development of social and economic facilities.
6. Encourages rural-urban migration leading to under development of rural areas. Many people leave the remote countryside attracted to the few urban areas.
7. Leads to regional imbalance in development due to uneven population distribution. People tend to stay in the most favoured areas and hence infrastructure is also concentrated in those areas.
8. Results into dependence on other countries, in terms of labour supply, market, capital, and the supply of essential goods.

Possible solutions to the problems of under population

1. Providing incentives for large families such as free housing, free education.
2. Encourage people to settle in less populated areas such as by developing the necessary infrastructure.
3. Encourage foreign investors to finance development projects in various regions.
4. Gazette under populated areas into national parks and reserves as an alternative landuse.
5. etc

Over population

Over population refers to the population size that provides more than sufficient labour force to combine with the existing co-operant factors, leading to low out/income per capita/worker and therefore low standards of living.

A situation where the country's population is more than enough required to fully utilize the available resources, leading to low average product and low standards of living. (This is seen in countries like India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, China, Rwanda, and Burundi)

The output per worker can be increased by reducing the size of the population.

Effects of over population

(Refer to rapid population growth)

Possible solutions to the problems of over population

1. Birth control practices to cut down the rate of population growth.
2. Development of more natural resources such as soils, power, forests to support the bigger numbers of people.
3. Ensure higher foods supplies /yields from the existing farmland such as through agricultural research, farm technology, swamp reclamation , desert irrigation etc
4. Encourage out-migration to relieve population pressure. However today fewer governments are prepared to accept immigrants.
5. Strengthen education to change traditional attitudes to reduce birthrates.
6. Exportation of labour force such as expatriates to other countries (export skilled labour which is unemployed).
7. Addressing poverty so as to improve income and general standards of living. This involves encouraging organizations with anti-poverty programmes.
8. Population control policies / legislations should be undertaken such as one child per family policy, marriage age legislation.
9. Women empowerment programmes should be undertaken such as enhancing their education, political and economic opportunities.

Population structure/ composition

Emphasis is placed on the age and sex structure. The population structure helps to show the effects of migration, age and sex of migrants , impacts of large scale wars, and major disease epidemics.

The population structure of developing countries greatly differs from that of developed countries because developed countries have a high life expectancy and a low rate of natural increase while the opposite is true for developing countries. The best way to describe the population structure is the use of an age –sex graph / population pyramid.

There are mainly/ majorly four (4) charactritic stages:

Stage I

Most developing countries fall in this stage such as Kenya , Malawi , Uganda , Mozambique. This stage is characterized by the following:

- High birth rates due to a large number of people under 15 years of age (having a broad base)
- High death rates due to rapid fall in age-groups upwards
- A short life expectancy since the top is very narrow , implying very few people living beyond 65 years.
- High infant mortality rate –evidenced by a rapid fall from the broad base
- Generally females are more than the males in all age groups

Reasons for the broad base

- Limited use of birth control measures such as family planning devices
- Most cultures encourage polygamy
- Influence of religion such as Catholicism and Islam encouraging large families
- Social and cultural attachment to many children such as providing field labour.
- Low levels of education especially among women , making them to prefer large families
- Low desire for savings and investment among most people

Reasons for the narrow apex

- Rampant disease epidemics killing many people
- Poor medical services in many areas such as limited essential drugs, few doctors leading to high mortality
- Famine due to insufficient food supply in many areas
- Low life expectancy due to poor hygiene and malnutrition, with few people living beyond 50 years

Stage II

- This stage has a broad base due to high birth rates
- Relatively straight edged pyramid due to fall in death and increase in life expectancy.
- Due to reduced death rate/ mortality , a large useful population enters the production process to become economically active.
- India is seemingly at this stage , with 39% under 15 years, 3% over 65 years, and thus the remaining majority in the middle working age bracket.

Stage III

This stage is characterized by:

- Declining birth rate, young ones equal to those in the productive age bracket.
- As the death rate is much lower , more people are expected to live at an older age (top is convex shaped)
- Birth rates tend to be equal to death rates, and the population is said to be stagnant.
- Countries like argentina are at this stage and has about % 26 % under 15 years and 8% over 65 years.

Stage IV

Many developed countries are at this stage and the population structure is characterized by:

- Narrow base due to low birth rates i.e a small number in the pre-productive age groups
- Wider top/apex –a large population in the post-productive age groups due to increased life expectancy
- Low infant mortality and low death rates
- Wider productive age bracket (16-64 years)

Causes of the population structure of developed countries

- Increased family planning through the use of contraceptives
- Increased industrialization and mechanization implying limited need for labour
- Increased desire for savings and investment among the people, hence less demand for large families.
- Increased government prohibition of large families through legislation.
- Emancipation of women, enabling them to follow their professional careers rather than being child bearers.

Implications of the population structure in developing countries

Positive

1. Creates a big market potential for industrial and agricultural output, a large percentage of the population is below 60 years.
2. Increases the potential labour force since many people engage in productive activities.
3. Leads to optimal utilization of social and economic infrastructure in the country such as roads, railway, schools, hospitals, due to the rapidly increasing population.
4. Encourages hard work in order to sustain the predominantly dependant population. This implies that many young people become innovative leading to increased enterprise.
5. Leads to increase in tax potential, and thus increase in government revenue. This results from the increasing number of people and taxable activities in the country.
6. The government is awakened to its responsibility of providing necessary infrastructure and other social services. This leads to increased output in the long run.
7. Increases occupational and geographical mobility of the working population caused by the challenges facing them since they have to support a large number of dependants. Labour in turn becomes more productive.
8. Facilitates the utilization of natural resources such as water resources and minerals in order to support the rapidly growing population.

Negative

1. Leads to increase in dependence burden on the working population. This is due to a big percentage of dependants and this results into low savings and low investment.
2. Results into a high level of unemployment and under employment. This is due to increased number of people looking for jobs as the population grows rapidly yet the jobs are limited.

3. Leads to external resource dependence such as on foreign man power and other forms of aid. This is because the population is dominated by the semi-skilled and unskilled people.
4. The available infrastructure is overstrained such as roads, schools, hospitals. This results into depreciation of such infrastructure and lowers the quality of service delivery.
5. Results into increase in social costs in form of pollution, congestion especially in the urban areas. This has negative health implications such as diseases.
6. Limits effective government planning to support the population, because of the rapidly increasing number of people against inadequate resources.
7. There is increase in government expenditure on provision of social services such as education, medical services.
8. Leads to high rates of rural-urban migration and its negative implications such as congestion, unemployment. This is because the young and the youth tend to move to urban areas in big numbers.
9. Results into brain drain i.e skilled/professional manpower leaving the country to look for better opportunities in other countries, and this limits domestic production.
10. Leads to low taxable capacity and low tax base resulting into low tax revenue due to small working population.
11. Over exploitation of natural resources such as through over fishing, deforestation to sustain the rapidly increasing population leading to quick depletion.
12. Increases income inequality, since many people cannot access resources to engage in economically productive activity.
13. etc

Implications of the population structure in developed countries

Positive

1. There is a large population of old people who act as a store of wisdom and advice on political , social and economic issues due to a high life expectancy
2. A large working population which facilitates industrial and agricultural development.
3. leads to geographical and occupational mobility of labour due to a high population in the productive age group
4. high spirit of enterprise and innovation due to a high population above 15 years
5. leads to high effective demand for goods and services since a large population is within the working age bracket.
6. Low government expenditure on social services due to a low rate of natural population increase.
7. Reduced dependence ratio and thus increase in savings due a small number of young dependants
8. Increases labour supply for economic development due to a large number in the productive/ working age group.

Negative

1. There is some dependence burden on the working population, due to a large number of ageing people who are unable to work.
2. As the population continues to be ageing, many people get out of the taxable age bracket.
3. Leads to a shift in the consumption patterns, since the old people create demand for different commodities which are not greatly demanded by the young or middle age.
4. Under utilization of social and economic infrastructure such as schools, hospitals.
5. Increase in government expenditure on pensions and health services plus homes of the elderly due to high life expectancy.
6. With small families and better opportunities in urban areas, the young are being attracted to urban areas, hence making rural areas depopulated.

Population pyramid

(Refer to statistics)

GENERAL CAUSES OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH

Population growth refers to the change/ increase in the number of people in a given period of time. It is a result of natural population growth and net migration.

Rapid population growth is a situation where the rate of population growth is higher than the rate of economic growth to meet the demands of the increasing population.

The causes of rapid population growth include:

1. High fertility rates among women in developing countries, in that, many women produce more children in their child bearing years, yet on the other hand there is a decline in the death rate due to improved healthcare, causing high population growth rate.
2. Low levels of education. The less educated people prefer big families causing high birth rates. In developing countries there is a large number of school drop-outs leading to a long child-bearing period for girls.
3. Strong belief in traditions and culture (that prefer large families)/ social benefits attached to many children. Many people see children as a source of wealth and prestige or insurance in old age—, a source of labour in the field, dowry from girls—hence producing more children.
4. Early marriages in many developing countries. Many people marry before the age of 20 years and therefore a long child bearing period / which increases the incidence of teenage pregnancies causing a high population growth rate.
5. The prevalence of polygamy in many societies. This is also rooted in culture and promotes competition among the women who produce more children to please the husbands—leading to a high population growth rate.

6. Low levels of income/high level of poverty. Most people lack productive economic activities to occupy them and resort to producing many children—causing a high population growth rate. Studies show that the poorest people have low ambitions in life unlike the middle class who have great material aspirations in life and find large families as a burden to their achievement.
7. Low status of women in developing countries. Many women are poor, illiterate and many are full-time house wives lacking viable economic roles outside home, which causes high birth rates.
8. Strong influence/effect of religion. Some religions work against population control measures like family planning using contraceptives. This position is in line with the holy books. Still some religions encourage polygamy.
9. Limited use of family planning methods in developing countries. There is limited access to birth control devices partly due to being relatively expensive / unaffordable, limited sensitization and being urban-based. This explains why the family planning methods are mostly restricted to urban women and thus the high population growth rate.
10. Increasing rate of immigration. This is in form of increased number of refugees from neighboring countries attributed to wars, displacements and famine among other factors. This leads to high population growth rate in the recipient country.

IMPACT OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH

Population as an asset / positive effects

1. Results into increase in market potential/demand for goods and services. The size of the market increases as the population increases.
2. Increases/ widens the labour force of the country. As the population increases more people enter the productive age bracket to enhance the production process.
3. Increases pressure on government to undertake development programmes. The government is encouraged to provide social and economic infrastructure like roads, schools, and hospitals to cater for the increasing population.
4. Encourages geographical and occupational labour mobility. Increasing population results into a big number of youths who are energetic and willing to move from one geographical area or occupation to another since they have to support many dependants, hence increased exposure and labour supply.
5. Increase in population stimulates investment/setting up of more production units to cater for the requirements of the population. This in turn increases national income.
6. Promotes hard work among the population in the country. The individuals in the labour force are awakened to work harder in order to provide for the increasing population –hence more innovations and inventions such as through agricultural modernization—intensive farming methods
7. Results into increase in resource utilization especially natural resources such as minerals, water resources, forest resources in order to sustain the increasing population.
8. Reduces the social overhead costs per person in the country. It becomes more economically viable/cheaper to provide social services since they are utilized by many

9. Increases the tax potential and thus increasing government revenue for development purposes such as providing health and education services. Due to population increase many people are engaged in productive activities which government taxes.
10. Encourages urbanization / development of towns as population increases. There is population concentration in some areas leading to the setting up of transport networks, medical facilities, banking facilities, recreation centres etc ; hence growth of towns.

Population as a liability/ Negative effects

1. It increases the dependence burden. Increase in population results into increased proportion of unproductive people to the small productive labour force hence straining them. There is increased expenditure on education, food, housing, medical care, clothing etc
2. Rapid population growth limits the rate of investment. As population increases the rate of savings also reduces and this reduces capital accumulation –hence reduced investment.
3. Strains the government budget due to increasing expenditure to cater for the growing population. There is increasing demand for social services such as education , medical care ;as the population is increasing, and this results into dependence on external donations and loans.
4. Increases income inequality/ disparities. Increasing population enlarges the economic gap between the rich and the poor. People with resources become richer while those without become poorer; which causes social, political and economic discontent.
5. Increases unemployment and under employment; because the rate at which the population increases is higher than the rate of job creation/rate of investment. This leads to increased poverty and represents a wastage of human resources.
6. Results into over exploitation of natural resources especially the non-renewable resources like minerals. This leads to quick exhaustion and reduces the potential benefits of the future generations from the resources.
7. Reducing the per capita income. Increasing population reduces the average income per person and hence low standards of living.
8. It increases rural-urban migration of the landless people. Surplus labourforce moves to the urban areas in search for jobs and hence associated problems like increased crime, social unrest among others. This also reduces the importance of agriculture leading to food shortages.
9. Results into inflation due to excessive demand. Increasing population results into shortage of goods and services due to increasing demand causing persistent increase in the general price level. This leads to increase in cost of living.
10. Worsens the balance of payment problems of the country because the internally produced goods and services become insufficient to meet the growing demand. This increases the demand for imports, hence increasing foreign exchange expenditure.
11. Leads to excessive reliance on foreign aid/ assistance in form of food, medical services, grants, loans in order to support the rapidly growing population. This aid comes with many strings attached which increases external dependence.

12. Leads to increase in brain drain since many qualified professionals /highly skilled workers continue leaving the country to look for better opportunities in other countries. This causes a skilled manpower gap and negatively affects the development process.
13. Rapid population growth increases pressure on land and reduces land productivity. A growing population reduces available land for various activities such as agriculture in rural areas. This leads to land conflicts and land fragmentation. (Or which leads to slow economic growth and unbalanced development). There is also over-use of land for cultivation leading to a decline in its productive value and thus lower yields realized.
14. Facilitates the growth of slums associated with immorality and increased crime rate, low standards of living in form of inadequate and poor housing, poor health facilities, poor hygiene among others. There is robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse in the slum areas due to growing population.
15. Leads to overcrowding which results into easy spread of diseases. There is crowding of social public services such as schools, health centres, piped water among others. This leads to quick depreciation of the service facilities.

Measures to control population growth

1. The government is encouraging education of children especially girls. For example through universal primary education to allow children to spend more years in school to reduce early marriages.
2. Sensitization of the public about the dangers of large families.
3. Promoting the status of women/women emancipation. This is through recognizing their rights including rights to decide on when to produce children, providing them with public obligations/responsibilities.
4. Encouraging the use of contraceptives and other methods of family planning. This is intended to reduce unnecessary pregnancies.
5. Setting/enforcing laws regarding child care and responsibility over children. For example every parent must educate his/her children and provide essentials of life as provided by the constitution—such that parents produce children they are able to look after.
6. Marriage age legislation. The age limit in Uganda is 18 years for both boys and girls which is trying to reduce early marriages (raising the age of consent / fight early marriages).
7. Sex education is being emphasized in schools, though with mixed feelings. This is intended to reduce teenage pregnancies and improve the quality of life among school-going children.
8. Encouraging investment /income—generating activities.
9. Controlling immigration rate using laws and a clearing system

WORLD POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Population distribution refers to the way people are spread out in a given area on the earth's surface. The world population is unevenly distributed . Asia alone has more people than other continents combined yet it is 1/3 of the world's total area.

Within the continents the population is still unevenly distributed for example in Asia, china alone has a population of more than 1.4 billion accounting for almost ½ of the population on the continent. In Africa and Latin America which are sparsely populated, there are fewer people in areas like Sahara desert and Amazon basin.

The world's population distribution is categorized as follows:

1. **Densely populated areas**

- Western and central Europe especially Britain, France, Germany
- East –central North America including the St. Lawrence –Great lakes region and the Atlantic seaboard.
- Indian sub-continent –India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc
- Eastern Asia including china, Japan, Korea.
- The Nile valley and the delta region.

2. **Moderately populated areas**

- South and eastern Europe –including the Mediterranean Europe, Balkan peninsula, southern Scandinavia, alpine Europe and European Asia.
- Foot hills of mountains, plateaus and grasslands for example the Rockies, Andes, Asia Minor, Mexico, Ethiopian highlands, some tropical and Mediterranean grasslands such as New Zealand.

3. **Sparsely populated areas**

- Hot deserts like Sahara, Atacama, Kalahari and the Australian desert.
- Cold deserts –Tundra and ice carp regions of Antarctica, Greenland, Siberia, northern Canada.
- High mountain ranges such as Himalayas, high alps
- Hot-wet forests i.e. the dense equatorial jungles of Congo, Amazon among others.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA

The population is unevenly distributed and the densely populated areas include the Nile valley, Nile delta, Niger delta, Maghreb of north west Africa, Johannesburg industrial area of south Africa, East and west African coastal regions

The moderately populated regions are Ethiopian highlands, and Margins of the densely populated areas

The sparsely populated areas include Sahara desert areas, Namib and Kalahari desert areas, Hot-wet forests (such as the Congo basin areas, Gabon)

Factors influencing population distribution in Africa

Physical factors

1. Climate. Areas which receive heavy and reliable rainfall ,and hot temperatures favour arable farming/ crop growing hence attracting dense population such as south east Nigeria, Lake Victoria, and Kenya highlands. However, areas which receive low and unreliable rainfall of less than 500mm

per annum and very hot temperatures discourage crop farming leading to sparse population such as Kalahari desert areas.

2. Soils. Areas with deep / well-drained fertile soils promote crop growing hence attracting dense population such as the fertile alluvial soils of river valleys and deltas such as South West and South East Nigeria, Nile valley and Nile delta. The volcanic rich soils of the Kenya highlands and Ethiopian highlands also support crop growing and hence attract moderate to dense population. However, areas with thin /infertile soils such as Sahara desert areas with sandy soils limit crop growing hence leading to low population density.
3. Altitude. Population decreases with increase in altitude in response to environmental conditions such as reduced atmospheric pressure, low oxygen content, dampness and cold temperatures. This explains why there are very few settlements above 2700m above sea level on the highlands of Africa like Mt. Kilimanjaro. However, areas of low altitude have warm conditions which attract dense settlement such as the coastal regions of West and East Africa.
4. Relief. In the high mountain areas such as Rwenzori, Mt. Cameroon, the rugged relief/ steep slopes limit construction of structures and mechanization of farming leading to low population settlement. However areas of relatively flat relief/ gentle slopes or the foothills of the mountains encourage construction of structures and mechanization of farming hence leading to dense settlement.
5. Vegetation. The dense /thick forest vegetation such as tropical rain forests of the Congo basin and West African coastlands hinder the construction of transport routes/ are not easy to clear, and thus have sparse population. These areas also favour the breeding of mosquitoes that cause malaria. However savanna grasslands of Africa are easy to clear for various activities such as farming and thus have dense settlement.
6. Biotic factors. Areas infested with diseases causing vectors such as tsetse flies—like the Miombo woodlands of Tanzania and the Fulani areas of Nigeria scare away people leading to sparse population settlement. However, areas free from disease causing vectors attract more people to settle and carry out various activities leading to dense settlement.
7. Drainage. Water logged areas/ areas with periodic flooding have low population density due to problems in cultivation and construction. Such as the East coast swamps of Somalia. However well-drained areas encourage growing of various crops and construction leading to dense population such as plateau areas of central Uganda.
 - Presence of water bodies such as rivers, lakes, oases, springs. Desert oases like in the Sahara desert favour some settlement due to provision of water and some little crop farming. Areas with large water bodies such as the Lake Victoria region favour various activities like farming, industry due to provision of water. However, areas without large water bodies such as Kalahari and Sahara desert are sparsely populated due to limited water supply.

Human factors

8. Economic activities such as industry, trade and commerce. Presence of many economic activities such as industrialized centres of Africa provide more employment opportunities to the people and hence attract dense population such as in Johannesburg and Pretoria in south Africa, Lagos and port

Harcourt in Nigeria, Cairo and Alexandria in Egypt. However areas with limited economic activities such as mining, industry have less chances of employment, hence have low population density.

9. Level of urbanization. The development of towns/ urban centers attracts a large population such as Cape Town and Springs in South Africa, Mombasa and Nairobi in Kenya, Accra and Port Tema in Ghana, Free Town in Sierra Leone, Yaoundé in Cameroon. These urban centres have developed banking facilities, insurance, entertainment, education, port facilities and thus offering more opportunities to the people. However, areas without developed urban centers offer less opportunities to the people and hence are sparsely populated.
10. Level of development of transport routes. Areas with developed transport system such as along main roads, railways, rivers and coastal areas are easily accessible and thus promote economic activities like trade, farming hence attracting dense population as seen in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and Cairo in Egypt. However, areas which are remote / far from main roads such as the Southern highlands of Tanzania are less accessible / limit economic activities leading to sparse population settlement.
11. Culture. In some parts of Africa where people depend on primitive cultural ways of life such as shifting cultivation and fruit gathering there is sparse population such as parts of the Congo basin. Areas where nomadic pastoralism is dominant until today, there is sparse population since the system requires large land area for grazing such as the Fulani areas of West Africa and Maasai regions of Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania. However in areas where there are cultural changes and activities like modern dairy farming, trade and commerce—(like central Uganda, central Kenya) have developed there is a moderate to dense population.
12. Historical factor
 - (a) Slave trade. There was compulsory transfer of people from some areas in the past. Slave trade depopulated some parts of Africa like the middle belt of West Africa, Southern Tanzania and Northern Zambia. Up to today these areas are sparsely populated.
 - (b) Duration of settlement. Areas of ancient kingdoms / with long history of settlement and with strong kingdoms attract more opportunities up to today such as trade, jobs; and thus densely populated like Nile valley and delta of Egypt, Mombasa on the coast of Kenya, Ibo land and Yoruba land in Nigeria, Buganda in Uganda. While areas of relatively recent settlement or those with weak kingdoms have fewer opportunities for development leading to sparse population.
13. Government policy. Governments deliberately direct people to migrate and settle in certain parts of the country for strategic, economic or social reasons. Government policy of forest conservation (such as national parks, forest reserves) discourages settlement in such areas leading to sparse population. Government policy of resettlement schemes, infrastructural development attract settlement leading to moderate to dense population.
14. Political climate/situation. Areas which are politically stable encourage productive activities such as trade, farming leading to dense population. Examples are Kano region of Nigeria and western DRC. However areas which are insecure / unstable such as Eastern DRC, Southern Sudan and Somalia discourage productive activities like trade leading to sparse population.

Population distribution in Kenya

The population of Kenya is unevenly distributed. Since most of the country is arid or semi-arid, over 70% of the population is concentrated in a belt of about 10% of the total land area (*which has high agricultural potential from the Ugandan border to Nairobi*)

The densely populated areas include: the lake Victoria region (Nyanza , Kericho, Trans-Nzoia,, and Nandi region); Kenya highlands (Kikuyu land, Embu, Nyeri, Kiambu); the coastal plain (stretching from Mombasa to Malindi). The highly populated towns are: Nairobi, Kisumu and Nakuru.

The moderately populated areas include: Mt.Elgon region, Kitale, Nyahururu, Naivasha, higher areas of Machakos, Kwale district, Taita hills and higher areas of central Kitui district.

The lowly populated areas include: parts of the Rift valley, Maasai land, Nyika plateau, North and North Eastern Kenya(Lodwar, wajir, Marsabit, and Moyale).

A sketch map showing population distribution in Kenya

Factors influencing population distribution in Kenya

Physical factors

- 1. Climate.** Areas which receive heavy and reliable rainfall which is over 1500 mm per year and hot temperatures favour crop growing hence attracting dense population such as lake Victoria region, and Kenya highlands. However, Areas which receive low and unreliable rainfall of less than 500mm per annum and very hot temperatures discourage crop farming leading to sparse population such as North and North Eastern Kenya.
- 2. Soil types/ Edaphic factor.** Areas with fertile soils promote crop growing hence attracting dense population such as the fertile volcanic soils of the Kenya highlands which support coffee, pyrethrum and wheat growing.However areas with infertile soils such as Northern Kenya with sandy, thin and stony soils limit crop growing since they retain very little moisture, hence leading to low population density.
- 3. Altitude.** Population decreases with increase in altitude in response to environmental conditions such as reduced atmospheric pressure, low oxygen content, dampness and cold temperatures. This explains why there are very few settlements above 2700m above sea level on the highlands of Africa like Mt. Kenya, Aberdares, and Mt. Elgon. However, areas of low altitude have warm conditions which attract dense settlement such as the coastal regions of Kenya.
- 4. Relief.** In the high mountain areas such as Mt. Kenya, the rugged relief/ steep slopes limit construction of structures and mechanization of farming leading to low population settlement. However, areas of relatively flat relief/ gentle slopes or the foothills of the mountains encourage construction of structures and mechanization of farming hence leading to dense settlement.
- 5. Vegetation.** The dense forest vegetation such as tropical rain forests of the Eldoret, Kisii, Mt.Kenya and coastal mangrove forests hinder the construction of transport routes/ are not easy to clear, and

thus have low population settlement. These areas also favour the breeding of mosquitoes that cause malaria. The desert vegetation also discourages settlement. However savanna grasslands of Kenya are easy to clear for various activities such as farming and thus have dense settlement.

6. **Biotic factors/ pests and diseases.** Areas infested with tsetse flies—like the Lambwe valley in western Kenya scare away people leading to sparse population. The mosquitoes have also limited settlement in areas of hot temperatures and low-lying areas with stagnant water and river valleys. However areas free from disease causing vectors attract more people to settle and carry out various activities leading to dense settlement.
7. **Drainage.** Water logged areas/ areas with periodic flooding have low population density due to problems in cultivation and construction such as the swampy areas. However well-drained areas encourage growing of various crops and construction leading to a moderate to dense population such as plateau areas of Kenya.

Presence of water bodies such as rivers and lakes. Areas with water bodies such as the Lake Victoria region favour various water-related activities like farming, industry, fishing. Rivers like Tana, Athi, and Turkwel flow through large arid areas and have settlement along them to utilize the rivers for small-scale irrigation and domestic use. Areas without large water bodies such as Northern Kenya are sparsely populated due to limited water supply.

Human factors

8. **Economic activities such as industry, trade and commerce.** Presence of many economic activities such as industrialized centres provide more employment opportunities to the people and hence attract dense population such as in Nairobi (general engineering, printing, brewing), Mombasa (oil refining, ship building, food processing), and Nakuru. However areas with limited economic activities such as northern Kenya have less chances of employment, hence have low population density.
9. **Level of urbanization.** The major urban centers such as Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa and Malindi attract a large population to enjoy the urban facilities such as banking facilities, insurance, entertainment, education, port facilities which offer more opportunities to the people. However, areas without developed urban centers such as Northern Kenya offer less opportunities to the people and hence are sparsely populated.
10. **Level of development of transport infrastructure.** Areas with developed transport system such as Nairobi and Nakuru urban areas, along main roads, railways, and coastal areas are easily accessible and thus promote economic activities like trade, farming hence attracting dense population. However, areas which are remote / far from main roads such as the northern interior are less accessible / limit economic activities leading to sparse population settlement.
11. **Culture.** In areas where people depend on primitive cultural activities such as nomadic pastoralism, there is sparse population since the system requires large land area for grazing such as the Turkana areas of north west Kenya and Maasai regions of Southern Kenya. However in areas where there are cultural changes and activities like modern dairy farming, trade and commerce-(like central Kenya) have developed there is a moderate to dense population.

12. Historical factor

(a)Slave trade. There was compulsory transfer of people from some areas in the past. Slave trade depopulated some parts of interior Kenya and Up to today these areas sparsely populated although slave trade ended many years ago.

(b) Coastal settlement and governance. The British colonial government divided Kenya into 'white lands' and 'African lands'. The African lands became densely populated due to limited land for expanding population (such as the districts of the central province). Also the setting up of irrigation schemes such as Ahero and Mwea attracted settlement.

13. Government policy. Government policy of setting and expansion of national parks, and reserves such as Tsavo national park, Nairobi national park, Aberdare national park which are 'no settlement zones' by law has limited settlement. Government policy of infrastructural development such as roads, piped water, power supply in particular areas of central Kenya attracts settlement leading to moderate to dense population.

14. Political situation. Areas which are politically stable such as Nairobi and Nakuru encourage productive activities such as trade, farming leading to dense population. However areas which are insecure / unstable such as northern areas bordering Somalia discourage productive activities like trade, farming leading to sparse population.

Population distribution in Nigeria

Nigeria is located in West Africa and it is the most populated country in Africa with a population of over 140 million.

The densely populated areas include the southern parts along the coast, urban centres and the extreme north. High population is in the delta states , ibo land and in north Kaduna. Cities which have more than 3 million people are lagos, Benin, Port Harcourt.

The moderately populated areas include: located in the northern part of the country particularly around Sokoto, Kano, and Katsina. Also the margins of the densely populated areas.

The lowly populated areas include the middle belt, desert margins of the north and the forested areas of the south.

A sketch map showing population distribution in Nigeria

Factors influencing population distribution in Nigeria

Physical factors

1. Climate. Areas which receive heavy and well distributed rainfall which is over 1500 mm per year and hot temperatures favour crop growing hence attracting dense population such as south east and south west Nigeria where oil palm , cocoa, maize and other crops are grown. However, areas which

receive low and unreliable rainfall of less than 500mm per annum and very hot temperatures discourage crop farming leading to sparse population such as the middle belt region of Nigeria.

2. **Soil types/ Edaphic factor.** Areas with fertile soils promote crop growing hence attracting dense population such as the Southeast and South West Nigeria where a wide variety of food and cash crops are grown such as cocoa, rubber, maize. However, areas with infertile soils such as the middle belt with sandy, thin and stony soils limit crop growing since they retain very little moisture, hence leading to sparse population.
3. **Altitude.** Population decreases with increase in altitude in response to environmental conditions such as reduced atmospheric pressure, low oxygen content, dampness and cold temperatures. This explains why there are very few settlements above 2000m above sea level. However areas of low altitude have warm conditions which attract dense settlement such as the coastal regions of Nigeria (delta states).
4. **Relief.** Rugged relief/ steep slopes limit construction of transport routes , housing structures and mechanization of farming such as in the Yoruba highlands bordering Cameroon leading to low population settlement. However relatively flat landscape of South East and South West Nigeria encourage construction of structures and mechanization of farming hence leading to dense settlement.
5. **Vegetation.** The dense forest vegetation such as tropical rain forests and mangrove forests of the South hinder the construction of transport routes/ are not easy to clear, and thus have low population settlement. These areas also favour the breeding of mosquitoes that cause malaria. More so the government has put up restrictions on settlement in such areas by gazeting some of them as reserves. However savanna grasslands are easy to clear for various activities such as farming and thus have dense settlement.
6. **Biotic factors/ pests and diseases.** Areas infested with tsetse flies—like the Fulani areas of Nigeria scare away people leading to sparse population settlement. The mosquitoes have also limited settlement in areas of hot temperatures and low-lying areas with stagnant water and river valleys. However areas free from disease causing vectors attract more people to settle and carry out various activities leading to dense settlement.
7. **Drainage.** Water logged areas/ areas with periodic flooding have low population density due to problems in cultivation and construction such as the mangrove swamps along the coast. However well-drained areas encourage growing of various crops and construction leading to a moderate to dense population such as South East Nigeria .

Presence of water bodies such as rivers and lakes. Areas with water bodies such as the Niger river and the Atlantic ocean favour various water-related activities like farming, industry, fishing, transport; and thus they have moderate to dense population. Areas without large water bodies such as the middle belt and the northeastern part of Nigeria are sparsely populated due to limited water supply.

Human factors

8. **Economic activities such as industry, trade and commerce.** Presence of many economic activities such as industrialization provide more employment opportunities to the people and hence attract dense population such as port Harcourt with oil refinery, machinery , automobile assembly and food

processing, Benin city and Ibadan . However areas with limited economic activities such as the North Eastern region have less chances of employment, hence have low population density.

9. **Level of urbanization/ the growth of major urban centers** such as port Harcourt , Lagos, Ibadan, Abuja (capital) attracts a large population to enjoy the urban facilities such as banking facilities, insurance, entertainment, education, recreation facilities which offer more opportunities to the people. However, areas without developed urban centers such as North Western Nigeria offer less opportunities to the people and hence are sparsely populated.
10. **Level of development of transport infrastructure.** Areas with developed transport system such as Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, along main roads, railways, and coastal areas are easily accessible and thus promote economic activities like trade, farming , mining hence attracting dense population. However, areas which are remote / far from main roads such as the northern interior are less accessible / limit economic activities leading to sparse population settlement.
11. **Culture.** In areas where people depend on primitive cultural activities such as nomadic pastoralism, there is sparse population since the system requires large land area for grazing such as the Fulani areas of northern Nigeria. Still many moderately settled areas on the margins of the densely settled areas could also support far more people but people have not moved into them due to traditional social attitudes and the need to stay near friends and existing cultural centres.
12. **Historical factor**
 - (a) **Historical background.** Each of the three main centres of population is the chief area of settlement of one of the three main ethnic groups in Nigeria. The ***Ibo are concentrated in the South East, the Yoruba are in the South West, and the Muslim Hausa in the north.*** These are the most successful and powerful groups and their populations have grown rapidly than the smaller groups that were for long subjected to wars , slave raiding.
 - (b)**Slave trade.** There was compulsory transfer of people from some areas in the past. Slave trade by the more powerful tribes depopulated the middle belt and the western parts of Kwara state of S.W. Nigeria and upto today these areas sparsely populated although slave trade ended many years ago.
13. **Government policy.** Government policy of setting and expansion of national parks, and reserves which are 'no settlement zones' by law has limited settlement. Government has also encouraged a wider spread settlement by developing transport routes , mineral resources, power supplies and agriculture in the regions which are capable of supporting a larger population.
14. **Political situation.** Areas which are politically stable such as Kano region and most urban areas (like Lagos, Abuja) encourage productive activities such as trade, farming leading to dense population. However, areas which are insecure / unstable due to religious and ethnic groups discourage productive activities like trade, farming leading to sparse population.

Population distribution in china

China is located in Asia and is the most populated country in the world with over 1.4 billion people. About 1/5 of the world's population live in china. About 26% of the population lives in the urban areas and 74% live in rural areas.

The most densely populated areas include the north china plain, Yangtze basin (Chiang Jiang basin), the Sichuan basin and Xi-Jiang (Si-Kiang) basin. The densely populated states are in the East including Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jilin, Hunan, and Duardong. The highly populated towns are shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Hongkong, Guangzhou, Wuhan etc

The moderately populated areas are found on the margins/ fringes of the densely populated regions.

The sparsely populated regions are in the interior provinces of the west such as Xin Jiang (sin kiang), Gansu, Qinghai (Tsinghai), Tibet, Inner Mongolia. The population density is generally less than 10 people per km².

Generally over 90% of the population occupies the land in the East while the remaining 10% occupy the Western states.

A sketch map of china showing population distribution

Factors influencing population distribution in china

Physical factors

- 1. Climate.** Areas which receive heavy and well distributed rainfall which is over 1500 mm per year and hot temperatures(average 24⁰c) and this favours crop growing hence attracting dense population such as tropical south china , sub-tropical east-central china and temperate north east where crops like rice (most important), wheat, maize and tea are grown. However, areas which receive low and unreliable rainfall of less than 500mm per annum and very cold temperatures discourage crop farming leading to sparse population such as most western states. The Gobi desert ranks as one of the coldest deserts in the world and this discourages population settlement.
- 2. Soil types influencing farming.** Areas with fertile alluvial soils promote crop growing hence attracting dense population such as river valleys and coastal areas (Yangtze valley, Sin Kiang delta) where a wide variety of food and cash crops are grown such as rice, maize, soybean, cotton, and tea. However areas with infertile soils/ dry , rocky and sandy soils of western china limit crop growing since they retain very little moisture, hence leading to sparse population.
- 3. Altitude.** Population decreases with increase in altitude in response to environmental conditions such as reduced atmospheric pressure, low oxygen content, dampness and cold temperatures. This explains why there are very few settlements in upper slopes of the Himalayas in the west. However areas of low altitude have warm conditions which attract dense settlement such as the coastal regions of Eastern China.

4. **Relief.** Rugged relief/ steep slopes limit construction of transport routes, housing structures and mechanization of farming such as in western china characterized by the Tibet ranges and Himalayas leading to low population settlement. However relatively flat landscape of encourage construction of structures and mechanization of farming hence leading to dense settlement especially the plateaus, plains and basins of Eastern China.
5. **Drainage.** Water logged areas/ areas with periodic flooding have low population density due to problems in cultivation and construction such as the swamps along the coast. However well-drained areas encourage growing of various crops and construction leading to a moderate to dense population such as the plateaus and plains of Eastern China like North China plain and Sichuan.
Presence of water bodies such as rivers and lakes. Areas with large water bodies such as Yangtze river, Huang He river, the Yellow sea and East China sea favour various water-related activities like farming, industry, fishing, transport; and thus they have a dense population. Areas without large water bodies are sparsely populated due to limited water supply especially in western china.
6. **Natural calamities /hazards.** Areas which are prone to natural calamities discourage population settlement such as the highland areas of the west (e.g Gansu) which are at times affected by landslides that destroy property and lead to loss of life. Also some valley areas of Yangtze and Huang He rivers are prone to flooding that destroys crops , life and other property. However areas which are safer like the gentle slopes attract dense settlement like large areas of Shanghai and Beijing.

Human factors

7. **Presence of economic activities for employment such as mining and industry.** The states industrialized states of china like shanghai, Beijing, and Manchuria provide more employment opportunities to the people as industrial workers and into other associated activities and hence attract dense population. Beijing industries include iron and steel, motor vehicle, machinery, petro-chemical etc However areas with limited economic activities such as the western states of Qinghai and Inner Mongolia have less chances of employment, hence have low population density.
8. **Level of urbanization/ the growth of major urban centers** such as shanghai (china's largest port and industrial centre), Beijing (capital), Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangzhou, and Tongtu attracts a large population to enjoy the urban facilities such as banking facilities, insurance, entertainment, education, recreation facilities which offer more opportunities to the people. However, the western areas without developed urban centers such offer less opportunities to the people and hence are sparsely populated.
9. **Level of development of transport infrastructure.** Areas with developed transport system such as Guangzhou-Beijing-Shanghai, along main roads, railways, and coastal areas are easily accessible and thus promote economic activities like mining, industry, trade, farming, tourism hence attracting dense population. The region also has developed canals such as the Grand canal—which is the world's longest artificial waterway. However, areas which are remote / far from main roads such as the western provinces of Gansu, Tibet and Inner Mongolia are less accessible / limit economic activities leading to sparse population.
10. **Historical factor.** The development of the early dynasties such as Qing dynasty of Manchus (1644-1912) in East China which organized china into a large society with developed social and economic

and political organization created a high population in the east and central china. However western china lacked such organized dynasties explaining the sparse population there.

11. Cultural factor. The physical conditions of the west have limited intensive crop growing and the best form of land use is some form of nomadic herding practiced by the Tibetans, Kazaks, Mongols and Kirgiz who stay in the area, rearing goats, sheep, horses and camels etc. this partly explains the sparse population in such areas.

Ethnic differences. Most Chinese are very reluctant to move to the western territories (which are not 'china proper'). The people of china proper are the true Chinese (especially the Han race) while the outer territories are populated by the smaller ethnic groups such as the Mongols , Zhuang , Miao, Yi among others.

12. Government policy. Government has influenced population distribution by developing transport routes, encouraging investors, importation of advanced technology, creating special investment zones, development of the required transport routes and power supplies in Eastern China. However, a large western part of china has received less government attention and hence less opportunities which explains the sparse population.

13. Political situation. Areas which have been politically stable for a long period and most urban areas encourage productive activities such as trade, farming leading to dense population since the security of property and life is assured. However, areas which have some unrest discourage productive activities like trade, farming leading to sparse population such as the north western areas bordering Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

POPULATION MIGRATIONS

(There is no agreed definition of migration). However generally **migration** refers to the movement of people from one place (origin) to another (destination). Population migration takes a longer span than population mobility or tourism although they are interrelated. Migration may be short term, long term or seasonally.

The movement of people is called **migration** and the people involved are called **migrants**. Migrations can either be **voluntary or forced/ compulsory migrations**. Generally, the voluntary migrations are associated with the search for better economic opportunities / conditions existing in other regions. People move willingly and it mainly occurs due to economic push and pull factors while compulsory migration may be legislation by government, slave trade or even wars etc

Population migrations affect growth by either decreasing population of the source area (origin) or increasing the population of the receiving area.

Classification of migrations

The meaning of migration is best understood based on the different types / forms of migration. Migration involves changing location and involves some degree of permanence. The classification is based on three (3) aspects namely; distance, time, and origin.

According to time

1. **Permanent migrations.** This involves the movement of people who leave their homes having no intentions of returning home. Permanent migrations should be the movement from one place to another place which lasts for at least more than one year.
2. **Temporary migrations.** This involves movement of people who leave their homes for a short period of time.

According to distance

1. **Internal migrations.** This involves movement of people from one part of the country to another part of the same country without crossing international borders. People who move out of an area are called **out-migrants** where as those people who move into an area are called **in-migrants**.

Internal migration is further subdivided into the following forms:

- (a) Rural-urban migration
- (b) Urban-rural migration
- (c) Rural-rural migration
- (d) Urban-urban migration
- (e) Intra-rural and intra-urban migration

Rural-urban migration is the most common type of migration in the developing countries. It refers to the movement of people away from the countryside to towns or cities. Over the last 50 years in Africa and South America a large proportion of people, especially the young move from rural areas to urban areas. This is mainly a result of economic pull and push factors. This stems from the unequal distribution of facilities between the rural areas and the urban areas. Rural-urban migration tends to lead to rural under development because the young ones move leaving only the aged and children; but also causing urban problems (resulting from urbanization).

Urban-rural migration

This is not very common in the developing world and takes place on small scale. People migrate from towns to the countryside and in the developed world, it takes place as a result of overcrowding, pollution etc in towns. People probably move outside the towns to enjoy bigger space where they can have bigger compounds and clean environment.

Rural-rural migration is the migration from one rural area to another. It mainly occurs when they have anticipated opportunities in the new location. It is a result of push-pull factors where there is population pressure on land such as people in Kigezi migrating to other areas.

Urban-urban migration is the movement of people from one town to another mainly because people are seeking for better opportunities in business, social and economic facilities. It has got to do with perceived opportunities.

Stepwise migration is the movement of people in stages i.e. step by step. For example in 1950s people in kabala were advised to move to other areas for enough land such as Kabale-Rukungiri-Bushenyi etc

2. **International migrations/ external migrations.** This involves the migration from one country to another .i.e. crossing international borders/ boundaries. This type of migration is today facing a lot of restrictions via controlled permission in form of visa.

International migration has two major forms:

- (a) Emigrations
- (b) Immigrations

Emigration refers to the movement of people out of a country. The people involved are called emigrants.

While

Immigrations refers to the movement of people into a country. The people involved are called immigrants.

The difference between emigration and immigration is called net migration. Depending on the source or destination the main source of emigration and immigration is the search for better employment opportunities.

Factors that influence population migrations

The factors for migration can be grouped as pull factors and push factors. The factors are usually categorized as political, social, economic and ecological factors.

Pull factors are the favourable factors which attract people to migrate to an area such as better social services or these are the advantages /opportunities at a destination that attract to that area.

Push factors are the unfavourable factors which force people out of a given area and therefore migrate to other areas such as high level of unemployment, poor infrastructures or these are the disadvantages at the source area that make people to move to other areas.

1. Political factors

- Difference in political belief/ party. People are sometimes forced to migrate because of being threatened since they belong to a particular party /system or political thinking.
- Political insecurity in some areas / war or civil strife which make people vacate the insecure areas such as people in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide , people in DRC due to rebel activities , people in southern Sudan during the struggle for power in 2013-2014, northern Uganda due to Kony rebel activities, etc. such people migrate as refugees or internally displaced people.

- The attaining of independence in some countries, which caused many migrations such as in India 1947 and people were forced to move especially non-Moslems to Pakistan. The same applied to many African countries on attaining independence—when many whites went back to Europe in the mid-20th century.
- Shift in ideology (capitalism versus socialism). For example, Germany after the Second World War, East Germany became a socialist state while West Germany remained capitalistic in ideology. Thus, people who were capitalistic in ideology migrated from east to West Germany and vice versa.
- The effect of slave trade. During slave trade era people were forced to migrate i.e. were captured and carried away against their will. Slave trade affected especially African countries such as west Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) , east Africa etc. Today people may be abducted, kidnapped, and taken to other areas or countries to work as 'slaves'.
- Government schemes lead to forced migration of people such as settlement schemes, gazetting of national parks and wildlife reserves to displace people. Many people are displaced from the gazetted areas by law and they are taken to resettlement schemes prepared by the government or forced to go elsewhere.

2. Economic factors

- Economic factors are often taken as the major reasons for migration, with the search for employment being the major reason for this type of motive. Labour migration is selective in nature and may be long or short term. The major destinations of labour migrants since 1945 are Western Europe and the Gulf States. Most migrants come from the Mediterranean countries and the ex-colonial territories among others.
- Search for employment opportunities. South Africa is known for its reliance on migrant labour for the exploitation of its natural resources such as mineral resources. These migrants come from Britain, USA and Japan. Many workers also migrate from the neighbouring countries such as Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Mozambique, and Namibia.
- Shortage of land. Land in some rural areas is in short supply. The rural community heavily depends on land for production of food for home consumption and for sale. However, the available land in many areas is inadequate to produce sufficient food for the population. This causes migration to buy land from other areas and increase food supply.
- The declining productivity of land in some areas which makes people to migrate to other more productive zones agriculturally. Use of soils in some areas for long leads to exhaustion and forces farmers to look for fertile lands elsewhere.
- Uneven distribution of economic opportunities between areas especially industrial concentration in the urban areas, meaning that meaningful employment is mainly found in urban areas. Hence, the major cause of migration is the search for employment which is better paid, in a bid to improve the standards of living.

3. Social factors

- Social pressures also force people to migrate such as evidenced by refugees (according to the UNHCR-United Nations High Commission for Refugees). These are related to social oppression, political control, housing, health and education facilities. Today the greatest concentration of refugees are in the developing countries.

- The presence of better social services in some areas like medical facilities, schools of better standards. For example, much of the quality education can be attained in the urban areas where most of the cities always want to stay. Other social facilities include health facilities, recreation facilities, entertainment facilities which generally missing in the rural areas.
 - Cultural practices also force many people to run away from the rural areas such as rituals, compulsory circumcision by some societies. They migrate and take advantage of the urban areas. There are also social obligations of marriage especially in the rural areas which may not fit in people's priorities in life.
 - Population pressure in some areas causes migrations to other areas which are less populated. For example some parts of Kigezi, Kabale are highly populated, leading to shortage of land and land fragmentation. This limits settlement and cultivation land, forcing many people to migrate other areas.
 - Religious factors especially religious discrimination in particular areas. For example in Northern Nigeria, the Muslims discriminate against Christians, in Sudan the Muslims also do not want to stay in the same areas with Christians. Many times, there is conflict/ fighting between the different religious groups and this forces many people to migrate to other safer areas.
 - Racial discrimination is also common in particular areas, resulting into social conflicts and at times loss of life. This forces some people to migrate to other accommodative areas.
 - Migration for leisure such as pilgrimages—journeys to certain places under religious devotion. For example, pilgrimage to Mecca and Madina by Muslims. Many people do not come back to their home countries, but find new places in other areas. In addition, tourism involves traveling of people abroad for holidays, which may be short term or long term. However many tourists end up becoming migrants.
 - Love for adventure and prestige
 - The desire for change and a better life
4. Ecological factors/ environmental factors
- Many people move because of environmental pressures such as drought, desertification, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, pests and diseases, earthquakes.
 - For example, many people move to areas which receive heavy and reliable rainfall, which ensures increased food production for consumption and for sale. They migrate away from areas which experience frequent drought or desertification.
 - Landslides and earthquakes lead to great loss of life and property. Therefore, many people move away from vulnerable areas to safer zones.
 - Many people move away from areas infested by pests and diseases such as tsetse flies, and epidemics outbreak. For example, the outbreak of Ebola in the West African countries in 2014 forced many people to migrate.
 - Fertile soils induce people to migrate and settle in such areas especially near river valleys with alluvial soils yet the infertile soils in the semi-arid areas push people to migrate away.
 - Drainage. Most people migrate and settle near water bodies especially coastal areas to access water supply, water transport and other advantages.
5. Behavioural factors

- Migration also has a basis on individual perception. This explains why certain categories of people choose to migrate to new areas while other people facing the same pressures do not migrate.
- Minor issues like criminal tendencies—where criminals run away from their regions to go to other areas where their life may be a bit safe. Also misunderstandings such as between family members, law and order maintenance by authorities, AIDS scourge especially if patients are stigmatized.

CONSEQUENCES / IMPACT OF MIGRATIONS

A. The impact of migration on the source areas

- The migrants remit money to their home country and this increases the national income of the respective country. In addition they also remit money/ property to their relatives which improves the standards of living.
- Decline in labour supply because the able-bodied men move to the urban areas or other countries and this reduces economic prosperity in the place of origin such as retarded agricultural production since only the old and very young children remain in the rural areas.
- Accelerates poverty and insecurity especially in the countryside since the able bodied men are moving to urbanities.
- Results into social disintegration of cultural settings. This is because the indigenous people adopt the values of the migrants such in Africa many people have taken on norms and values of Arabs, British, and Indians.
- Permanent migration reduces the total population and slows down the population growth rate in the source area. This relieves the problem of unemployment in the formerly over crowded areas. It also relieves pressure on land in the origin / source areas.
- Creates imbalance in the age-sex structure in the source area. This is because the migrants are usually young adults and mainly the male sex, leaving majorly the old folk and females.

B. Impact of migration on the receiving areas/ destinations

- Causes strain on the existing services and facilities in the receiving areas especially urban areas which may have been meant for a smaller community. For example road network are congested, education facilities are over strained. Many times there is less expansion of the facilities.
- Permanent and temporary migration increases the population of the receiving areas. This leads to rapid urbanization with associated problems such as unemployment, prostitution, high crime rate, and political strife. The growth of slums characterized by congestion, poor sanitation, poor housing , stagnant water etc
- External migration brings together people of different origins, races, language, and religion. This integrates them into a new dynamic society; but may also lead to plural societies associated with continuous underground conflicts which eventually may become violent.
- Migration leads to easy spread of diseases in the destination areas such as Ebola, SARS, Cholera, AIDS scourge, airborne diseases due to mixing of people from
- Population migration also changes the age-sex structure of the destination areas. The number of young adults is raised and men may outnumber the women. This affects the birth rate and increases the incidence of prostitution and rape cases.

- Migrants often face prejudice and even violence in the destination area. This in the longrun sparks off return migrations back to the areas of origin or migration to other areas to seek a better life.
- Loss of social morals and cultural values due to mixing up of different groups of people.

Positives

- Adventure through tourism and movement to ne areas by the migrants.
- There is increased industrial growth due to the increase in the market size in the destination area and availability of land for expansion in the source area.
- Increase in labour supply and expansion of the tax base in the destination area.
- Increases human relations both economic and social influence. Leads to the spread of new ideas.
- Restrains people from the vulnerable / risky areas such as war-torn areas, landslide areas, dry areas.
- Migrants acquire improved standards of living and chances of employment.
- Eradicates violence when the misunderstanding people separate to different areas/ locations.
- Migrations also avail government with land for national parks, wildlife reserves, and other projects.
- Improvement in infrastructure in the destination area.
- Reduces pressure on land in the rural areas
- Environmental protection as forests and bushes grow freely with less disturbance.
- Land consolidation is encouraged in the source areas which favours extensive farming.

Negatives

- It is a source of brain drain and repatriation of resources.
- Shortage of land in the destination areas such as urban areas leading to conflicts and death.
- Resettlement problems on part of government.
- Refugee problems. Refugees are people who are forced to leave their homes due to several reasons such as wars, drought, floods and political persecution. Therefore refugees usually leave their homes in a desperate condition. In Africa many refugees in Somalia, Ethiopia, south Sudan, DRC, where people have been displaced by wars. This strains the economy of the receiving country as well as misery on the refugees themselves.
- Regional imbalances in development
- Increase in government expenditure in the urban areas
- Environmental degradation
- Etc

Case study: Africa

Arabs and Semites entered North Africa in great numbers in the 7th and 8th centuries. Such people spread their religion, language and culture as well as intermarriage with the Berbers. About ¼ of Africa's population is of Arab blood.

From the 16th century, many Europeans entered Africa from all directions starting with the Dutch at cape region of South Africa. Today Africa has about 4 million whites. The 19th century so the French occupation of Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. The major initial reasons were colonialism and the exploitation of minerals. Lastly the Asians also came to east and south Africa initially working on sugar plantations in natal and the East African railways.

In general, migration inn Africa can be analyzed in terms of pre-colonial era, colonial era and post-colonial eras. At the beginning of the 16th slave trade started to depopulate Africa. Many African slaves were shipped /moved to America, the Middle East and India. West Africa was the most affected by slave trade since it lost about 20 million people. Still many examples of internal migrations can be cited in Africa –with more emphasis on rural-urban migration.

Guiding questions:

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of population migrations in Africa.
2. Using specific examples from Africa, explain the economic and environmental effects of migration.
3. Discuss the push and pull factors responsible for population migrations in sub-Saharan Africa
4. Discuss the causes and effects of rural urban migration in either DRC or India.
5. Examine the impact of migrations on the source areas and destination areas using specific examples in Africa
6. Assess the causes and effects of international migrations in tropical Africa.