

**B.A. (Hon) Sociology**  
**Generic Elective 08**  
**POPULATION AND SOCIETY**

**Course Objectives:**

This course provides a critical understanding of the interface between population and society. It analyses the role of fertility, mortality and migration on the composition, size, and structure of population. The course addresses the issue of domestic and international population movements and their economic, political and social implications.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of key concepts in and different approaches to population studies.
2. Recognise the relations between population and social groups and processes by linking population size, composition, and growth with fertility, reproduction, and mortality.
3. Explain the dynamics between population, gender, and migration in terms of the role of institutions, policies and programmes, and social relations and groups.
4. Undertake a sociological analysis of international and national population dynamics and population policies.

**Course Outline**

**Unit 1. Introducing Population Studies**

- 1.1. Sociology and Demography**
- 1.2. Concepts and Approaches**

**Unit 2. Population, Social Structure and Processes**

- 2.1. Age and Sex Structure, Population Size and Growth**
- 2.2. Fertility, Reproduction and Mortality**

**Unit 3. Population, Gender and Migration**

- 3.1. Population and Gender**

### **3.2. Politics of Migration**

#### **Unit 4. Population Dynamics and Development**

##### **4.1. Population as Constraints and Resources for Development**

##### **4.2. Population Programmes and Policies**

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#### **Course Content:**

#### **Unit 1. Introducing Population Studies [Weeks 1-3]**

##### **1.1. Sociology and Demography**

Durkheim, Emile. 1982 (1895). *The Rules of Sociological Method*. (trans. W. D. Halls). New York: The Free Press, pp. 136-137; 188, 203.

Cox, Peter Richmond. 1950. *Demography*. University of California Press, pp. 01-08.

Davis, Kingsley. 1951. 'Caste and Demography', *Population of India and Pakistan*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 52-60.

Guilmoto, Christophe Z. 2011. 'Demography for Anthropologists: Populations, Castes, and Classes'. In Isabelle Clark-Decès (ed.). *A Companion to the Anthropology of India*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd. pp. 25-41.

##### **1.2. Concepts and Approaches**

Malthus, Thomas Robert. 1986. *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. London: William Pickering, Chapters 1-2, pp. 01-11.

Dudley, Kirk. 1996. 'Demographic Transition Theory', *Population Studies*, 50(3): 361-387.

#### **Unit 2. Population, Social Structure and Processes [Weeks 4-6]**

##### **2.1. Age and Sex Structure, Population Size and Growth**

Premi, Mahendra K. 2006. 'Population Composition (Age and Sex)', *Population of India: In the New Millennium*. New Delhi: National Book Trust, pp. 103-127.

Visaria, Pravin and Visaria, Leela. 2006. 'India's Population: Its Growth and Key Characteristics'. In Veena Das (ed.). *Handbook of Indian Sociology*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 61-77.

## **2.2. Fertility, Reproduction and Mortality**

Heer, David M. and Grigsby, Jill S. 1992. 'Fertility', *Society and Population*. New Delhi: Prentice-Hall, pp. 46-61.

Haq, Ehsanul. 2007. 'Sociology of Infant Mortality in India', *Think India Quarterly*, July-September, 10(3): 14-57.

## **Unit 3. Population, Gender and Migration [Weeks 7-10]**

### **3.1. Population and Gender**

Jeffrey, Roger and Jeffrey, Patricia. 1997. *Population, Gender and Politics: Demographic Change in Rural North India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 117-164.

Patel, Tulsi. 2007. 'Female Foeticide: Family Planning and State Society Intersection in India'. In T. Patel (ed.). *Sex-selective Abortion in India: Gender, Society and New Reproductive Technologies*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 316-356.

### **3.2. Politics of Migration**

Kaur, Ravinder. 2004. 'Across Region Marriages: Poverty, Female Migration and the Sex Ratio', *Economic & Political Weekly*, XXXIX (25): 2595-2603.

Xaxa, Virginius. 2004. 'Women and Gender in the Study of Tribes in India', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 11(3): 345-367. 3.2.3 Chopra, Radhika. 2011. *Militant and Migrant: The Politics and Social History of Punjab*. Routledge Publications, pp. 88-134.

## **Unit 4. Population Dynamics and Development: [Weeks 11-14]**

### **4.1. Population as Constraints and Resources for Development**

Furedi, Frank. 1997. *Population and Development: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Polity Press, Chapters 4&5, pp. 40-55.

Visaria, P. 1976. 'Recent Trends in Indian Population Policy', *Economic and Political Weekly*, August, 2: 31-34.

## 4.2. Population Programmes and Policies

Government of India. 2000. National Population Policy. New Delhi  
(<http://www.populationcommission.nic.in/facts1.htm>).

### References

#### Compulsory Readings

Cox, Peter Richmond. 1950. *Demography*. University of California Press, pp. 01-08.

Davis, Kingsley. 1951. 'Caste and Demography', *Population of India and Pakistan*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 52-60.

Dudley, Kirk. 1996. 'Demographic Transition Theory', *Population Studies*, 50(3): 361-387.

Durkheim, Emile. 1982 (1895). *The Rules of Sociological Method*. (trans. W. D. Halls). New York: The Free Press, pp. 136-137; 188, 203.

Furedi, Frank. 1997. *Population and Development: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Polity Press, Chapters 4&5, pp. 40-55.

Visaria, P. 1976. 'Recent Trends in Indian Population Policy', *Economic and Political Weekly*, August, 2: 31-34.

Guilmoto, Christophe Z. 2011. 'Demography for Anthropologists: Populations, Castes, and Classes'. In Isabelle Clark-Decès (ed.). *A Companion to the Anthropology of India*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd. pp. 25-41.

Haq, Ehsanul. 2007. 'Sociology of Infant Mortality in India', *Think India Quarterly*, July-September, 10(3): 14-57.

Heer, David M. and Grigsby, Jill S. 1992. 'Fertility', *Society and Population*. New Delhi: Prentice-Hall, pp. 46-61.

Jeffrey, Roger and Jeffrey, Patricia. 1997. *Population, Gender and Politics: Demographic Change in Rural North India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 117-164.

Kaur, Ravinder. 2004. 'Across Region Marriages: Poverty, Female Migration and the Sex Ratio', *Economic & Political Weekly*, XXXIX (25): 2595-2603.

Malthus, Thomas Robert. 1986. *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. London: William Pickering, Chapters 1-2, pp. 01-11.

Patel, Tulsi. 2007. 'Female Foeticide: Family Planning and State Society Intersection in India'. In T. Patel (ed.). *Sex-selective Abortion in India: Gender, Society and New Reproductive Technologies*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 316-356.

Premi, Mahendra K. 2006. 'Population Composition (Age and Sex)', *Population of India: In the New Millennium*. New Delhi: National Book Trust, pp. 103-127.

Visaria, Pravin and Visaria, Leela. 2006. 'India's Population: Its Growth and Key Characteristics'. In Veena Das (ed.). *Handbook of Indian Sociology*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 61-77.

Xaxa, Virginius. 2004. 'Women and Gender in the Study of Tribes in India', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 11(3): 345-367.

Chopra, Radhika. 2011. *Militant and Migrant: The Politics and Social History of Punjab*. Routledge Publications, pp. 88-134.

### **Additional Resources**

Bose, Ashish. (ed.). 1974. *Population in India's Development (1947-2000)*. Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.

Castles, Stephen. 2003. 'The International Politics of Forced Migration', *Development*, 46(3): 11-20.

### **Census of India**

Dyson, Tim and Moore, Michael. 1983. 'On Kinship Structure: Female Autonomy and Demographic Behaviour in India', *Population and Development Review*, 9(1): 35-60.

Gazetteers

Mukherjee, Radhakamal. 1934. 'On the Criterion of Optimum Population', *American Journal of Sociology*, 40(3): 344-348.

Sen, Amartya, 2003. 'Population: Delusion and Reality', *Asian Affairs* Caldwell, John C. 2001. 'Demographers and the Study of Mortality: Scope, Perspectives and Theory', *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 954: 19-34.

### **Teaching Learning Process**

1. Lectures supported by group tutorial work
2. Field-based learning through group projects
3. Seminars
4. Invited Lectures
5. Analysis of Census data
6. Films and documentary screenings
7. Field visits

### **Assessment Methods**

Time-constrained Examinations, Class tests, Assignments, Project reports, Presentations

### **Key Words**

Sociology and Demography, Population, Social Structure and Processes, Fertility, Reproduction, Mortality, Gender, Migration, Development, Resources, Programmes, Policies