

Demographic Transition Theory

By

DR. SANJAY KUMAR

ASSOCIATE PROF. AND HOD

P.G.DEPTT OF GEOGRAPHY

MAHARAJA COLLEGE, ARA

VKSU, ARA

Demographic Transition Theory

Demographic Transition Theory is mainly based on the population situation experienced in western countries.

. The population of world was increasing very slow due to high birth rate and high death rate during ancient time.

. Later on, slow growth was also experienced in western European countries like England, France and Sweden due to low birth rate and low death rate.

. This experience was later on termed as- Demographic Transition Theory in Japan.

After sometime, some scholars have tried to give a general explanation for the decreasing condition or lowering down of the fertility and mortality rate and their theory now popularly termed as- Demographic Transition Theory.

.The theory is associated with the growth of population the theory correlate the growth of population of a region with their socio-economic conditions.

. The theory simply explains that socio-economic condition of a region has direct impact over the growth of population and vice-versa.

The work of Thompson, C.P.Blacker, Notestein and Koehler and Edgar M. Hoover are prominent in this regard.

Phases or Stages:

There are variation of opinion regarding the stages of demographic transition.

.Some scholars have considered five stages while some have considered four stages.

Three stages are very common but some are adamant on five stages.

The stages are –

1.Pre Industrial Stage

2.Industrial Stage

3.Post Industrial Stage

Contd...

1. Pre Industrial Stage:

This stage is characterized by low and stable growth rate of population due to prevailing high birth rate and high death rate in society.

This type of society is considered as traditional and agricultural society.

The employment opportunity conditions are very poor outside the agricultural sector.

Urbanisation process remain in its infant stage. Hence, moderate density of population is found in this stage. Both birth rate and death rate remains about 40-45/'000.

Contd...

.The average life expectancy remains 35 years.

.Actually, it is the index of socio-economic backwardness of the society.

Still this type of conditions are found in Central African Countries, Laos and in Cambodia. In India, this type of condition was found prior to 1931.

Even after, the high fertility capacity, the conditions of malnutrition and diseases in the society brings the slow or stable growth of population.c

2. Industrial Stage :

The increasing health and medical facilities brings drastic change in the society takes the transition into second stage.

.The birth rate remain constant in the early phase of this stage but death rate records decreasing or declining condition which result into comparatively high / rapid growth of population.

Contd...

This second stage is characterized by the large gap or differences between birth rate and death rate, which ultimately brings Population Explosion in society.

The industrial society is characterised by the optimum use of resources, urbanisation process and technical development.

The improved medical facilities increases the average life expectancy in the society.

At last, natural growth records lowering down of growth of population due to decreasing fertility rate.

Contd...

The industrial stage further sub-divided into two stages:

A- The early stage with constant high birth rate and decreasing death rate .

This situation is responsible for rapid growth of population known as Population Explosion Stage.

The countries of developing world belongs to this stage where birth rate is about 15-20/'000.

B. The second stage or phase of this second stage is characterised by declining situation both in birth rate and in death rate.

In society, birth rate remains higher than the death rate. Therefore, comparatively low rapid natural growth prevails in society.

This type of condition prevails in a society just after the end of the population explosion stage.

It represents the society which is comparatively developed but not enough to check the birth rate .

**China, Greece and some Middle-east countries
belongs to this category.**

**According to Population Geographers , India has
already covered this stage.**

Contd...

C- In the last phase of the second stage, low death rate are seen . Later on, it records with slow rate. The measures of family planning / welfare in the society lowers down the medium rate of birth rate , it means population increases with slow rate of growth due to low birth rate and low death rate.

Contd...

3. Post Industrial Stage:

The post industrial stage is characterised by industrialisation, commercialisation and urbanisation which, ultimately leads to technological advancement in society.

Low birth rate and low death rate which remains near 6-8/'000.

Hence, natural growth records very slow growth of population.

All the developed countries of Europe belongs to the stage.

According to Population scientists India will enter into this stage after 2025.

Contd...

Some Population scientists have discussed about the fourth stage of demographic transition.

This stage is characterised by very low birth rate and comparatively high death rate condition.

Actually, it is the negative growth of population stage.

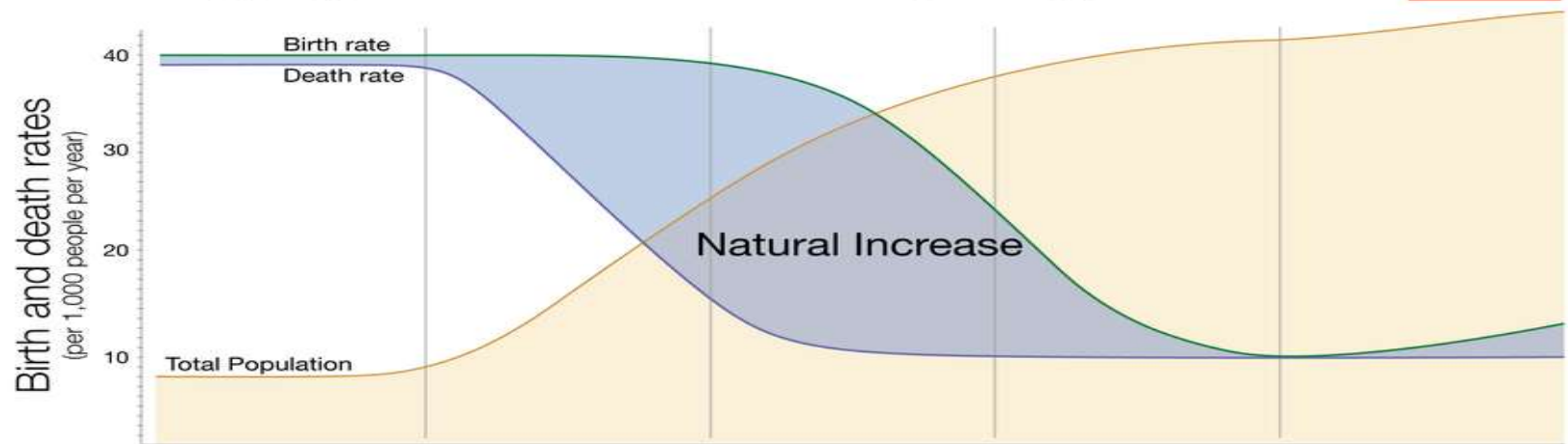
Switzerland and Iceland have such condition.

Contd...

The Above description can be best represented through the graph.

The demographic transition in 5 stages

Our World
in Data



	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Birth rate	High	High	Falling	Low	Rising again
Death rate	High	Falls rapidly	Falls more slowly	Low	Low
Natural increase	Stable or slow increase	Very rapid increase	Increase slows down	Falling and then stable	Stable or slow increase
Population Pyramid					

The different stages of demographic transition :

Stages	Character	Crude Birth rate	Death rate
First stage	High stationary stage	More than 30	Above 15
Second stage	Early expanding stage	More than 30	Less than 15
Third stage	Late expanding stage	Less than 30	Less than 15
Fourth stage	Low stationary stage	Less than 10	Less than 15

Criticism

- 1. Unable to explain about low fertility conditions with increasing socio- economic condition.**
- 2. The theory is based on Western country's experiences which cannot become universal .**
- 3. It is false to correlate the birth rate with urbanisation, because some rural countries like Bulgaria and Finland have lowers down their birth rate more than any other urbanised country.**