

Population Education: A General Introduction

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I. INTRODUCTION

Population education is basically the education that deals about population and its different aspects like fertility, mortality, migration, infiltration, emigration etc. that means we can say that population education is a branch of education that entails the individual to gain some knowledge about population and its impact on our society as well as the whole world. It is a new area of study.

Aims of Population Education

The major aims of population education are given below-

- It aims to assist the individual for proper understanding the term "Population" and its consequences.
- Enables the individual about the impact of population on the life of individuals and the society.
- To acquaint people about the ill-effect of population explosion and how to survive
- Emphasizes the individual to obtain necessary attitude, aptitude, values, and skills for realizing the concept of population education.
- It also enables the learner to take correct decision about the existing population situations.

Nature of Population Education

One thing is that the population education is not static rather it change over time. It is gradually changing along with the needs and requirements of the society. The nature of population is summarized as follows-

- Population education is not only meant to quantitative aspects like number but also focuses on the qualitative aspects like human resource development.
- It promotes the skills, values, attitudes and aptitudes for acknowledging population education.
- It ensures to realize the impact of population factors for betterment of the individual and the surroundings.
- It also helps to understand the probable causes and consequences for the change of population that is what are factors responsible to make such changes whether it is biological phenomenon or social, economic, cultural and political factors.
- Population changes and the developmental; pattern are both side of the same coin that means they are interdependent with each other.
- The study of population education basically encompasses about the intricate relationship between the factors of population with several socio-economic processes.

- It is well understood from the discussion so far is that this branch is multidisciplinary in nature that is various disciplines are associated with it.

Objectives of Population Education

The main objectives of population education are listed as below-

- To design an understanding about the demographic concepts.
- To instill the values and knowledge about the population and its consequences among the learners.
- To understand the impression of population trends on various aspects of human life.
- To understand the changes of human resource at micro and macro level with the rapid changing of population.
- To understand about the policies and programmes that governed by our country.
- To understand about the ill-effect of population explosion.
- To create awareness about the relationship between small size of the family and quality of life.
- To realize the biological phenomenon of reproduction for continuance of species.
- To understand the prevailing situation of the population in national level as well as global level.
- To realize the possible determinants of the population change.
- To understand the family welfare with relation to population size.

Scope of Population Education

It has been noticed that the scope of population education is huge and wide. Let's discuss some major areas-

- *Demography*: it deals with the demographic details like birth rate, death rate, rate of immigration, sex ratio, age-sex pyramid etc.
- *Determinants of Population Change*: it also acts as a determinant of population change.
- *Consequences of population Growth*: Population explosion is a major concern for human being and also the society. The adverse effects of overpopulation has a direct effect on the day to day life of human being like biological, social, economic, cultural etc.
- *Human Sexuality and Reproductive System*: It revolves around different aspects of our reproductive system and sexual intercourse.
- *Planning for the Future*: It involves various dimensions include marriage at appropriate age, family planning, use of contraceptive pills, gap between first and second issue etc.

Causes of Population Explosion

There are plenty of reasons for over population which are listed below-

- **Falling Mortality Rate.** The primary (and perhaps most obvious) cause of population growth is an imbalance between births and deaths. The medical science has been improved a lot and as a result of this, the rate of death has been drastically reduced for the last few years. So falling mortality rate leads to flourish of the population.
- **Underutilized Contraception.** Lack of use of contraceptive pills often leads to large family concept. Apart from this, early marriage, high fertility rate and high reproductive age leads to explosion of population.
- **Lack of Female Education.** Although the literacy rate of female has been increasing over the years but still there is gender gap exist. We may say that due to illiteracy among the female, it leads to early child marriage, preference for son, these lead population explosion.
- **Ecological Degradation.** Degradation of the biodiversity, increased level of deforestation, global warming, and depletion of ozone layer, gradual degradation of natural ecosystem and steep rise of pollution are the major concern for ecological degradation.
- **Increased Conflicts.** The environmental degradation and overpopulation leads to political unrest and increased conflicts. We are watching that political war is happening for water, land and several resources between the countries.
- **Higher Risk of Disasters and Pandemics.** It is undeniable fact that we are living in the midst of pandemic and it is also noticed that our biodiversity is being affected by the human interference and several pathogens like Zika virus, Ebola virus, Covid-19 have devastated humans around the world.

Consequences of Population Explosion

Some of the major consequences of population explosion are listed below-

- **Economic instability** is a major concern as the fall of per capita income is inevitable. Apart from this, capital formation has been lowering.
- **Underemployment and unemployment** are the two most important consequences of population explosion especially in India.
- It will give rise to poor standard of living, augmentation of slum areas, under-nourishment, and unhygienic life style.
- Gradual depletion of natural resources and uneven age-structure.

Impact of Population Explosion on Education

There is notable impact of population explosion upon education which is discussed below-

- It has been found that over the years there is a huge rush for admission at all levels.
- It is also noted that infrastructural set up and accommodation facility are sometimes insufficient.
- In India, due to large no. of population, the classroom are generally found to be overcrowded.

- Very high dropout rate is a major concern. Drop out is increasing day by day due to several reasons such as poverty, illiteracy, preference of boy over girl, distinction between privileged and underprivileged class.
- Wastage and stagnation is another important impact of population explosion. Some students are not able to clear their final examinations and remain stay on the same class year after year.
- Sometimes a sort of unrest has also been noticed not only among the students but also among the teachers due to various reasons.
- Due to large size of the population, there is a very difficult task for the Govt. to train all the teachers who opt for teaching job rather we are seeing that several untrained teachers are getting recruited to the educational sector. Although this problem is going to be solved out as the order of NCTE for mandatory of the training programmes for taking teaching as profession.
- Unemployment and under-employment are the burning issue in India. It has a direct impact of our education system. Due to overpopulation, it is not possible for the Govt. or the private recruiters to offer a job to each and every person who have the requisite qualification.
- It is deniable fact that the quality of education has been deteriorating since the past few decades. Lack of quality teachers, lack of quality institutions, lack of quality students are the possible factors for such degradation.

Problems

Now we will focus upon the problems associated with population education. Such problems include food problem (low nutritional level), economical problem (difference between haves and haven'ts), problem for younger generation (lack of providing necessary amenities to all), environmental issues (pollution, shortage of housing, growth of slums, transportation problem, environmental hazards), educational problems (lack of manpower like teaching and non-teaching staffs, poor quality education, unemployment etc.)

II. CONCLUSION

So, from the above discussion we have seen that population education is an emerging branch of education. Various research based activities have been conducted so far in this domain. We have to focus on the burning issues that are proved to be significant in the arena of population education.

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