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## Population and population census

For purposes of general paper discussion is to guide students on answering following likely questions

- (i) Discuss the reasons as to why countries carry out population census.
- (ii) Explain the significance of a national population census to the government.
- (iii) What are challenges and solution to challenges faced during population census.
- (iv) To what extent is high population necessary for the country?
- (v) What measures should be put in place to counter high population growth rates in Uganda?
- (vi) What are the population associated problems in Uganda

### Remainder

- (i) General paper questions call for general knowledge and ability to use the English language to support general arguments rather than giving factual answers.
- (ii) Each point should be stated in full statement, described/all explained and illustrated with an example where necessary to earn full marks (3marks)
- (iii) Points should be rewritten in full paragraphs rather than lists
- (iv) Answers to each question should be introduced by explaining the key terms.

### Definition of key terms

**Population** refers to the number of people living in a certain area (region) at a given time

**Population census** is the headcount of all the persons living within a country at a particular period of time. This means the counting of all the children, boys, girls, men and women including those who are physically disabled in a country within a given period of time. The census of every country is often done every 10 years.

A part from population census most countries include housing census in which there is collection and compilation information concerning people's possessions such as houses/rooms, domestic animals, availability of power, phones

**Demography.** This is the study of the population structure and its composition in terms of age, sex, education levels etc.

**Population explosion.** This refers to the rapid increase in the population of a given area relative to the

available resources. Population explosion leads to over population in the long run.

**Migration.** This refers to the movement of people from one area (region) to another in a given time.

**Immigration.** This refers to the movement of people which involves entering and settling into the country from another country.

**Emigration.** This refers to the movement of people which involves moving out of the country to settle in other countries.

### Factors which influence migration of people

- (i) Imbalances in resource distribution among regions and countries.
- (ii) Differences in levels of development between regions and countries.
- (iii) Differences in incomes and wages between regions.
- (iv) Political instabilities like wars and change of regimes.
- (v) Educational requirements where people are forced to go to other countries (regions) to acquire education.
- (vi) Differences in climatic conditions which may be favorable or unfavorable.
- (vii) Diseases which may affect certain regions there by pushing people to other regions

**Birth rate (Crude birth rate).** This refers to the number of children born alive in a year per thousand of the population. It is expressed as a percentage.

$$\text{Crude birth rate (CBR)} = \frac{\text{Number of Live born babies}}{1000} \times 100\%$$

Causes of high rate in developing countries

**Death rate (crude death rate).** This refers to the number of deaths in a year per thousand of the population. It is expressed as a percentage.

$$\text{Crude death rate (CDR)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths}}{1000} \times 100\%$$

**Natural population growth rate (NPGR).** This is the difference between the number of live births per thousand of the population and the number of deaths per thousand of the population in a year.

OR. It is the difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate.

$$\text{N.P.G.R} = \text{Crude birth rate (CBR)} - \text{Crude death rate (C.D.R)}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Live births} - \text{deaths}}{1000} \times 100\%$$

**Example**

In a certain country, the birth rate is 35 per thousand and the death rate is 15 per thousand of the population. Calculate the natural population growth rate.

Solution

$$\text{N.P.G.R} = \frac{\text{Live births} - \text{deaths}}{1000} \times 100\%$$
$$\frac{35 - 15}{100} \times 100\% = 2\%$$

**Artificial population growth rate.** This is population growth rate resulting from net international migration that is the difference between immigration and emigration.

Actual population growth rate = C.B.R - C.D.R + net international migration

### Determinants of population growth rate

1. Birth rates
2. Death rates
3. Immigration
4. Emigration

**Dependence burden.** This is a situation where there is a big proportion of the non-working population depending on a smaller proportion of working population

**Dependence ratio.** This refers to the ratio of the non-working population to the working population.

$$\text{Dependence ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of dependents}}{\text{Working population (Labour force)}} \times 100\%$$
$$= \frac{\text{Young dependents} + \text{Old dependents}}{\text{Working population}} \times 100\%$$

Young dependents = people below 18 years; Old dependents = people above 65 years

Active group (working group) = 18- 65 years

**Fertility rate.** This is the average number of live children born per a fertile woman. (For Uganda's case it is six children per woman)

### Purpose of the population census to the government

**Population census determine of total number of people in the country.** Population census helps the government to know the total number of people and the population densities of various regions of the country. This provides a basis for demarcation of political constituents and allocation of political seats.

Population census helps the government to determine the demography of the population in order to plan for future education facilities, employment needs, and retirement schemes and so on.

**Population census provides revenue and expenditure estimates.** The government uses population figures to estimate tax revenues expected from the different sectors and estimate the number of taxable adults.

**Population census determines level of unemployment.** Population census determines the level and kinds of unemployment in the country. This helps the country to institute measures to reduce unemployment by promoting relevant skill development.

**Population census determines the levels of standard of living.** Population census also assists in the determination of the standard of living of the people in a county through per capita income. This catalyzes the formulation economic policies to improve the standards of living.

**Population census determines the number of immigrants.** The number and type of immigrants in a country can be known or estimated when there is adequate population census in the country. This helps on the formulation of future migration polices

**Population census directs the distribution of resources.** Population census helps the government in the optimal distribution of the resources of the country in order to ensure that the regions that have high populations like Buganda, Mbale and Kigezi highlands will get more resources than areas which has a low population.

**Population census facilitates provision of social amenities.** Population census gives the government an idea of the different population in different parts of the country which will in turn aid the government in the adequate provision of social amenities like housing, water, electricity, roads, schools, and hospital which is beneficial to the citizens of the country.

**It shows the level of available manpower.** Population census helps to reveal the total number of people who are of workable age and gainfully employed or unemployed.

When the level of manpower is high as a virtue of employment, the economic development of the country is assured.

**Population census helps government to solicit and donate aids.** Population census assists the international agencies and governments to identify people that need help. And therefore, the necessary assistance to people that really in dire need it.

**Population census guides investment decisions.** Investments are usually done in areas where population is thick and dense. High population with substantial income is used a bait to attract foreign investment. Secondary demographic population figures can point to the types and levels of necessary investments.

**Population census helps to determine the population growth rate of the country over time.** This helps to put in place control measures to regulate the rate of population growth.

**It helps to determine the ethnic and religious composition of the population that is, the ratio of the population which belongs to different tribes and religions.** This helps to put measures in place to ensure stability and peaceful coexistence.

### **Challenges faced with population census**

**Data accuracy: ensuring the accuracy of data collection is difficult.** Errors in data collection due to false information from the respondents and erroneous recording, processing and/or interpretation can lead to misleading results

**High costs: organizing a census is very expensive exercise.** It involves significant financial resources for planning, training enumerators, buying recording and interpretation resources, transport cost, data collection and processing

**Poor transport and communication facilities.** Reaching remote or hard – to – access areas like mountain Rwensori area and other is very challenging. It can result in undercounting certain populations, particularly in rural or conflict – affected areas.

**Public cooperation:** Getting people to participate and provide accurate information can be difficult. Some people may be suspicious of government intentions or simply unwilling to participate. In some ethnic and religious groups of the country counting members of the family is a taboo.

**Technological integration:** while technology can enhance data collection and processing, integrating new tool and ensuring all enumerators are adequately trained can be hurdle.

**Legal and ethical concerns.** Ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of respondents' information is crucial. There are also legal frameworks that need to be adhered to during the census process.

**Language barriers and low literacy** levels in the country may preclude obtaining accurate results.

Despite these challenges, a well-conducted census is essential for informed policy-making and planning. It provides valuable data that can shape economic, social, and infrastructure development.

### **Causes of population explosion in Uganda**

- Polygamy practices by Muslims and other communities in Uganda who are religiously accepted to marry up to more than wives has led to an increase in the population Uganda since each woman or wife produces usually on a competition basis of who will give birth to more children hence the number of children has drastically increased.
- Reduced infant mortality rate rates due to improved medical services such as immunization against killer diseases like measles, diphtheria, polio; tetanus which used to kill many of the infants has led to increase in population Nigeria.
- High fertility rate among women and men leading to more births have led to increase in population
- Low levels of education with a high illiteracy rate results into an increase in population because the less educated people tend to produce more children at an early age, have limited knowledge about family planning all of which raise the chances of having many children.
- Limited family planning education and facilities both countries has resulted into increase in population rates. The limited use of contraceptives, condoms and other family control procedures has resulted into many pregnancies whenever intercourse is done.
- Reduced maternal mortality rate due to better health care such as antenatal care.
- Government policy that encourages high population growth to develop a strong market base for agricultural and industrial goods.
- Increased life expectancy due to improved medical facilities
- Immigration into the country due to improved political stability and economic situation
- Poverty among the rural people because they lack ambitions, ideal and have enough time at their spouse doing nothing
- Political stability

### **Advantages of over population**

1. It increases the size of the domestic market for both the manufactured and agricultural products.
2. Encourages investment
3. It stimulates rapid economic growth. This is due to the expansion of investments as a result of increase in market size. .
4. It increases labour supply and mobility in the country. This increases output hence economic
5. Encourages hard work to sustain the population.
6. Encourages innovation and invention
7. The big population puts pressure on the government to provide social services so as to meet the basic needs of people.

### **Disadvantages of over population**

1. It leads to low standards of living. This is due to high cost of living and low per capita income.
2. It leads to over straining of the available social amenities like water supply, medical services, electricity, roads etc.
3. It leads to food shortage in the economy. This results in famine and malnutrition hence poor health conditions.
4. It leads to excessive demand for goods and services in the economy hence demand pull inflation.
5. It leads to balance of payment problems. This is due to increased importation of commodities in the country.
6. It encourages rural urban migration with its associated problems. This is because people leave the rural areas to come and enjoy the better services in urban areas.
7. It increases the levels of unemployment and under employment in the economy as a result of excess population.
8. It leads to over exploitation of natural resources hence environmental degradation in form of pollution.
9. It reduces government tax revenue in case the majority of the people are poor.
10. It encourages political instabilities in form of civil wars due to the excessive pressure on the government for social
11. It increases dependence burdens in the economy. This discourages savings and investments due to high consumption expenditure.
12. Leads to brain drain
13. Limited domestic market due to low income

## Population problems in developing countries (Uganda)

1. **There is food shortage to support the increasing population.** Countries are forced to import foodstuffs or to seek for foreign aid from other countries.
2. **Balance of payment problems.** This is as a result of increased government expenditure on food imports and other social requirements for the population.
3. **High levels of unemployment and under-employment.** The population growth rate exceeds the rate at which jobs are being created. This is due to limited job creating investments as a result of low savings and capital.
4. **Diminishing returns in the agriculture sector due to high population pressure on land and other natural resources.** This leads to low levels of productivity and per capita income.
5. **Low capital accumulation.** This is due to high consumption expenditures leaving little or nothing for savings and investment.
6. **Poor standards of living.** This is due to shortage of goods and services and high levels of inflation due to excessive demand for goods and services.
7. **Over exploitation of natural resources hence environmental degradation and pollution.**
8. **Rural urban migration leading to congestion, high crime rates, prostitution, theft etc. in urban centers.**
9. **High dependence burdens.** The increasing population makes developing countries to depend on other developed countries for foreign aid in form of food and other consumer goods.
10. **High levels of brain drain.** The increasing population accelerates brain drain as the young and highly educated individuals leave their countries in search of "greener pastures" in developed countries.
11. **High levels of illiteracy due to low levels of education and poor health services.** The majority of the people are poor and they cannot access the expensive higher education due to high dependence burdens.
12. **Political instabilities in form of civil wars and struggle for the limited social services.**

## Possible solutions to the population problems in developing countries

The solutions aimed at solving the problems of increasing population are contained in the population policy. Therefore the population policy is aimed at attaining optimum population by checking on population growth and increasing resources and production capacity. Such population policies include the following;



1. **Family planning.** This includes the use of contraceptive pills, condoms and other intra-uterine devices. However, this method has not been effectively used due to high levels of illiteracy and fear of side effects.
2. **Encouraging higher education.** Emphasis should be put on female education so as to check on the fertility rates and emphasize the quality of children other than the quantity. In addition, education also helps to postpone marriages for the future.
3. **Adopting production policies aimed at increasing food supply to reduce on food shortages.** This helps to reduce on the diseases associated with malnutrition.
4. **Rural development policies aimed at making rural areas attractive so as to check on rural urban migration.** Such policies include rural electrification, security, water supply etc. This also promotes agricultural production.
5. **Disease control measures.** Health programs should be set up to educate the people on how to control and reduce on the spread of diseases through primary health care.
6. **Legalizing abortion as a way of controlling unwanted pregnancies and population growth.**
7. **Use of coercive policies.** These are forced measures imposed on people by the government aimed at reducing family sizes. Such measures can be in form of legislative measures, imposing taxes on the number of children born in a family, economic disincentives
8. **Creating a stable political climate which is conducive to various social and economic activities.**  
This facilitates investments hence creating employment opportunities and incomes for the population.
9. Setting up institutions by the government to promote population control for example family planning clinics, women clubs, teenage clubs etc.
10. **Land reform policies aimed at improving on the land tenure system.** This allows prospective investors to carry out meaningful and large scale food production for the population.
11. **Reducing income inequalities by emplacing balanced regional development.** This helps to check on resource misallocation by the minority rich in form of investing in luxurious activities.
12. **Putting in place policies aimed at discouraging immigration and encouraging emigration.** This not only controls population growth but also it leads to income in flow in form of the incomes earned by the nationals employed abroad.

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