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Study Notes

Pyramids of Population

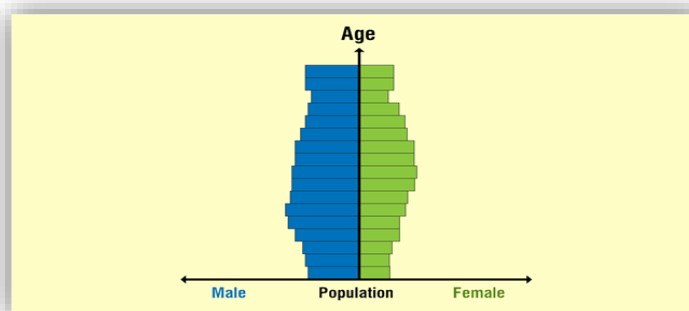## Pyramids of population

What is Population-Pyramid?

A population pyramid is a graphical representation of the age and sex composition of a specific population.

There are several different types of population pyramids that can be observed, each indicating specific demographic patterns and characteristics. Here are the main types of population pyramids:

1. **Expansive Pyramid:** An expansive pyramid is characterized by a wide base, indicating a high proportion of children and a large population of younger individuals. The bars gradually decrease in width as age increases, indicating a higher birth rate and rapid population growth. This type of pyramid is typically observed in developing countries with high fertility rates and limited access to healthcare and education. It suggests a potentially high dependency ratio and a need for significant investments in infrastructure and social services.
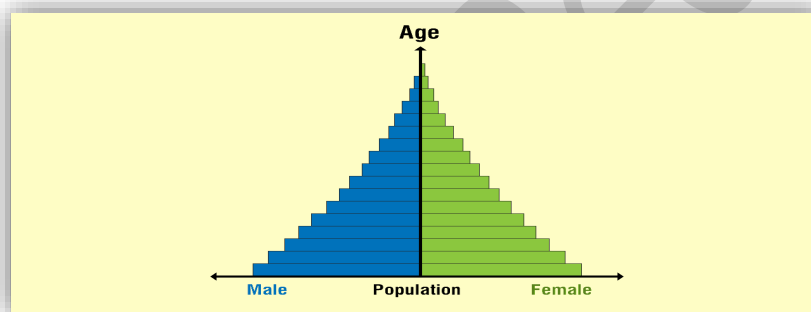
2. **Constrictive Pyramid:** A constrictive pyramid has a narrower base, indicating a lower proportion of children in the population. The bars gradually decrease in width as age increases, demonstrating lower birth rates and slower population growth. This pyramid shape is commonly seen in developed countries with lower fertility rates and better access to healthcare and education. It suggests a potential decline in population size over time and an ageing population, which may have implications for healthcare and pension systems.

3. **Rectangular Pyramid:** A rectangular pyramid has relatively uniform widths across most age groups, indicating consistent population size and birth rates across different age cohorts. This type of pyramid is associated with developed countries with low fertility rates, high life expectancy, and stable population growth. It suggests a relatively balanced age structure and a low dependency ratio, indicating a relatively stable and sustainable population.

4. **Stationary Pyramid:** A stationary pyramid has roughly equal widths across all age groups, indicating relatively stable population size and birth rates. This type of pyramid is often associated with a population that has reached replacement-level fertility, where the number of births is roughly equal to the number of deaths. It suggests a balanced age structure with a relatively constant population size and a low dependency ratio.
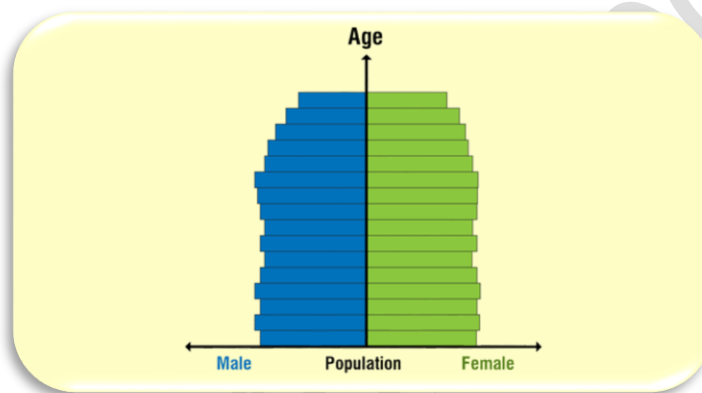
5. **Inverted Pyramid:** An inverted pyramid has a narrower base and wider top, indicating a higher proportion of elderly individuals compared to younger ones. This pyramid shape is often associated with countries experiencing low fertility rates, longer life expectancy, and declining population growth. It suggests an ageing population and potential challenges in providing healthcare and social support for the elderly.

These different types of population pyramids provide valuable insights into the demographic characteristics, growth patterns, and potential challenges or opportunities associated with a particular population. They serve as useful tools for policymakers, planners, and researchers in understanding and addressing various demographic trends and their implications.

Demographic Scenario in India

The country's population for the age cohorts of **0-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19 is roughly equal,** whereas the numbers for older groups become progressively smaller.

- Age 0-4: This age group accounts for 14.2% of the population.
- Age 5-9: This age group accounts for 12.9% of the population.
- Age 10-14: This age group accounts for 11.6% of the population.
- Age 15-19: This age group accounts for 10.3% of the population.

- Age 20-24: This age group accounts for 8.9% of the population.
- Age 25-29: This age group accounts for 7.6% of the population.
- Age 30-34: This age group accounts for 6.3% of the population.
- Age 35-39: This age group accounts for 5% of the population.
- Age 40-44: This age group accounts for 3.7% of the population.
- Age 45-49: This age group accounts for 2.4% of the population.
- Age 50-54: This age group accounts for 1.1% of the population.
- Age 55-59: This age group accounts for 0.8% of the population.
- Age 60-64: This age group accounts for 0.5% of the population.
- Age 65-69: This age group accounts for 0.3% of the population.
- Age 70-74: This age group accounts for 0.2% of the population.
- Age 75-79: This age group accounts for 0.1% of the population.
- Age 80+: This age group accounts for 0.1% of the population.

This means that the country's younger age groups have now stopped increasing in numbers and are likely to shrink slightly soon. However, this does not mean that India's population will also start shrinking anytime soon. Except for the oldest groups, there are more men than women in every group in India.

What is the Population Growth History of India?

India currently accounts for **17.5% of the world's population**. This is four times the population of India at the time of independence in 1947.

Period of the slow growth rate of population (1891-1921): Between 1891 and 1921, the rate of population growth in India was low. This was because, over the years, disasters and epidemics, such as famine, plague, malaria, etc. It had a huge impact on human life.

Period of High Growth of Population (1921-51): The Census Commissioner has referred to the year 1921 as the Year of Great Divide.

Period of population explosion (1951-1981): The population grew rapidly between 1951-1961. This is called the 'period of population explosion.

A period of high growth with definite signs of slowing down since 1981: The decadal growth rate during 1981-91 was recorded at 23.87 per cent as compared to 24.66 per cent during the previous decade (1971-81).

Recent population growth trends: Despite overtaking China, India's population growth is slowing down.

According to the National Family Health Survey, for the first time, the total fertility rate is below the replacement level of 2.1. The United Nations estimates that India's population will reach 1.67 billion in 2050, while in 2100 it will reach 1.53 billion.