


Population

Nursing Sociology

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Population

- ▶ Society and Population
 - ▶ Population distribution in India - demographic characteristics
 - ▶ Malthusian theories of population
 - ▶ Population explosion in India and its impact on health status
 - ▶ Family welfare programmes
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Society and Population

- ▶ The science of population is also called demography - a fundamental approach to the understanding of human society.
- ▶ The task of a demographer is to ascertain the number of people in a given area, the changes that have taken place over the last years and to estimate future trend.
- ▶ **Births, Deaths and Migration** are considered here - it is sociologically important also - to a great extent it is socially determined - population is studied not only with reference to area but also with reference to its characteristics.


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- ▶ The births depend upon the fertility whereas the deaths depend upon mortality.
- ▶ Thus these three factors, i.e., **Fertility, Mortality and Migration influence the number of people in a particular area.** These factors are, to a great extent, socially determined and socially determining.
- ▶ The demographer studies the population not only with reference to area but also with reference to the characteristics such as age, sex, literacy, religion, occupation and marital status.

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- ▶ All these traits which are selected by the populationist are socially important.
- ▶ The census, therefore, gives information that is both demographically and socially important.
- ▶ Society plays a vital role to increase the population and to maintain the social order. **The uncontrolled growth of population may threaten the social order.** If that is so, the society has to impose restraints on such growth.
- ▶ Therefore, an adjustment between the rate of population growth and the social condition is necessary.

Social Determinants of Fertility:

- ▶ The society does not allow the people to reproduce to their full biological capacity.
 - ▶ It always puts control on the actual reproduction which are both conscious and unconscious controls.
 - ▶ On the other hand society encourages fertility consciously and unconsciously.
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Consciously and unconsciously control the fertility

▶ **Unconscious Controls for fertility:**

- Taboos on the association of males and females. (for Ex: a wife will not associate with men other than her husband)
- Taboos on sexual intercourse. (for Ex: a brother will not intercourse with his sister)
- Taboos against fornication and adultery at different levels. (for Ex: a man and woman will not intercourse unless married).

▶ **Conscious Controls for fertility:**

- In fixing the minimum age for marriage.
- Forbidding widow remarriage.
- Monogamous Marriage.
- Limiting the size of the family.

Consciously and unconsciously encourage the fertility

- ▶ **Consciously encourage for fertility:**
 - A rebate (discount) in income tax.
 - A higher dearness allowance.
 - A facility for getting a house
 - Admission to certain positions.

- ▶ **Unconsciously encourage for fertility:**
 - Salvation of the soul.
 - Security of old age.
 - The production of goods.
 - The assurance of affection.

Factors determining upon fertility

- ▶ Age at marriage
 - ▶ Separation and divorce
 - ▶ Celibacy
 - ▶ Family system
 - ▶ Social status of women
 - ▶ Geographical factor
- Polygamy
 - Widowhood
 - Urbanization
 - Occupation
 - Transport facility
 - Medical facility

Social Determinants of Mortality

- ▶ (i) Situations Defined as Calling for Death:-
- ▶ The aged and infirm may be left to their lot.
- ▶ Deformed children and Female infanticide exposure.
- ▶ Sati practice.
- ▶ War - suicide in war - suicide for various reasons.
- ▶ Thus, killing or suicide whether institutionalized or individualistic is an important cause of death in society.

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- ▶ (ii) Practices Intended to Give Health but Having the Opposite Effect:-
 - ▶ Magical Treatment
 - ▶ Prayer
 - ▶ Sacrifice
 - ▶ Priestly ministrations - which are intended to give health produce opposite effect.

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- ▶ (iii) Practices considered Irrelevant to Health, but Injuring it:-
 - ▶ Injurious customs such as eating with hands, walking barefooted, betel chewing, custom of wearing tight dress.
 - ▶ Thus, there are several social factors which cause sickness and death.
 - ▶ However, the society also tries to check sickness and mortality and reduce the mortality rate.
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