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An Institute for Civil Services

# MAINS TEST SERIES 2023

# GS MAINS Q&A

## TOPICAL TEST - 41

(5 QUESTION)

# GEOGRAPHY

## Demography, Census, Settlement, Migration And Human Development

# GEOGRAPHY - 6

*Time Allowed: 50 Mins.* *Max. Marks: 75*

1. **Discuss the basic features and pattern of urbanisation of India. Suggest measures to facilitate sustainable urbanization.**
2. **"The ageing global population and contracting workforce have increased the possibilities of emigration of human capital from young countries like India". Analyze.**
3. **Is it true that - being educated and well-off has nothing to do with the declining child sex ratio (CSR) in India? Discuss. Also, analyze the causes of declining CSR and its socio-economic implications.**
4. **Instead of having a new population policy for India, efforts should be doubled to increase the country's skilled population. Do you agree?**
5. **Bring out the causes of internal migration in India and discuss its demographic and environmental consequences.**

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# GEOGRAPHY - 6

***1. Discuss the basic features and pattern of urbanisation of India. Suggest measures to facilitate sustainable urbanization.***

***Approach***

1. ***The question demands the analysis of the urbanization in India***
2. ***Briefly introduce with the urbanization in India***
3. ***Discuss the basic feature and pattern of urbanization in India. Here, give some data and analyse on the basis of regions, and disparity.***
4. ***Highlight the steps taken by India and suggest some measures***
5. ***Conclude with the gist of the answer***

*Hints:*

Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. The population residing in urban areas in India, according to the 1901 census, was 11.4%, increasing to 28.53% by the 2001 census, and in 2021 it was 35.4% according to the World Bank. According to a survey by UN, in 2030 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas. As per World Bank, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050.

**The salient features of the Indian urbanization:**

- The Indian urbanization is of subsistence nature. It implies that the migrants from rural areas are attracted to the urban centers not for urban environment but for employment.
- The Indian urbanization has poly-metropolitan apex in which the million cities dominate the entire urban scheme accounting for more than one-third of India's total urban population.
- There are as many as 3 million cities, including three mega cities, i.e., Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi.
- The big cities of India are exploding in their population while the small towns are stagnating.
- The Indian towns are growing more on the basis of tertiary rather than the secondary sector. However, the growth of district headquarters in the recent decades has built up an infrastructure of large-scale urbanization based on higher degree of industrialization.
- The multi-functionary of a large number of districts headquarters of India is an index of the kind of decentralized urban/industrial devel-opment taking place in the country. These district headquarters are becoming more and more diversified in their functions.

**Pattern of urbanisation in India**

- The Indian urban system is not integrated both functionally and spatially as a consequence of which there are breaks and imbalances in urban hierarchy as well as in the rural-urban profile.

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- The apex of the urban system in India is lopsided, the urban base in rural areas is sub-standard and the intermediary link through the market towns is weak.
- In states like Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu more than 35 per cent people live in urban centres.
- Whereas only 20 per cent of people in Uttar Pradesh live in cities, only 14. 3 of Orissa is urbanised and 10 per cent of Bihar lives in urban centres. Thus it indicates that urbanization is concentrated in few states than in others.
- Secondly, urbanisation in India has been mostly present in southern and western part of the country and not much in eastern and North-east India.
- Apart from state capitals and few urban centres, within the state urbanisation is more or less meager.
- Also state led planning is inclined towards developing new urban townships located near already urbanized centres rather than urbanizing new regions.
- Within the cities, urbanisation in sense of urban facilities is skewed towards the core region of cities, keeping the outskirts of the cities undeveloped.
- Slums, old settlements and illegal constructions in the cities don't show signs of urbanisation, thus giving a perception of urbanisation process witnessing a skewed growth within the cities itself.

**Steps taken for sustainable urban development**

- **74$^{th}$ Constitutional Amendment:** The 74$^{th}$ Amendment Act of 1992 provides a basic framework of decentralisation of powers and authorities to the Municipal bodies at different levels.
- **Smart Cities mission:** This ambitious programme by the Indian Government aims at building 100 Smart Cities across India with focus on planned urbanisation and sustainable development as a support system for the neighbouring cities.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Urban) or Housing for All:** The scheme was launched for providing 20 million affordable homes for the urban poor including slum dwellers.
- **The Swachh Bharat Mission:** It is the government's nationwide flagship programme with the objective of universal sanitation coverage in urban areas.
- **AMRUT scheme:** The focus of the AMRUT scheme was on infrastructure creation that has a direct link to provision of better services to the citizens.
- **National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM):** The scheme is a livelihood promotion programme to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities thereby enhancing their livelihood.
- **Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Program:** The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a $350 million policy-based loan to improve access to urban services in India.

**Steps needed to facilitate sustainable urbanisation in India are:**

- Increasing investment in urban infrastructure.
- Engaging in renewal and redevelopment of urban areas including slums.
- Improving regional and metropolitan planning with integration of land use and transportation.
- Ensuring access to services for all including the poor to meet the recommended norms.
- Reforming systems of service delivery.

- Improving governance of cities and towns.
- Controlling the increasing pollution level.
- Strengthening and securing the financial base of urban local bodies.

**Conclusion:**

In the coming decades, the urban sector will play a critical role in the structural transformation of the Indian economy and in sustaining the high rates of economic growth. Cities will have to become the engines of national development. India cannot afford to get its urban strategy wrong, but it cannot get it right without bringing about a fundamental shift in the mindset which separates rural from the urban.

## 2. *"The ageing global population and contracting workforce have increased the possibilities of emigration of human capital from young countries like India". Analyze.*

***Approach***

1. ***Briefly discuss the increasing workforce of India, contracting workforce of developed countries and emigration of human capital from India.***
2. ***Discuss problem of Brain Drain from India and reasons behind it and Steps needed to check it.***
3. ***Conclude with importance of skilled human resources for a developing country like India.***

***Hints:***

India with largest demographic dividend is the youngest country of the world and is expected to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027 according to World Population report, 2019 published by United Nations. World is currently unleashing the fourth industrial revolution which is characterized by less human interference due to innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics.

Increasing demographic dividend and limited opportunities has created unemployment in India but at the same time has created opportunities for it to export services to developed countries of the world which are in fourth stage of demographic dividend with contracting work force. As these countries are involved in research and development in various fields, they need talented pool of human resources. Although, this will provide opportunities to Indian workforce but will create problem of Brain Drain.

**Brain Drain from India and reasons behind it**

- Among the Asian countries, India continued its trend of being the top country of birth for immigrant scientists and engineers, with 9, 50,000 out of Asia's total 2.96 million.
- There was an 85% increase in immigration of human capital from India between 2003 to 2013 which is highest in the world.
- Unemployment in India is a serious social issue. Millions of engineers are graduated every year in India and among that only 4% gets a good job and rest 60% remain unemployed. Employment in India has seen a 46 year high at 8.5 % according to data published by NSSO.
- Lack of entrepreneurship attitude in India due to hardships faced by businesses due to corruption and licensing policies. Further, higher corporate taxation has limited the scope of global corporates who hesitate to invest in India.
- Better facilities and remuneration provided by developed countries to talented pool of the country attracts them.
- This leads to emigration of the top rung of human capital from the country such as Scientists, Engineers and doctors leading to vacuum in innovative leadership of respective sectors.
- This impacts research and development and outflow of innovative ideas from the country, causing India to depend on developed countries for this modern technology.

- If this talented pool can be checked from going out, India will be able to cater solutions for its domestic problems.

**Steps needed to check Brain Drain**

- India should think the China's way to check brain drain by providing facilities and remuneration as par the developed countries of the world.
- India needs to invest more on skill development so that a larger chunk of young population becomes so educated and skillful that brain drain in nullified by domestic talent pool.
- Ease of doing business needs to be improved in a better pace so that Indian talents could be able to produce companies like Tesla and Microsoft.

**Conclusion:**

Although India has the largest demographic dividend in the world and receives highest remittances from abroad along with producing best talented doctors, engineers and scientist in the world but it lacks skilled labour force to fulfill its domestic needs. It has also reduced India as a supplier of cheap labour force globally. There is a serious lack of R&D activities and initiatives in India which has created a gap in innovative spheres of various initiatives while our own scientists are working for global giants like Microsoft, Google, Tesla and organizations such as NASA and ESA. India must take initiatives to check 'Brain Drain' to fulfill its domestic obligations regarding better R&D.

### *3. Is it true that - being educated and well-off has nothing to do with the declining child sex ratio (CSR) in India? Discuss. Also, analyze the causes of declining CSR and its socio-economic implications.*

***Approach***

1. ***Introduction: Briefly define Child Sex Ratio and provide relevant facts***
2. ***Discuss your views on whether education and being well off have anything to do with declining child sex ratio (CSR) in India***
3. ***Discuss other causes of declining CSR***
4. ***Mention the socio-economic implications of declining CSR***
5. ***Conclude with measures and way forward***

*Hints:*

The Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is the number of females for 1000 males in the age group 0 to 6 years. As per Census 2011, Child sex Ratio was 927 which declined to 918 in 2011.

**It is not true that Education has nothing to do with Child Sex Ratio because:**

- Education makes people more aware that there is no difference between a male or female child and both have the same potential
- It empowers people to fight against gender based discrimination, stigma of girl child
- Education of women especially empowers them to fight against patriarchal norms wherein in-laws may force them to abort a female foetus or practice female infanticide
- With the help of Education, female role models can be created for the society that can encourage people to change their mindset For example: Kalpana Chawla, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Indira Nooyi and more
- Raise awareness of mothers on importance of nutrition especially during pregnancy, lactation and children's nutrition and empower them to ensure there is no discrimination in nutrition of boy and girl child

- Education also helps men understand that it is not up to the woman to decide the sex of foetus but the male parent contributes the chromosome that determines the sex
- Thus, education plays an important role in addressing the declining Child Sex Ratio in India

**It is also not true that being well-off has nothing to do with Child Sex Ratio:**

- Poverty is a cited by families as a key reason for female foeticide because families worry about the strain on scarce resources to raise a female child
- Financial security reduces the gender based discrimination in allocation of scarce resources in the family like nutrition, food, healthcare, and education
- Thus, malnutrition is over 8% higher for girl children than boys
- According to a study by UNICEF, Parents are less likely to seek treatment for a sick baby girl than a boy in India, where more female infants that male die within the first month of being born
- Not being well off raises concerns of having enough bread-winners in the family and since patriarchy suggests that women will need to marry off and leave the family, a meta-preference for male children is created as per Economic Survey
- However, counterintutively, some studies also showed that Child Sex Ratio declined even as per capita income increased nearly 10 times over the last 65 years. This could be because with rising income, access to sex selective procedures became more affordable

**Other causes of declining CSR in India:**

- **Weak enforcement of laws:** Over the last 25 years, 617 convictions have happened under the PCPNDT Act according to Parliamentary committee on empowerment of women
- **Poor reporting** by kin and women themselves in case of female foeticide and infanticide. The women themselves are often in fear of domestic violence or being abandoned by in-laws if they report
- **Entrenched** patriarchal mindset and attitudes
- **Lack of sensitization** among law enforcement agencies when investigating or filing reports on these cases
- Son preference and the belief that only sons can perform the last rites, that lineage and inheritance runs through the male line, sons will look after parents in old age, men are the bread winners etc.
- Exorbitant demand for dowry is another reason for female foeticide or infanticide
- Medical practitioners flout the PCPNDT Act and many are unaware of the punishment that not just family but even the medical practitioners are charged if reported under PCPNDT

**Socio-economic implications of declining Sex Ratio:**

- Lower child sex ratio results in indirect disempowerment of women as it subjects them to greater violence including human trafficking
- Lower CSR has led to a situation where, apart from the ingrained son preference, people don't want girls all the more as they feel that it is difficult to keep them safe
- Lower CSR affects marriage patterns and by extension fertility patterns and demography
- For example, in Bibipur village in Haryana, there is no woman left to marry which has inspired men to collaborate to fight female foeticide
- A lower share of women means lesser representation in politics and political decision making
- As an extension of the socio-political impact, the participation of women in the economy also gets affected and women get forced to fulfill only domestic roles

- Lower female participation in labour force affects economic productivity and growth
- According to the World Bank India could boost its growth by 1.5 percentage points to 9 percent per year if around 50% of women could join the workforce.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, declining CSR has serious socio-economic implications in India. Measures like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao; Sukanya Samridhi Yyojna, Poshan Abhiyaan, Cradle Baby Scheme to end Female Foeticide are all positive steps in the right direction to improve CSR in India. Further, civil society participation, awareness and empowerment at the grassroots is the need of the hour.

## *4. Instead of having a new population policy for India, efforts should be doubled to increase the country's skilled population. Do you agree?*

### *Approach*

1. ***This question demands your views on whether India's efforts should be focused on improving the skills of its population or in developing a new population policy. The views must be substantiated with justification.***
2. ***Introduction: Briefly contextualize the question by describing the current population challenge of India***
3. ***In detail, substantiate why it would be better to focus on upskilling the population than developing a new population policy***
4. ***Mention the need to reap demographic dividend and how upskilling can help instead of a new population policy. Provide relevant data***
5. ***Conclude by reiterating your stand and how it will help India achieve its national economic growth and development priorities***

*Hints:*

According to the UN World Population Prospects Report, India's population will surpass China's by 2023. The remarkable feature of India's population is that with an average age of 28.4, India has one of the youngest populations in an ageing world. Ensuring skills development of India's young population is an indispensable way to reap its demographic dividend.

**Thus, rather than having a new population policy, India needs to double efforts to increase its skilled population. This is because:**

- Jobless growth has increased pressure on economic and social systems and urban systems resulting in additional frustrations, stress and dissent among youth
- Only one in 4 MBAs, one in 5 engineers and one in 10 graduates are employable. Skill development helps make the workforce employable
- Skill development also ensures that the young population is able to cope with changes in the job market and stay relevant.
- UNICEF has projected that over 50% of Indians will not have the relevant skills for employment by 2030
- Rapidly changing technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, data require a skill development system and policies that are equally responsive and adaptive to the new emerging technologies
- Promotion of entrepreneurial and leadership skills will help build more job creators than job seekers and support job led growth
- India's total fertility rate declined from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2.0 in 2019-20. This shows credible progress in population control as replace level fertility is 2.1

- In the past, countries like Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan have demonstrated the benefits of upskilling young population to reaping demographic dividend
- According to United Nations, skill development helps make the population resilient to evolving challenges, improve their productivity in jobs, increases employability and makes them future-ready
- Thus, the focus needs to be on skilling the young population instead of developing a new population policy so India can optimally reap its demographic dividend

**Measures taken by Government in increasing country's skilled population:**

- National Skill Development Corporation set up with the aim to upskill 500 million Indians by 2022
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal VikasYojna has trained over 10 million youth since 2015
- SANKALP (improve district level skill development ecosystem) and STRIVE: (Capability building of Industrial Training Institutes)
- TEJAS initiative for skilling overseas Indians working in the Emirates
- National Skill Qualification Framework allows students to acquire desired levels of competency and job transitions

**Conclusion:**

India has a very good population policy designed in 2000. States also have their population policies. We just need to add ageing to our population policy focus apart from taking initiatives for skilling our population. There is a need for more investments in family planning and overall investment in population. We need a policy that supports reproductive health for individuals. Measures are also needed to ensure skill development of Women and Divyangjan and encourage their workforce participation. India's population policy must evolve from merely focusing on population control towards empowering its young population with skill development so the country can truly reap its demographic dividend.

## *5. Bring out the causes of internal migration in India and discuss its demographic and environmental consequences.*

***Approach***

1. ***The question requires the analysis of internal migration in India***
2. ***Briefly introduce with the internal migration of India and contextually link it with the question***
3. ***Then write about the push and pull factors for migration and write the demographic and environmental consequences***
4. ***Conclude with suggestions on how to deal with the migration***

*Hints:*

Internal migration or domestic migration is human migration within a country. Internal migration tends to be travel for education and for economic improvement or because of a natural disaster or civil disturbance. Internal migration is an important and pervasive feature of the Indian economy and society. People, generally are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence. There could be variety of reasons. These reasons can be put into two broad categories that is push and pull factors.

**Causes of Migration in India**

*Push factor*

- In India people migrate from rural to urban areas mainly due to poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc.

- Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as, flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake, tsunami, wars and local conflicts also give extra push to migrate.

*Pull factor:*

- On the other hand, there are pull factors which attract people from rural areas to cities. The most important pull factor for majority of the rural migrants to urban areas is the better opportunities, availability of regular work and relatively higher wages.
- Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite important pull factors.
- Migration from rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha to the rural areas of Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh accounted for the success of their green revolution strategy for agricultural development.
- Besides this, unregulated migration to the metropolitan cities of India has caused overcrowding. Development of slums in industrially developed states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi is a negative consequence of unregulated migration within the country.

**Demographic consequences of Migration:**

- Migration leads to the redistribution of the population within a country.
- Rural urban migration is one of the important factors contributing to the population growth of cities.
- Age and skill selective out migration from the rural area have adverse effect on the rural demographic structure. However, high out migration from Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Eastern Maharashtra have brought serious imbalances in age and sex composition in these states. Similar imbalances are also brought in the recipients states.

**Environmental consequences of migration:**

- Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas. This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums shanty colonies.
- Due to over-exploitation of natural resources, cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution, disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes. According to WHO, of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, the top 14 are Indian cities.

**Conclusion:**

Internal migrants' rights to move freely throughout the country as citizens do not necessarily protect them, for simply being an Indian national does not equate to being a citizen with fully socially recognized persons with rights. Hence, multifaceted approaches are needed to protect the migrants and develop them socially and economically. Also, overcrowding of people due to rural urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas. This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums shanty colonies. Thus, steps are also needed to be taken to provide safe environment to urban population.

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