

Grade 7

Social studies note

UNIT –FOUR

Population Related Issues

A. The prevalence of HIV and AIDS IN A Africa

HIV/AIDS is human immune-deficiency virus killing thousands of people in every part of the continent.

-The African countries South of Sahara are more affected by HIV/AIDS.

-Both HIV prevalence rates and the number of people dying from AIDS vary greatly between African countries.

-Altogether there are 16 countries in which more than one tenth of the adult population aged 15-49 is infected with HIV.

-Africa Region based on HIV/AIDS

1. South Africa

- 19.9 percent of adult are now infected with HIV . with a totals of 4.2 million people.
- South Africa has the largest number of people affected with HIV/AIDS.
- From South Africa countries Botswana (23.9%) Lesotho (23.2%) and Swaziland (26.11%) the national adult HIV prevalence rate exceeds 20 percent.

2. West Africa

- has been less affected by HIV/AIDS.

-Cotd' Ivare is among the 15 worst affected countries in the world

- Nigeria HIV prevalence 3.1 percent

- Cameron HIV prevalence is now estimated 5.1 percent.

- Gabon 5.9 percent

-The prevalence rate In other west Africa countries remained below 3 percent.

3. East Africa

- Infection rate in east Africa was one of the highest on the continent.
- -Adult HIV prevalence in east Africa (Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) exceeds 5 percent.
- -Uganda has brought its prevalence rate down to around 8 percent from 14 percent in 1990's because the government of Uganda took prevention measures by using religious leaders and community development organizations.
- The prevalence irate among adults in Ethiopia has reached 2.5 percent.

- In general HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa have increased from time to time.
- High prevalence rates of infection exist among
    - ❖ Teenagers
    - ❖ Women in their early 20's
- The infection rates in young African women are far higher than young men's because girls are more easily infected during sexual intercourse.

B. The importance of HIV and AIDS in Africa

- HIV and AIDS are having a wide spread impact on many parts of African people. 2/3 of all people infected with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa. This region of Africa contains little more than 10 percent of world's population.
- The major impacts of HIV/AIDS are

i. Impact on life expectancy

- Life expectancy means the amount of time one is expected to live.
- Millions of adults are dying from AIDS while they are still young.
- Average life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is now 47 years when it could have been 62 without AIDS.

ii. The impact on households

- The presence of AIDS causes the household to dissolve. When parents die children are sent to relatives for care and upbringing.
- Many families are losing their income earners children may be forced to abandom their education and women may be forced to run to sex work.
- Food shortage have a devastating effect on households where the head of the family died of AIDS epidemic.

iii. Impact on health sector

- AIDS epidemic is adding additional pressure on the health sector.
- In sub-Saharan Africa people with HIV related diseases occupy more than half of all hospital beds.

iv. The impact on children

- As parents and family members become ill, children take on the responsibility to earn an income, produce food, care for family members.
- after both of the parents are HIV positive in Africa consequently more children have been orphaned.

v. The impact on the education sector

- AIDS can affect education, but education can help to controlling and preventing HIV/AIDS.

- A decline in school enrolment is one of the most visible effects of the epidemic children's may be removed from school to care for parents or family members of they themselves may be affected with HIV many are unable to afford school fees and other such expenses.
- HIV and AIDS are having a devastating effect on teachers. When a teacher falls ill, the class may be taken by another teacher or may be combined with another class.

vi. Impact on productivity

- HIV and AIDS epidemic has affected labor, which in turn shows down economic activity and social progress. The majority of people affected with HIV and AIDS in Africa are between the age of 15 and 49 in the prime of their working lives.
- Employers, schools, factories and hospitals have to train other staff.

vii. The impact on the Economy

- AIDS affects the economy by reducing the labor supply through increased mortality and illness. Government income also declines as tax revenues fall.
- AIDS in Africa is linked to many other problems such as poverty and poor public infrastructure.

Consequence of rapid population growth

The importance between Resources and needs

- Rapid population growth contributes for high demand for basic needs of individual over populated area of the world there are many people who cannot met these needs unmet need may lead to social unrest and conflict.
- The effect of rapid population growth

A. Effect on food supply

- One of the most basic needs threatened by over population is food.
- 10 million people die each year because they do not have a good diet.

B. Effect on natural resources supply

- If people today use up the resources it will make the problems for the future.
- Many developing countries are also using huge amount of water to develop irrigation for dry lands. However water has been polluted in many places around the world. For these reason, many water specialists think that having enough water will be a major problem in the future.

C. Effect on education

- Rapid population growth has resulted in growing demand for education. Nowadays the total number of students has increased very greatly. But still there are large numbers of children who do not get the chance to go to school.

D. Effects on health

- Africa is the least developed continent with a poor health status. The majority of the population has low access to modern health services.
  Relatively urban areas are better in health status than rural areas.
- The major indicator of health status are
  - ✓ Infant mortality rate
  - ✓ Child mortality rate
  - ✓ Maternal mortality rate
  - ✓ Life expectancy
  - ✓ Access to safe water

E. Effects on natural environment

- Rapid population growth causes serious environmental degradation.
  Some of them include

i. Deforestation

- Increase the people migrate to marginal lands. This in turns has increased deforestation and overgrazing.

ii. Soil Erosion

- High population pressure has led to expansion of land under cultivation. This has resulted soil erosion.

F. Effects on Employment

- Rapid population growth does not match with job opportunities.
  - ❖ **Poverty**
    Absolute poverty – Lack of sufficient income to fulfill his/her basic needs like food clothing and shelter.
    Example: - Sub-Saharan Africa
    - Latin America
    - Asia
- In richer countries securing basic needs is rarely a problem, but in the poorer countries hunger and starvation are crucial problems.
  Some of the reasons for the countries to be less developed include
  - ✓ Rapid population growth
  - ✓ Lack of money to be invested
  - ✓ Lack of money for establishing new industries
  - ✓ Insufficient money to developing infrastructure

Exercise

Write the correct answer for the following questions.

1. What is HIV/AIDS?
2. Which age of group is more vulnerable to HIV/? Why?
3. How HIV has an impact on the life expectancy of individuals?
4. How orphan is an impact of HIV/AIDS?
5. What is population growth?
6. Write at least three impacts of HIV/AIDS in one country?
7. Write at least three impacts of population growth?
8. What is poverty?
9. Differentiate relative and absolute poverty?
10. What is the difference between infant and child mortality rate?