LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 5  
TOPIC: WORLD POPULATION

SUB TOPIC: **PROBLEMS OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH**  
MAIN OBJECTIVES: By the end of this lesson, student should be able to

(a) state the factors affecting population growth

**(b) describe the pattern of world population**

**(c) state the problems of rapid population growth**

**(d) state the advantages and disadvantages of low and high densities**

STEP I

FACTORS AFFECTING THE GROWTH OF WORLD POPULATION

Factors affecting the growth of population can be classified broadly into physical and human factors

**(a) Physical factors**

(i)            *Climate:* areas with favourable climate like U.S.A, China etc do attract population while areas of unfavourable or harsh climate like desert and Polar Regions d not attract population

(ii)           *Availability of water*: areas where water is available, both human and agricultural purposes like U.S.A, India etc attracts he population

(iii)         *Relief*: lowlands and river valleys like Nile delta, India etc and lowland plateaux attracts population while high mountains and rugged hills like rockies, andes etc repel population

(iv)         *Soil*: fertile soil tends to attracts population like Ganges of India, Java etc. While infertile soil like those in desert and Polar Regions do not

(v)          *Presence of mineral resources*: the presence of mineral resources like coal, iron, petroleum etc does not attract population

**(b) Human factors**

(i)            *Agriculture*: areas where agriculture is widely practiced like India, China and Java do not attract population

(ii)           *Religion belief*: The Islamic religion believes in polygamy and early marriages, and these promote high population concentration in an area where it is practiced

(iii)          *Industry*: concentration of industries attract people because of job opportunity

(iv)         *Immigration:* the movement of people from one parts of the world to an area due to the availability of employment opportunities in these areas usually leads to high population concentration

(v)          *Transportation network*: the presence of good transportation network in an area promotes arid facilities migration to increase the population

STEP II:

PATTERN OF WORLD POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Pattern of world population distribution is distributed into three

**(A)          The Very Densely Populated Parts of the World:** the most densely populated areas of the world include

(i)            *Industrial North* – West Europe: this include countries like Great Britain, France, German, Denmark, Belgium. These areas are highly industrialized due to the presence of coal and iron

(ii)           *Industrial North* – Eastern U.S.A: this is the great industrial belt of the United States and Canada stretching from the shore of the Great lakes though Pittsburg to New York which is very rich in Coal and iron

(iii)          *Agricultural Monsoon Asia*: This includes populous countries like China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia etc. This area is the largest population concentration of the world, known for fertile soils, warm climate and abundant rainfall which promote agriculture.

(iv)         *The Nile Valley and Delta*: This essentially Eygpt. It is an area within the sahara desert which through irrigation has converted a desert into an area of high agricultural activities and consequently high population

**(B)         The Moderately Populated Parts of the World:** These Include:

(i) Areas of cool temperate forest Europe, Canada and Asia.

(ii) The temperate and tropical glass land of Southern continents

(iii) Agricultural U.S.A

(iv) Mediterranean Europe

(v) Africa

(vi) Most part of South Asia

**(C) The Sparsely Populated Part of the World:** The very sparsely populated part of the world Include:

(i) The cold polar lands of arctic and Antantica which are inhabited due to cold weather

(ii) The Canadian and Eurasian tundra and Greenland also due to cold weather

(iii) The hot deserts of the world like Kalahari, the Atacama, the Sahara etc. Due to the hot weather and dryness no rainfall

(iv) The dense tropical rain forest like the Amazon basin (South America), Congo (Zaire) basin (Central Africa). Both are uninhabited jungles

STEP III

**PROBLEMS CAUSED BY RAPID POPULATION GROWTH**  
1. High rate of infant mortality is certain in a growing population because of social pressure  
2. High mobility will also result in a rapidly growing population  
3. Rapid population growth is always accompanied by food shortages  
4. The pressure on the low lean social services may led to low life expectancy  
5. Malnutrition and diseases  
6. Overpopulation always breeds vices such as armed robbery, prostitution etc  
7. Inflation is bound to occur, in a situation of growing population  
8. Over crowding: growing population always leads to overcrowding

**Advantages of High Population Densities**  
1. High population provides large labour force for industries  
2. High population is a source of large market for the goods produced by the industries  
3. With large population concentration in an area, there is need for effectiveness planning so that the town can function properly  
4. Many people are brought together and this can promote unity among the diverse people in the country  
5. Manpower is exported to these regions to enable them earn foreign exchange  
6. Organized army in such area is possible

**Disadvantages of High Population Densities**  
1. Natural resources like fertile farmlands become over exploited where there is high population growth  
2. Areas of high population densities are usually associated with high crime rate like armed robbery, car snatcher, hired assassin etc. These may be due to lack of jobs; hence people resort in crimes  
3. Areas of high population densities usually do not have enough jobs for the ever increasing influx of people. This leads to unemployment and underemployment  
4. High population concentration leads to scarce or poor accommodation as the house available may not be enough for the high population  
5. Many people travel on roads at the same time and ; this leads to traffic congestion most of the time  
6. Poor housing, pressure on natural resources and social facilities do lead to environmental pollution

**Advantages of Low Population Densities**  
1. There will be abundance of resources in areas where there and resource endowment  
2. The rate of armed robbery, car snatching etc is generally reduced  
3. There is no traffic congestion in areas of low population  
4. Goods and agriculture products are cheap and easily available due to low population

**Disadvantages of Low Population Densities**  
1. Pipe borne water, electricity etc are grossly underutilized  
2. Defence maybe difficult in case of attack  
3. As a result of few numbers of people, the level of revenue may be low  
4. There may be inadequate market for manufactured goods

**ASSESSMENT**

1. Great Britain, France, German, Denmark, Belgium areas are highly industrialized due to the presence of  
   (a) petroleum  
   (b) gold  
   (c) bitumen  
   (d) coal and iron
2. Pick out the odd one  
   (a) China  
   (b) India  
   (c) Japan  
   (d) Egypt
3. Natural resources like fertile farmlands, become over exploited where there is high  
   (a) population growth  
   (b) birth rate  
   (c) death rate  
   (d) ageing population
4. One of these is not an advantage of low population  
   (a) There will be abundance of resources in areas where there and resource endowment  
   (b) The rate of armed robbery, car snatching etc is generally reduced  
   (c) There is no traffic congestion in areas of low population  
   (d)  Pipe borne water, electricity etc are grossly under utilized
5. One of these is not a moderately populated area  
   (a) Agricultural U.S.A  
   (b) Mediterranean Europe  
   (c) Atacama  
   (d) Most part of South Asia
6. List 5 advantages of high population densities
7. List 5 disadvantages of high population densities
8. List 5 problems of rapid population growth
9. List 3 advantages of low population densities
10. What are the factors affecting the growth of a population?
11. Where are the moderately populated parts of the world?
12. What are the physical factors affecting population growth?
13. What are the human factors affecting population growth?