Lecture Notes

# Chapter 13: Population And Urbanization: Living on Planet Earth

## Learning Objectives

1. Illustrate the pattern of the world’s population growth over time.
2. Give examples of institutional influences on fertility, mortality, and migration.
3. Describe individual decisions that affect population patterns.
4. Discuss national and global urbanization trends.
5. Explain why moving from rural to urban settings can lead to anomie.
6. Compare industrial and post-industrial cities.
7. Explain three major social problems facing urban areas in the Global South.

## Chapter Overview

Chapter 13 focuses on population processes and urbanization. It begins with a discussion of predictors of population growth and theories of why populations increase, including Malthusian, demographic transition, and conflict theories. Then, institutional influences on fertility, mortality, and migration are explored. Next, urbanization and the micro-level experience of urban environments are addressed, followed by the evolution and types of cities that exist worldwide. Finally, urban problems such as rural migration, environmental and infrastructural problems, poverty, crime and delinquency, and urban planning are thoroughly focused on.

## Lecture Outline

I. Introduction

A. *Below population replacement levels* – population size may eventually drop because fewer people are being born than are dying

B. *Population momentum* – the continued growth of a population even if birth rates per couple drop because the number of women of child bearing age is still very high

C. *Demography* – the study of human populations

D. *Population* – all permanent societies, states, communities, adherents of a common religious faith, racial or ethnic groups, kinship or clan groups, professions, and other identifiable categories of people

E. *Urbanization* – the movement of populations to cities

II. Macro-Level Patterns in World Population Growth

A. Patterns of Population Growth Over Time

i. The large population today results from:

1. Humans competed satisfactorily in the animal kingdom

2. The agricultural revolution, resulting in food surpluses and declining mortality rates

3. The industrial revolution; improved health and sanitation measures

B. Predictors of Population Growth

i. Age and sex impact individuals’ positions in society

ii. *Youth dependency ratio* – the number of children under age 15 to the number between 15 and 64

1. Higher in developing countries

iii. *Age dependency ratio* – the number of those over 64 to those between 15 and 64

1. Higher in the most developed countries

2. Most Global North countries have high percentages of older dependent people over 64

iv. *Dependency ratio* – the number of people under age 15 and over age 64 to the number between 15 and 64

v. *The sex ratio* – the ratio of males to females in the population

1. Determines how many women are eligible to give birth and the number of potential spouses

vi. *Population pyramids* – a visual depiction of sex and dependency ratios

C. Population Patterns: Theoretical Explanations

i. *Malthus’ theory of population* – humans are driven to reproduce and population will increase exponentially unless checks are imposed since population increases geometrically but food supplies only increase arithmetically food shortages will result

1. Positive checks on population – wars, diseases, food shortages and famines

2. Malthus suggested delayed marriage and abstinence until one could afford a family

3. Ideas were ethnocentric and blamed the poor for their life situations; ignored the role of capitalism

4. Main criticisms of Malthus

a. New agricultural techniques allowed food production to increase geometrically

b. Malthus did not realize that contraception was a possibility

c. Poverty does not inevitably result from population growth

d. Malthus ignored the consumption patterns of industrialized nations and just blamed the scarcity of resources on the rapid population growth of poor developing nations

5. *Neo-Malthusians* – modern theorists who have modified Malthus’ original theory to include new data

a. Hardin – individuals’ goals are not always consistent with societal population goals; acting only on individual interests may produce social tragedy

b. Ehrlich – The growing population has done damage to the environment that may result in destruction

c. Favor contraception over “moral restraint”

d. Acknowledge that corporate pollution and Western consumption is responsible for most environmental damage

ii. *Demographic transition: Explaining Population Growth and Expansion*

1. *Demographic Transition Theory* – which compares countries’ stages of economic development with trends in birth and death rates. It is used to determine how changes in economic structure and movement from agricultural areas to urban areas can have an impact on population size3 stages

a. Stage 1 – high births, high deaths; pre-industrial, non-urban societies; births may outpace deaths until disaster occurs

b. Stage 2 – high births, declining deaths; less-developed countries; improvements in health, sanitation, and food availability

c. Stage 3 – low births, low deaths; industrial and post-industrial; mostly small, nuclear families

2. Fails to consider some factors that affect population size:

a. Age at marriage (determines number of children)

b. Contraceptive availability

c. A country’s resources and land (number of people that a country can support)

d. Economy, religious beliefs, and political philosophy

e. Economic expansion (requires more workers)

3. Criticism – assumes that modernization between stages 2 and 3 result in rational choices about family size, but unless women gain status by having smaller families, they will continue to have large ones

4. *Wealth flow theory* – two strategies operate in decisions about family size (wealth flow from parents to children and vice versa)

a. When wealth flows from parents to children, family sizes are smaller

b. When children are working for their parents, family sizes are larger

iii. *Conflict Theorists’ Explanations of Population Growth* – social and structural factors built into the economic system are the cause of poverty

1. Marx and Engels

2. Capitalist structures result in wealth for capitalists and create overpopulation and poverty for workers

3. Socialist societies can absorb population growth; all can find jobs as the system expands to include them

III. Meso-Level Institutional Influences on Population Change

A. Populations change in

i. *Size* – overall number of people

ii. *Composition* – make-up of the population, including sex ratio, age distribution, and religious or ethnic representation in the population

iii. *Distribution* – density or concentration in various portions of the land

B. Demographic processes that can change population

i. *Fertility* – birth rate

ii. *Mortality* – death rate

iii. *Migration* – movement of people from one place to another

C. Factors Affecting Fertility Rates-individual personal decisions are key. People deciding to marry, to use contraception, to have children at all can have an impact on national and global rates of population change

i. Economic factors –

1. overpopulation is complex and relates to poverty, the status of women, and exploitation of resources and labor by wealthy individuals and countries

2. fertility

a. fluctuates depending on what is happening in meso-level institutions

i. drops during depressions

b. Macro-structures also influence fertility

i. Level of economic prosperity

ii. Governments commitment to providing tax incentives or controlling contraceptives

iii. Changes in norms and values about sexuality

iv. Health care factors

3. The worldwide fertility rate has fallen in every major world region, but some still remain very high (e.g., Sub-Saharan Africa)

4. Governmental Influence – for example, manipulation of contraceptive availability, propaganda, promoting education and economic development, child penalties, laws about age of marriage, family size, or abortion

a. *Pronatalist policies* – policies that encourage fertility

b. *Antinatalist policies* – policies that discourage fertility;

i. manipulating contraceptive availability

ii. Promoting change in factors that affect fertility such as status of women, education and economic development

iii. Using propaganda for or against having children

iv. creating incentives

1. passing laws governing age of marriage size of family, and abortion; *Female infanticide* – killing of female infants when they are born (usually so families can try for a male child)

5. *Natural increase rate* – birth rate minus death rate

ii. Religious and Cultural Norms – some religions encourage births, though not all people follow the teachings; pressures to marry before/after a certain age

iii. Education – the higher women’s status and education in a society, the lower fertility; availability of contraceptives is crucial, since many women do not have access to the birth control the desire

D. Factors Affecting Mortality Rates

i. Life expectancy – average number of years a person in a particular society can expect to live

1. Indicates overall health conditions in a country

ii. Infant mortality rates are indicators of a country’s status in the world

1. Differences caused by national exploitation, poverty, poor health care, malnutrition, etc.

2. Even in the United States, minorities have less access to prenatal care, as do those under 18, unmarried, the poor, and less-educated women

E. Migration and Mobility: Why and Where People Move

i. Migration-the movement of people from one place to another

1. If we have changed our residence, we have been part of the process called *geographic mobility*

2. *Push-pull theory* – some people are pushed by their original locations by wars, plagues, famine, political or religious conflicts, economic crises, or other factors, and pulledto new locations by economic opportunities or political and religious tolerance

3. Decisions to move are influenced by individual factors and the socio-cultural environment

ii. *International migration* – movement from one country to another

1. Often influenced by political unrest, discrimination, or environmental conditions as well as economic conditions

2. Has been tightly controlled in western countries recently, but illegal immigration still common

iii. Two factors curb migrations: restrictive immigration laws of receiving countries and economic depressions

iv. *Internal migration in the United States* – movement within a country

1. Main reason better housing

2. *Urbanization-*Rural to urban common

3. Rates are high in the United States because of pull migration (for economic opportunity, excitement, and anonymity)

IV. Micro-Level Population Patterns

A. *Baby boom* – sudden, unexpected rise in fertility rates

B. *Birth dearth* – dip in fertility rates

C. Career decisions, retirement, Social Security are all influenced by population (too many or too few workers are problematic)

D. Deviance and juvenile delinquency – when there are an overabundance of people in their teens/20s, crime rates rise

E. Population shifts from state to state affect political representation

F. Demography is relevant to job prospects and career planning, to policy decisions about pension plans such as social security, to market research for businesses, and to understanding political power and influence within a country

V. Urbanization: Movement from Rural to Urban Areas

VI. How Did Cities Evolve? Meso-Level Organizational Structures

A. Theories of Urban Development

i. *The Chicago School theory of urban development* – cities grow in a series of circles, moving out from the center. Each circle is dominated by a particular type of activity and residential pattern

1. Urban ecologists refined the theory by adding that residential segregation, and invasion and “take over” by new ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic groups are continuous processes

ii. Urban space is both socially defined and in scarce supply; therefore, political-economic conflict will arise over how space gets allocated and by whom

iii. *Conflict theories of urban development* – city problems are a result of domination by elites, creating poverty and exploitation of the poor; urbanization and modernization are a cause of poverty

VII. Urban Problems, the Environment, and Social Policy: Macro-Level Perspectives

A. Rural Migrants and Overcrowding

i. In developing countries, many rural residents move to urban areas to seek opportunities and set up squatters’ camps

ii. Countries do not have the time or money to properly prepare city infrastructures for the increasing population; epidemics can result

iii. Residents with rural values may have difficulty adjusting to urban bureaucracy and anomie (normlessness) may result

iv. Global trends that affect urban planning

1. Urbanization will continue

2. Information and transportation technologies allow for global contact and reduce commitment to certain geographical areas

3. International boundaries will diminish in importance

4. Economies will rely on brainwork rather than physical labor

5. Conflicts between cultural and political groups will continue to affect urban life

6. *McDonaldization* – creation of a consumer world dominated by major Western food, music, fashion, and entertainment—will continue

v. Profit is the major motive in urban planning

VIII. What Have We Learned?

A. Population trends, including migration resulting in urbanization, provide a dynamic force for change in societies

B. Many other factors create change in a society, and the factors contributing to social dynamics are interactive, some of them contributing to change in a particular direction and others retarding change