

POPULATION

OBJECTIVES:

- TO ANALYSE THE UNEVEN NATURE OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SHOW CONCERN ABOUT THE LARGE SIZE OF OUR POPULATION
- TO UNDERSTAND THE VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF PEOPLE AND EXPLAIN VARIOUS FACTORS OF POPULATION CHANGE.
- TO EXPLAIN VARIOUS DIMENSION OF NATIONAL POLICY AND UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF ADOLESCENTS AS UNDER SERVED GROUP.

People are important to develop the economy and society. The people make and use resources and are themselves resources with varying quality.

- Population is the important element in social studies.
- 'Resources', 'calamities' and 'disasters' are all meaningful only in relation to human beings.
- Their numbers, distribution, growth and characteristics or qualities provide the basic background for understanding and appreciating all aspects of the environment.

Human beings are producers and consumers of earth's resources. Therefore, it is important to know how many people are there in a country, where do they live, how and why their numbers are increasing and what are their characteristics.

To understand the characteristics of population we need to explore population under following:

- Population size and distribution: How many people are there and where are they located?
- Population growth and processes of population change: How has the population grown and changed through time?
- Characteristics or qualities of the population: What are their age, sex composition, literacy levels, occupational structure and health conditions

Population size and distribution:

- India's population as on March 2001 is 1,028 million, which account for 16.7 per cent of the world's population.
- These 1.02 billion people are unevenly distributed over our country's vast area of 3.28 million square km, which accounts for 2.4 per cent of the world's area .
- Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state of India. Uttar Pradesh accounts for about 16 per cent of India's population .
- Almost half of India's population lives in just five states. These are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. Rajasthan, the biggest state in terms of area, has only 5.5 per cent of the total population of India .

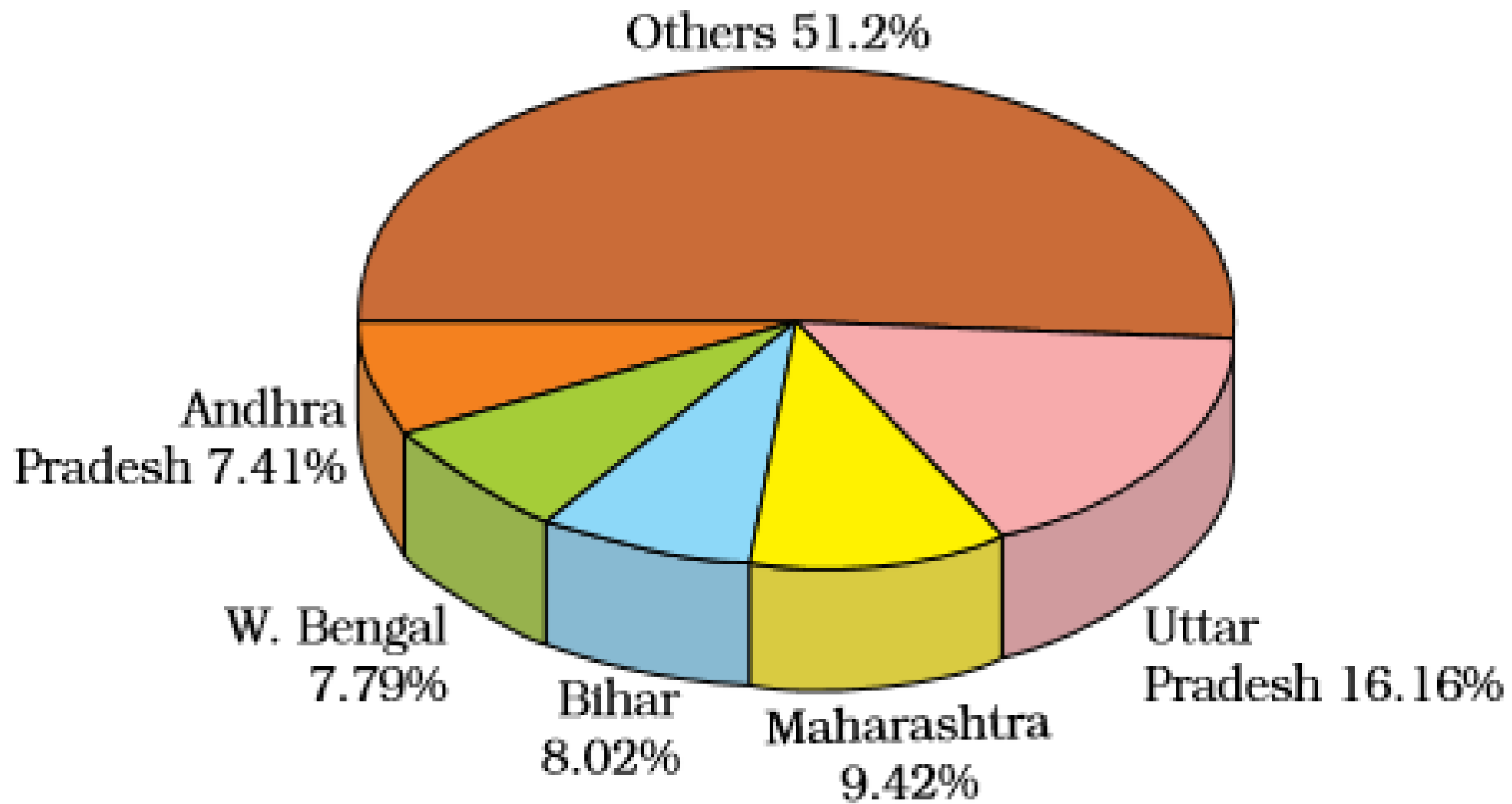


Figure 6.2 : Distribution of Population

Population Density.



Figure 5.2 : Density of Population in India

WHAT IS POPULATION DENSITY?

- Population density of India in the year 2001 was 324 persons per sq km. Densities vary from 904 persons per sq km in West Bengal to only 13 persons per sq km in Arunachal Pradesh. A study of the figure 6.3 shows the pattern of uneven distribution of population densities at the state level.
- FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNEVEN POPULATION DENSITY-
Rugged terrain and unfavourable climatic conditions : These areas has low population density for example in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Assam and most of the Peninsular states have moderate population densities. Hilly, dissected and rocky nature of the terrain, moderate to low rainfall, shallow and less fertile soils have influenced population densities in these areas.
- The Northern Plains and Kerala in the south have high to very high population densities because of the flat plains with fertile soils and abundant rainfall.

