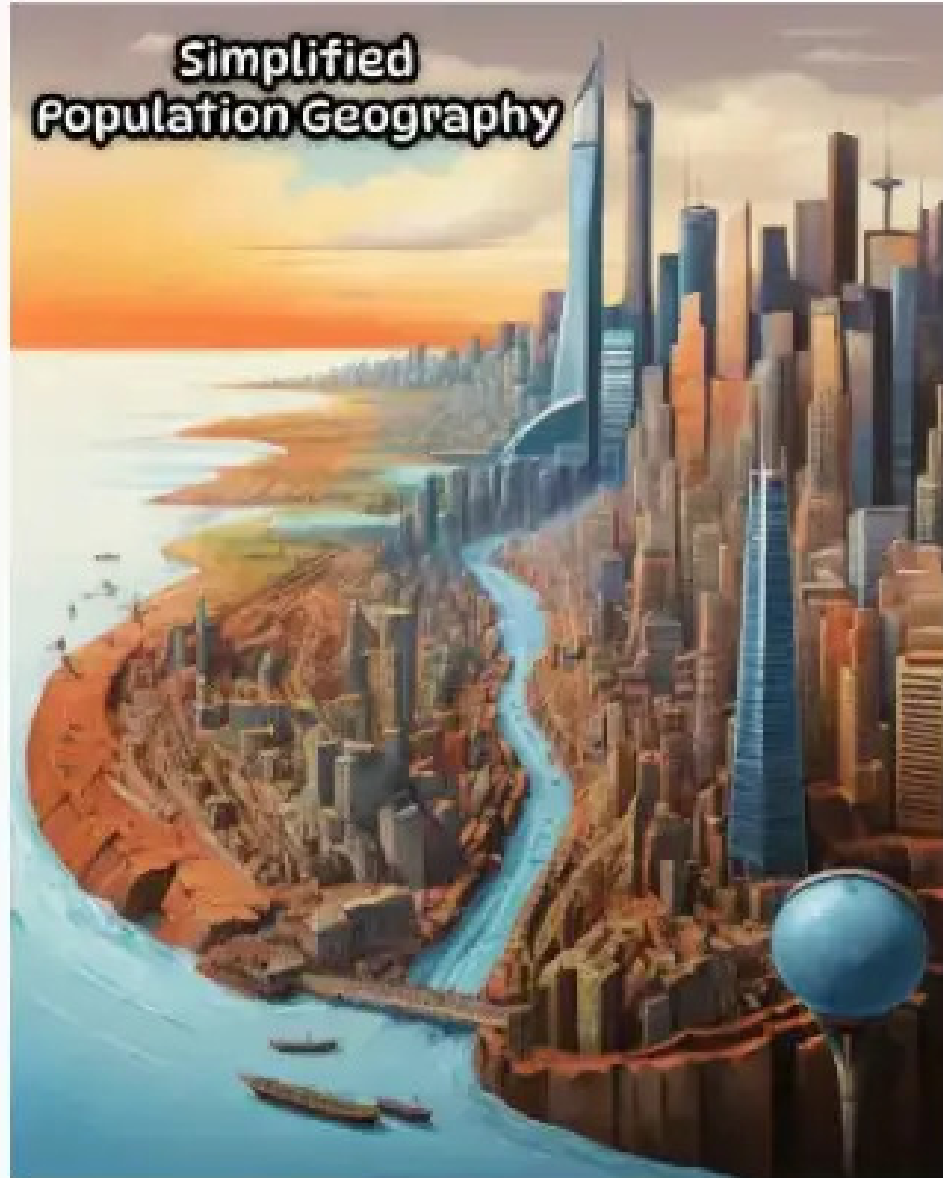


**Simplified  
Population Geography**



**SIMPLIFIED**

# **POPULATION GEOGRAPHY**

**GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL SPECIAL**

A COMPREHENSIVE WORK

**FOR UPSC CSE**

AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

**BASED ON YOUTUBE LECTURES BY**

**DR. KRISHNANAND**



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Dr. Krishnanand** is highly proficient scholar in the field of research and academics in Geography and environment. He graduated from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. He was awarded “**best student of the college across all disciplines**” in 2009 and “**Gold medal**” in 2010. He completed his Ph.D from Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. **He has a teaching experience of over a decade in the field of Geography for UPSC, State PCS , UGC NET and other competitive examinations.**

He is an avid field researcher and photographer with two Geographical Documentaries on YouTube Channel- TheGeoecologist, to his credit - **Exploring Ladakh- A Geoecological Perspective and Spiti Valley Project**. His areas of interest include Geomorphology, Geoecology, Geotourism, Environmental Geography, Geodiversity, Geomorphosites, Fossil park, Geoparks, Field Work and Documentary Making in Geography, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) and GPS. **He has published three books and six articles at National and International levels.**



**This E-book by Dr. Krishnanand is a Simplified Compilation on **Population Geography** along with detailed explanations available through his YouTube lectures of the same.**



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# PREFACE

***Population Geography*** as an independent sub-field of human geography is a comparatively recent phenomenon. In the expression ‘population geography’, the term ‘population’ signifies the subject matter and ‘geography’ refers to the perspective of investigation. Thus, population geography can be interpreted as the study of population in spatial perspective.

Population geography is a division of human geography. It is the study of the ways in which spatial variations in the distribution, composition, migration, and growth of populations are related to the nature of places. It focuses on the characteristics of population distributions that change in a spatial context. Population geography receives important primary data from demography, which reveals the geographic aspects of natural and migration population change.

This E-book aims to facilitate the young and budding **UPSC CSE aspirants** as well as geographers and research scholars especially in the field of geographical studies to understand the conceptual framework of the subject matter of ***Population Geography***.

**Dr. Krishnanand**

## Chapter 1

# NATURE & SCOPE of POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

# NATURE & SCOPE OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHY



Etymologically, ‘population geography’ implies the investigation into human covering of the earth and its various facets with reference to physical and cultural environment.

Population geography is concerned with ‘**the geographic organization of population and how and why this matters to society**’

- Drawing on the work of the late French social theorist (and proposed Population Geographer) **Michel Foucault** (examined how representation and study of what he termed the “social body” saw the term “populousness” increasingly displaced by a newer concept of “population” from around the eighteenth century. ....( **remember 1798- Malthusian theory----1848 Marxian theory --- 1945 Modern theories...**)

## NATURE OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

1. **Describing** where populations are found, how the size and composition of these population is regulated by the demographic processes of fertility, mortality and migration, and
2. **Understanding** what these patterns of population mean for economic development, ecological change and social issues’ .

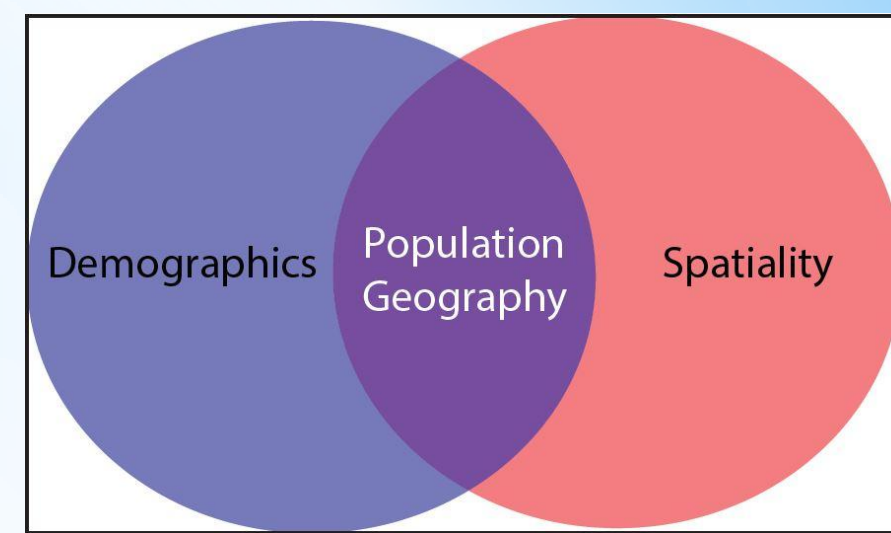
The study of population i.e. **DEMOGRAPHY**, with its roots in the analysis of mortality and fertility statistics, is the statistical analysis of population, while

Population studies is often used to describe other approaches to looking at population issues, **including nonstatistical approaches.**

Population geography is the geographical study of population, **with an emphasis on location and spatial processes.**

Population geographers, seek to understand:

- ✓ the society around them,
- ✓ the structure of a population, and
- ✓ how it changes through births, deaths, and migrations



According to **Trewartha**, population geography is concerned with the understanding of the regional differences in the earth's covering of people ....it is '**Just as areal differentiation is the theme of geography in general, so it is of population geography, in particular**' (Trewartha, 1953 AAG)

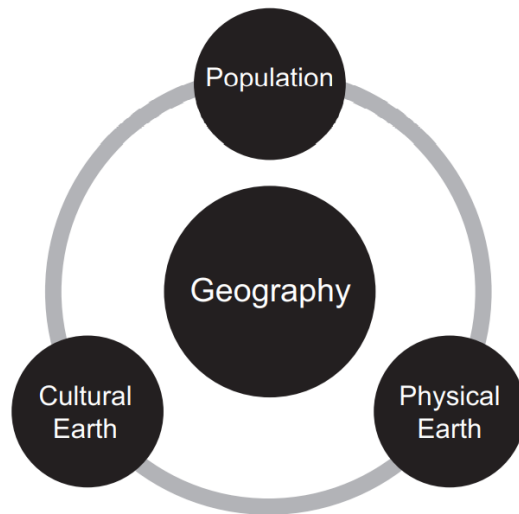
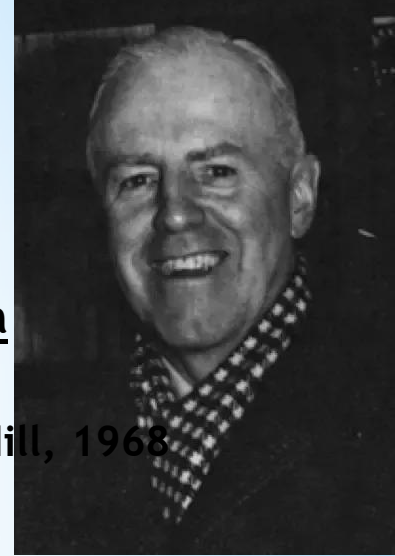
Broadly speaking, the **concern of population geography**, according to Trewartha, can be grouped into three categories:

1. a historical (pre-historic and post-historic) account of population,
2. dynamics of number, size, distribution and growth patterns, and
3. qualities of population and their regional distribution.

Glenn Thomas Trewartha

*We also know him for*

"An Introduction to Climate", McGraw-Hill, 1968



Trewartha's central place for Population within Geography.



In his book entitled **A Geography of Population: World Patterns**, published in 1969, Trewartha arranged these topics in two parts.

While the first included a **geographical account of population** in the past, the second incorporated all the characteristics of population including **biological, social, cultural and economic characteristics**

**ZELINSKY (1966)** defines it as ‘a science that deals with the ways in which geographic character of places is formed by and, in turn, reacts upon a set of population phenomena that vary within it through both space and time’ as they follow their own behavioural laws, interacting one with another, and with numerous non-demographic phenomena’.

The publication of two books - **Population Analysis in Geography** by **Woods in 1979**, and **A Population Geography** by **Jones in 1981** - initiated a discussion on the need to reorder the emphasis in population geography.

**Woods and Rees (1986)** propose the term **spatial demography** in place of population geography, which differs from the latter ‘mainly in terms of the equal emphasis on mortality, fertility and migration as components of population change and distribution . . . its use of the statistical demographic methods and its multi-disciplinary approach’

**Table 1.2** Some key research poles within Population Geography, 1950s–1970s

<i>Research pole</i>	<i>Indicative topics</i>	<i>Approaches</i>	<i>Views of population</i>
Describing demographic structures	Concentration Segregation Density Flows	Empiricist Positivist	Aggregate
Describing demographic change	Balancing equation Spatial demography	Empiricist Positivist	Aggregate
Explaining demographic change	Transition theory Diffusion Systems theory	Positivist Structuralist	Aggregate Individual
Lived worlds and cultural systems	Migration Culture Environment	Empiricist Humanist	Aggregate Individual

Source: based on Bailey (2005: Table 3.3).

## SOME KEY -ISMS UNDERPINNING THE DIVERSE APPROACHES TO POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

Numerous conceptual approaches have been brought to the study of Population Geography over its relatively short existence as a distinctive sub-discipline. Some sense of this diversity is described in the present chapter and will become clearer throughout the book. Underpinning these approaches is an equally bewildering range of philosophical frameworks, often termed the -isms. Some of these, ordered by their appearance in the chapter, are now given extremely short definitions:

- Empiricism: knowledge primarily coming from experiences of the senses
- Positivism: prioritizes knowledge obtained via repeatable, verifiable observations
- Behavioralism: emphasizes cognitive processes underlying individual decision making
- Marxism: focuses on the material, especially economic, relations between humans
- Structuralism: understanding surface patterns of human behavior requires knowledge of underlying causal structures
- Humanism: accords primary attention to thinking, acting, feeling individuals
- Postmodernism: emphasizes the relativism of reality and expresses considerable skepticism towards grand claims to knowledge and truth
- Post-structuralism: focuses on openness of meanings, ambivalence of texts and multiple production of identities

For further details on these terms, consult the wide range of books now available on Geographical thought!