

M.A. / M. Sc. Geography-Part-I

Paper-VII -Human and Population Geography

Topic-Demographic Transition Theory

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INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Changes in population growth rates with a developing economy can be understood in terms of the five stages of Demographic Transition Model.
- ❑ It is they who make use of the country's resources and decide its policies.



DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY

The theory is based on an interpretation of demographic history developed in 1929 by the American demographer *Warren Thompson* (1887–1973).

In the 1940s and 1950s *Frank W. Notestein* developed a more formal theory of demographic transition. By 2009, the existence of a negative correlation between fertility and industrial development had become one of the most widely accepted findings in social science.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY

- ❑ The Demographic Transition Theory gives us the relationship between the level of economic development of a country and its demographic characteristics.
- ❑ Initially, there were three stages of the theory :
 - 1) Stage of slow population growth
 - 2) Stage of beginning of Industrial Revolution
 - 3) Stage of late Industrial Revolution and urban growth.

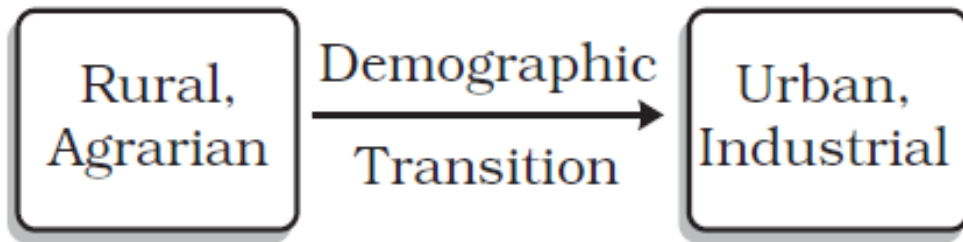


Figure : Demographic Transition Model

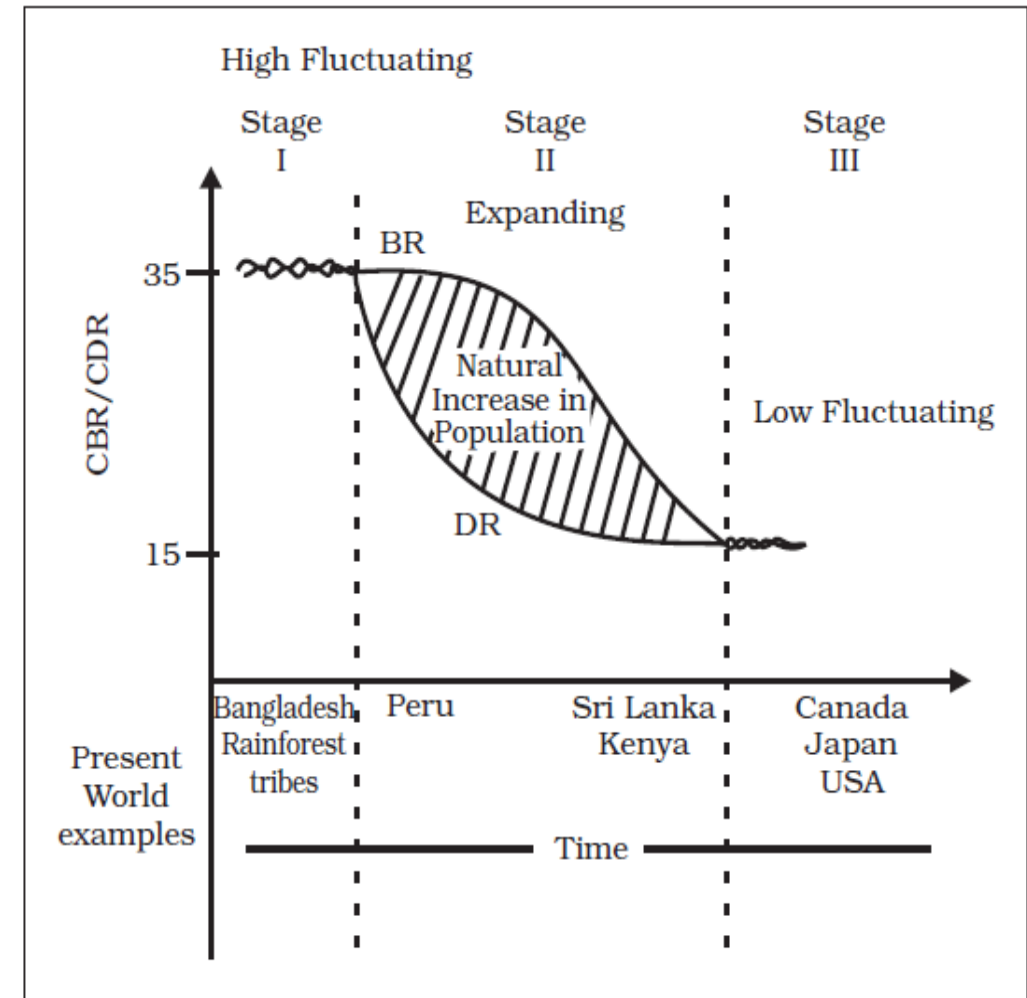
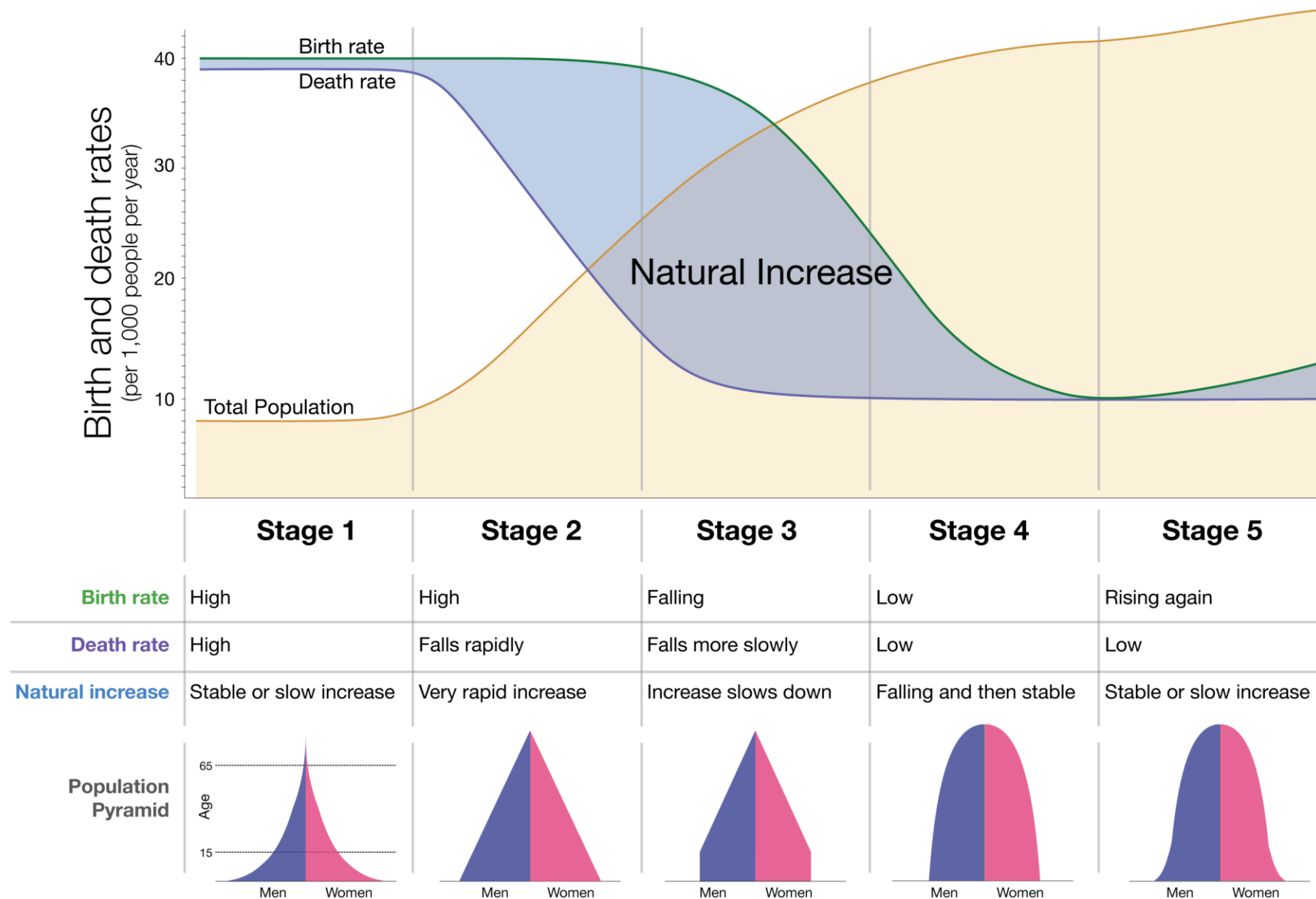


Figure : Demographic Transition Theory

The demographic transition in 5 stages



As with all models, this is an idealized picture of population change in these countries. The model is a generalization that applies to these countries as a group and may not accurately describe all individual cases. The extent to which it applies to less-developed societies today remains to be seen. Many countries such as China, Brazil and Thailand have passed through the Demographic Transition Model (DTM) very quickly due to fast social and economic change. Some countries, particularly African countries, appear to be stalled in the second stage due to stagnant development and the effects of under-invested and under-researched tropical diseases such as malaria and AIDS to a limited extent.

CONCLUSION

In demography, demographic transition is a phenomenon and theory which refers to the historical shift from high birth rates and high infant death rates in societies with minimal technology, education (especially of women) and economic development, to low birth rates and low death rates in societies with advanced technology, education and economic development, as well as the stages between these two scenarios.

Although this shift has occurred in many industrialized countries, the theory and model are frequently imprecise when applied to individual countries due to specific social, political and economic factors affecting particular populations.