TOPIC 8: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND URBANIZATION

Introduction

- Concept of population distribution
- Factors affecting population distribution and density
- Urbanization: Concept and issues associated
WORLD’S POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
Population Distribution: Concept

- **Population distribution** means the pattern of where people live.
- World population distribution is uneven.
- Places which are *sparsely* populated contain few people.
- Places which are *densely* populated contain many people.
- Sparsely populated places tend to be difficult places to live.
- These are usually places with hostile environments e.g. Antarctica.
- Places which are densely populated are habitable environments e.g. Europe.
• Population Density

– **Population density** is a measurement of the number of people in an area.
– It is an average number.
– Population density is calculated by dividing the number of people by area.
– Population density is usually shown as the number of people per square kilometer.
– The map below is a choropleth (shading) map and illustrates population density.
– The darker the colour the greater the population density.
The map above shows that world population distribution is uneven. Some areas have a high population density while others have a low population density. Areas of high population density tend to be located between 20° and 60°N. This area contains a large land area and a relatively temperate climate.
There are a range of **human** and **natural** factors that affect population density. The tables below illustrate this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Factors</th>
<th>High Density</th>
<th>Low Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief (Shape and height of land)</td>
<td>Low land which is flat e.g. Ganges Valley in India</td>
<td>High land that is mountainous e.g. Himalayas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Areas rich in resources (e.g. coal, oil, wood, fishing etc.) tend to densely populated e.g. Western Europe</td>
<td>Areas with few resources tend to be sparsely populated e.g. The Sahel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Areas with temperate climates tend to be densely populated as there is enough rain and heat to grow crops e.g. UK</td>
<td>Areas with extreme climates of hot and cold tend to be sparsely populated e.g. the Sahara Desert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Factors</td>
<td>High Density</td>
<td>Low Density</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>Countries with stable governments tend to have a high population density e.g. Singapore</td>
<td>Unstable countries tend to have lower population densities as people migrate e.g. Afghanistan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Groups of people want to live close to each other for security e.g. USA</td>
<td>Other groups of people prefer to be isolated e.g. Scandinavians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Good job opportunities encourage high population densities, particularly in large cities in MEDCs and LEDCs around the world.</td>
<td>Limited job opportunities cause some areas to be sparsely populated e.g. Amazon Rainforest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Urbanization: Concepts and Issues Associated

• Urbanization refers to:
  – the movement of people into cities from rural areas.
  – It is the process in which an increasing proportion of an entire population lives in cities and the suburbs of cities.
  – It has been closely connected with industrialization.
  – When more and more inanimate sources of energy were used to enhance human productivity (industrialization), surpluses increased in both agriculture and industry.
  – Larger and larger proportions of a population could live in cities.
  – Economic forces were such that cities became the ideal places to locate factories and their workers.
Urbanization: First World - Chicago

1820 total population is only 15
1875 - Population 55,000
1898 - Population 1,698,565
2006 – Population 2,833,321
WORLD CITIES AND URBAN POPULATION

1. Tokyo, Japan
   Population: 31,224,700

   Population: 30,107,600

3. Mexico City, Mexico
   Population: 21,503,000

4. Seoul, South Korea
   Population: 20,156,000

5. São Paulo, Brazil
   Population: 19,090,200

6. Jakarta, Indonesia
   Population: 18,206,700

7. Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto, Japan
   Population: 17,608,500

8. Delhi, India
   Population: 17,367,300

9. Mumbai (Bombay), India
   Population: 17,367,300

10. Los Angeles, U.S.
    Population: 16,710,400

11. Cairo, Egypt
    Population: 15,863,300

12. Calcutta, India
    Population: 14,362,500

13. Manila, Philippines
    Population: 14,083,300

14. Shanghai, China
    Population: 13,972,300

15. Buenos Aires, Argentina
    Population: 13,238,600

16. Moscow, Russia
    Population: 12,219,500

17. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
    Population: 11,566,700

18. Teheran, Iran
    Population: 11,474,200

19. Paris, France
    Population: 11,419,400
Urbanization: Malaysia

- Rapid during the post-independence era beginning 2\textsuperscript{nd} Malaysia Plan (1971-1975).

- Creation of urban centre during colonial times.

- Expansion of existing cities due to factors that has brought about unequal distribution among groups.
Pertumbuhan Penduduk
Di Semenanjung Malaysia

Diagram menunjukkan peringkat penduduk bandar dan jambatan untuk setiap tahun 1911 hingga 1990. Kadar pertumbuhan yang diukur dalam persen menunjukkan trend pertumbuhan penduduk.
Population Distribution in Malaysia

- Beginning to decrease from 1911 due to the World War.
- Peaking up again towards 1957 due to migration and independence.
- Decrease from 1957 due to out migration of colonial population.
- Overall growth about 5.5% for urban population post 2nd Malaysia Plan compared to overall population (about 2%).
Tren Urbanisasi
Di Semenanjung Malaysia

16/10/98
Trend of Urbanization

• Expected about 80% of population in urban areas by 2020.
• National Urbanization Policy aimed to redistribute the urban population to other growth centre.
• More balanced population distribution in cities.
• Reduction of gap in terms of distribution of ethnic inequality in cities.
• Currently, West Coast of the peninsular more dense than East Coast.
• Less people per kilometre in East Malaysian cities than West Malaysian cities (density of population) / (kepadatan).
• City population currently concentrated in several major cities located in West Coast.
JALAN BUKIT BINTANG - 1950

KUALA LUMPUR NOW AND THEN
Urbanization and Its Issues

• Implications for the future?
• Socially?
• Economically?
• Environmentally?
• Urbanization has serious implications in our life if not manage properly.
PROBLEMS OF URBAN INDIA