CHAPTER-I

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY AND OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Demography is the study of the growth, change & structure of the human population. Changes in population size & structure are caused by changes in the birth rate, death rate & the net migration rates. It is the statistical study of all populations. It is a very technical & highly mathematical study of the vital statistics of human population as well as the characteristics of population structure including age, sex and migration as they contribute to an understanding of population change. The concept of population change and growth of population is often used to connote the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time irrespective of the fact whether the change is positive or negative. Population studies have for long been the subject of concern for social scientists including geographers. Geography of population is one of the recent sprouts from the venerable trunk of science of geography.

The term population means the total number of persons in a political or a geographical area at a particular time, whereas population
statistics is a more elaborate term & includes data on density, age, sex ratio, social grouping and many other matters.

Population studies have far been the subject of concern for social scientists including geographers. The study of population distribution has been the focus of traditional human geographers since long. The study of population growth has been assuming greater significance in population studies undertaken by the social scientists in India & aboard in recent years. The most important characteristics of population are its dynamic & consequent changing nature.

Population studies yields knowledge important for planning, particularly by Government, in fields such as health, education, housing, social security, employment and environmental preservation. Such studies also provide information needed to formulate government population polices, which seeks to modify demographic trends in order to achieve economic and social objectives.
1.2 AN OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The subject of population was brought into prominence in economic discussion by the writings of Malthus. Before that some thoughtful comments had been made here and there, but it had been generally assumed that the larger the population the better for the country. Malthus, an interested student of contemporary projects of social improvement, was struck by the significance of some facts of observation and of history, and arrived quickly at the conclusion that the excessive growth of population is the cause of much of the misery and poverty in the world. The following discussion shows the work done by academicians and researchers on the topic.

Trewartha¹ stressed that ‘Population Geography was concerned with understanding the regional differences in the earth’s covering of people. He also emphasis that man was the pivotal point from which all other elements are observed and derive significance and meaning’.

John I.Clarke² observes that ‘Population Geography is concerned with the demonstrating how spatial variations in distribution, composition, migration and growth are related to the nature of place.’J.B.Garnier³, said that the main theme of the population Geography is
“the description of demographic factors in their causes, their regional characteristics and possible consequences”.

Gary.L.Peters and Robert.P.Larkin mention in their book various definitions the subject forwarded by earlier contributors and also explain that vast variety of population characteristics like distribution, composition, change, fertility, mortality, population policy, literacy, etc. The place of man in geography has long been the matter of academic disputes and the attention of earlier geographers was largely devoted to the natural environment although this was considered as meaningful only in relation to man in recent decades. There has been progressive reorientation of view with increasing emphasis upon man as the main inhabitant of the earth.

George. E. Demko, Harold.M.Rose. George.Schnell, deal that “Geography of population occupies the important place among the many disciplines because its emphasis upon spatial interaction and spatial distribution, which make geography unique among social sciences. Thus, in the course of time population geography has been enriched with the writings and treatment of many scholarly geographers, sociologists and demographers throughout the world. It is also becoming rich with quantitative and qualitative analysis of reasonably high standard.
Graeme. J. Hugo in his article explains the population growth in small and medium sized cities in Indonesia. His main emphasis is on migration that is population movements to and from small a medium sized cities in Indonesia. In his article he also explains the push and pull factors of migration and its effect on population growth and distribution.

S. Nieu Wolt has explained in his paper about the distribution of population in Tanzania and how the population in Tanzania is influenced by both physical and cultural factors. His main emphasis is on the distribution of rural population and influence of rainfall, one of the important physical factors on the rural population distribution of Tanzania.

The pressure of population in the Indian Sub-Continent attracted certain aspects of the vast population of this century, such as distribution, density, growth, occupational structure, religious composition, urbanization etc. Recently Punjab University has conducted a through population study which seems to be a major landmark in the study and development of population geography in India.

Kailash in his paper “National capital region, Mushroom growth of urban population” have explained that, the national capital region is basically the expansion while analyzing the growth of urban population,
he explains migration and natural growth are the two main attributes of population growth.

Robert. E. Burkardt ⁹ in his paper “India; demographic migration, 1901-1976” explained that the rural to urban migration in India during the period 1901-1976 accelerated more rapidly than the total population increase in percent decade by decade. The total number of incorporated towns and places class- I through class – VI has increased by the same percent during this period.

R.C.Chandna ¹⁰ in his article “Growth of population in Haryana: 1961-1971” have explained unprecedented rate of population growth experienced by Haryana in sharp contrast to the adjacent areas; to bring out intra-state contrast in the population growth of different population groups inhabiting the state; and interpret the intra regional disparities in the population growth of Haryana in contrast to Punjab.

R.N.Singh & Chaturvedi. R.B.¹¹ in their article has explained “Any change in the population group whether increase or decrease is usually called as growth. Population growth in an area is an important aspect in the economic development, social awakening, cultural background, historical events and political ideology in the study area.
Gautam A.\textsuperscript{12} in his paper “patterns of population and occupational structure in upper sutlej catchments area”, explain the physical conditions exercise a most population influence on the distribution of population in human settlement large area of harsh climate and steep inclines are uninhabited in the region, most of the settlements in this area exists on high altitudes along river bank and its tributaries.

1.3 STUDY AREA:
The study area falls in the laps of the Himalayan regions. Due to the difficult terrain, variable agro-climatic conditions and distinct socio-cultural features, Darjeeling district faces problems hindering the process of development. This part of the study encompassed in detail about each & every aspects of the study area undertaken for analysis.

1.4 NEED OF THE STUDY:
Darjeeling district is the northernmost district of West Bengal. The haphazard increase in the population and the cause & effect of the same in terms of fertility, mortality, migration & impact on the area in terms of socio-economy, politics & infrastructural facilities & their variations within the area has called for a distinct study of the changes in the demographic structure of Darjeeling district. Its geographical strategic location is a reason in itself to evoke concern for the region. Uneven growth & concentration of
population on land and its resources has posed an array of problems of economic, social & political concern. The concern of demographic changes in Darjeeling district demand a detail study of the region.

1.5 USEFULNESS OF THE STUDY AREA:

Studying the population growth of Darjeeling district and its related problems with limited resources in hand, helps us to search various solutions for its various problems - which involve the ways & means for future planned development of the area.

1.6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1.6.1 AIMS:

The main aim of the study is to focus on the rapid growth of population of Darjeeling district its temporal changes in them in response to birth, migration, aging & death and its related issues.

1.6.2 OBJECTIVES:

In order to achieve the above aim, the following research objective have been identified:

1. To study the growth, density & distribution of population

2. To study and analyze the population composition with respect to the sex structure.

3. To study the literacy rate.
4. To study and analyze the occupational structure.

5. To study the migration.

6. To study the Government policies & development programmes towards the Hill Region of West Bengal & to know how far these have helped in improving socio-economic conditions.

7. After studying the problems & prospects of population of Darjeeling district, the suggestions for the solutions of their problems will be made on regional base.

1.7 METHODOLOGY:
The following methodology is used.

1. Simple statistical analysis & various cartographic techniques are used.

2. Comparative & descriptive cum analytical approaches are to be adopted.

3. The representations of maps & diagram drawn here helped research to explain the changing demographic structure of Darjeeling district.

1.8 SOURCES OF DATA:

The data for the present study were collected from secondary sources i.e., from Census volume of 1971-2001 & some additional data is also collected from Government publications, books, newspapers and magazines.
REFERENCES


Philip M. Hauser and Dudley Duncan: The Study of Population, p.2
