**Scope of Population Geography**

The scope of population geography is quite wide. Population geography helps to understand the various facts pertaining to the spatial variation in the distribution of human population across the earth with reference to the physical, cultural and socio- economic environment. It’s also helps to the planning for the human development.

• Meaning of scope:   The meaning of scope is related to the three questions -

                                            1. Where it is applied

                                            2. how its knowledge is applied

                                            3. The opportunity

**Edward Ackerman** indicates that the first set of problems in population geography involves the identification of generic relations, which includes the categorization, classification and differentiation procedures. The next level of inquiry involves the establishment of genetic relationships or dynamic aspects (processes) of spatial distributions in which the temporal variable is highly significant. The last step is the determination of co-variant relations, i.e. The search for understanding the space relations of spatial processes, which are express in terms of areal association and interaction between and among phenomena.

              The main field of population geography is the areal differentiation which is help full for solving the problem of static relationships between variables. Population study by geographers should lead to a better understanding of the processes creating areal distribution as expressed in the concepts inherent in, and by the study of spatial interaction over time.

• According to **G. T. Trewartha**- The scope of population geography can be delineated as follows: -    1. Distribution of population

                      2. Density of population

                      3. Migration (Movement of people across space)

                      4. Growth of population

                      5. Composition of population

                      6. Literacy and quality of population

                      7. Rural and Urban population

                      8. Technological Development and population resources ratio

• **Clarke** focused mainly on three aspects of population: -

1. Size and Distribution (Absolute Number): -  This includes the distribution of population in the rural and urban areas and the density of population

2. Population composition and structure (Physical, Social and Economic characteristics): - This refers to the qualities of a population which can be either physical qualities like - Age-Sex structure, Marital status, Health etc. Or socio-economic qualities like – Religions, Race and Ethnicity, language, Education, Occupation customs and habitat.

3. Population Dynamics: - An analysis of the world population and its spatial manifestation including the trends in and present growth influenced by the past migration, fertility and mortality.

In the modern society the study of population is very much interdisciplinary in scope with contributions by Sociologists, Economists, and Anthropologists, the Geographic perspective especially valuable.

• The quantitative aspect is concerned with a quantitative study of the size structure characteristics and traditional distribution of human populations and the changes occurring in them.(Under the planed socialist economy, the practical tasks of population geography include quantitative and qualitative assessment of labour resources and a search for the forms of settlement most responsive to the requirements of production and the cultural and domestic needs of the population.)

• Population geography is a study if conditions of habitation in different natural geographic regions reveals the connection between population geography and medical geography.

• The scope of research on ethnography and the economics of labour is closely associated and sometimes intertwined with population geography.

• The development of methods of making population map is very important.  Hence, while describing, comparing, or explaining the determinants and consequences of population phenomena, social phenomena, have to be taken into consideration.

• Population geography has a special place in economic geography, because people, as the main productive force, are employed in all economic sector, and, up to a point, their location has an all- encompassing significance in the productivity of the people and the consumption of the products. Hence the population is both the producer and consumer.

• Population geographers’ studies, System and Structure - The forms of settlement in relation to the spatial nature of population, the characteristics of the geographical environment, the economic geographical condition of population employment, and, population migrations. Together with differences in the natural growth of population migrations determine the course of territorial re-distribution of population.

• Population composition and structure, they include a set of demographic characteristics and social characteristics such as - Age-Sex structure, Marital status, age at marriage, caste, religions, and, linguistic composition racial or ethnic composition of people, literacy and levels of educational attainment etc.

• With the advent of Geographical Information system (GIS) and the use of more sophisticating remote sensing technology, the study of population geography has seen a change in the availability of information and its applications.

                     over space and time, the important of the study of geography in the population studies has become prominent in all social sciences. Population geographers mainly focus on the different aspects of population depending on the geographical and economic aspects of a region. At the end as R.J.Proyer very actually suggested that the population geography deals with the analysis and explanation of interrelationship between population phenomena and the geographical character of places as they both vary.