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Human Resource

People are a nation's greatest resource. Nature's bounty becomes significant only when people find it useful. It is people with their demands and abilities that turn them into 'resources'. Hence, **human resource** is the ultimate resource. Healthy, educated and motivated people develop resources as per their requirements.

Human resources like other resources are not equally distributed over the world. They differ in their educational levels, age and sex. Their numbers and characteristics also keep changing.



This image illustrates the concept of population size from small groups to the entire world population, explaining how large numbers like billions are written and understood.

Do you know?

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PKVY) was started in 2015 aiming to train one crore Indian youth from 2016 to 2020. The objective of this scheme is to encourage aptitude towards employable skills by giving quality training to probable and existing wage earners.

What is Human Resource?

Human resource refers to the qualities of the people that make them useful for the development of the country. It includes their education, skills, health, and motivation.

Exam Question

Q: Why is human resource considered the ultimate resource?

A: Because people with their demands and abilities turn natural resources into useful resources, making human resource the ultimate resource.

Pattern of Population Distribution

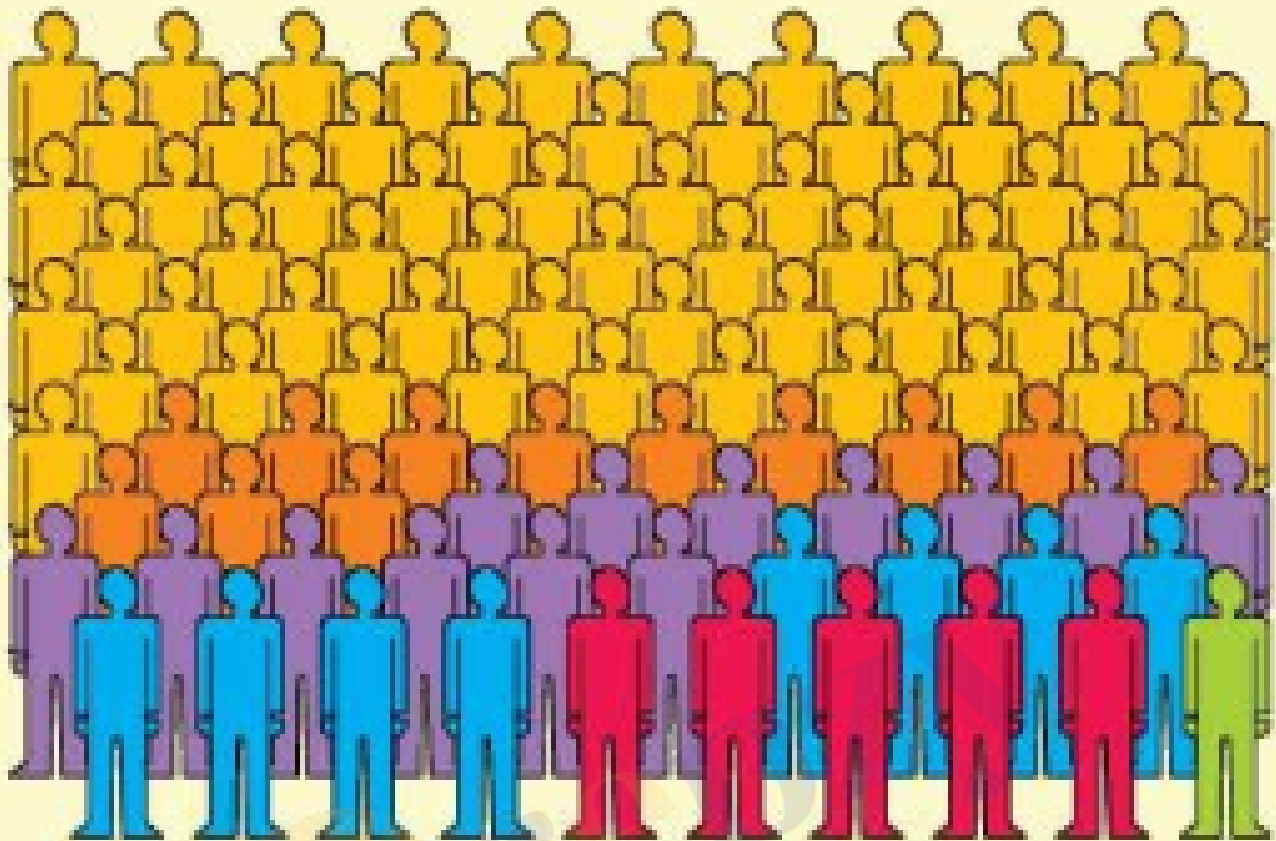
The way in which people are spread across the earth's surface is known as the pattern of population distribution. More than 90 per cent of the world's population lives in about 30 per cent of the land surface. The distribution of population in the world is extremely uneven.

Some areas are very crowded and some are sparsely populated. The crowded areas are South and South East Asia, Europe and North Eastern North America. Very few people live in high latitude areas, tropical deserts, high mountains and areas of equatorial forests.

Many more people live north of the Equator than south of the Equator. Almost three-quarters of the world's people live in two continents: Asia and Africa.

Sixty per cent of the world's people stay in just 10 countries. All of them have more than 100 million people.

Of every 100 people in the world...



live in Asia



live in Europe



live in Africa



live in Central
and South
America



live in Northern
America



live in Oceania
(Australia, New
Zealand and the
Pacific island)

Fig. 5.1: World population by continents

This image shows the distribution of the world's population by continent, representing how many people out of every 100 live in different parts of the world.

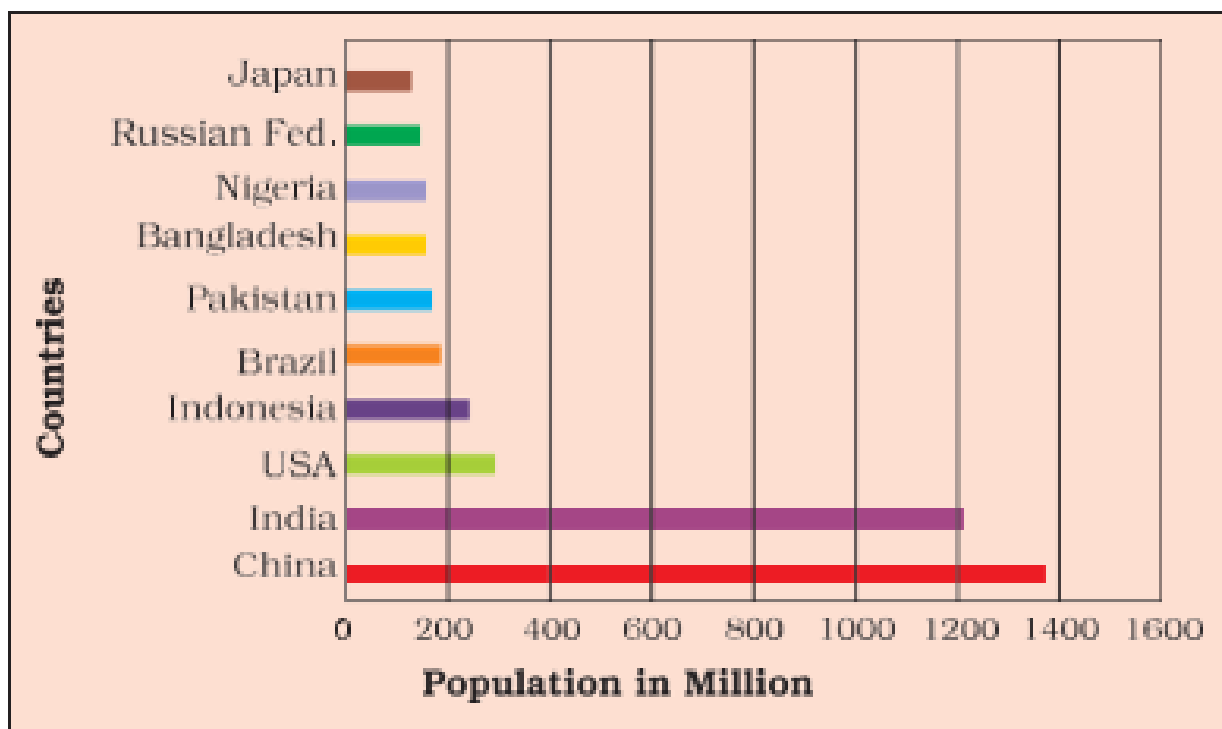


Fig. 5.2: World's most populous countries

Locate and label these countries on the outline map of the world.

Source: Census of India, 2011 Provisional Population Totals, Paper 1 of 2011 India Series 1

This bar graph shows the populations of the world's most populous countries in millions, highlighting China and India as the top two.

Activity

Study Fig. 5.1 and find out: of the world's total population which continent has -

- (a) only 5 per cent
- (b) only 13 per cent
- (c) only 1 per cent
- (d) only 12 per cent

Do you know?

Average density of population in India is 382 persons per square kilometre.

Population Density

Population density is the number of people living in a unit area of the earth's surface. It is normally expressed as persons per square kilometre. The average density of population in the whole world is 51 persons per square kilometre. South Central Asia has the highest density of population followed by East and South East Asia.



This image explains how the same number of people can feel crowded or spacious depending on the area they occupy, illustrating the concept of population density.

Exam Question

Q: What is population density?

A: Population density is the number of people living per unit area of the earth's surface, usually expressed as persons per square kilometre.

Geographical, Social, Cultural and Economic Factors Affecting Population Distribution

Geographical Factors

- **Topography:** People prefer to live on plains rather than mountains and plateaus because plains are suitable for farming, manufacturing and service activities. For example, the Ganga plains are densely populated, while mountains like the Andes, Alps and Himalayas are sparsely populated.
- **Climate:** Extreme climates such as very hot deserts or very cold polar regions are avoided by people.
- **Soil:** Fertile soils support agriculture and attract population, such as the Ganga and Brahmaputra plains in India.

- **Water:** Availability of fresh water attracts people; river valleys are densely populated while deserts are sparsely populated.
- **Minerals:** Areas with mineral deposits attract people, e.g., diamond mines in South Africa and oil discoveries in the Middle East.

Social, Cultural and Economic Factors

- **Social:** Areas with better housing, education and health facilities are more densely populated, e.g., Pune.
- **Cultural:** Places with religious or cultural significance attract people, e.g., Varanasi, Jerusalem, Vatican City.
- **Economic:** Industrial areas provide employment opportunities, attracting large populations, e.g., Osaka in Japan and Mumbai in India.

Exam Question

Q: Name two geographical factors that influence population distribution.

A: Topography and availability of water are two geographical factors that influence population distribution.

Population Change

Population change refers to the change in the number of people during a specific time. The world population has not been stable; it has increased manifold due to changes in births and deaths.

Until the 1800s, population grew slowly because high birth rates were balanced by high death rates due to lack of health facilities and food shortages.

In 1804, the world's population reached one billion. By 1959, it reached 3 billion, a period called population explosion. By 1999, it doubled to 6 billion due to reduced death rates while birth rates remained high.

Birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 people; death rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 people. Migration is the movement of people in and out of an area.

The difference between birth rate and death rate is called the natural growth rate. Population increase is mainly due to rapid increase in natural growth rate.

Glossary: Life expectancy is the number of years an average person can expect to live.

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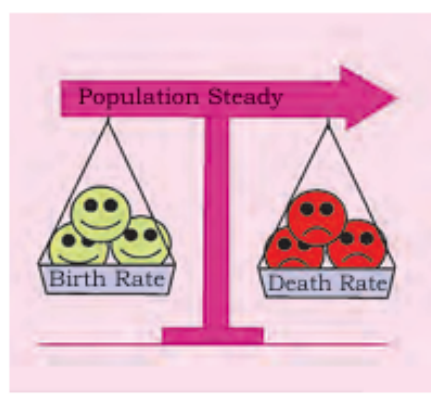


Fig 5.3: World Population Growth

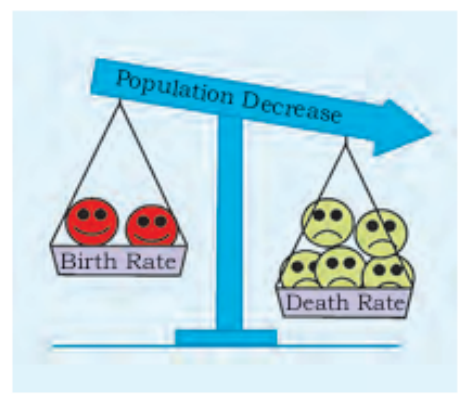
This graph shows the world population growth from 500 BC to 2025, illustrating slow growth for centuries and rapid increase in recent times.



Birth rate more than death rate: population increase



Birth rate and death rate same: population stays the same



Death rate more than birth rate: population decreases

Fig 5.4: Balance of Population

This image explains population increase, steady population, and population decrease based on the balance between birth rate and death rate.

Glossary

Immigration: When a person enters a new country.

Emigration: When a person leaves a country.

Migration affects population size. Emigrants leave a country; immigrants arrive in a country. Developed countries like the USA and Australia gain population through immigration, while countries like Sudan lose population due to emigration.

Within countries, many people move from rural to urban areas seeking employment, education, and health facilities.

Exam Question

Q: What is the difference between immigration and emigration?

A: Immigration is entering a new country, while emigration is leaving a country.

Rates of Population Growth

Population growth rates vary worldwide. Some countries like Kenya have high growth rates due to high birth rates and falling death rates. Others like the United Kingdom have low growth rates due to low birth and death rates.

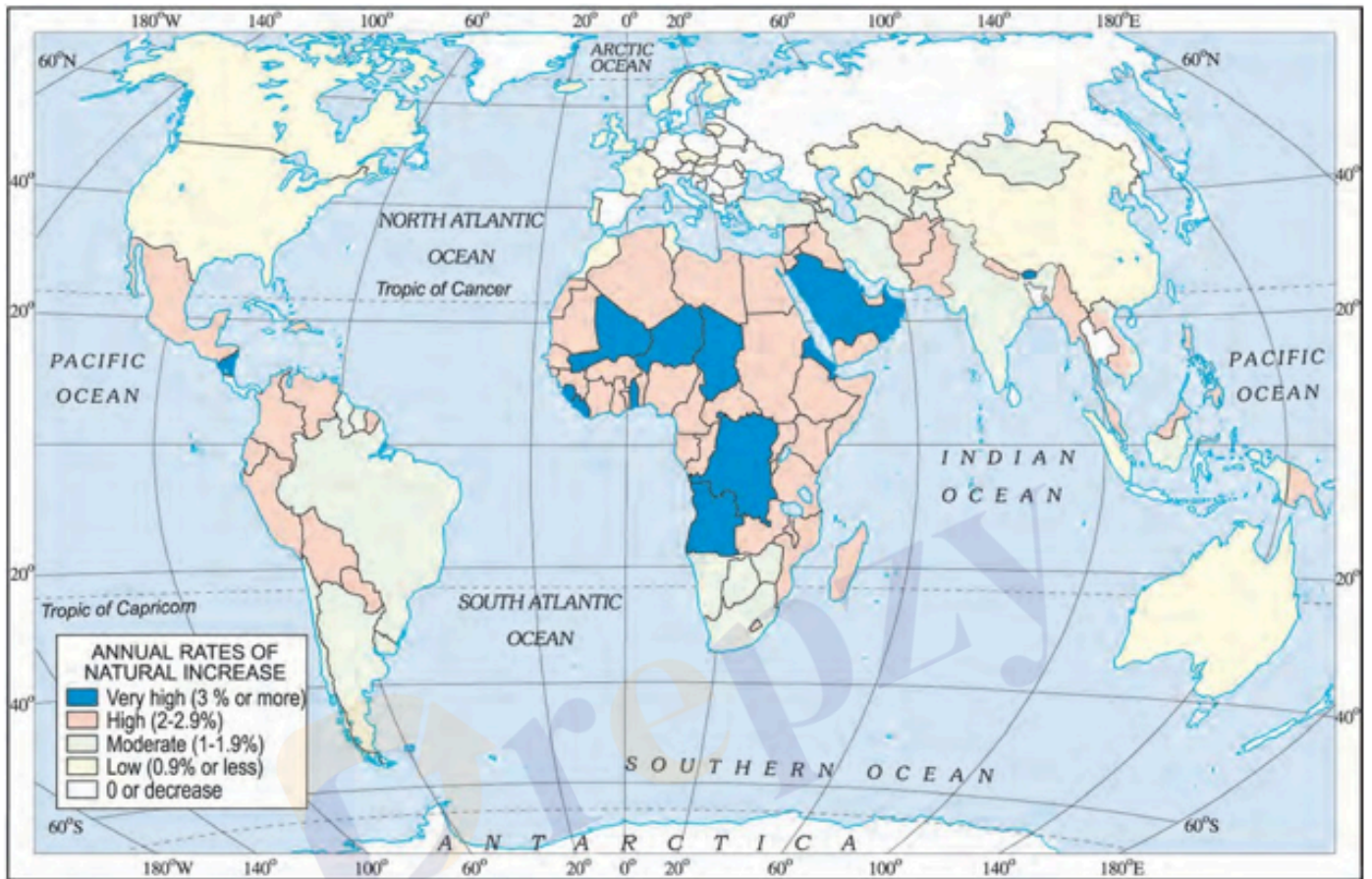
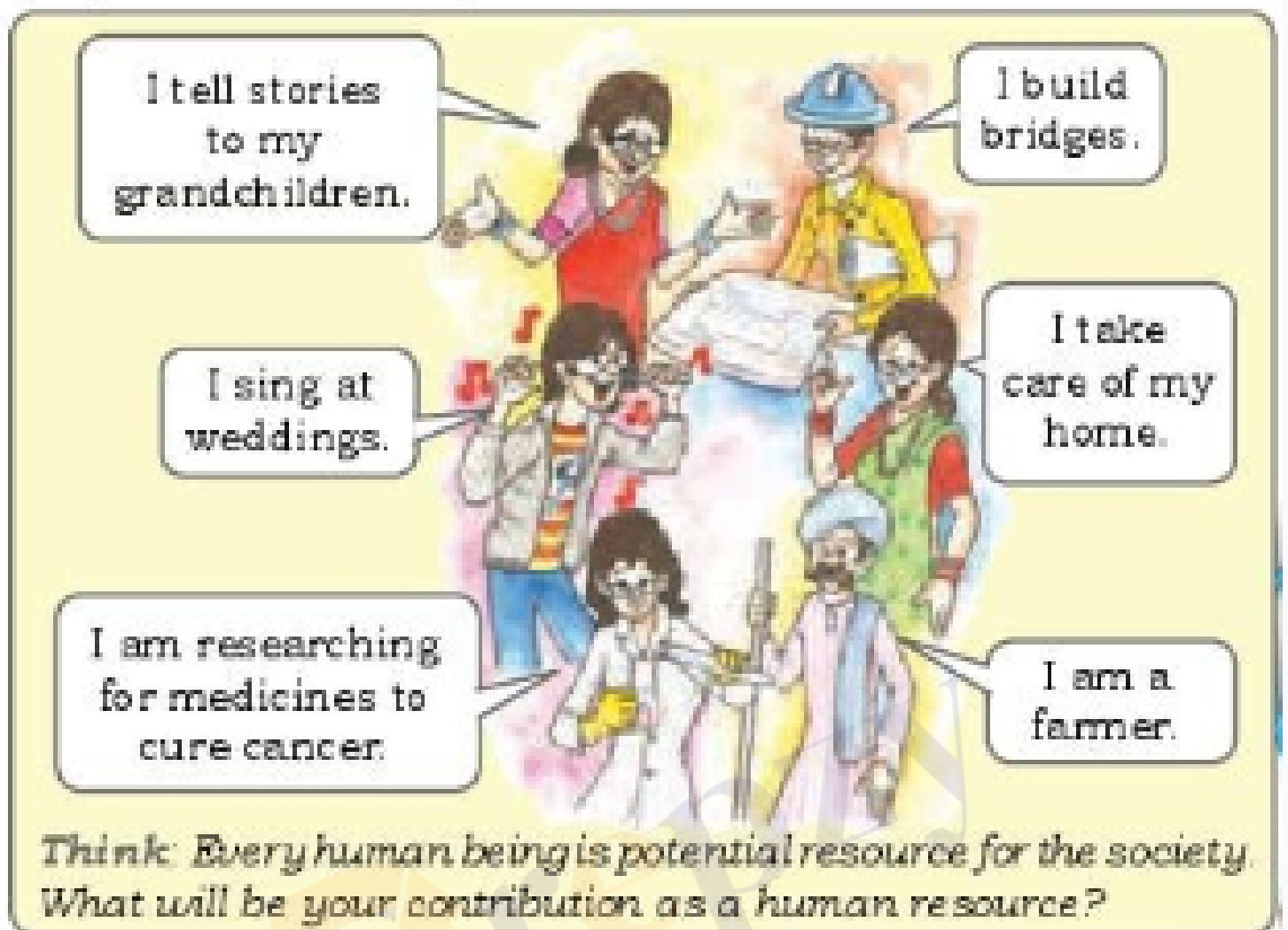


Fig. 5.5: World: Differing rates of population growth

This map shows varying rates of population growth across countries, categorized by annual natural increase percentages.

Population Composition

Population composition refers to the structure of the population by age, sex, literacy, health, occupation, and income.



This image shows different people contributing to society in various ways, emphasizing that every human is a potential resource.

Population pyramids show the distribution of population by age and sex, indicating the number of young and elderly dependents and the working-age population.

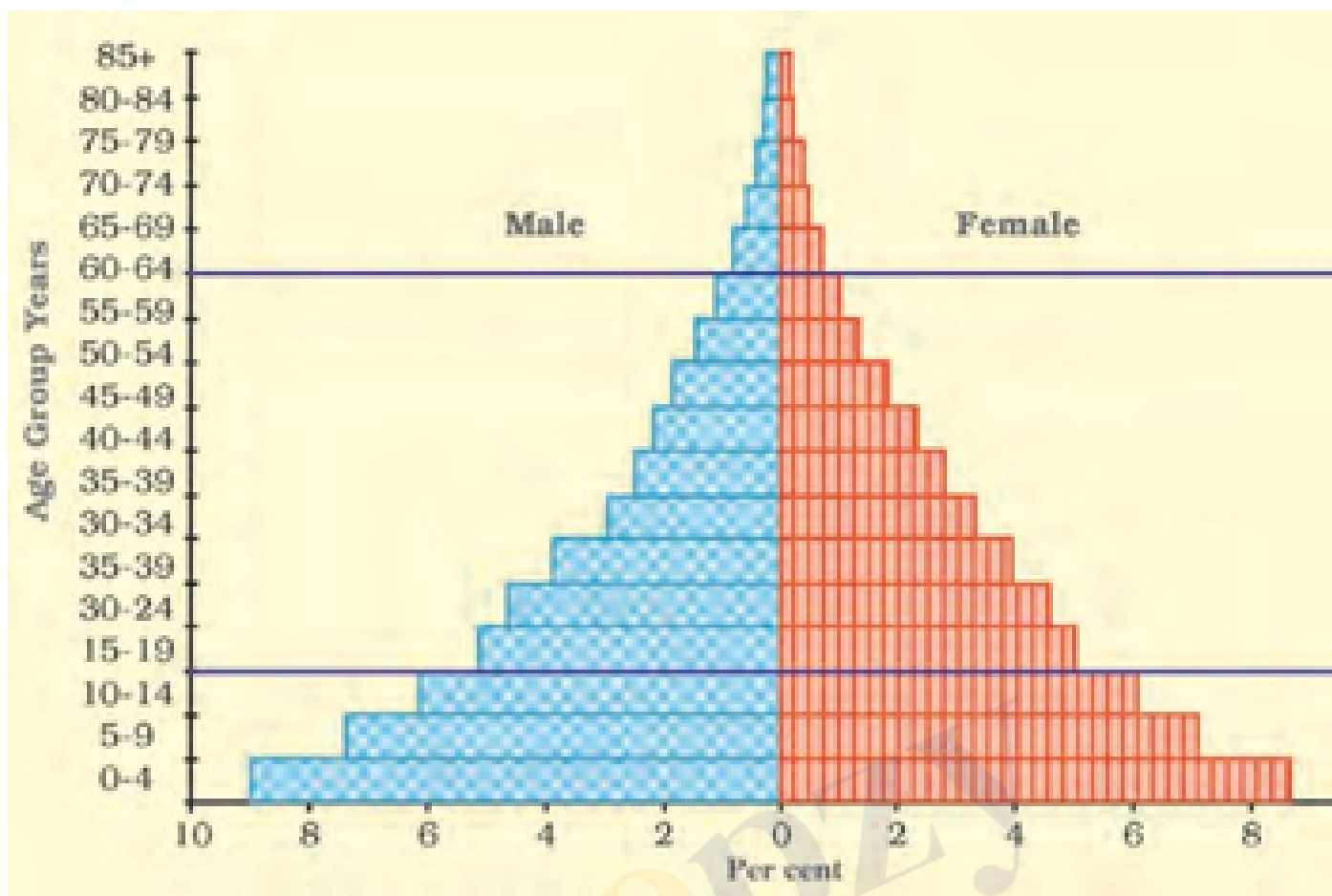
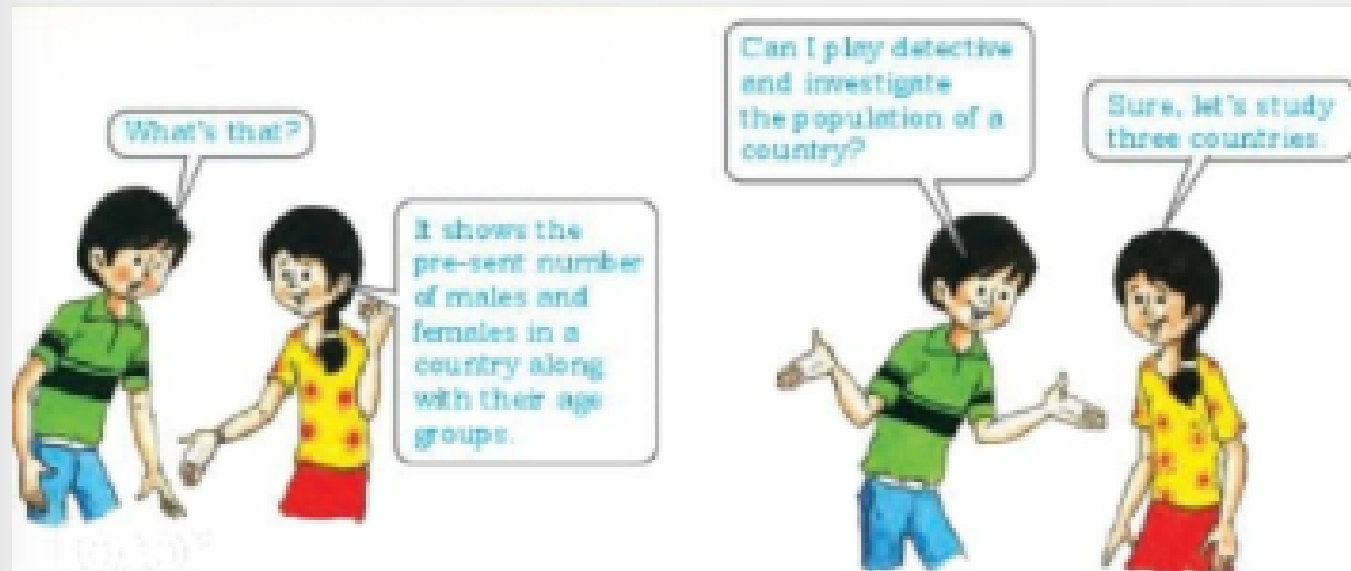


Fig. 5.6: Population Pyramid

This population pyramid shows a young population with a broad base and tapering top, typical of developing countries.



This image depicts children discussing population data by age and sex, highlighting the importance of understanding population structure.

The shape of the population pyramid reflects birth and death rates and the number of dependents.

Kenya's pyramid shows a broad base and rapid narrowing, indicating high birth and death rates.

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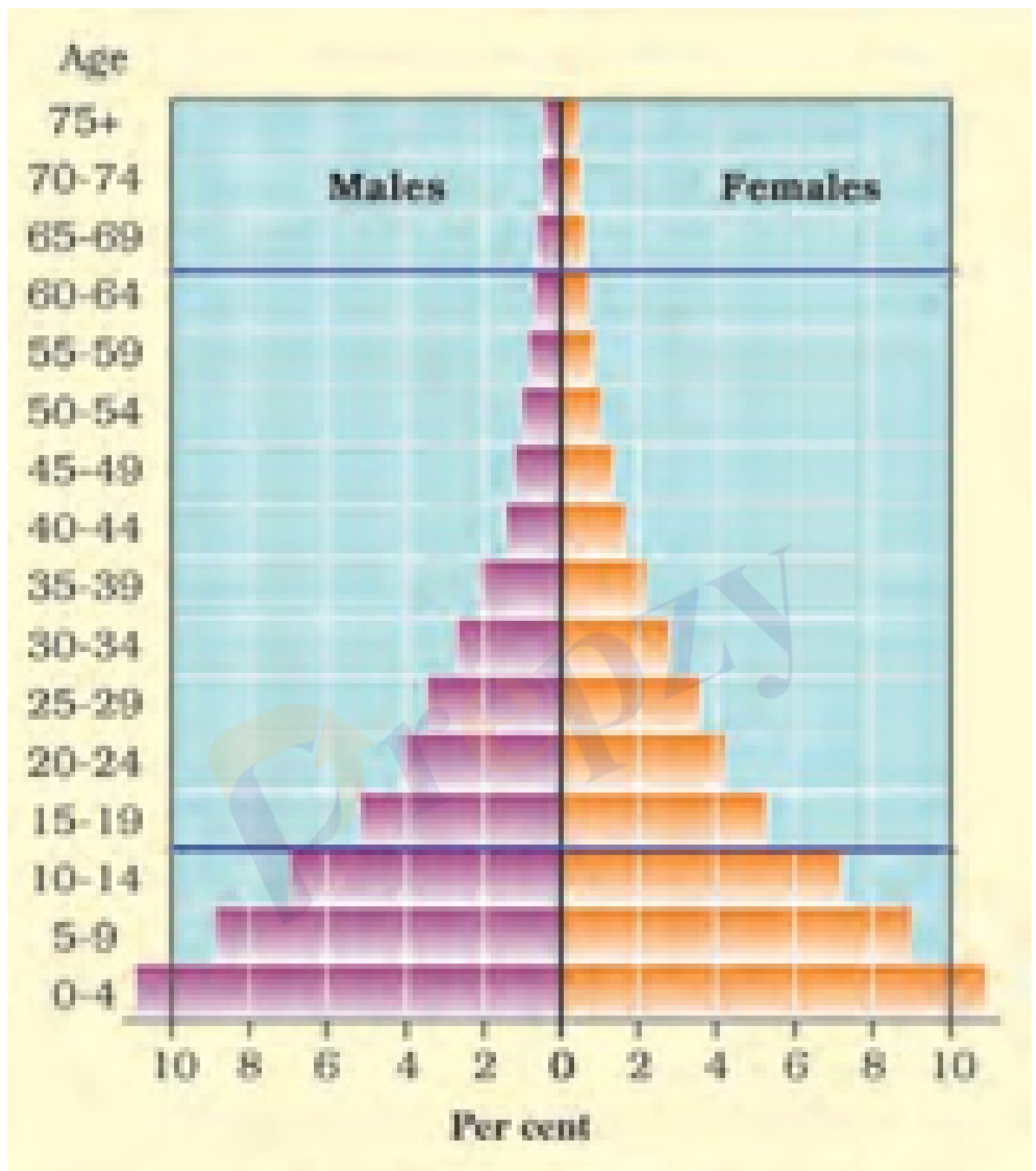


Fig. 5.7: Population Pyramid of Kenya

This population pyramid of Kenya shows a young population with many children and fewer elderly people.

India's pyramid shows decreasing death rates and a large young population, indicating a strong and expanding labour force.

Japan's pyramid shows low birth rates and an aging population with more elderly people.

Skilled and hopeful young people are the future of any nation and must be educated and provided opportunities to become productive.

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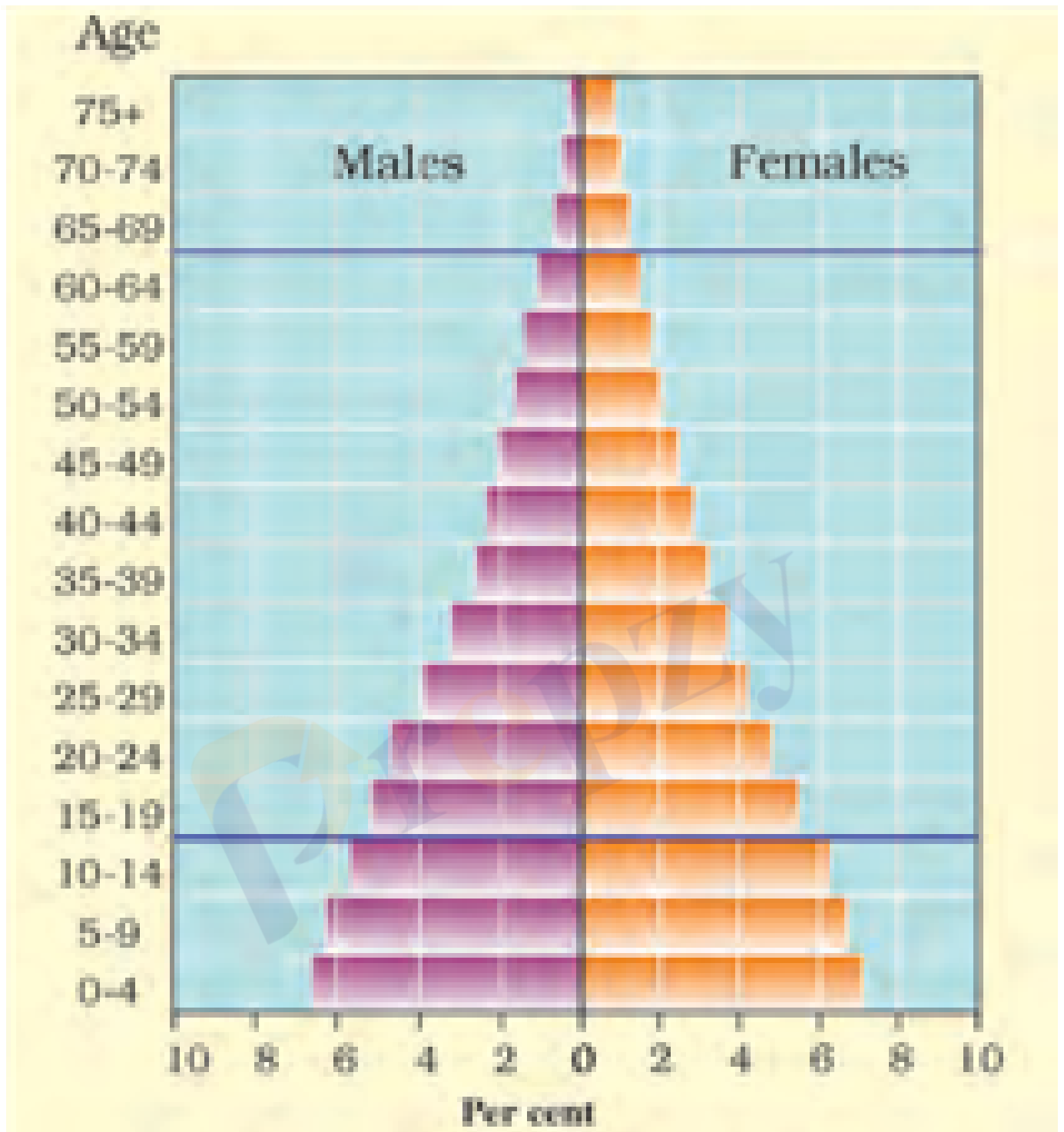


Fig. 5.8: Population Pyramid of India

This population pyramid of India shows a wide base indicating many young people and a gradually narrowing top.

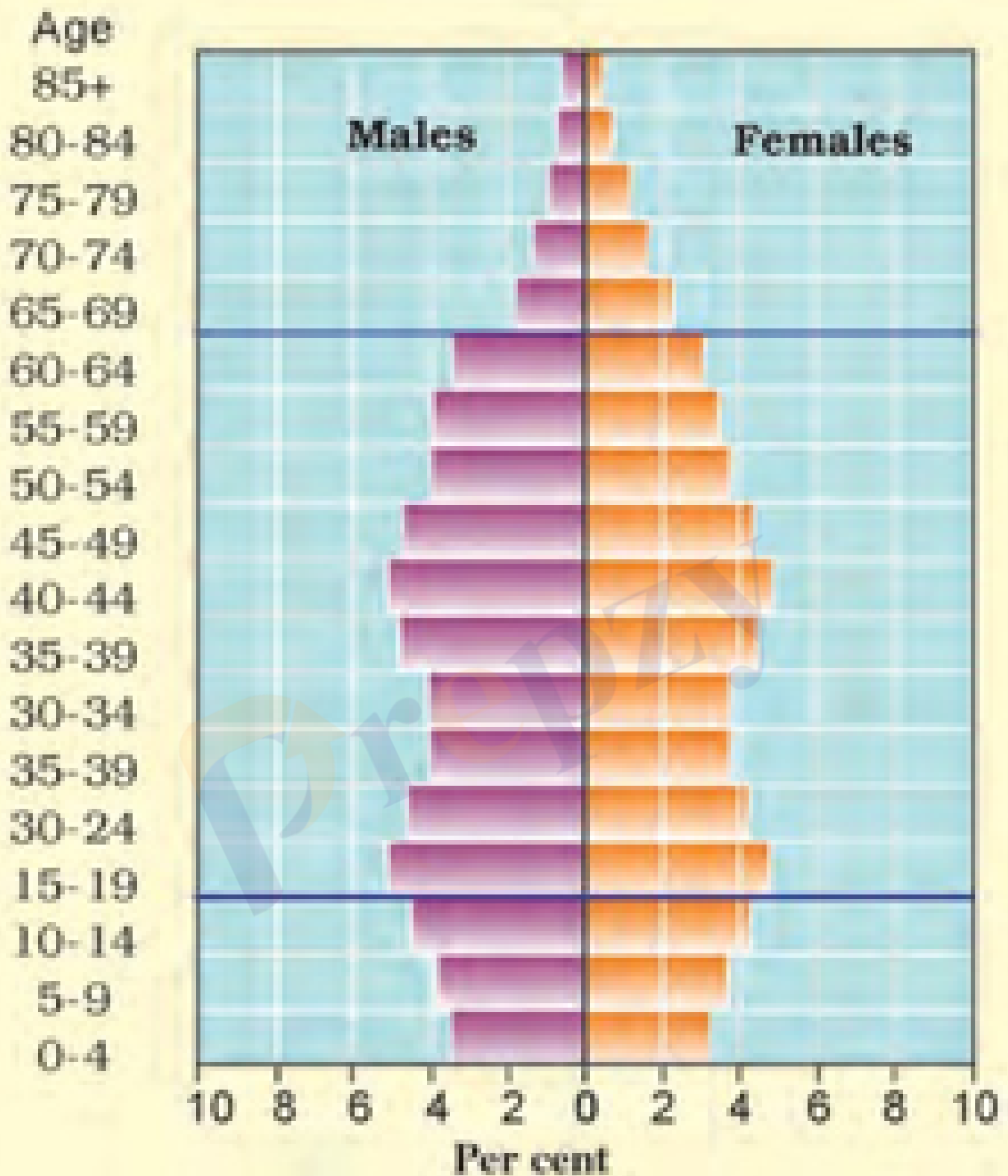


Fig. 5.9: Population Pyramid of Japan

This population pyramid of Japan shows an aging population with a narrow base and a significant elderly population.

Solved Examples

Example 1

Q: Explain why population density is higher in plains than in mountains.

A: Plains have fertile soil, suitable climate, and better accessibility for farming and living, making them more attractive for settlement. Mountains have harsh terrain and climate, making them sparsely populated.

Example 2

Q: What causes population explosion?

A: Population explosion is caused by a rapid increase in population due to high birth rates and declining death rates because of improved health care and food supply.

Practice Set

Easy

- Define human resource.
- What is population density?
- Name two continents where most of the world's population lives.

Moderate

- Explain the factors affecting population distribution.
- What is the natural growth rate of population?
- Describe the shape of a population pyramid of a country with high birth and death rates.

Challenging

- Discuss the impact of migration on population size.
- Compare the population pyramids of India and Japan and explain the differences.
- Explain how economic factors influence population distribution with examples.

Answer Key

- **Human resource:** The qualities of people that make them useful for development.
- **Population density:** Number of people per unit area.
- **Continents with most population:** Asia and Africa.
- **Factors affecting population distribution:** Geographical, social, cultural, and economic factors.
- **Natural growth rate:** Difference between birth rate and death rate.
- **Population pyramid shape with high birth and death rates:** Broad base and rapidly narrowing top.
- **Migration impact:** Changes population size by movement of people in and out.
- **India vs Japan pyramids:** India has a young, growing population; Japan has an aging population with low birth rates.
- **Economic factors:** Industrial areas attract population due to employment opportunities, e.g., Mumbai, Osaka.

Quick Reference

- **Human Resource:** Ultimate resource; includes health, education, skills.
- **Population Distribution:** Uneven; dense in plains and river valleys.
- **Population Density:** People per square kilometre; varies by region.
- **Population Change:** Influenced by birth rate, death rate, migration.
- **Population Growth Rates:** Vary globally; high in developing countries.
- **Population Composition:** Age, sex, literacy, occupation structure.
- **Population Pyramid:** Graphical age–sex structure of population.

Glossary

- **Human Resource:** The skills, knowledge, and abilities of people.
- **Population Density:** Number of people living per unit area.
- **Birth Rate:** Number of live births per 1,000 people per year.
- **Death Rate:** Number of deaths per 1,000 people per year.
- **Natural Growth Rate:** Difference between birth rate and death rate.
- **Migration:** Movement of people from one place to another.
- **Immigration:** Entering a new country to live.
- **Emigration:** Leaving one's country to live elsewhere.
- **Population Pyramid:** A graph showing age and sex distribution of a population.
- **Life Expectancy:** Average number of years a person is expected to live.

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