

SOCIOLOGY · CHAPTER 2

The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS**5-6 out of 7. Below 4****means the core concepts
(sex ratio, demographic
transition, dividend)
aren't secure.****TIME TO MASTER****8-10 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

Your child is learning DEMOGRAPHY — the study of population. They learn (1) how we measure a population using rates and ratios (birth rate, death rate, fertility, infant mortality, sex ratio, dependency ratio), (2) two big theories — Malthus's pessimistic idea that population always outstrips food (and why it was wrong) and the demographic transition theory (societies move from high-to-low birth and death rates as they develop), (3) India's population story — still growing but slowing, with fertility now near the replacement level, (4) the DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND — India's young population is a once-in-history chance for rapid growth IF the country invests in education and jobs, and (5) a serious social problem — the DECLINING CHILD SEX RATIO, caused by son preference and sex-selective abortion, and what is being done about it.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What does sex ratio mean, and what is India's figure?
- Explain the theory of demographic transition and its three stages.
- What is the demographic dividend and how can India benefit from it?
- Why is the child sex ratio falling, and where is it worst?
- What is the difference between formal and social demography?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Defines sex ratio backwards (males per 1000 females).
- Names only two stages of the demographic transition.
- Thinks the demographic dividend is automatic.
- Believes the low sex ratio is caused by poverty (it is worst in rich states).
- Confuses Malthusian theory with the demographic transition.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

This chapter is data-and-concept heavy. Students lose marks by getting definitions and trend numbers slightly wrong. Make sure your child can recite the key definitions exactly and the 945→927→919 child-sex-ratio trend.

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