

Key Terms in Population

Population - the total number of people who live in a specific area at a certain point in time.

- **Sustainable Development** - speaks to developments that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to their own needs.
- **Demography** - the scientific study of the population that serves to determine its characteristics such as size, composition, structure and distribution.
- **Population Composition** - the total make-up or characteristics of the people in a population. These include gender, age, ethnicity, religion, occupation etc.
- **Population Distribution** - the geographical location of the people in a population
- **Population Density** - the number of persons concentrated in a region in relation to the land area, in other words, it refers to the average number of people living per unit area of a region or country.
- **Migration** - the movement of persons from one geographical location to another in order to settle.

- **Immigrant** - a person who arrives in a country to settle
- **Emigrant** - a person who leaves his or her country to settle in another
- **Net Migration** - the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants in a country during a particular year.
- **Urbanization** - the movement of people in large numbers from rural areas such as small villages to urban areas.
- **Natural Increase** - this refers to a situation in which the number of births is greater than the number of deaths
- **Birth rate** - the number of births in a particular period (usually a year) for every 1,000 members of the population
- **Death rate** - this is also known as mortality rate, and it is the number of deaths in a particular period for every 1,000 members of the population
- **Infant Mortality Rate** - the number of deaths of children under one year for every 1,000 live births occurring in the same year.
- **Fertility Rate** - the actual childbearing performance of live births per 1000 women between the ages of fifteen and forty-four

- **Life expectancy** - the average number of years that persons in a given population are expected to live.

- **Dependency Ratio** - refers to those persons who are below the age of 15 years and are above 65 years of age who depend on those who are in the labour force and are employed.

- **Overpopulation** - situation in which the resources of a given area are not sufficient to support or provide for the needs of that area.

- **Under population** - situation in which a population is too small to fully utilize the resources available.

- **Optimum Population** - The number of people who can enjoy a reasonable standard of living with the resources available in a given area.

- **Depopulation** - a condition in which the population of an area or country decreases on account of varying factors such as insurgence, political unrest, natural disasters, etc.