

DP IB Geography: SL



Your notes

Challenges & Opportunities

Contents

- * Global & Regional Trends
- * Population Policies
- * Equality & Trafficking Policies
- * Demographic Dividend



Your notes

Global & Regional Trends

Family Size

- Family size is **linked** with **economic development**; larger families tend to be found in LICs
- The **global average household size** has **declined** from 4.9 persons in 1960 to **3.45** in 2023 and is **predicted** to reach **2.5 by 2050**
- The country with the **largest** household size is **Senegal, Africa**, with an average of **10 family members**
- **Pakistan, Nigeria and India** also have **large** families with an average of between **5–9 persons**
- **Smaller** families are **common** across **Europe with 2.3** persons and **North America with 2.6** persons
- The following factors influence household size:
 - **Access to healthcare**, and contraception
 - An increase in women's education and participation in the workforce
 - **Increased life expectancy** of children, reducing the need to have more children
 - **Urbanisation** and lack of space for large families
 - **Cultural and societal norms**, where family size is due to social expectations such as religious and cultural beliefs and children are seen as economic assets to contribute to family income and status
 - **Government policy** restricting or encouraging family size



Examiner Tips and Tricks

When asked about global and regional trends, you do not need specific data about all the countries of the world. You need to be aware of general information on a global scale and how this varies from region to region. Knowing details about a couple of contrasting countries will allow you to support your claims on the global and regional trends.

Sex Ratios

- The **sex ratio** is often referred to as the **gender ratio**
- It is the **ratio between** the number of **males and females** in a given society
- The ratio is **dynamic** and is affected by:



Your notes

- **Biological** factors - usually there are higher numbers of males born; however, male mortality is typically higher
- **Cultural and social** factors - some societies have a preference for male offspring
 - This may lead to sex-selective abortions
- **Technological** factors - improvements in fertility treatments and selective gender choices
- **Economic** factors - lineage within a family continues with a son; dowries are an expense with the transfer of property or money from the bride to the groom's family
- Differences in **mortality rates and life expectancy**
 - Women live longer than men
 - Genetically, males are susceptible to higher mortality rates. Studies found that during the Covid-19 pandemic, more males died than females from the virus
- In turn, the sex ratio impacts society, demographics, and the economy of a country

Global differences

- In 2021 the **total share of women in the world stood at 49%**
- Although **most births are male**, many countries have a **female dominant population between 49–51%**
- However, countries with the largest populations (**China and India**) have a **male dominant society**, thereby changing global gender ratio
- Some countries do not register female births
- **Middle East countries have more males than females**, mostly due to **inward migration of male workers** to the region
 - Oman has 3:1 ratio
 - UAE has almost 4:1
- In **Mexico**, the percentage of the female population is 51.08% compared to 48.92% of the male population due to the **outward migration of males** to support their families
- Also, the **ratio varies from place to place**
 - Employment opportunities may be more suitable to one gender or another, for example:
 - Alaska has numerous tough, physical jobs such as lumberjack, oil and gas drilling, and crab fishing. This is the reason the country has the highest male/female sex ratio
- **Gender inequality** exposes females to poor health, and puts them at higher risk of death, including complications pre and post-pregnancy and childbirth
- Despite this, as a country's population ages, it is more likely to have a female majority



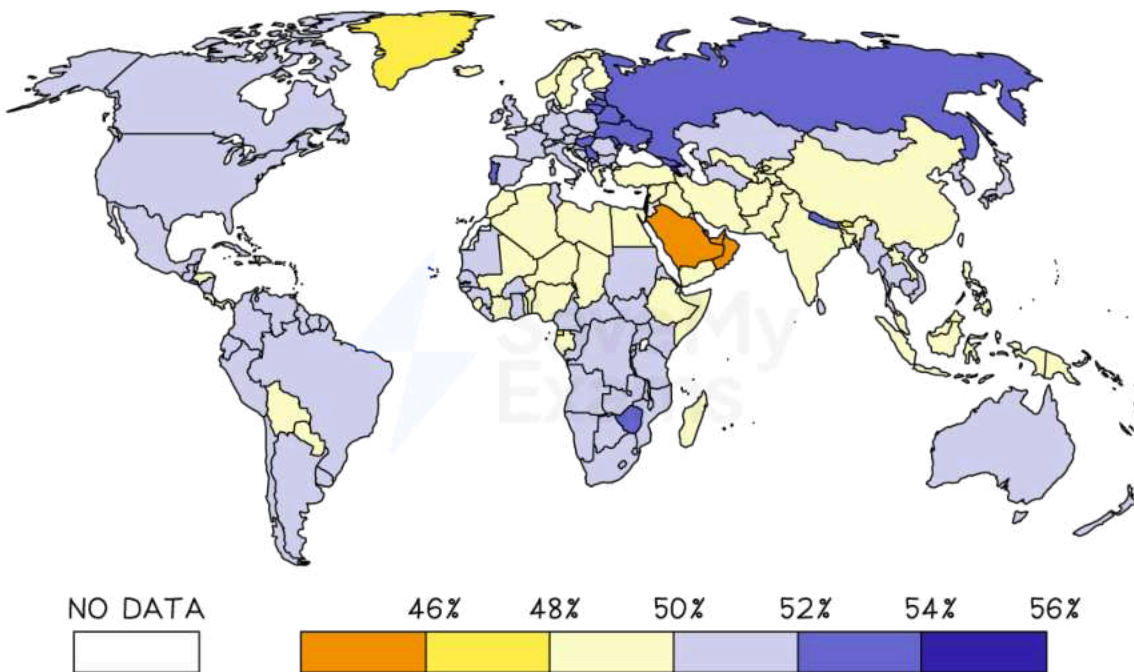
Your notes

- Countries from the former Soviet Union have been predominantly female since World War II when millions of men died in battle
- By 2021, these countries accounted for six of the 10 nations with the highest ratio of females to males
- According to the UN:



Armenia is the most heavily distorted country toward females (82 males per 100 females), but there are still more newborn boys than girls. In fact, for every 100 girls born in Armenia, 110 are boys - the world's sixth highest sex ratio at birth in favour of boys. UN 2022

Global sex ratio



Importance of the sex ratio

- Countries which lack males or females, have difficulty maintaining a birth rate which matches or exceeds its death rate
- This creates a declining population with fewer male workers entering the workforce

- This leads to a stagnant or shrinking economy and reduced GDP
- An unbalanced sex ratio affects crime rates, marital stability, and a woman's decisions to either focus on a career or start a family

Issues with the sex ratio

- Sex ratio varies with age and demographic group and this is not shown in the final ratio
 - Males outnumber females at birth but have a higher mortality rate
 - Therefore, by the age of 50+, women typically outnumber men
- The ratio may or may not include children or non-permanent residents such as students and temporary workers

Ageing

- Also known as a **greying population**, every country has seen a growth in size and percentage of older persons in their population
- In 2020, the number of people aged 60+ years outnumbered children younger than 5 years
- In 2022, almost 10% of the world's population (771 million people) were aged 65+ years
- Between 2015 and 2050, the world's population over 60 years will nearly double from 12% to 22%
- By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population over 60 years will live in low- and middle-income countries
- Places with a high elderly population in Japan (30%), Italy (24%), and Finland (23%)
- Countries such as Qatar, Uganda, and Afghanistan have just 2% of their population aged 65+ years

Reasons for an ageing/greying population

- Globally, mortality and fertility rates have decreased steadily over the last 50 years
- Immigration usually offsets the effects of a country's ageing population as immigrants are usually younger
- But this is a short-term view, as immigrants also get older
- Immigrants from countries with traditionally high family numbers (India etc.) will, with each generation, reduce the number of children they have as they begin to integrate within their adopted country
 - 2nd and 3rd generation Indian migrants to the UK now have an average of 2.4 children compared to 4.4 within India
- Also, as population ageing and falling fertility rates are a global occurrence, future migrant profiles may change



Your notes



Your notes

Population Policies

Ageing Populations

- **Ageing populations** have multiple **impacts**:
 - **Increase costs** on residential accommodation, social services, health care, and pensions
 - **Services** such as schools, sports centres, etc. decline as they are not used by older residents
 - **Family budgets** can increase if looking after an aged relative
 - There is an **increase in the dependency ratio** because of a smaller working population
 - A smaller workforce means less tax paid to the government leading to less money available to the younger population for education, transport, social amenities etc.
- Ageing populations can also **present opportunities** such as:
 - **Lower costs on policing** as crime rates reduce
 - **New market/business opportunities**
 - In HICs, the elderly are an important market, known as the 'grey economy'
 - Firms now cater to this market through holidays (SAGA), mobility aids, health care workers etc.
 - **Increased opportunities** for volunteering and community activism as elderly people have experience
 - **Longer working lives** and contribution to society
 - More **time can be spent with friends and family** and providing care for family members
 - In Japan and South Africa, there is a 'granny culture', where the elderly look after their grandchildren, allowing both parents to work

Japan's 'super-aged' population

- More than **1 in 10 people in Japan are now aged 80+**, and there are approximately **80 000 centenarians (100+ years)**
- This makes **Japan** the country with the **world's oldest population**
- By 2036, people **65+ years** will represent **33% of the population**
- Japan has a **low birth rate** and struggles to provide for its ageing population
- In 2022, **almost half of Japanese firms relied on workers aged 70+**

- Farmers are also ageing and Japan's farming population is shrinking and the **agricultural sector faces a severe labour shortage**
- A shrinking child population is forcing local governments around Japan to close its schools
- The decrease in the size of the youth population reduces competition among young people

Japan's policies

- The government has tried to boost its birth rates
- But, with the cost of living, and long working hours, there has been little success
- The pandemic only worsened the issues, leading to more deaths, and fewer marriages and births
- Japan created the '**Angel Plan**' aimed to help couples raise their children by:
 - Increasing policies and programmes for paid parental leave, childcare services and child allowances
 - In 2019, free preschool education and day-care for children aged 3–5 was introduced
 - In 2020, the government increased support by:
 - Reduces the cost of fertility treatment
 - Raised child allowances
 - Expanded free higher education
 - Introduced higher allowances for paternity leave – at present Japan has a generous paid parental leave of up to 24 months
 - But so far, these policies have not improved Japan's low fertility rate of 1.36 births per woman
- **Improve immigration**
 - Japan has a strict immigration policy
 - Migrants are considered temporary 'guest workers' who will eventually return home
 - Many Japanese firms resist hiring foreign workers
 - In 2018, new legislation allowed foreign workers with **vocational skills** to stay in the country for up to **5 years, but could not bring their families**
 - If the foreign worker had **advanced skills**, then they were **allowed to bring their families and live** in the country **indefinitely**
 - In June 2023, just 2.4% of the total Japanese population were foreign residents (3.2 million people)



Your notes



Your notes

- This also applies to refugees, where just 202 people were granted refugee status out of 3,772 people who applied in 2022
- **Create an 'age-free' society**
 - Japan is looking at creating an 'age-free society' where people are not categorised by their age, but by their ability and motivation to work
 - They are encouraging employers to:
 - Keep their employees up to the age of 70 or longer
 - Hire older people
 - Extend their retirement age
 - Increase opportunities for older people

Pro-natalist Policies

- **Pro-natalist policies** are adopted when a country suffers from a **declining and ageing population**
- A pro-natalist policy is:



'A policy implemented to increase the population through encouraging births and instilling a culture of reproduction through incentives'

- Pro-natalist policies **improve the replacement level of a country's population** where it has fallen **below the recommended 2.1 children per woman**
- Pro-natalist policies are **associated with HICs** because:
 - They need financial and developmental support to be successful
 - LICs tend to have a youthful population with few aged people
- The **biggest issue** with the pro-natalist policy is **the cost to the government**

Russia's pro-natalist policy

- Russia has a low fertility rate of 1.5 births per woman due to:
 - Poor reproductive healthcare services
 - A lack of access to contraceptives
 - A high divorce rate



Your notes

- An ageing population
- High rates of abortion
 - Women choosing to have less children
- First **pro-natalist policy** was in **1936** where **families** were **rewarded** for having **3 or more children**
- The State increased its help to pregnant women, large families and single mothers
- Abortion was a criminal offence
- Childless families were **penalised with a tax of 6.6% on the family's income (until 1990)**
- In 1981, Russia reduced **the childbearing age and closed contraceptive factories**
- Fertility rates did not increase, but the rate of **illegal abortions** did
- By **2006, the fertility rate was just 1.3 births per woman** and further measures were introduced:
 - Women with large families were called '**Hero Mothers**' and were given **medals and gifts**
 - **Offered increased child benefits and longer maternity leave for women**
 - If women gave up work they **were offered 40%** of what they had previously earned
 - **Payments** of 250,000 Russian Roubles (approx. US\$9,200) were made **to women who give birth to a second/third child**, which could be used for domestic or educational purposes
- Another plan offered an **all-expense-paid summer camp** for young adults, complete with private tents and no condoms
- The government also considered the re-introduction of the childless tax
- '**Day of Conception**' **September 12 2006** Putin announced that 'citizens are relieved of work and are encouraged to use their afternoons to copulate and if a child is born on June 12th 2007, the couple will receive cars, TVs and other prizes'
- The results were:
 - Birth rates rose by 4.5% from 1,479,600 (2006) to 1,610,000 in 2007
 - By 2011 the fertility rate was 1.54, a 21% increase
 - The increase in 2nd births was 40% and 60% for a third child
- However, these **increases were short-lived** and the effects of the policies have worn-off
- Women's intentions to have another child haven't happened

Anti-natalist Policies



Your notes

- The aim of **anti-natalist policies** is to **reduce pressure on resources** and **improve the quality of life** for the whole population
- These are policies introduced to **reduce the birth rate**
- Policies can be **law** - as in China - **or** they can be **voluntary**

China's policy

- The Great Leap Forward (1958–1961) was a 5 year economic plan to improve the prosperity of China through:
 - Widespread industrialisation
 - **agricultural collectivism**
 - Families were rewarded by the number of workers they had, encouraging couples to have larger families
 - But it resulted in the deaths of millions of Chinese due to famine
- The rapidly increasing population resulted in limited resources, such as food, housing, education and healthcare
- A lack of jobs meant many poor people could not afford to pay taxes, which the government needed to create facilities for the growing population
- By the early 1970s, China was once again heading into a famine, unless the government brought changes
- China's **one-child policy** came into effect in **1979** and **ended in 2016**, although it was **relaxed in 1999**
- It stated that:
 - Couples must not marry until their late 20s
 - Can only have one successful pregnancy
 - Must be sterilised after the first child or abort any future pregnancies
 - Would receive a 5–10% salary rise for limiting their family to one child
 - Increased access to contraceptives and family planning
 - Better employment opportunities for one-child families
 - Abortion to be legalised
- The punishments for disobeying the rules were:
 - A 10% salary cut



Your notes

- A fine so large that it would bankrupt most households
- The family would have to pay for the education of both children and health care for all the family
- Second children born abroad were not penalised, but could not become Chinese citizens
- The policy was stricter in urban areas
- Exceptions were:
 - Ethnic minorities were allowed two children
 - Rural families were allowed two children particularly if the first was a girl
 - Urban couples could have a second child, but only if both parents were single children
 - Multiple births (twins etc.) were not penalised and many women took fertility drugs to have multiple births
- The policy is estimated to have reduced population growth, however, it has also created issues

Advantages	Disadvantages
It's estimated that 400 million fewer people have been born	Women were forced to have abortions, even as late as the ninth-month of the pregnancy
The famine which was predicted never occurred	Women were placed under pressure from families, friends, the " granny police " and their own conscience and feelings
Population growth has slowed enough for people to have enough food and jobs	'Little Emperor' syndrome where only children were spoilt
The population growth rate has decreased by more than 10% since the policy was introduced	Chinese society has a preference for sons, resulting in female infanticide or girls being placed in orphanages
Population should peak at 1.5 billion	Local officials and central government had power over people's private lives

- The biggest impacts of the policy have been:
 - A shrinking labour force - working dependency of 1.6 adults,
 - An ageing population of nearly 450 million people aged 60+

- A gender imbalance of 118 males to 100 females - roughly 30 million more men struggling to find a wife



Your notes



Your notes

Equality & Trafficking Policies

Gender Equality in Kerala, India

- **Gender inequality** is common around the world and women remain under-represented and under-appreciated
- **Gender parity** is about acknowledging the equal contribution that women (and men) make to society
- The **UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5**, focuses on gender equality and sets a target of 'achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls everywhere by 2030'
- There has been **some improvement in equality**, namely:
 - **Maternal mortality** is decreasing in most places
 - **Literacy rates and secondary education** are increasing in many countries
 - In the **workplace**, many countries are making progress in equality, although it remains slow
- It is **HICs** where the **biggest gains** in equality have occurred, however, women **still face rising costs and job insecurity**
 - Many **jobs** are **part-time** or independent work that offer **lower wages and fewer benefits**
 - **Housing and child-care** costs have risen, offsetting the benefits of employment
 - Many companies still have a **pay gap** between male and female wages
 - Women still remain the **primary household carers**, often working long hours to manage work and home
- Women face **long-established societal barriers** that limit their ability to adapt to new working environments such as upskilling to work with automated systems
- Women have less access to technology and there is lower participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields than men

Gender equality in Kerala, India

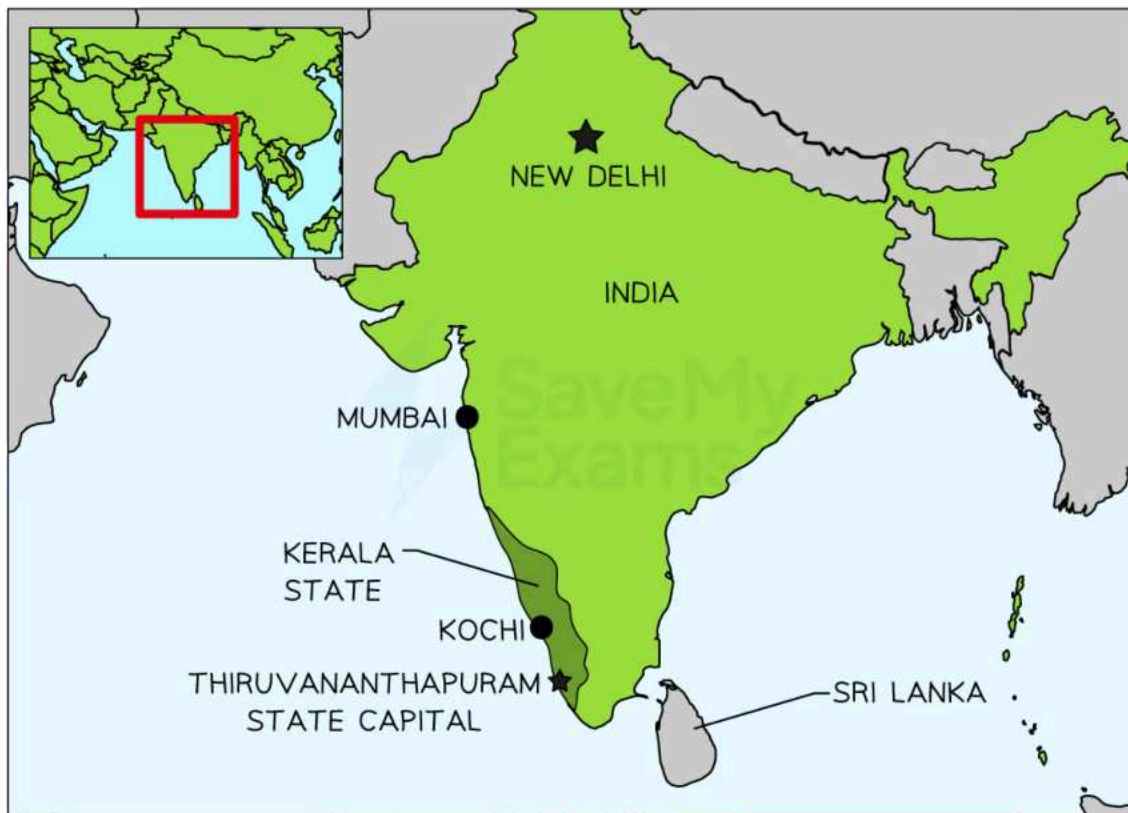
- In India, gender inequality is well established through **patriarchal** views, **gender norms**, traditions and structures
- Even though, globally, girls have a higher survival rate from birth, **India** is the only large country where **more girls die** than boys and girls are more likely to drop out of school
- Indian girls are more likely to face **restrictions** on **freedom of movement** and decisions around work, marriage, friends and education

- Wife beating is considered justified if she neglects or disrespects the house, children, in-laws or husband
- Only **25% of Indian women enter the formal workplace**
- Most women are employed in agriculture; only 7% work in professional, technical, or managerial occupations
- The majority of Indian women do not have money of their own to use as they wish
- Less than 1:6 women have a bank or savings account they can use
 - Kerala, Delhi, and Goa are the only states where more than 1:4 women have an account



Your notes

Map of Kerala State, India



Copyright © Save My Exams. All Rights Reserved

- **Kerala**, situated in the south-west of India, is the most densely populated region of India
- Known as a progressive region because of its high levels of social development, despite having the lowest per capita income of India



Your notes

- **Thiruvananthapuram** is the state's **capital** and largest city, with just over 1.6 million people
- **Kochi** city is Kerala's financial, commercial and industrial capital and has the highest GDP per capita in the state
- The region has **improved healthcare, literacy rates and lowered its birth rate**
- Kerala recognises the status of women as being important to its development
 - **Girls are educated** to the same standard as boys
 - **Open access** to colleges and universities
 - Women often study medical sciences to become doctors and nurses
 - **Jobs are open to men and women** and female employment is not unusual
 - Women have **some autonomy** over their personal lives
- In the latest census, the **sex ratio** stood at **1084 females per 1000 males** in Kerala, compared to the national average of 940 females per 1000 males
- Kerala has an **infant mortality rate** of **6 per 1000 live births**, compared with a national rate of 26.6 deaths per 1000 live births
- The **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** for India in 2022 was 2.2 children per woman of childbearing age, whereas it is **1.8 in Kerala**, well below the replacement level
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) of India, reported that **female literacy rate** stands at:
 - 70.3% across India
 - Rajasthan has the lowest female literacy rate of 57.6%
 - **Kerala has the highest at 95.2%**
- The current **life expectancy** in India (2023) is 70.42 years, (male 68.5 years and female 70.2 years) and is a 0.33% increase from 2022
 - The life expectancy is **75.2 years in Kerala**
 - 78 years for females and 72.5 yrs for males
 - This is due to:
 - A well-developed, universal access to healthcare
 - Lower levels of poverty
- Although Kerala has a some gender parity, **women are still marginalised:**
 - **Violence and sexual harassment** towards women is common and related to male alcohol abuse



Your notes

- Women **lack economic control** over their own wealth
- Although education is equal, 70% of women are unemployed as opposed to just 18% of educated men
- They are more likely to be **employed in low-wage jobs** such as agriculture, domestic work and the informal sector
- It is still the female who has the **domestic responsibilities** such as:
 - Child rearing
 - Care giver for elderly relatives
 - Cooking
 - Cleaning
 - Water and fuelwood collection
- There are **self-help groups** aimed at empowering women from poorer households and **micro-financing systems** to help support women back into employment
 - **The Kerala Women's Commission** - the commission aims to 'safeguard the rights of women and ensure their protection and equality against any form of harassment and issues faced in the family and community'
 - The commission was created to:
 - Ensure the protection and welfare of women
 - Handle gender-based issues
 - Make recommendations to the state government on women-based issues
 - Raise public awareness on female-based legislation in the state
 - **The Kerala State Women's Development Corporation Ltd** - aims to expand economic and social opportunities for women through:
 - Job oriented training and development programs
 - Loan programmes for female entrepreneurs
 - Finishing School to provide young girls with corporate working skills
 - Gender Awareness Programmes
 - **Kerala State Social Welfare Board** - aims to raise awareness regarding the legal and human rights of females and to provide care, protection and rehabilitation of children, the disabled, and the elderly

- Even with numerous achievements and improvements in Kerala, there are still issues surrounding gender parity and it is important for Kerala and India to improve:
 - Skill-building for future employment trends (digital and technology)
 - Job opportunities in key sectors
 - Corporate policies to promote diversity
 - Programs that address deep-rooted societal norms regarding the role of women in work and at home



Your notes

Trafficking & Anti-trafficking Policies

- Human trafficking remains a serious global issue
- The USA's **Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA)** defines severe forms of trafficking in persons as:
 - Sex trafficking - where commercial sexual acts are introduced by 'force, fraud, or coercion'
 - Modern slavery - the recruitment, keeping, transporting or obtaining of a person for labour or services through force, fraud, or manipulation for the purpose of controlling a person

Patterns of trafficking

- The UN notes that:



Even though all human trafficking cases have their individual characteristics, most follow the same pattern: people are abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions and then exploited in the destination country

- Past trafficking would have been between two nations, whereas now, it is more likely to be across multiple borders
- **Domestic servitude** is on the increase, where victims are tricked into handing over their identification papers and travel documents to restrict their freedom
 - These victims are usually hidden in plain sight and forced to work in homes as nannies, maids or domestic help
- The UN included anti-trafficking measures in three of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015
- Both the US and the UN produce annual reports on global trafficking and encourage governments to 'join the fight' through:

- Increasing **protection** of all victims of trafficking
- **Prosecution** of traffickers
- Help other governments **prevent** trafficking populations at risk

Risk

- Certain populations are at more risk than others and these include:
 - Religious minorities
 - People with disabilities
 - **LGBTIQA+** people
 - Refugees
 - Migrants
 - Homeless

Costs

- It is difficult to evaluate the full scope and scale of trafficking, given its hidden nature
- However, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 49.6 million people are trapped in modern slavery and is worth \$150 billion a year
- Of these:
 - 27.6 million are in forced labour
 - 22 million in forced marriage
 - 3.3 million are children in forced labour
- Of the 27.6 million people in forced labour:
 - 6.3 million are in forced commercial sexual exploitation
 - 17.3 million are in private homes
 - 3.9 million in forced labour imposed by governments
- Women and girls account for:
 - 4.9 million in commercial sexual exploitation
 - 6 million in forced labour
- 12% of all those in forced labour are children, with more than half in commercial sexual exploitation



Your notes



Your notes

- Asia and the Pacific region have the highest number of people in forced labour (15.1 million)
- The U.S. Department of Labour has identified 159 goods from 78 countries made by forced and child labour
- The most common goods are:
 - Cotton
 - Coffee
 - Rice
 - Clothing, footwear and textiles (carpets)
 - Gold, coal and diamonds

Policies

- It is unlikely that any single country or policy will end human trafficking
- However, governments have attempted to reduce trafficking through:
 - Raising public awareness
 - Designing policies to prevent trafficking
- This can be achieved by governments having:
 - Up-to-date registration of all births
 - Registration of migration into an area
- Roughly, 90% of countries have agreed the **UN 2003 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children**
- This protocol has helped to increase criminalisation of trafficking in countries that previously had no specific laws against it
- There are still some 2 billion people who live in areas where trafficking is not criminalised
 - Eight countries in Africa and the Middle East, lack anti trafficking legislation
 - Leaving a number of people unprotected and at risk

Convictions

- In 2022, a total of 5,600 human traffickers were convicted worldwide, which is low
- Although it is only an increase of around 300 convictions from the year before and 30% lower than pre-Covid-19 which stood at 9548 convictions

- Governments and NGOs believe that confiscating proceeds from crime is an effective punishment because it:
 - Deters and disrupts criminal activity
 - Cuts off funding
 - Creates the image that '**crime doesn't pay**'
 - Wins public support
- To date there is little support for the victims of trafficking and modern-day slavery



Your notes



Your notes

Demographic Dividend

The Demographic Dividend

- The demographic dividend is the 'economic growth potential' that can result from shifts in a population's age structure
- The **Demographic Dividend** describes how a country's **dependency ratio falls quickly** as it goes through a period of **fast economic growth**
- Population structures are divided into **three** age-group **categories**, depending on the level of **economic activity**
 - **Young dependents** - from **0–14** years, they rely on their economically active parents to support them
 - **Economically active** - from **15–64** years, they are the working population who earn income, pay taxes and contribute to the support of the young and elderly
 - **Elderly dependent** - from **65 years onwards**, they are no longer economically active and so rely on support from the state and younger family members
- Therefore, the dividend occurs when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)
- According to the UN population research, **Asia and Latin America** have been the **main beneficiaries** of the demographic dividend. Countries in **Sub-Saharan Africa** are **yet to benefit from it**

Benefits of the Demographic Dividend

- There are **4 areas** of benefits, or dividends:
 - **Labour supply** - there will be an increase in the workforce and women are more likely to have a job
 - **Savings** - as the economy grows, wages rise and personal savings grow. There is more disposable income to purchase goods and services further contributing to the economy
 - **Human capital** - a decrease in fertility rates results in healthier women, less economic domestic pressures and parents can invest more per child
 - **Economic growth** - GDP per capita will increase as the dependency ratio declines, fuelling investment in infrastructure and social services
- The benefits assume that governments invest in suitable social, political and economic policies to support family planning, healthcare, education and job opportunities for women and girls to achieve parity



Your notes

- The demographic dividend is not guaranteed, as reduced fertility rates do not automatically provide benefits
- The size of the benefit depends on:
 - Rate of fertility decline
 - Rate of population growth
 - Ability to employ the growing workforce
 - Political, economic and social policies in place

Case Study: South Korea's Demographic Dividend

- South Korea's demographic dividend began in the 1960s, shortly after the Korean War
- In 1962 South Korea's total fertility rates (TFR) was:
 - 1960 6.3 births per woman
 - 2.2 births in 1985
 - 1.2 births in 2005
 - 0.84 births in 2022
- This is well below the replacement level and makes South Korea the country with the lowest fertility rate in the world
- Life expectancy increased from:
 - 53 years in 1960
 - 68 years in 1985
 - 79 year in 2005
 - 83 years in 2022
- With the reforms in public health, family planning and education linked with economic growth, South Korea is considered a textbook demographic dividend

Demographic Dividend of South Korea

4 Areas	Benefits to South Korea
Labour Supply	Reduction in TFR of 6.3 to 2.2 and increased life expectancy from 53 to 79 contributed to a large and young workforce



Your notes

	Improvements in education, women were able to remain in careers, thereby boosting the economy but also personal wealth
Savings	Young and older dependents consume more resources than they produce. By reducing the dependency ratio, the working age population were able to save and coupled with better health and longer life, South Koreans are able to reach middle-age with higher savings and better pension prospects
Human Capital	South Korea overhauled its education system to be more equal and this led to one of the most educated population in the world. 69.8% of South Koreans aged 25 to 34 years have completed some form of tertiary education. 34.2% of South Koreans aged 25 to 64 have a bachelor's degree. This has contributed to rapid economic development through a skilled workforce
Economic Growth	Changes to population size and age structure has contributed to economic growth and allowed South Korea to become an export orientated economy (exports provide over 50% of GDP). Rapid industrialisation has resulted in urban growth and improved infrastructure across the country, making South Korea one of the fastest growing economies with an average 4% GDP growth per year