**Population Geography**

**(جغرافية السكان)**

* **The Content of population Geography:**

**What exactly does Population Geography Study? Most students of the subject seem to agree that the three demographic variables of fertility, mortality, and migration constitute a core, along with their outcome, namely, population change. Perhaps an even more central concern is population distribution, a subject that has a long tradition in the more general**

**field of human geography and that is not of major interest in any other social science. Also , the age, sex, and marital characteristics of population are usually given high priority, primarily of their impact on the demographic variables .**

**Beyond these concerns, there tends to be a divergence of opinion. Some population geographers would include a range of social and economic indicators , such as education level, language, religion, ethnicity, and occupation, whereas others would give high priority to rural and urban**

**residential characteristics . Still others the importance of considering population in its broader human context , that is , of examining important issues like population and resources, population and environmental quality, population and politics, and population policy.**

**Population geography , then, is a relatively open field of inquiry. It does have a recognizable core, but there is considerable room for many issues that relate to people and their well-being.**

**The next question is : What is the geographic approach to population? Depending on one's persuasion , there are probably two somewhat different answers. One would stress what is generally known as the spatial analytical perspective. This portrays cartographically and/or statistically a variable population pattern, which can then be analyzed in terms of the factors that produced it . American cities , for example, often exhibit markedly different spatial concentrations of population by age that , in tern, can**

**be correlated with differences in home ownership, income, ethnicity, and so on. The patterns are not explanations in and of themselves; instead they are used as a means to discover the processes that gave hem shape.**

**The other perspective is more place-oriented and tends to be associated with geographers interested in population and resource issues. Sometimes the concerns are global, but more often than not it is people with a strong regional focus who subscribe to this view. A common**

**starting point would be to recognize the existence of a special problem in a particular place, such as an increasing scarcity of land. This would lead to an investigation of both the population phenomena producing the scarcity and the adaptations being made to cope with it . Emphasis is usually placed on local historical , environmental, and cultural conditions as the bases of explanation.**

**Not too long ago it was common to see the former approach labeled more general and scientific and the latter portrayed as primarily**

**descriptive and particularistic . Now, however, such a simple distinction is clearly inappropriate in most peoples' minds. Inquiry in population geography - and in the social sciences in general – is a constant interplay between the particular and the general . It is not so much a question of how research starts out but of how it winds up . Both approaches seek to identify processes and ultimately to discover meaning in the data.**

**Similarly, there is less concern in the social sciences these days with**

**justifying particular disciplinary perspectives . We believe that this trend is a healthy one because it indicates intellectual maturity. It shows that ideas and approaches are being cross-fertilized and that the stress is on good work no matter from which area it comes**

**Population Geography جغرافية السكان**

* **من الأفكار الرئيسية في النص السابق :**

**ما الذي تدرسه جغرافية السكان؟ : الاهتمامات الرئيسية للدراسة في جغرافية السكان :**

* **المتغيرات الديموغرافية الثلاثة :**

**الخصوبة (Fertility), الوفيات (Mortality), والهجرة (Migration), بالاضافة الى التغير**

**السكاني (Population Change) الذي ينتج عن هذه المتغيرات .**

* **التوزّع السكاني (Population Distribution) الذي تعتبر الجغرافيا عامة , وجغرافية السكان خاصة, أكثر العلوم الاجتماعية اهتماما به**
* **الخصائص السكانية (Population Characteristics), كالعمر(Age), والنوع (Sex ذكر/انثى ), والحالة الزواجية (Marital Status), بسبب أثرها على تلك المتغيرات الديموغرافية الثلاث**
* **كما تتسع الدراسة في جغرافية السكان لتشمل :**
* **المؤشرات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية (Social and Economic Indicators) , مثل المستوى التعليمي (Education Level) , اللغة (Language), الاثنية (Ethnicity), والمهنة(Occupation)**
* **الخصائص السكنية الريفية والحضرية للسكان (Urban and Rural Residential Characteristics)**
* **دراسة السكان في سياق انساني أكبر وعام , أي دراسة موضوعات هامة , مثل : العلاقة بين السكان والموارد (Population and Resources) , والعلاقة بين**

**السكان ونوعية البيئة (Environmental Quality), والسياسة السكانية (Population Policy)**

* **Population Doubling Time مدة التضاعف السكاني**

**Doubling time = 70/annual growth rate**

**For example, a country with a 2% growth rate will double its population every 35 years :70/2=35**

* **حساب مدة التضاعف السكاني**

**وفق القاعدة السبعينية تحسب المدة التقريبية لتضاعف حجم السكان بقسمة 70 على معدل النمو السنوي للسكان .**

**مثال : احسبي مدة تضاعف سكان بلد ما اذا كان معدل النمو السنوي للسكان 2% :**

**مدة التضاعف = 70/ معدل النمو**

**70/2= 35 سنة**

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