**Population Density Zones of the World OR Spatial Distribution of World/Global Population**

**Lonkham Boruah**

The spatial distribution of global population is not uniform; it varies widely from regions to regions. Various physical, social, economic and cultural factors affect this global population distribution. Demographer J. Robert said that, the density of population is depends on the synthesis of all the geographical phenomena. Since, there are innumerable variations in population densities; it is convenient for us to group them into suitable classes.

Several demographers divided global population in many groups. Keeping the magnitude of variation it is advisable to divide world into five groups:

1. **Very Low Population Density Zone**: Population is less than 10 persons per sq km. Despite massive increase of global population in recent years, vast stress of the earth surface is poorly inhabitated with population density less than 10 persons per sq km. Some areas are even inhabitated by less than 5 persons per sq km. Some of these areas are:
2. Entire polar areas, bounded by the Arctic Circle, spreaded over Greenland. Besides Tundra areas of CIS, Alaska in USA is also practically unhabitated.
3. The arid regions like Sahara and Kalahari in Africa, Thar, Gobi and Mongolian Deserts of Asia, Atacama Desert in South America have less than 5 persons per sq km.
4. The dense forest areas lying north and South of Equator known as tropical rainforest are inhospitable and environmentally hostile that population density is very poor over there.

The other scattered low density areas are:

1. Roman-Siberian Cold Desert.
2. Colder areas of Canada, glaciated area of Himalaya.
3. Desert Regions of Mongolia
4. Drier parts of Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, Mexico etc.

Coutrywise analysis reveals that Angola, Botswana, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Lenya, Gabon, Namibia in Africa, Iceland and some parts of Russia in Europe, some parts of Canada in North America, Brazil, Surinam in South America, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan in Asia and Australia in Oceania belong to very low population density zone.

Extreme climate with extreme temperature, very high or very low rainfall, infertile soil, rugged relief etc, make nature niggardly in these regions.

1. **Low Population Density Zone:** Population in this zone ranges between 11-50 persons per sq.km. In this zone hostility and adversity of nature is somewhat less than the very low density zone. Soil is less barren, rainfall is not moderate and temperature is not extreme.

Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Mali, Niger in Africa; some parts of Russian Federation, Phinland, Norway, Sweden in Europe; some parts of South Canada and USA in North America; Bolivia, Guyana, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela in South America; Oman and some parts of South Arabia; Central Indian Plateau; Tibetan part of China etc. belong to this region.

The geographical sub-division in this region are:

1. Tropical Grassland: The non-commercial grazing ground in tropical grassland supports low-moderate density of population.
2. Temperate Grassland: Canadian Prairie, South African Veld, Australian Downs, South American Pampas belong to this region.
3. Mediterranean Grassland: This area supports low-moderate density of population.
4. **Moderate Population Density Zone**: Population in this zone ranges between 51-100 persons per sq.km. Moderately fertile sub-humid, sub tropical region are moderately populated. This region consists of Angola, some parts of Algeria, Congo, Mali, Niger, Zambia in Africa; some parts of Norway, Russia, Austria, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Spain, Ukraine in Europe; Costa-Rica, Honduras in South America, Columbia, Georgia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Syria etc in Asia.
5. **High Population Density Zone**: Population in this zone ranges between 101-200 persons per sq.km. This region is situated in Temperate or sub-tropical warm region. Here life is more conducive with consistent rainfall, riverine fertile alluvial soil, and bearable temperature. The major countries situated within these region are Burnia, Zambia in Africa; France, Denmark, Poland, Portugal, UK etc in Europe, Cuba, Haiti in Central America, China, Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam etc in Asia.
6. **Very High Population Density Zone:** Population in this zone is more than 200 persons per sq.km. This zone has all the natural advantages including favorable climate, topography and vegetation growth, soil fertility.. They have attracted people over the years. Though on few countries like Mauritius in Africa, Netherlands in Europe, China, Bangladesh, India, Japan, Korean Republic and Singapore in Asia falls under this category but in micro level a number of geographical reasons and several urban areas all over the globe can be considered as very high population density region. Age-old intensive agricultural practice and neo-industrial and commercial activities has provided ample economic opportunities to support huge population in some areas. The agriculturally high population density zones are:
7. Ganga Padma Meghna Riverine Plain in Bangladesh Hoogly River in India.
8. Iravadi, Mekong, Benan, Yanji and Wanga Valley in South-East Asia and China.
9. Nile River Valley in Egypt.
10. Coastal Regions in Kerala, Tamil Nadu in India.
11. South-East Coast of Brazil.
12. Java Island in Indonesia.

Due to impressive growth of mining industry, commercial activities and urbanization in these regions supports very high population growth in this area.