GEO-A-CC-2-03-TH- Human Geography

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Topic:Population-Resource Regions -

A complex relation exists among man, resource base and technology. In this connection whole world can be divided into different population-resource regions which have some advantages and disadvantages over others. **Ackerman** (1970) grouped population-resource region into five broad category:

1. United States Type or Technology-Source Area of Low Population-Potential/Resource Ratio -These areas are the most developed areas of the world enjoying very high standard of living. They witness rapid development in last one to two hundred years as they received massive in-migration from then technically very advance society. In fact at that time most of them belong to Brazilian type. Original inhabitants of these lands were low in numbers, technically very backward and so they gave up quickly against migrants. These lands were full of pristine natural resources and thus technological support gave them very high growth and prosperity. In contrast to their physical resources the population pressure was very low and so there was always a good scope for the application of higher and higher technology. Slowly they mastered in technology and now the area has so much technology and so many technical persons that they often export them. Their prosperity, wealth, technical knowhow, etc. gave them unprecedented advantage in international arena to deal things in their favour. They use resource of not only of their own land but also of other regions. This unfortunate excessive materialistic attitude has done much harm to the nature. Probably they are at the zenith of development using present technological knowhow and the gap between them and the next group is so high that it seems difficult that any new country will be added to this group in near future, instead it is more possible that some of them may slip down to lower group. Examples are: United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and parts of Russia, etc.

2. European Type or Technology-Source Area of high Population-Potential/Resource Ratio -This is the source area of massive out-migration to new lands which developed into United States type latter. Here again technology is very advance but high population and limited physical resources has created high population pressure. High living standard is maintained by constant technological upgradation, resource conservation and recycling, one of the best output practices along with export of technology, technical knowhow and export of finished goods. So their prosperity relies on a combination of advance technology, efficient resource utilization and conservation and on international trade and services. Examples are: The most of countries of Western, Southern and Eastern Europe and Soviet Central Asian republics belongs to this group.

3.Brazilian Type or Technology-Deficient Area of low Population-Potential/Resource Ratio -This is practically a transition stage were the pressure of population to physical resources is low and so these areas have high promises. They have ample physical resources but their technologies are poor and so their prosperity are average. If they receive or develop good technology, sufficient social overhead capital, etc. then their resource exploitation efficiency will expand and it will bring them to a trajectory of higher prosperity like of European type. If only population expand and not technology and quality of population, then such region may slip to the inferior category of China type. Examples are: Cover most

Brazilian plateau, Bolivia, Venezuela, Paraguay, interior Argentina, Central American Republics, Cuba, north Australian territory, etc.

4. China or Egyptian Type or Technology-Deficient Area of high Population-Potential/Resource Ratio - This is the least promising of all categories. State of technology is poor and excessive population has caused very high stress on physical resources. So, industrialization is low, agriculture which is the mainstay of economy is in dilapidated condition and high population is expanding at higher rate. Many social evils like poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, illiteracy, etc. are very common. Probably rapid population growth is the biggest single problem here which if controlled then only this region has chance of moving towards European type of prosperity. Examples are: Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Albania, Greece, Haiti, Guatemala, China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, etc.

5. Arctic-Desert Type or Technology-Deficient Area with few Food Producing Resources -This is the land of the future with many unexplored resources due to the lack of technological maturity. Either uninhabited or a very few people reside there. So technological advancement may invite more human intervention in these areas of hostile geo-environmental conditions in future. Examples are: Covers the Antarctica, northern part of North America and Eurasia, the Amazon basin, the Sahara desert, deserts of Central Australia, Chile, Patagonia, etc.

Human knowledge, which makes something resource, in combination with human numbers, their composition and their attitudes, decide the way resource are created and exploited. So in the complex population-resource relation human is at the centre of the theme. Global population is changing from high mortality and high fertility to low mortality and low fertility. Half the 6.6 billion people today are urban; by 2050 two-thirds could be. Population may increase by another 2.8 billion by 2050 before it begins to fall, according to the UN's lower forecast, after which it could be 5.5 billion by 2100. However, technological breakthroughs are likely to change these forecasts over the next 50 years, giving people longer and more productive lives than most would believe today. The factors reducing population growth still need to be reinforced. These include increased income, improved literacy, diminished infant mortality, empowerment and education of women, urbanization, and family planning. A quarter of all fish stocks are over harvested. FAO estimates that water for agriculture needs to increase 60 percent to feed an additional 2 billion people by 2030. There remain vast differences in opinion concerning the possibilities of extending the earth's cultivated area. The Association for Geographical Studies Other writers blame social institutions for the inconsistencies between the population and resources some attack colonialism, some attack the class structure. Socialist and Marxist demographers stress the importance of social and economic revolutions as a means to reduce fertility and to raise living standards. They emphasize the technical feasibility of increased agricultural yields and industrial and energy production.