

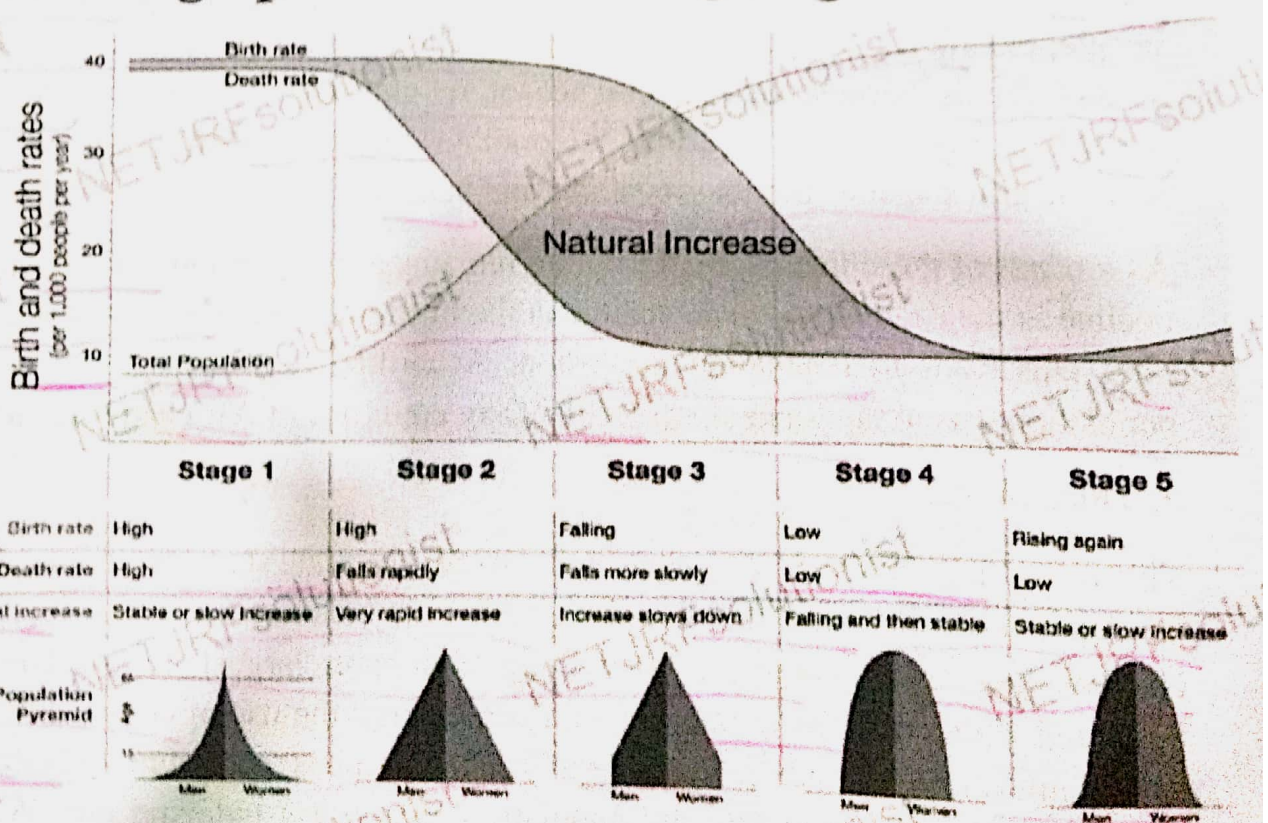
Demographic Transition Model

Theory of Demographic Transition is a theory that throws light on changes in birth rate and death rate and consequently on the growth-rate of population. The theory of demographic transition (or of population stages or of population cycle) has many versions. It has been propounded by American demographer W.S. Thomson (1929) and F.W. Notestein (1945). They explain the theory in three stages. Later on C.P. Blacker's Five Stages of Population growth added in this model. The theory of demographic transition explains the effects of changes in birth rate and death rate on the growth rate of population. According to E.G. Dolan, "Demographic transition refers to a population cycle that begins with a fall in the death rate, continues with a phase of rapid population growth and concludes with a decline in the birth rate." This theory states that every country passes through different stages of population development.

According to C.P. Blacker, 5 stages are:

1. The high stationary phase marked by high fertility and mortality rates.
2. The early expanding phase marked by high fertility and high but declining mortality.
3. The late expanding phase with declining fertility but with mortality declining more rapidly.
4. The low stationary phase with low fertility balanced by equally low mortality.
5. The declining phase with low mortality, lower fertility and an excess of deaths over births.

The demographic transition in 5 stages



1. First Stage

In this stage, the country is backward and is characterised by high birth and death rates with the result that the growth rate of population is low. People mostly live in rural areas and their main occupation is agriculture which is in a state of backwardness. There are a few simple, light and small consumer goods industries. The tertiary sector consisting of transport, commerce, banking and insurance is underdeveloped. All these factors are responsible for low incomes and poverty of the masses. Large family is regarded as a necessity to augment the low family income. Children are an asset to the society and parents.

People being illiterate, ignorant, superstitious and fatalists are against to any method of birth control. Children are regarded as God-given. All these economic and social factors are responsible for a high birth rate in the country. Along with high birth rate, the death rate is also high due to non-nutritional food with low caloric value, lack of medical facilities and the lack of any sense of cleanliness. People live in dirty and unhealthy surroundings in ill-ventilated small houses. According to Blacker, this stage continued in Western Europe approximately up to 1840 and in India and China till 1900.

2. Second Stage

In the second stage, the economy enters the phase of economic growth. Agricultural and industrial productivity increases and means of transport develop. There is greater mobility of labour, Education expands, Incomes increase, People get more and better quality food products, medical and health facilities are expanded. People do not have any inclination to reduce the birth of children because with economic growth, employment opportunities increase and children are able to add more to the family income. With improvements in the standard of living and the dietary habits of the people, the life expectancy also increases. People do not make any effort to control the size of family because of the presence of religious dogmas and social prohibition towards family planning. Of all the factors in economic growth, it is difficult to break with the past social institutions, customs and beliefs.

As a result of these factors, the birth rate remains at the previous high level. With the decline in the death rate and no change in the birth rate, population increases at a rapid rate. This leads to Population Explosion. According to Blacker, 40% of the world population was in this stage up to 1930. Many countries of Africa are still in this stage.

3. Third Stage:

This is the "Late Expanding" stage. In this stage, birth rate starts declining accompanied by death rates declining rapidly. With better medical facilities, the survival rate of children increases. People are not willing to support large families. The country is burdened with the growing population. People adopt the use of contraceptives so as to small families. Birth rates decline initially in urban areas, according to Notestein. With death rates declining rapidly, the population grows at a reducing rate. According to Blacker, 20% of the world population was in this stage in 1930.

4. Fourth Stage:

In this stage, the fertility rate declines and tends to equal the death rate so that the growth rate of **population is stationary**. As growth gains momentum and people's level of income increases, their **standard of living rises**. Education expands and permeates the entire society. People **discard old customs, laws and beliefs**, develop **individualistic spirit and break with the joint family**. Men and women prefer to marry **late**. People readily adopt family planning devices.

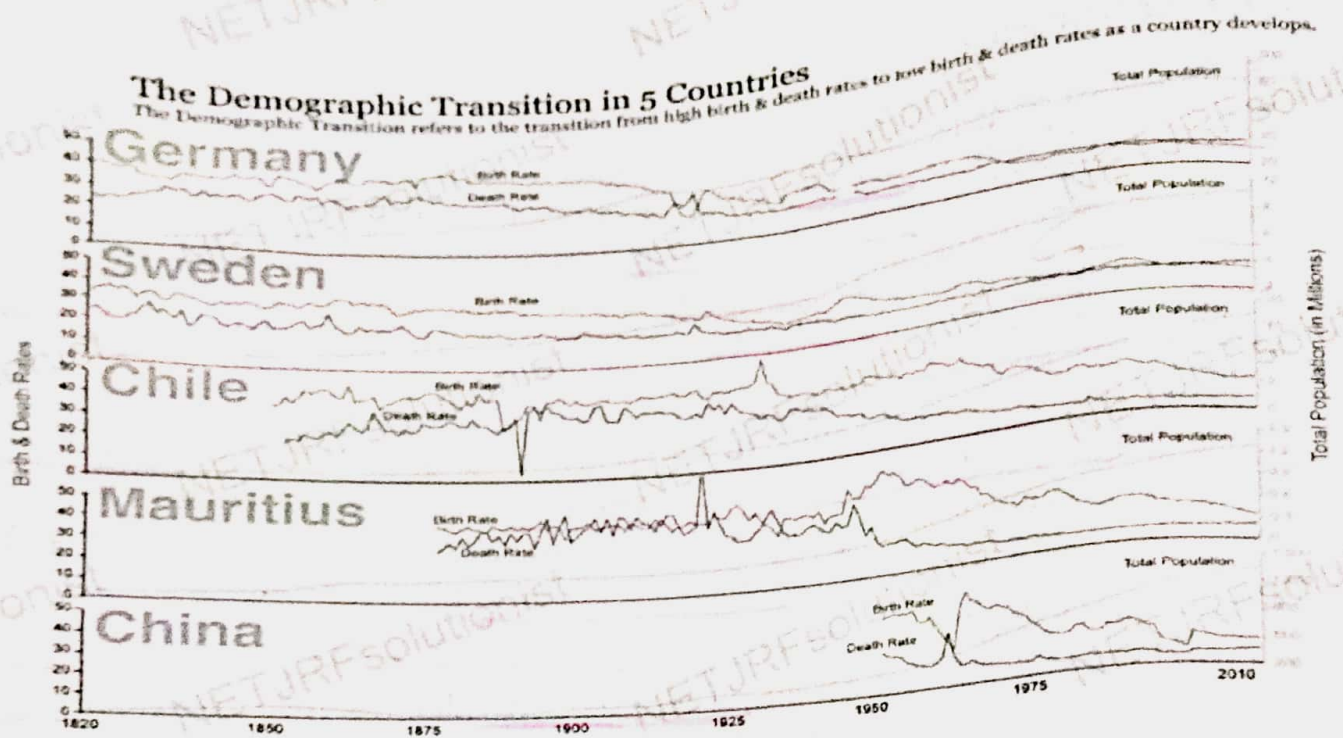
All this tends to reduce the birth rate further which along with an already **low death rate** brings a **decline in the growth rate of population**. The advanced countries of the world are passing through this "Lower Stationary" stage of population growth. Population growth is decrease and there is **zero population growth**.

Germany	+0.20	Low birth rate, population is old, population increased from 2013 to 2016 due to positive net migration rate following civil war in Syria due to refugee flow.
Spain	+0.03	Low birth rate, population is old, economic crisis.
Albania	+0.13	Low birth rate, emigration

5. Fifth Stage

In this stage, **death rates exceed birth rates** and **population growth declines**. A continuing decline in birth rates when it is not possible to lower death rates further in the advanced countries leads to a **'declining' stage of population**. The existence of this stage in any developed country is a matter of speculation, according to **Blacker**. However, **France** appears to approach this stage.

Belarus	-0.15	Low birth rate, emigration
Russia	-0.05	Low birth rate, low rate of migration, male population decay
Bulgaria	-0.67	Low birth rate, high death rate, high rate of abortions, population is old, emigration.
Croatia	-0.58	Low birth rate, population is old, emigration, War in Croatia.
Ukraine	-0.49	High death rate, declining births, high rate of abortions, population is old, war in Donbass region, emigration and a low level of immigration.
Portugal	-0.39	Low birth rate, population is old, economic crisis, emigration



Criticisms of the Theory of Demographic Transition:

Despite its usefulness as a theory describing demographic transition in Western Countries, it has been criticised on the following grounds:

Sequences of Stages not Uniform: Critics point out that the sequences of the demographic stages have not been uniform. For instance, in some East and South European countries, and in Spain in particular, the fertility rates declined even when mortality rates were high. But in America, the growth rate of population was higher than in the second and third stage of demographic transition.

Birth Rate not declined initially in Urban Areas: Notestein's assertion that the birth rate declined initially among urban population in Europe has not been supported by empirical evidence. Countries like Sweden and France with predominantly rural populations experienced decline in birth rates to the same extent as countries like Great Britain with predominantly urban populations. Explanations of Birth Rate decline Vary; The theory fails to give the fundamental explanations of decline in birth rates in Western countries. In fact, the causes of decline in birth rate are so diverse that they differ from country to country.