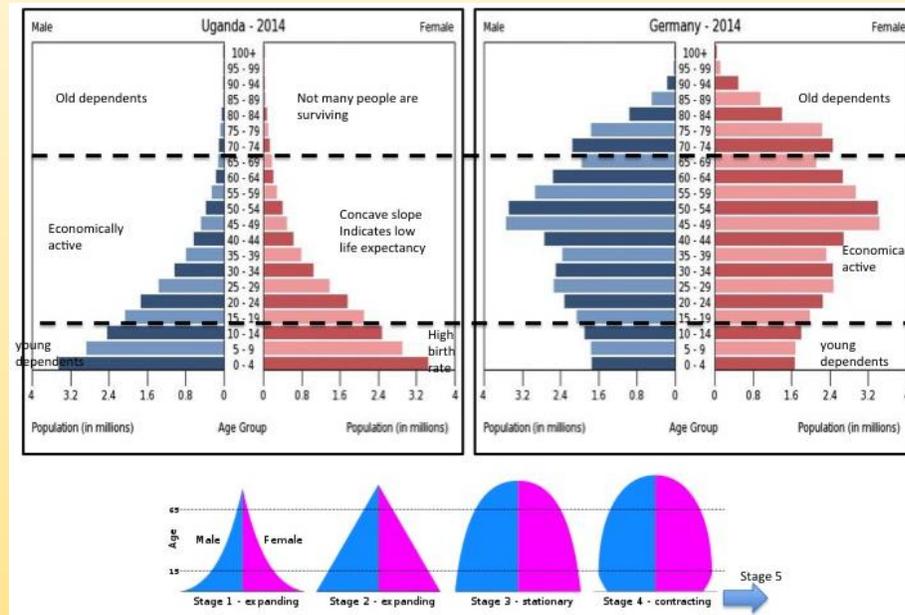


Age-Sex Composition: Meaning and Significance



Manash Jyoti Bhuyan
Assistant Professor
P.G. Department of Geography
Nowgong Girls' College

Population Composition

- The term '**population composition**' refers to the distinguishing attributes of population of a country such as occupation, education, life-expectancy, age, sex, place or residence, etc.
- It is the description of a population according to characteristics such as **age** and **sex**.
- These data are often compared over time using **population pyramids**.

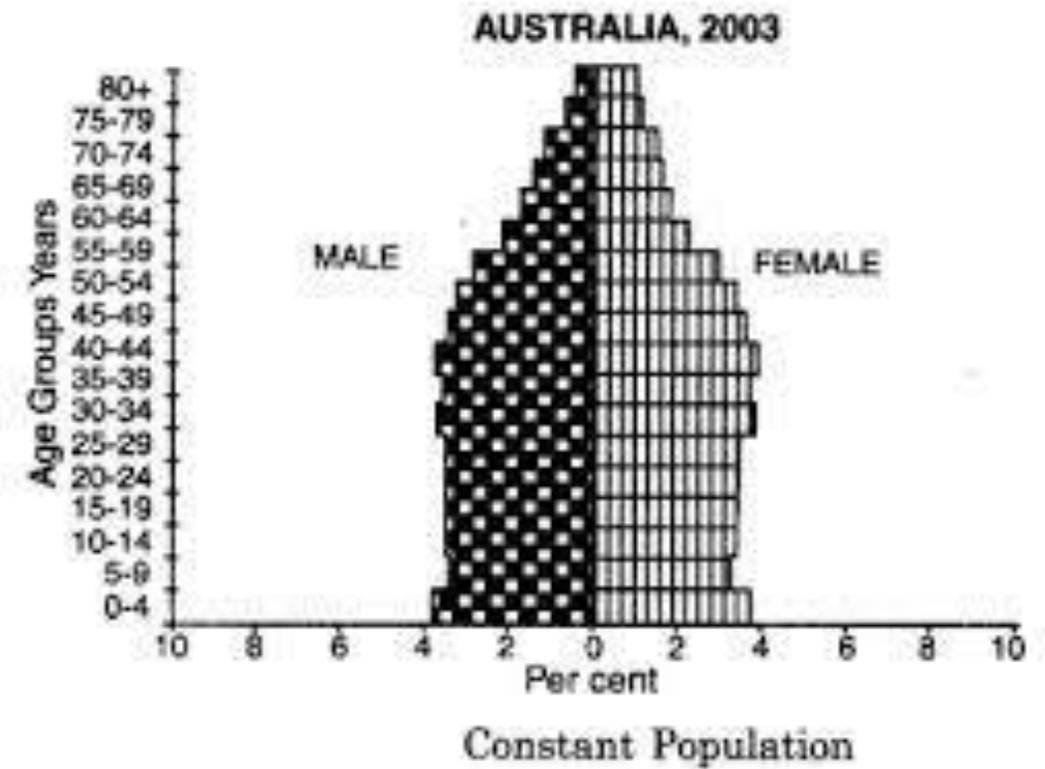
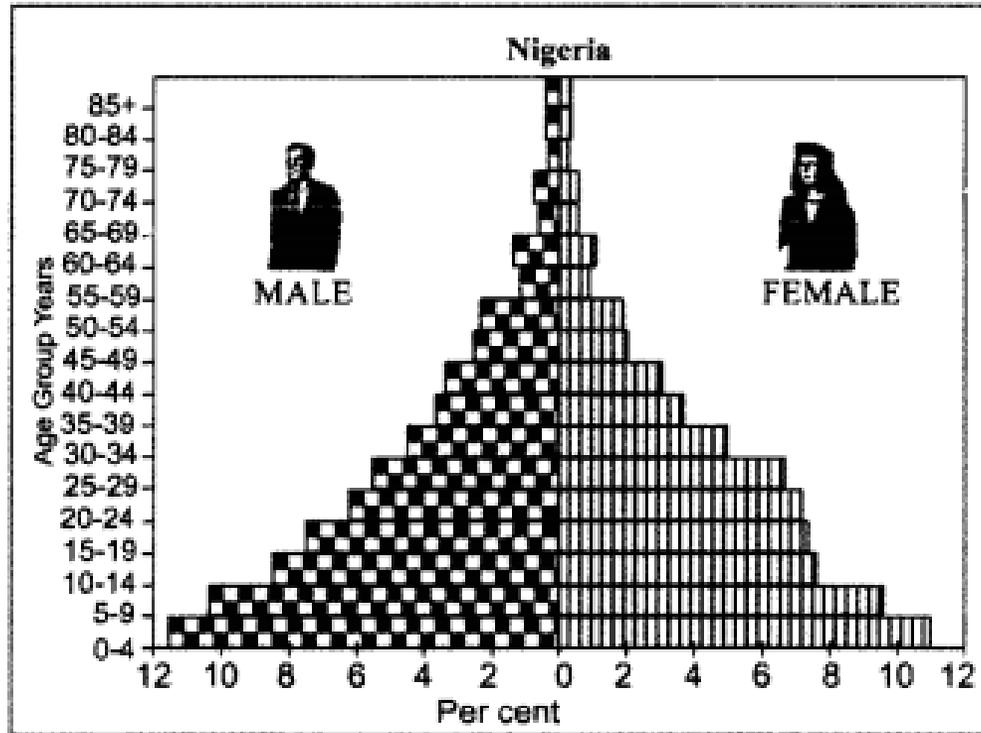
Age Structure

- The age structure of a population refers to the number of people in different age groups.
- A larger size of population in the age group of 15-59 years indicates the chances of having a larger working population.
- On the other hand, if the number of children in the population is high, the dependency ratio will be high.
- Similarly, a growing population in the age group of 60 plus indicates greater expenditure on the care of the aged.

Age Structure

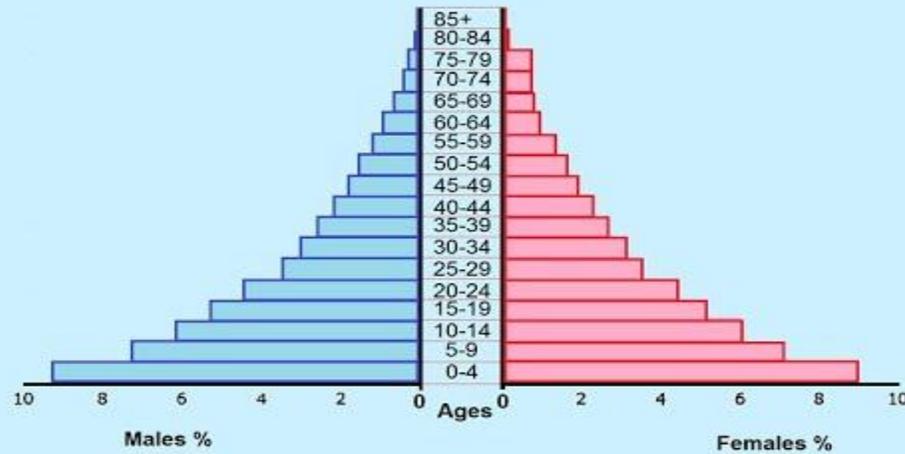
- There are **three** types of **age structures**, viz.,
- **West European type** in which children constitute less than 30 per cent, and 15 per cent of the population are old;
- **North American type** where 35-40 per cent of the population are children and 10 per cent, old people; and
- **Brazilian type** where 45-55 per cent of the population are children, and old people constitute only four-eight per cent of the total population.

Population Pyramid

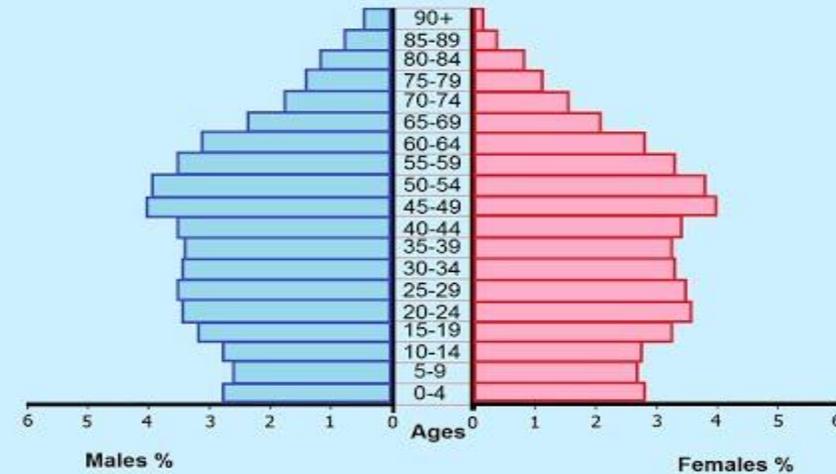


Population Pyramid

Youthful Population

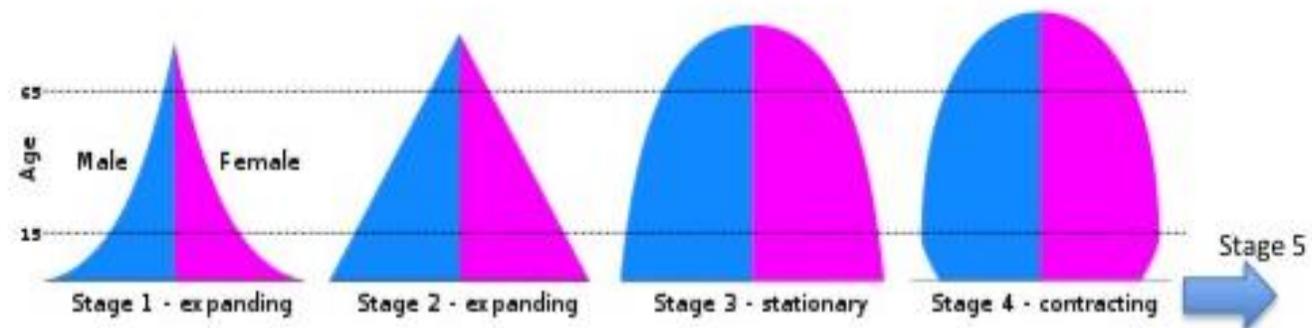
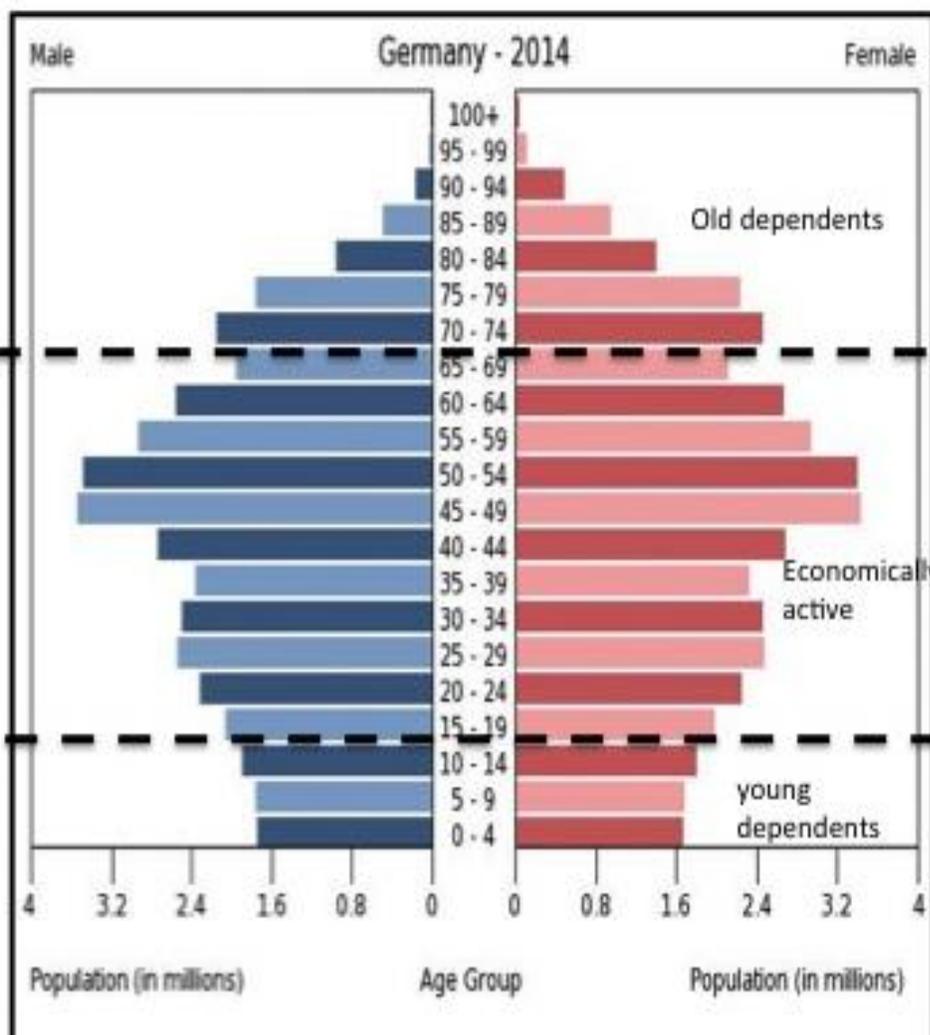
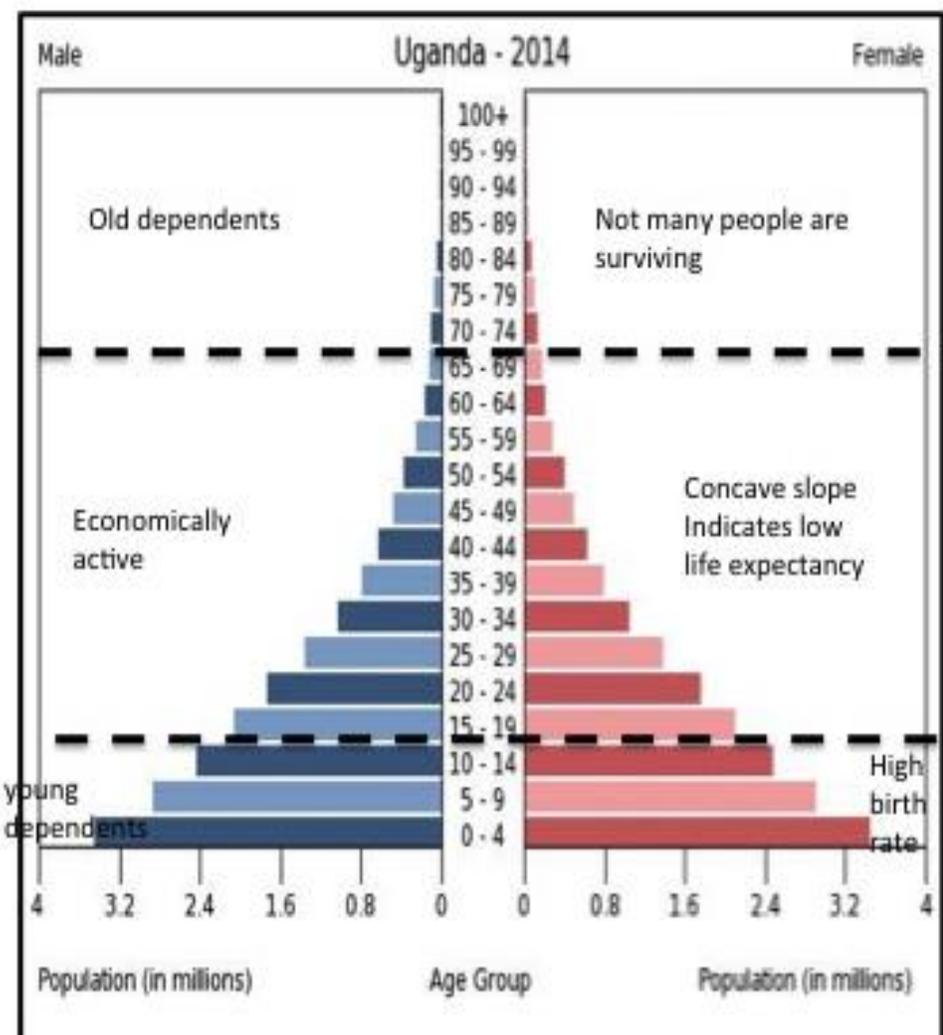


Ageing Population



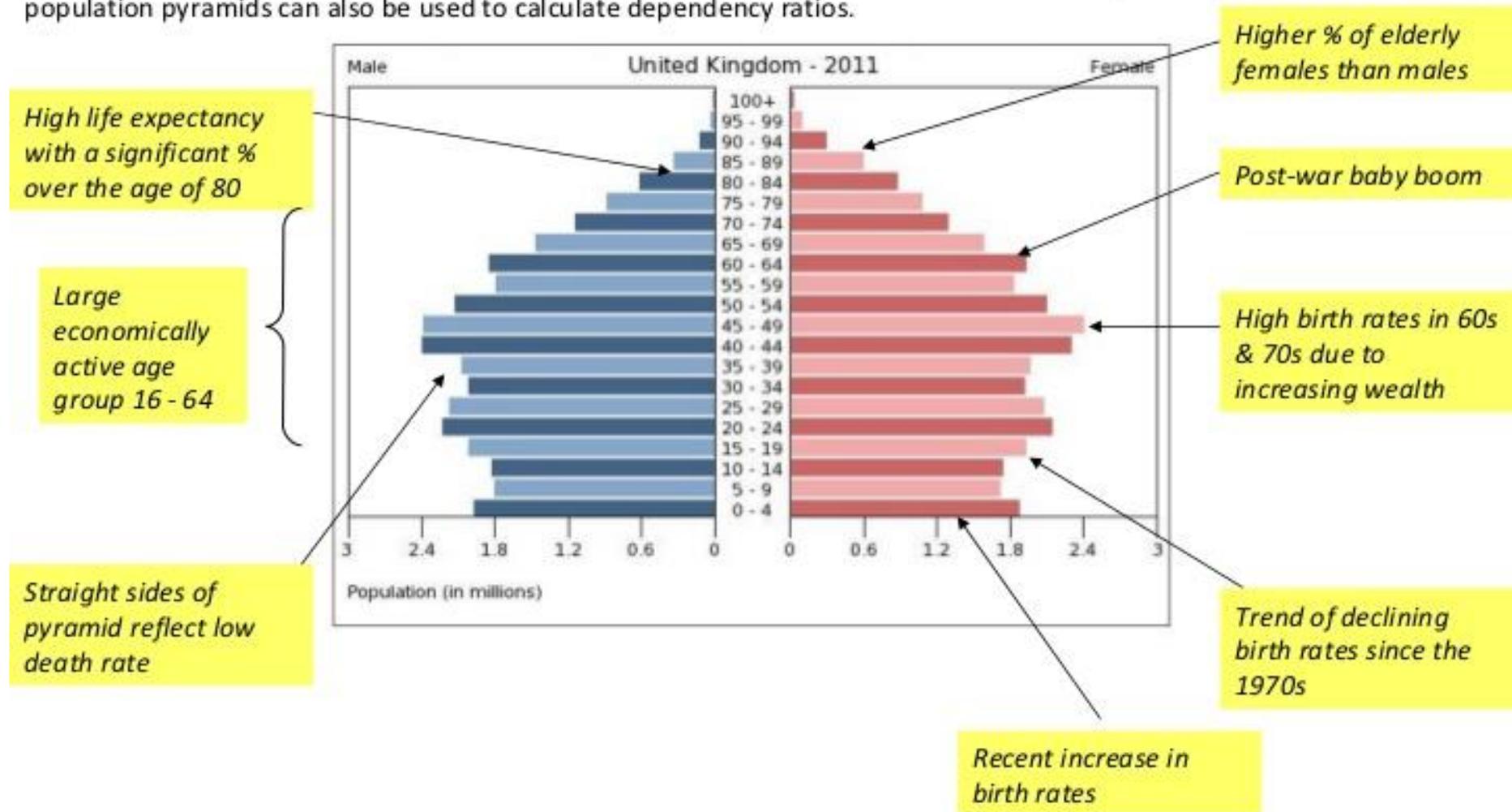
Aged Population





Population Pyramids

The population structure of a country is usually displayed using a population pyramid graph (shown below). Population pyramids show the differences between the numbers of males and females as well as the number or percentage of people in each age category (known as the age-sex structure). Population pyramids can show: trends in birth and death rates, impacts of migration, impacts of wars or diseases and can give an indication of life expectancy. Data from population pyramids can also be used to calculate dependency ratios.



Significance of Age Structure

- This is an important indicator of population composition, since a large size of population in the age group of 15-59 indicates a large working population.
- A greater proportion of population above 60 years represents an ageing population which requires more expenditure on health care facilities.
- Similarly high proportion of young population would mean that the region has a high birth rate and the population is youthful.
- Age structure reflects the demographic and socio-economic history of a population over a period of about a century.

Sex Composition

- Another structural feature of populations is the relative numbers of males and females.
- Defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population, sex ratio is an important social indicator of the equity prevailing between males and females at a given point of time.
- Factors influencing the sex ratio are, mainly, the differentials in mortality, sex selective migration, and sex ratio at birth and, at times, the sex differential in population enumeration.

Thank You