1. Define occupation and occupational structure. Examine the changes on occupational structure in the reforms period.

**Ans:** An occupation is something that you spend time doing, either for pleasure or because it needs to be done. Occupation implies trade or profession. It reveals the nature of economic progress of a country. It is related to agriculture, industry and services. Occupations depend upon the degree of economic development and sophistication of country. Occupational structure influences many aspects of population in a region. The occupational characteristics of population are reflected in the working force, dependency load, employment and unemployment.

Occupational structure refers to the aggregate distribution of occupations in society, classified according to skill level, economic function, or social status. The occupational structure is shaped by various factors: the structure of the economy (the relative weight of different industries); technology and bureaucracy (the distribution of technological skills and administrative responsibility); the labour-market (which determines the pay and conditions attached to occupations); and by status and prestige (influenced by occupational closure, life-style, and social values). It is difficult to attach causal primacy to any one of these factors; moreover, their role in shaping the occupational structure changes over time, as society changes.

Economic development creates various types of occupations in an economy. All these various occupations can be broadly classified into three categories, viz., primary, secondary and tertiary. The primary occupations include all those essential activities such as agriculture and allied activities like animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, poultry farming etc. Secondary activities include manufacturing industries composed of both large and small scale and mining. Tertiary activities include all other activities like transport, communication, banking, insurance, trade etc. The occupational structure indicated the distribution as well as absorption of population into these various types of occupations.

In underdeveloped countries, majority of the population are still engaged in agriculture and other primary activities. Even in some developed countries like Japan, England, Norway fishing continues to be an important occupation, providing employment to a substantial number of populations.

Development experience shows that with the gradual development of a backward economy, the importance of primary occupations gradually declines with the growth of industries and tertiary activities. In the secondary sector, large scale industries, being more capital-intensive cannot provide much employment opportunities.

But it is the development of small scale and cottage industries, mining activities etc., being largely labour-intensive, can provide huge number of employment opportunities.

Again the tertiary occupations are also considered very important as these have a huge employment potential. In developed countries, the absorption capacity of this sector is very high. According to World Development Report, 1983, whereas about 45 to 66 per cent of the work force of developed countries was employed in the tertiary sector but India could absorb only 18 per cent of total force in this sector.

Changes in occupational structure are very much associated with economic development. The rate of economic development and the level of per capita income increase as more and more work force shifts from primary sector to secondary and tertiary sector.

Thus to attain a high rate of economic development inter-sectoral transfer of work force is very much necessary. This would be possible only when productivity of agriculture increases due to introduction of improved technology in it.

The increase in productivity in agriculture transfers surplus work force from agriculture to other sectors. The extent and pace of inter-sectoral transfer of work force depend very much on the rate of increase in productivity in the primary sector in relation to other sectors.

Or

Describe the relationship between population and development.

**Ans:** The current rapid growth of population in India is due to a marked decline in mortality, even before significant economic and social development. The future growth of India’s population will depend largely upon the future prospects of the fertility decline. The analysis shows that the birth rate as well as fertility in India has been declining recently, especially after 1966. It also reveals fertility differentials by rural-urban residence and education. The birth rate in India has been lower in the urban areas compared to the rural areas. However, prior to 1965, it was essentially due to the age, sex and marital status composition of the urban population. The lower marital fertility of urban women is a recent phenomenon, observed after 1965. The available evidence is clearly indicative of an inverse relationship between women’s education and fertility. Development, which promotes urbanization and education, will have the effect of reducing marital fertility in India.

Lowering of marital fertility depends upon the motivation for a small family norm, which is intrinsically connected with economic and social development. Hence the family planning programme in India needs the necessary support from an effective development planning. The strategy for development may specifically create a small family norm as a part of the development process.

Population and development are correlated. It is stated that the size of population, rate of growth and population composition, and its geographical distribution are important factors in determining the requirements of infrastructure, such as education, housing, health services, food supply, etc. Productive health capacity is also determined by the size and growth rate of population.

Thus, to make development plans for the present as well as for the future, there is a need to understand the structure and growth of population. A comparison of the developing countries and the more developed countries shows that the birth rate has been high in both categories, but the difference is still quite significant.