

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is reproduction rate?

Answer: Reproduction rate is an alternate for population growth as the fertility rates are unsuitable for giving an idea of the rate of population growth because they ignore the sex of the newly born children and their mortality.

2. What is the effect of boys and girls birth in the population?

Answer: If the majority of the births are those of boys the population is bound to decrease while the reverse will be the case if majority of births are girls. Similarly, if mortality is ignored a correct idea of the growth of population cannot be formed because it is possible a number of female children may die before reaching the child-bearing age.

3. What are the different measures for calculating the growth of the population?

Answer: For measuring the rate of growth of population we calculate the reproduction rates. Reproduction rates are of two type's Gross reproduction rate (GRR) and Net reproduction rate (NRR).

4. What are the factors that contribute to the rate of growth of population?

Answer: In order to have a better idea about the rate of population growth, in addition to the age and sex composition of the population we must take into account the sex of the new born children since it is ultimately the female births who the potential future mothers and result in an increase in the population.

5. What do you mean by gross reproduction rate?

Answer: The gross reproduction rate is defined as the sum of age specific fertility rates calculated from female births for each year of reproductive period. Gross reproduction rate measures the rate of which a new born female would on an average add to the total female population, if they remained alive and experienced the age specific fertility rate till the end of the child bearing period.

6. What are the indicators of the gross reproduction rate?

Answer: If the gross reproduction rate of a population is exactly 1, it indicates that the sex under consideration is exactly replacing itself, if it is less than 1, the population would decline, no matter how the death rate may be and if it is more than 1, the population would increase, no matter how low the death rate may be.

7. What is the use of gross reproduction rate?

Answer: The Gross Reproduction Rate is used as a measure of the fertility in a population. It is useful for computing fertility in different areas or in the same area at different time periods. The gross Reproduction Rate could in theory range from 0 to about 5.

8. What is the advantage of gross reproduction rate?

Answer: Gross reproduction Rate has an advantage over the total fertility rate because in its computation we take into account only the female babies who are the future mothers where in total fertility rate we include both male and female babies that are born.

9. What is the limitation of gross reproduction rate?

Answer: An important limitation of the gross reproduction rate is that it ignores the current mortality. All the girls born do not survive till they reach the child bearing age. Hence the gross reproduction rate is misleading in that it inflates the number of potential mothers.

10. Why we do not get accurate gross reproduction rate?

Answer: The accuracy of gross reproduction rate depends on the accuracy with which age specific fertility rates can be computed. The principle sources of errors are under registration of births, mis-statements or inadequate statements of age of mother at registration and errors in enumeration or estimation of the female population by age-group.

11. What is Net reproduction rate?

Answer: The net reproduction rate is a rate that indicates the rate at which the number of female births would eventually grow per generation if the same fertility and mortality rates remained in operation.

12. What does '1' indicate in a net reproduction rate?

Answer: A net reproduction rate of 1 indicates that on the basis of the current fertility and female mortality, the present female generation is exactly maintaining itself.

13. What is the upper limit for Net reproduction rate?

Answer: Since NRR takes into account the mortality of the new born female babies we get NRR is less than or equal to GRR with the sign of equality holding if and only if all the new born girls survive at least till the end of the reproductive period. Thus GRR provides an upper limit to NRR and hence in theory, NRR also ranges from 0 to 5 per annum.

14. Why is net reproduction rate considered as good index of population growth?

Answer: If NRR is greater than unity then the population has a tendency to increase while NRR less than unity indicate a declining population. Accordingly, NRR may be regarded as a good index of population growth.

15. What is the limitation of net reproduction rate?

Answer: The limitation of net reproduction rate is that it assumes that current mortality and fertility rates prevail in future, an assumption which is not true since in practice both these rates go on changing time to time.