

Demographic Transition Model (DTM) – Study Handout

Key Concept

The Demographic Transition Model (DTM) explains how birth rates and death rates change as countries develop. It is divided into five stages.

Stages of the DTM

Stage 1 – Pre-industrial societies

- High birth rate and high death rate.
- Population growth is very slow.
- No modern country is at this stage today.

Stage 2 – Early industrialisation

- Death rates fall (improved health, food, sanitation).
- Birth rates remain high.
- Population grows rapidly.
- *Example: Niger (TFR ~6.7)*

Stage 3 – Mature industrialisation

- Birth rates fall (education, contraception, urbanisation).
- Death rates remain low.
- Population growth slows.
- *Example: Brazil (TFR ~1.7)*

Stage 4 – Post-industrial societies

- Both birth and death rates are low.
- Population stabilizes.
- *Example: Germany (TFR ~1.5)*

Stage 5 – Declining populations (proposed)

- Birth rates fall below death rates.
 - Populations age and decline.
 - *Example: Japan (TFR ~1.3)*
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Why Birth Rates Vary

- **Education:** More schooling, especially for women, lowers fertility.

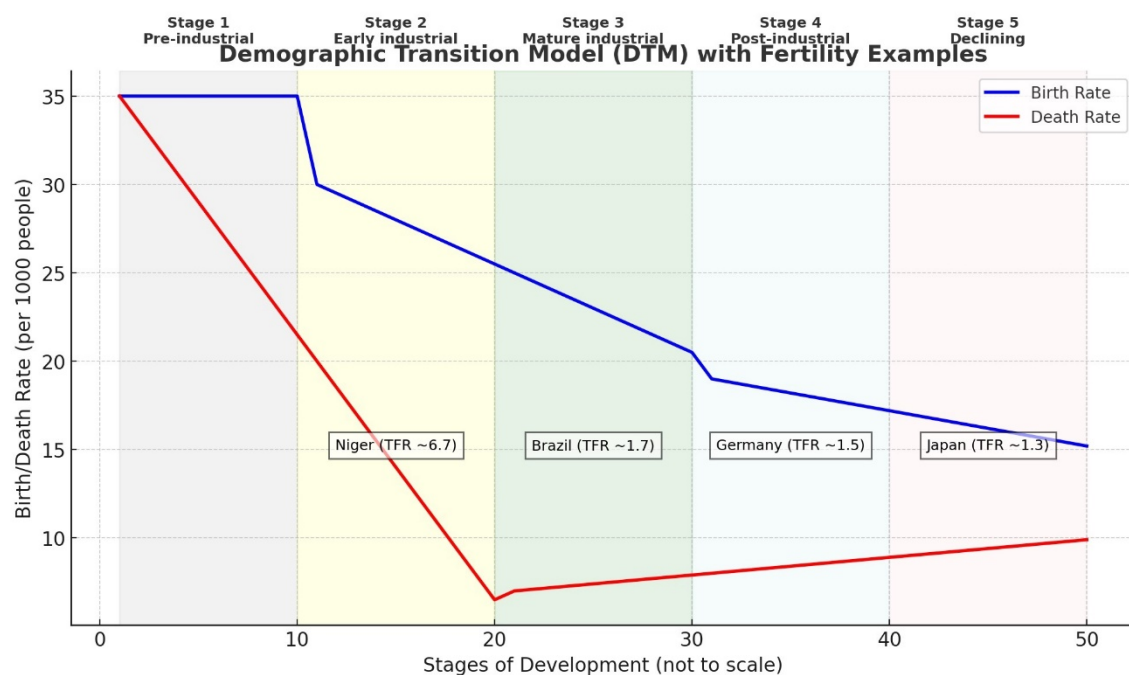
- **Economics:** In poorer countries, children contribute to household income. In richer countries, children are costly.
- **Healthcare:** High infant mortality = higher fertility. Strong healthcare = fewer births.
- **Culture & Religion:** Norms and beliefs influence family size.
- **Urbanisation:** Cities encourage smaller families.
- **Government Policy:** Can raise or lower birth rates (e.g., China's One Child Policy, France's pro-natalist policies).

Quick Definitions

- **Birth Rate:** Number of live births per 1,000 people per year.
- **Death Rate:** Number of deaths per 1,000 people per year.
- **Fertility Rate (TFR):** Average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime.

Diagram

Below is a simplified version of the **Demographic Transition Model (DTM)** with examples:



Exam Practice Questions

1. Define the term *total fertility rate (TFR)*.
2. Explain two reasons why fertility rates remain high in some low-income countries.
3. Using the Demographic Transition Model, explain how birth rates change as countries develop.
4. “Cultural factors are more important than economic factors in influencing fertility.” Discuss with examples.

Tip for Students: Always link theory (DTM) to real-world examples in your exam answers.