

elderly people in the country? If you think so, suggest some possible ways to solve the problem.

Migration

It was earlier mentioned that besides the birth rate and the death rate, the third factor that influenced the change in population was migration. Migration refers to the movement of people into the country as well as out of the country. It also refers to the movements of people from one region to another within the same country.

The effects of migration can also be seen in the population pyramid of the country. Look at Fig. 13.21 which shows the population pyramids of Indians in Singapore. What do you notice about the male and female populations in 1957? Why are there more males, especially in the 15 to 59 age groups (that is, those people who are considered to be economically active)?

In Singapore's case, the predominance of males in the Indian population is the result of migration of the Indians (including Sri Lankans and Pakistanis). They came to Singapore in the early twentieth century. They were mainly interested in working in the European plantations which grew cloves, nutmeg and gambier. (The early Chinese immigrants who came to Singapore were likewise predominantly males and the population pyramid was similar in shape to that of the Singapore Indian.) Many of them also went to Peninsular Malaysia to work, especially in the rubber estates. Today, these Indians (both male and female) are involved in many other activities including trade, transport and communication services.

What do you notice about the sex ratio in 1982? Now that the flow

of Indian immigrants to Singapore has stopped, is the sex ratio more balanced? You may have noticed that the population pyramid still shows an imbalance, especially for those in the older age groups. This accounts for the ratio of 100 females to every 113 males.

From the example of Singapore, we can see that not only does migration contribute to an increase in the number of people in the country, it may also affect the sex ratio or composition of the population.

The present century has seen periods of high population growth, wars and political and cultural conflicts. These circumstances have forced many people to move away from their homeland to other places. In Asia, for example, thousands of Vietnamese left Vietnam after the communists took over the country. Millions of Muslims left India in the 1940s when British South Asia was partitioned into Pakistan and India. At the same time, millions of Hindus left Pakistan for India. It is estimated that more than 20 million Chinese and 10 million Indians have migrated to other countries since the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Let us look at the characteristics of this movement of people. In Unit 5 of Book 2, you learnt about the movement and flow of people. It would be useful if you can recall some of the ideas which you studied.

Some migrations are *cyclic* or *periodic* in nature. For example, some people move to other places because there are jobs available at that time and their skills are needed there. Others who live in colder places move to warmer places for holidays (they are called tourists) or to escape the cold