

Linet Mercedes

Casey Ellis

Spring 2019

Population Control

As humans have gone from small, isolated civilizations to large planned societies the jump from small to large has historically come with many plights. Since the beginning of time humans have coexisted together in small groups, the advantage of choosing a smaller body over a larger one has been for the sole purpose of food and survival. As people began to settle down among river valleys, their aim was to expand their boundaries and find a reliable source of water to potentially expand their circles. Shifting climate, technology, and unpredictable vegetation have all been factors that have influenced human population growth or decline. Evidence today suggests that as we enter a drastic period of population growth, the environment and the resources around us will quickly diminish if a specific regimen isn't imposed.

Throughout the last few hundred years the decrease in warfare and the strengthening of medicine have aided the human population in select areas through a demographic transition. "...the human population is growing at about 1.5% annually, equivalent to an additional 80 million people per year" (Lerner). With growing industrialization and urbanization in many countries, the child birth rate has decreased in countries like the United States and Europe, stabilizing the population. On the contrary, developing countries like India are experiencing a higher amount of crude death rates and an even higher number of childbirth rates, in an effort to replace those lost. Due to its continuous growing size "...India's population is expected to grow

to 1.8 billion before stabilizing around the middle of this century, if sufficient measures are taken” (Lohar). The increasing population will be likely to create adverse effects in the environment by reducing natural resources and increasing agricultural practices if definite steps are not taken.

With more people than the planet can support, resources and nonrenewable sources of energy are becoming scarce and non dependable throughout the world. According to *Our World in Data*, “Between 1900 and 2000, the increase in world population was three times greater than during the entire previous history of humanity—an increase from 1.5 to 6.1 billion in just 100 years” (Roser and Ortiz-Ospina). A drastic increase in the human population can be attributed to an increase in technology, unsustainable farming practices, decrease in warfare and shifting progressions between socioeconomic groups. Recent growth projections demonstrate that “...the IIASA medium scenario sees the world population increase to 9.4 billion in 2070, and then begin a slow decline to reach below 9 billion by the end of the century” (Roser and Ortiz-Ospina). At a rapidly expanding 7 billion it is predicted that each person currently living today will require a third more land to supply its needs than the earth can provide (Effects of Human Overpopulation). Water scarcity is also a posed threat with U.N bodies stating that, “ ‘By 2030, nearly half of the world's people will be living in areas of acute water shortage’ ” (Effects of Human Overpopulation). The effects of population growth will be widespread and in some places life threatening.