

Population Control in Less Developed Regions

Case Study: Population Control in China

Some countries, especially LDCs including Africa and some parts of Asia, experience high rates of population growth. We shall examine the case study of China, which is said to experience a “population explosion”.

Causes for China's over population

- ⦿ Low death rate: Improved medical care and hygiene
- ⦿ High birth rate: Lack of family planning & preference for sons,
- ⦿ Earlier marriages,
- ⦿ Need for farm labour

Consequences of China's over population

- ⦿ Increased demand for resources, housing, education and jobs
- ⦿ Over-crowding leading to environmental problems

Strategies for China's over population (1)

“One Child Policy”

Measures

- First implemented in 1979 to alleviate over-population and is still applicable today.
- Under the policy, each couple is encouraged only to have 1 child.
- Housing and education subsidies were given to couples who pledge to have only 1 child; heavy penalties like higher taxes were awarded to those who have more than 1 child.
- It is assisted by the local authorities who devise means to reach out to citizens.

Effectiveness

- Successful on the whole as China's birth rates has significantly decreased since implementation.
- However, the policy achieved limited success in rural areas. This was due to their traditional preference for sons and need for more children as farm labour.
- According to government officials, the policy has helped prevent 400 million births. However, is controversial and may bring about negative economic and social consequences.

Strategies for China's over population (2)

Other social measures

- Campaigns were carried out by volunteers to advise and encourage the public to have less children. This includes advertisements which encourages couples to adhere to the one child policy.
- Talks on family planning are conducted by agencies to educate the public on family planning.

Population control as a strategy for national development

- In conclusion, population control can be used as a measure to control an over-population and to improve the quality of life of a country.
- In countries like China, it is important so as to prevent consequences from an over-population (as mentioned) from arising which may hinder the country's economic and overall development.