

Topic: The increasing population: A rising monster and less addressed issue

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: Population of the world is increasing rapidly and is inflicting severe socioeconomic and environmental repercussions on the communities.

Problems of food insecurity, poverty, climate change, depletion of scarce natural resources, and new epidemics and pandemics emerge. Overpopulation also has been a less addressed issue due to economical, political, and religious advantages. However, by taking some concrete measures, it can be curbed.

2. Situation of population explosion across the globe

3. Severe socioeconomic and environmental repercussions on the society due to increasing population

(a) Emergence of food insecurity

(b) Increase in poverty rate

(c) Difficulties in climate change adaptation and resilience ^{issues}

(d) The depletion of natural resources that are scarce

(e) Elevation in crime rate

(f) Emergence of new epidemics and pandemics

4. Why do people still deny overpopulation

(a) To boost their economical and political advantage over their less populated neighbours

(b) connection between religion and population growth

(c) Need for basic human development is ignored by laying so much blame on population growth

(d) Lack of strong political commitment and effective governance on population policy.

5. How the problem of the increasing population can be curbed

(a) Focus on Family planning

(b) stress on Women empowerment

(c) Need of active role by the United Nations

(d) Adopting Bangladesh's model of birth control

6. Conclusion

Garret Hardin has rightly said, "A finite world can support only a finite population; therefore, population growth must eventually equal zero." This clearly depicts that the planet of earth has certain carrying capacity. Thus, humans have some severe repercussion beyond this carrying capacity. However, the planet of earth is experiencing the increasing population growth. This grave problem has become multiplier of problems. Food insecurity, poverty, global warming, burden on natural resources, elevation in crime rate emerge in the society. New epidemic and pandemic also may break out. This problem of increasing population has not been addressed yet due to some vested interests. As many developing countries boost their economical and political advantage over their less populace neighbours. Similarly, some religions encourage their followers for population growth to gain strength. Moreover ignorance of basic human development and lack of ineffective population policy formulation and implementation have contributed in overpopulation. However, by taking concrete measures like focusing on family planning, women empowerment and adopting Bangladesh's model of birth control, overpopulation can be curbed. In conclusion, population of the world is increasing rapidly and is inflicting severe repercussions on humans. Food insecurity, poverty, burden on natural resources and new epidemics and pandemics emerge. This problem has been ^{also} neglected due to economical, political, and religious interests. However, by taking concrete measure, this problem of rising population can be curbed.

The population of the world, now somewhat in excess of three billion persons, is growing about two percent a year, or faster than at any other period in man's history. The world's population is more than three times larger than it was in the mid-twentieth century. According to the United Nations Population Fund Programme Agency's estimation that, the world population will reach eight Billion in October 2023. The world's population is also expected to increase from 8 billion in 2023 to 9.9 billion in 2050. This shows that population is increasing at faster rate. It will trigger more difficulties of food insecurity, poverty, environmental degradation, and availability of water and ~~sanitation~~ sanitation, and other natural resources.

To begin with the severe ~~some~~ repercussions of the increasing population across the world, food insecurity is one of them. Many countries in the world where population is increasing rapidly cannot provide sufficient food to meet ^{their} public's basic needs. In these countries, population is increasing rapidly but the available resources of the nutrition are same to meet public demand of food. Thus, food insecurity emerges in these parts of the world. According to the United Nation Population Fund's (UNPF) report, "Food Insecurity and Growing Population", unveiled on ~~15~~ March 27, 2023, "thirty eight percent people will experience food insecurity by 2030 in the world ~~due~~ to population ~~exploitation~~ ^{explosion}." In this way, people will suffer from food insecurity in those parts of the globe where population is increasing rapidly.

Similarly, poverty increases in many countries where population is growing. Employment opportunities are limited whereas hands in the search of employment are increasing. The limited employment sector at a time can offer ~~limited~~ work to few individuals. As a result, number of people becomes unemployed and cannot afford meal to their families. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has unveiled a report, "Poverty Outlook in countries where Population is increasing," on February 22, 2023, ~~the~~ in which it says, "thirty five percent of the population could fall below the poverty line by 2030." This dismal situation of poverty is ~~expected~~ likely to occur as population is rising day by day. Therefore, the increasing population ~~leaves~~ ^{leaves} millions of people on the verge of poverty across the globe.

Moreover, the high population growth rate will undoubtedly exacerbate climate change adaptation and resilience issues. There exist deep relations between increasing population and climate change. As the earth's carrying capacity increases, environmental degradation accelerates. Strain on water resources increases on a large scale. This does not only cause water shortages but also contributes to political instability and social conflict. ~~Similarly~~, The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that "population growth and economic (consumption) growth are two main causes of global warming." Per capita resource consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions are highest in developed economies, while rapid population growth in developing countries contributes to the loss of forests and biodiversity. In the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022, where participants show serious concerns on the impact of overpopulation on climate change adaptation and resilience issues in many developing countries.

Furthermore, the depletion of natural resources is happening as the population is increasing in several countries of the world. As the population increases, the burden on natural resources increases too. There are some natural resources that are abundant in nature like air, sunlight, and water. While there are also natural resources that are scarce and have limited supply like fossil fuels, coal and minerals. Vinayak Gupta from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University Lucknow says in his article, "The problem of overpopulation and its effect on the environment", ~~around~~ "thirty countries in the world where fertility rate is high, ^{their} sixty five percent of natural resources which are scarce will completely be depleted by 2040." In this way, overpopulation poses heavy burden on ^{the} available natural resources which are scarce.

Apart from this, elevation in crime rate takes place as population grows. Lack of resources, and unlimited wants ultimately make a man resort to crime in order to maintain a standard of life. This leads to an elevation in the crime rate. Population spurt has also forced village people to move to the cities to make their ends meet. Sometimes what happens is that due to unemployment people resort to unconventional ways to earn money. As a result, law and order situation gets deteriorated and people suffer from the increasing crime rate. They are either robbed or killed. In this way, elevation in crime rate takes place in the society.

Additionally, emergence of new epidemics and pandemics increases due to the rising population in the world. There is strong correlation between the emergence of new epidemics and pandemics and over-population. According to Dr Peter Daszak who is an expert on disease ecology in his 2008 paper published in Journal Nature Research said that, "we can predict very confident that with the increasing population every year we can see more and more diseases emerging." According to Dr Peter Daszak, the case of novel coronavirus is the best example of how overpopulation results in the increased emergence of new epidemics and pandemics. As the population increases, their interaction with the animals and their ecosystem increase too, thus, transfer of diseases from animals to humans may take place. Thus, emergence of new epidemics and pandemics increases due to the rising population.

overpopulation in many developing countries across the globe is denied by socioeconomic factors and religious connection. Many developed and developing countries boost their economical and political advantage over their less populace neighbours. In these countries, population growth is seen favorably as politicians and economists assume that larger population stimulates economic growth both in terms of markets and consumers. Western and Northern European countries are actually ~~interested~~ interested in attracting more cheap labor, and an endless supply of consumers for expanding markets. Hence, high fertility is encouraged by all that corporate expansionists.

Similarly, the connection between religion and population growth has contributed in overpopulation. People of some religions across several countries in the world opine that their religious teachings encourage them for population growth in order to increase the strength of their religions. Certain religions are founded on the belief that the more their numbers, the more their strength, and the more they could also dominate over affairs of state and society. Professor Colin Green's article, Religion's role in the global population crisis, published in the Guardian on September 8, 2022, he opines, those who live or work in developing countries, especially poor, women who are denied the means to control their fertility. Their ability to enhance their families and their own welfare by limiting their number of children is often thwarted by opposition to birth control on the part of organized religions for bodies such as Catholic church.

Apart from this, the need for basic human development is ignored by laying so much blame on population growth. Those who are unconcerned with population assume that as soon as the level of ~~po~~ welfare in the form of human development rises, the birth rates will drop. This has proven true not just in Europe and Japan but in many other developed countries. Due to lack of basic human development in form of unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, and illiteracy, population growth rate increases. As illiterate masses do not know much about family planning and child control methods and want more hands for searching meal. Thus, the need for basic human development is ignored by laying so much blame on population growth.

Furthermore, lack of strong political commitment and effective governance on population policy have contributed in overpopulation. In many developing countries across the globe, politicians are neither interested in population policy formulation nor in implementation. Similarly, concerned authorities and bureaucrats are reluctant to take measure for population control. Dr. Natalia Kameon, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund has rightly said, "politicians of many developing nations lack both vision and legislation over population growth." Therefore, politicians' lack of vision on this grave issue is a nightmare for their nations.

The rising population can be controlled by taking concrete measures. Stress on family planning is included among them. Concerned authorities should need to encourage people for family planning. They should also educate people about birth control methods. People should be aware that having more children is not contributing to earth in any way. However, their children may confront poverty, malnutrition, and unemployment in forthcoming days. For this cause, social seminars should be arranged frequently in the society. Health department and Population and Social Welfare department should assume population control as most urgent problem to tackle.

Similarly, by empowering women, overpopulation can be curbed. An educated and upskilled woman knows better about family planning and birth control methods. According to a research report, Three Platforms for Girls Education in Climate Strategies published in 2017, there is correlation between higher levels of education in women and lower fertility rates. Investment in girls education is indirectly an investment towards saving the environment by curbing population growth on the planet. In this regard, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has stressed on women education by launching several projects in the field of education across the world. Therefore, women empowerment is pivotal for curbing this rising population.

Moreover, by adopting Bangladesh's model of birth control, the rising population in many countries in the world can be reduced. Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in population control and it is now role model in the world. German Development Minister Gerd Müller has praised Bangladesh for its success in birth control as presented the country as roll model for rest of the world. According to the World Bank data, the annual population growth rate in Bangladesh has declined from 2.77 percent in 1961 to 1.03 percent in 2020. According to the UNFPA, Bangladesh report of 2020, the total fertility rate in Bangladesh has come down from 6.3 births per woman in 1975 to 3.4 in 1994 to 2.0 in 2021. The success of the population control strategy is reflected in the fact that the number of people using contraceptives has grown from 8 percent in 1975 to over 63 percent in 2018.

Furthermore, the United Nations as a global Organization needs to play active role for reducing population growth in the world. The challenges that humanity faces today stem mainly from over consumption and overpopulation. Yet policymakers often fail to consider the two factors together, and largely neglect population growth particular. Therefore, the United Nations as world's leading organization should now make ^{this} problem of the increasing population as topmost priority. Now, the UN must ask countries to add "Dampen population growth," as 18th goal in its 17 Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda. In this way, such type of other initiatives are need of the hour for curbing population growth.

In conclusion, population explosion is one of the burning issues that the world is witnessing in the 21st century. The increasing population poses some grave socioeconomic and environmental repercussions on the communities. Food insecurity, poverty, global warming, and depletion of ^{scarce} natural resources emerge. Elevation in crime rate and emergence of new epidemics and pandemics also occur. This problem of increasing population has been neglected since long—due to economical, political and religious interests. As many developing countries boost their economical and political advantage over their less populace neighbours. Some religions encourage their followers for population growth so that their strength ^{could} increase. Ineffective population policy formulation and implementation has also contributed in over-population. However by taking concrete steps like focusing on family planning, women empowerment, anchoring role of the UN, and adopting Bangladesh's model of birth control, this increasing population can be curbed. As Bill gates has rightly said, by improving health and empowering women, population growth comes down.