

Final Mock: Essay

SHIFTING THE PARADIGM:
FROM OVERPOPULATION TO POPULATION MANAGEMENT

OUTLINES:-

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Changing population trends globally
- 1.2 Global population growth and projections
- 1.3 Thesis Statement: The soaring population in sub-Saharan Africa and shrinking population in East Asia and Europe indicate the need for a paradigm shift from mitigating over-population to managing changing population trends in different regions to cope with economic and administrative challenges.

2. Main Body

- 2.1 Population Trends in the Past
 - 2.1.1 Threat of overpopulation and changing policies
 - 2.1.2 Problem of over-population in the developing countries
- 2.2 Changing population trends
 - 2.2.1 Shrinking population in Europe
 - 2.2.2 Problem of aging population in Japan.
 - 2.2.3 Low growth rates in The United States
- 2.3 Challenges of new population trends
 - 2.3.1 Economic challenges
 - 2.3.2 Governance challenges
 - 2.3.3 Shrinking workforce
 - 2.3.4 Technological changes required
- 2.4 Need for different policies in different regions
 - 2.4.1 Population boom in Africa
 - 2.4.2 Increasing workforce in Asia
 - 2.4.3 Aging population in Japan

OUTLINE

Introduction

2.4.4 Low birth rates in China & the U.S.

2.4.5 Shrinking fertility rates in Europe

2.5 Impact of different population trends

2.5.1 Burden of population on Africa

2.5.2 Increasing workforce in Asia

2.5.3 Issues of aging population in Japan

2.5.4 Shrinking population in Europe & US and
dwindling workforce

2.6 Need for changing global focus towards population
management

2.6.1 Increasing job opportunities for growing population
in Asia

2.6.2 Population control efforts in Africa

2.6.3 Changes in infrastructure to support aging
populations in Japan

2.6.4 Pronatalist movements in areas of shrinking
population

3. Conclusion

ESSAY:-

According to the United Nations:

"Projections indicate a peak of around 10.3 Billion in mid 2080s followed by a gradual decline to about 10.2 Billion by 2100s."

Gone are the times when growing population was the only concern of the policy makers instead in today's world different regions are coping with different challenges regarding population. When one part of the world is still struggling with increasing growth rates, the other part is faced with a new dilemma of shrinking fertility rates and aging population.

Developing countries like Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia despite efforts have increasing growth rates but areas like Western Europe and China has reported decreasing population and ultra-low fertility rates.

The soaring population in Sub-Saharan Africa and shrinking population in East Asia and Europe indicate the need for a paradigm shift from mitigating over population to managing changing population trends in different regions to cope with economic and administrative challenges.

With the advent of 21st century, there was a growing concern about world's population and its effects on the environment. Environmentalists were concerned with the burden of overpopulation on ecosystem and the horrendous issues it brings with itself.

"As of mid 2024, global population reached 8.2 Billion and projected to grow to 9.7 Billion in 2070s."

The growing population not only increased the carbon footprint on the ecosystem but also affected economies and resulted in increasing unemployment and poverty in the developing countries. As a result, international

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organizations stressed over the need for population control strategies and effectively implementing them to control the recent surge in the population. Due to lack of infrastructure and illiteracy, these efforts did not prove much fruitful in the developing countries. The developed countries, however, started a race of advancement and capitalism flourished in these areas.

The rise of capitalism in the United States and Europe not only resulted in strong economy but also resulted in ultra low fertility rates.

"Italy and Spain reported ultra low fertility rates in the recent years."

As a result of more focus on work life and family life taking a back seat in developed countries, their growth rate declined as people did not have time to raise children and focus on them.

According to the Wall Street Journal:

"US Deaths expected to outpace births within the decade."

Another startling revelation was the issue of aging population in countries like Japan. In Japan, people over the age 65 represent a significant part of the country's population. Despite efforts to promote growth rates by providing incentives and lenient child care policies in the recent years, this issue has become a major concern for the government.

According to a Global Trends

"By the year 2070, there will be more people over the age of 65 as compared to those under 18, indicating a significant generational shift."

These changing trends of population present different challenges for the world's governments and require a

policy shift in such areas.

These changing population trends pose different challenges for the mankind that are rather new and require immediate focus. Two sides of the world are coping with two different challenges and require opposite approaches to address them. The developing countries are still struggling with the growing populations which is putting a serious burden on the economy of these countries. There is also a threat of increasing unemployment and poverty as the governments are not able to increase job opportunities for the growing workforce.

Projections indicate that by 2040, 68% of South Asia's population will be of working age."

This scenario presents different opportunities as well as challenges. On the other hand, the western Europe and developed side of the world is struggling with low birth rates that is posing a serious threat to the economy due to shrunken workforce and the technological changes required to support the aging populations.

In the past, the focus of the whole world was just to control the overpopulation but now different regions are presenting different challenges and resultant need different policies to address them.

For instance, the Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to contribute significantly to the population growth and it is expected that **population will double by 2050**

The Asian countries especially South Asia has seen a gradual decline in population but their young population ready to enter workforce is increasing. East Asian countries like China & Japan are struggling with decline in population but an increased number

of old age individuals contributing towards population. The United States and Europe is struggling with the dramatic decline in birth rates and dwindling work force.

As the issues faced by these regions are diverse, the impact of these issues are also diverse. Africa is at the brink of rising unemployment and poverty and the increasing population is aggravating the issue. The South Asia has insufficient infrastructure to support growing working class and if they are not provided with job opportunities, it will result in worsened statistics in these areas. The government of Japan is working towards adapting its infrastructure and industries to support aging population. Europe is working towards different strategies to boost their population by increasing immigration and incentives.

The need of the hour is to change the global focus towards population management by assisting different regions in tackling the issues they are facing. A multi-pronged strategy is required to focus on different regions and handle their diverse problems. The developed countries need to support developing nations in Asia and Africa to manage their increasing work force by providing opportunities to them in countries that are in need of workforce to support their infrastructure. Also, there is a need to assist African countries in effective population control strategies by increasing awareness and education. Countries like China and Japan are in the need to work on two fronts i.e. providing incentives as well as catering to an aging population by increasing retirement age as well as changing infrastructure to support them. Europe and the United States need to work on

pro-natalist movements by providing incentives and facilities to child rearing families that will help support them and work in the long towards tackling ultra low birth rates and as a result dwindling population.

Hence, shifting the paradigm from overpopulation to population management by working on a global multipronged strategy to focus differently on different regions is essential. With the advancements in technology and asymmetric growth of economies, different regions are struggling differently. As it is said,

"The blessing of one is the dilemma of another."

This efficiently depicts the current situation of the world and this situation can only be handled if global focus is shifted towards this issue and different nations work together to solve this issue. If population is managed effectively and collectively, it can generate a strong cohesive working force and steady economic situation and resultantly rid the world of this new dilemma.