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Title: Overpopulation

Indian society is a complex mix of diverse cultures, people, beliefs and languages which may have come from anywhere but now is a part of this vast country. This complexity and richness gives Indian society a unique appearance of a very vibrant and colorful cultural country.

But the very same complexity brings with itself complex nature of social problems and issues. In fact every society of the world has their social issues unique to their society. So does Indian society. Indian society is very rooted in religious beliefs; there are people of different religious beliefs such as Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Parses etc. India's social problems are also rooted in the religious practices and beliefs of its people. Almost all forms of social issues and problems find their origin in the religious and cultural practices of the people of India. These social problems are developed in a long period of times and are still continuing in one form or other.

Overpopulation refers to a situation when the number of people in a country exceeds the resources that the country has to meet their needs. Overpopulation is one of the biggest problems for India. Every nook and corner of India is a clear display of increasing population. Whether you are in a metro station, airport, railway station, bus stop, shopping mall, market, temple, or even in a social gathering, we see all these places are overcrowded at any time of the day. This is a clear indication of overpopulation in the country.

Overpopulation is the root cause of poverty and poor health. The rate of increase of population, especially during the last sixty-five years has been really alarming. The standard of living has gone miserably low. Ignorance, illiteracy, unhygienic living and lack of proper recreation have remained the cause of population problem in India.

Both men and women should realize the dangers of over-population. But still there are families that suffer from die-hard superstition. They consider adoption as an unholy activity. Naturally, they have a psychological make-up that the more sons they have the more they can employ. Thus a laborer produces more as that means more income.

Another factor that encourages the growth-rate is religion. Early marriages not only lead to high-population but they also entail an enormous amount of trouble to young mothers. These young girls, in most cases, are not healthy enough to bear the burden of a child.

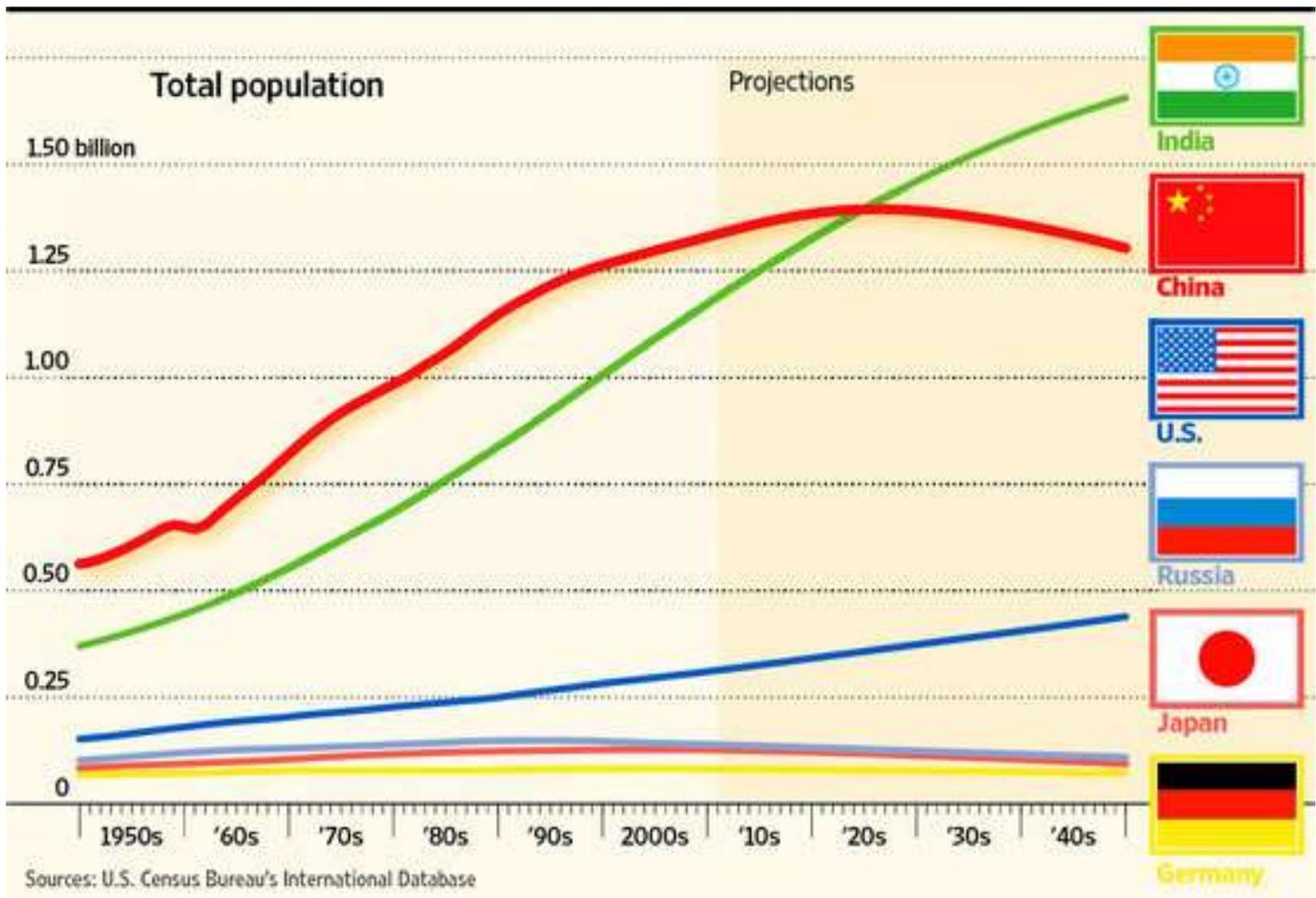
Today India is the home to over 1 billion people. By 2050 it will surpass China as the most populous country in the world. Experts think that India will reach a total of 1.8 billion before population growth begins to decrease. In contrast to China's one-child policy, family planning in India has not been consistent.

CAUSES OF OVERPOPULATION IN INDIA:

- **Birth rate and death rate:** The birth rate is higher than the death rate. India have been successful in declining their death rates but not their birth rates.
- **Early Marriage and Universal Marriage System:** Even though legally the marriageable age of a girl is 18 years, the concept of early marriage still prevails and getting married at a young age prolongs the child bearing age. Also, in India, marriage is a sacred obligation and a universal practice, where almost every woman is married at the reproductive age hence producing more kids.
- **Poverty:** Another factor for the rapid growth of population is poverty. Impoverished families have this notion that more the number of members in the family, more will be the numbers to earn income. Some feel that more children are needed to look after them in their old age. Also hunger can be cause of death of their children and hence the need for more children
- **Illiteracy:** Indian still lag behind in the use of contraceptives and birth control methods. Many of them are not willing to discuss or are totally unaware about them and their uses. Illiteracy and lack of awareness is thus another cause of over population.
- **Age old cultural norm:** Sons are the bread earners of the families in India. This age old thought puts considerable pressure on the parents to produce children till a male child is born.
- **Illegal migration:** Last but not the least, we cannot ignore the fact that illegal migration is continuously taking place from Bangladesh, Nepal leading to increased population density in our country.

EFFECTS OF OVERPOPULATION IN INDIA:

- **Unemployment:** Generating employment for such a huge population in a country like India is very difficult. The number of illiterate persons increases every year. Unemployment rate is thus showing an increasing trend. Also the number of jobless people is on the rise in India due to economic depression and slow business development and expansion activities.
- **Pressure on infrastructure:** Development of infrastructural facilities is unfortunately not keeping up with the growth of population. The result is lack of transportation, communication, housing, education, healthcare etc. There has been an increase in the number of slums, overcrowded houses, traffic congestion etc.
- **Resource utilization:** Land areas, water resources, forests are over exploited. There is also scarcity of natural and man-made resources
- **Decreased production and increased costs:** Food production and distribution have not been able to catch up with the increasing population and hence the costs of production have increased. Inflation is the major consequence of over population.
- **Inequitable income distribution:** In the face of an increasing population, there is an unequal distribution of income and inequalities within the country have widened



SOLUTION TO OVERPOPULATION IN INDIA:

The Government of India should initiate a bold population policy so that the economic growth of the country can keep pace with the demands of a growing population. Most of the problems that are associated with population can be tackled with Awareness and Education. Economic growth means improvement in poverty, sanitation issues, health issues and other such socio-economic matters that are related to population. Major steps which have been already implemented but still need to be emphasized more to control population. Increasing the welfare and status of women and girls, spread of education, increasing awareness for the use of contraceptives and family planning methods, sex education, encouraging male sterilization and spacing births, free distribution of contraceptives and condoms among the poor, encouraging female empowerment, more health care centres for the poor, can play a major role in controlling population.

Another possibility that would coincide with the education part of the solution would be to provide a form of birth control available to the population of India. Birth control for a year for one women in India would be about \$60 US dollars. This would be fairly expensive for poorer people in India but if this could be built into people's taxes in India it would lower the burden on the poorer people. Also a welfare birth control system could be used as well. The United Nations could also help support the cause since they are also aware of the growth rate of the human population and they are a world power. We could also appeal to Americans to help the cause financially.

People in India are dependent upon their kids and consider them as their earning hands after retirement. It is hence the greed for more income that the desire for more kids increases. Family planning facilities should be provided to rural and poor people which at present is easy available in urban and semi urban areas. As per UN reports low marriageable age of females in India is also the cause of more kids. So late marriage or strict rules for minimum marriageable age can help in solving the problem of population in India to some extent.

Lowering infant mortality rate can also help in solving the problem of population. It has been seen that mortality rate among poor children is high, and because of this poor couples tend to have more kids. In order to increase the mortality rate there should be proper medical facilities which must reach to poor families on time so that they no longer wish to have more kids.

TASKS AND TIMELINE

The government of India should not only take strict but quick measures to reduce the current increase in population. If immediate control is not taken the population growth will start affecting each and every sector of the society and make the running of the country impossible.

As predicted by many international organisations, India in less than 25 years will surpass China in its population count. India not only has shortage of land to accommodate these many people but also has limited resources to suffice. The first step right now should be educating people and making people aware of the advantages and needs of having small families. Distribution and creating awareness about contraceptives will then prove effective and help tremendously in reducing the population.



CONTRIBUTION OF EACH MEMBER

Each and every member has contributed in their own way to the best of their ability in making this project successful. Aditya Tibrewal, our group leader did not only take initiative and responsibility in completing this project but also guided each and every member in their respected tasks. Arhiant Jain and Sai Satvik have also done their parts in this project. Equal amount of Time, Effort, Patience and Dedication was shown by each and every member of our group.

SOURCES

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