

Geography Population - Case Study

Case Study - Australia (underpopulation)

- Australia is an example of an underpopulated country as most parts of it are inhospitable. It's the world's sixth largest country in land area and most of the population is concentrated in two regions-
South east and East.
Southwest.
- 24.1 million people in 2016 and forecasted to rise to 30 million in 2030.
- Has the lowest population density with three people per km².
- Workforce of 11.6 million and highly skilled GDP is \$52191.
- 75% employment rate in the service sector and it globally has a low rate of unemployment.
- Education - 90% of the population has 21 years of education.
- Scores a high value for all measures of quality of life including health and education.
- Infant mortality rate is 0.46%.
- Rich in resources like coal, iron ore, copper, gold, and uranium, exports are worth 200 billion dollars. They have more resources than necessary.
- Attracts foreign investment from countries like China, Japan and Korea. It also attracts international migrants (immigration rate is 6 per 1000.)
- 43% pay tax.
- The rural remote areas need to attract more migrants.

Case Study - Bangladesh (overpopulated)

- Bangladesh is a relatively small and resource poor country with the world's largest population density (1128 people per km²).
- 45% work in the agricultural sector, a very small amount of cultivable land per person results in high levels of rural poverty.
- There is not enough work available for most people. High unemployment rate of 45%, underemployed rate is 40% where people are working for very low wages. This is not confined to the countryside, but also to urban areas.
- Threat of cyclones and flooding makes the problem worse, 80% of no country is situated on the floodplains of the rivers - Ganga, Brahmaputra, Meghna, and other minor rivers. Major loss of life and property make people move to higher lands increasing over crowding.
- It also has a high birth rate of 23 per 1000 and high population growth rate of 1.6%, 85% of the country is muslim and do not use contraceptives.
- Death rate 5.54/1000.
- Major floods also increase rural-urban migration especially for cities like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and lead to overcrowding and deterioration of facilities like electricity and drinking water.
- Also puts a lot of pressure on infrastructure, healthcare and sanitation.

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Case Study - Japan (high dependant population and strategies used to manage the problem)

- 64% of the population is economically active, 22.9% are old dependents and 13.1% are young dependents.
- The dependency ratio between young dependents and old dependents - 59.8.
- Every hundred workers have to support an average of 59.8 people.
- There are fewer children to become future workers.
- Japan has a low birth rate and a low population growth of 0.28%.
- It also has a life expectancy of 82.5 years.
- It is predicted that the population shall decrease from 127 million to 80 million by 2055.

Effects:

- Schools shut down as there are not enough children.
- Cost to care for old dependents will rise as tax obtained by the government.
- Due to the lack of soldiers, the army and defence of the country
- Labour shortages especially in the electrical industry will be affected and they will be forced to employ foreigners.
- Spending will decrease as people want to save more to support their families. This will force retailers to increase prices or offer large discounts, as a result overall cost of living will become higher.

Strategies to increase workforce:

- 1994 a policy was introduced to encourage births but that had little effect.
- In 2009 a policy was introduced to enable working mothers to continue working while having children. It also encouraged fathers to help bring up children.
- Employers were allowed to keep 65 year olds and above, to work.
- The policy also allowed immigrant workers mostly from South Korea and the Philippines to work in Japan.

How to cope with costs of aging population:

- Age to avail pension increased from 60 to 65 to increase the number of taxpayers.
- In order to cover the cost of pensions and social security the concept of long term insurance was introduced in 2000.
- Due to this, the cost of medical care can be shared by the elderly.

To cope with the rising number of elderly:

- To improve healthcare for degenerative diseases.
- Residential homes with ramps or staircases which can be used with wheelchairs.
- A large number of economically active people leave their jobs to care for the elderly (1,30,000).

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Japan - Benefits of Japan's aging population:

- Japan has invested a lot in health care research and development of solutions for its aging population. Eg. Panasonic has already developed a smart walker that uses artificial intelligence to ensure old people would be as mobile as possible.
- Has a lot of medical data, assessments, and care plans which can be used as a test bed for local and foreign companies.

Case Study - China (Population policy - antinatalist)

- Population 1.3 billion.
- Between 1950-1960, the population grew rapidly creating stress on infrastructure and resources.
- 1979 - one child policy was formulated.

Encouragements:

- 5-10% salary bonus.
- Preferential housing and employment.
- Education and healthcare benefits.

Penalties:

- Fines.
- Salary reduction.
- Forced abortions.

Social impacts:

- Single child has to take care of four grandparents and two parents.
- Parents kept trying till they had a boy, leading to illegal abortions.
- By 2020 - more women than men.

Economic impacts:

- Single children will have to support a large number of older dependents by financing their healthcare.
- Working force difference rose to about 40% between 2011 - 2050 (estimated).

Positive impacts:

- Fertility rates reduced from 3 to 1.5
- Policy prevented 300 million children from being born.
- Reduced problems of overpopulation and pressure on services and resources.

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Case Study - Pro-natalist policy in France

- France has a relatively high fertility level compared to other European countries. This is due to the long term active family policy, adopted in 1980. The policy has created positive attitudes towards two and three child families in France. Over the past 70 years France has taken several steps to encourage fertility.
- In 1939 the government passed the 'Code de la Famille.'
 - This policy offered benefits such as financial incentives to mothers who stayed at home to look after children.
 - It also offered subsidised holidays.
 - The policy banned the sale of contraceptives; this however stopped in 1967.
- Recent measures to encourage couples to have children include:
 - Longer maternity and paternity leave include a full pay ranging from 20 weeks to upto 40 weeks after a third child.
 - Higher child benefits.
 - Improved tax allowances for large families until the youngest child turns 18.
 - Pension schemes for mothers/housewives.
 - 30% reduction on public transport for three child families.
 - Child-oriented policies including state supported day care centers and nursing schools.
 - Preferential treatment in the allocation of government housing.
 - France is trying to reduce the economic cost of having children, the country is close to the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman.
 - Payment of 21064 for couples having their third child.
 - Depending on the families income from virtually nothing to 560 euros a month for the most well off families.
 - Nursing mothers are encouraged to work part time or take a weekly day off from work.
 - 100% mortgage and preferential treatment in the allocation of 3 bedroom council flats.