

POPULATION EXPLOSION: A BANE TO HUMANITY

by:
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The planet Earth is truly one of a kind. It has lush green forests, deep blue seas, hot desserts, icy mountains, and beautiful savannahs. From the very beginning of time, humanity has had all the resources we need and was given the task of taking care of life. As the beings that stand at the top of the food chain, we create, build, and consume the most. Over the years, the natural resources that we have—provided by mother nature herself, have been continuously depleting. Its causes range from various factors such as pollution, illegal mining and logging, poor farming practices, deforestation, and industrial and technological advancement, to name a few. However, there is another factor that single-handedly outweighs the rest, overpopulation.

The United Nations (UN) estimates an 8 billion total global population at present, and it is projected to blow up to 11 billion within the next 30 years. This population explosion is caused by major changes in fertility rates, increasing urbanization, better longevity due to advancements in medicinal science, and the prevalence of migration. This non-stop increase in the world population brings terrible consequences now and for the years to come.

As the global population continues to inflate, so does the higher cost of living. The prices of basic commodities will continue to rise, food and clean water will be even more scarce, unemployment rates will soar, and malnutrition and starvation will be even more pervasive. It will further trap and immerse countries and their people into an endless pit of poverty. Furthermore, unmanageable population size will be a heavy weight to bear for a country's economy. Economic growth will be slow, and capital formation will be

low. Another crucial effect of an uncontrolled population is environmental degradation. Our world suffers and will suffer even more from the extensive use of natural resources and the creation of energy from coal, natural gas, and oil.

All these and more are what we are already facing and will worsen soon. At present, it is one of the biggest challenges that we must overcome. Efforts, no matter how small, and preventive measures must be done. The development and growth of every country lie in defusing the bomb and preventing the explosion. It is why government policies should focus on raising awareness about family planning and health care. Revisions should be done to reinforce and strengthen existing programs that protect wetlands, forests, and other natural ecosystems. We should divert our efforts and technology into discovering and creating a renewable source of energy and prioritize efficiency and sustainability.

Population explosion is a bane to humanity and caused by humanity ourselves. However, it is also the humanity that holds the key to changing the flow of things. We are the ones that should act and do better for ourselves, our planet, and the generations to come.

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