

## 30. Population – family planning techniques

### Controlling population growth

Many countries try to reduce their population growth ⇔ depend on complex *social, political, economic and geographical factors*.

### Family planning

Family planning techniques refer to attempts to limit family size => *contraceptives, abortions, sterilisations and infanticide*.

Generally speaking, *without management a population growth will put an increasing strain on resources*.

### Family planning techniques in developing countries

#### Example: Mauritius

1960s = fastest growing population in the world that has soon exceeded its resources (carrying capacity) => family planning through a network of clinics around the island, improving health care and the status of women => *better standards of living for the population in general*.

- new farmland areas and techniques implemented
- MNCs' investments ⇔ financial incentives and low taxes set up by local government
- large, educated workforce = skilled and cheap labour => development of the region.

#### Example: China

= largest population (>1.2 billion) => 1/5 of the world's population lives there ⇔ rapidly growing population => risk of starvation.

Communist regime => *One-child policy*

- 10% salary bonus for limiting to 1 child
- 10% salary reduction for having 2 children
- priority in education and health care for the "only" children
- couples had to apply for the right to start a family

These measures have been successful but can be implemented only in a strong authoritarian government. Later, there will be problems with having less people in working age that will work for the elderly => potential *social and economic catastrophe*.

#### Example: India

= not wealthy country with difficult communication (large area, complicated relief), variety of cultures living there (caste system), different languages and religions (Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs), mainly rural population and not so widespread educational system.

= large and diverse democratic country => *no strict laws* can be implemented, e.g. sterilisation of men with >3 children.

World-wide, for every 100 men, there are 105 women. But in India, most females were aborted and many were killed after birth ⇔ the arrival of a daughter can be a financial disaster ⇔ the demands for a big *dowry* => many abortions of females (annual 8000 abortions in Bombay – 7999 were females).

Educational differences: in *poor countries* boys go to school but girls are kept behind to help at the household.

- female literacy rate = 40%
- male literacy rate = 65%

Developed countries: "*If a boy is born there is happiness, if a girl is born there is sorrow*".

### Keywords

contraceptives, abortions, sterilisations, infanticide, one-child policy, dowry