Chapter 9
Addressing Population Issues

Overview of Chapter 9

- Population and Quality of Life
  - Population and Chronic Hunger
  - Economic Effects of Population Growth
- Reducing the Total Fertility Rate
  - Culture and Fertility
  - Social and Economic Status of Women
  - Family Planning Services
- Government Policies and Fertility
  - China, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Europe
- Achieving Population Stabilization

Population and Quality of Life

- Difficult to meet basic needs in developing countries
- Problems associated with overpopulation:
  - Environmental degradation
  - Hunger
  - Persistent poverty
  - Economic stagnation
  - Urban deterioration
  - Health issues

Carrying Capacity

- Carrying Capacity (K)
  - The maximum number of individuals of a given species that a particular environment can support for an indefinite period, assuming no changes in the environment
- Overuse of land can cause a decrease in carrying capacity
- Uncertain what the carrying capacity of the earth is for humans

Population and Chronic Hunger

- Food security
- Condition in which people live with chronic hunger and malnutrition

Effects of Chronic Hunger

**Population and Chronic Hunger**

- Solving the Food Problem
  - Control population growth
  - Promote economic development of developing countries without adequate food supplies
  - Provide access to food and land resources to those who live in areas without them

**Economic Effects of Population Growth**

- Two viewpoints from economists:
  - Population growth stimulates economic development and technological innovation
  - Rapidly expanding hampers developmental efforts
- Most observations support the second viewpoint
- Developmental efforts are also hampered by debt from past development attempts

Reducing the Total Fertility Rate

Three major influences on total fertility rate
- Cultural traditions
- Social & economic status of women
- Family planning

**Cultural Traditions**

- Culture influences and controls individuals' behaviors
- Marriage age
- Couple is expected to have large number of children
  - Due to high infant and child mortality rates
- Children often work in family business
  - Provide support for aging parents
- Religious values
Social & Economic Status of Women

- Gender inequality is common worldwide
- Disparities
  - Political participation
  - Social status
  - Economic status
  - Health status
  - Legal rights
  - Education
  - Employment and earnings

Educational Opportunities and Fertility

- Women with more education
  - Marry later
  - Have fewer children

Family Planning Services

- In many countries men make reproductive decisions regarding contraceptives
- Family planning services offer information to both men and women on:
  - Sexuality
  - Contraception
  - STDs
  - Parenting

Contraceptive Use Among Married Women of Reproductive Age

Government Policies and Fertility - China

- Largest population in the world
- Controversial Family Planning Policy
  - 1971- Chinese Government pursued birth control seriously
  - 1979- Incentives to promote later marriages and one-child families
• Medical care, schooling for child, preferential housing, retirement funds
• Brought about rapid and drastic decrease in fertility

**Government Policies and Fertility- China**

- Law - controversial and unpopular
  - Compromised freedom of choice
  - Social pressure to abort a second child
  - Pressure to abort/kill female first child

**Government Policy and Fertility- India**

- Severe population pressure
  - 1950- first country with government-sponsored family planning
    - Did not work due to language/cultural barriers
  - 1976- introduced incentives and compulsory sterilization
    - Unpopular and failure
  - Recent years- government focused on education
    - Much more effective, but TFR still above replacement level

**Government Policy and Fertility- Mexico**

- Young age structure
  - Huge potential for population growth: 33% of population is under age 15
    - Positive growth momentum
  - 1974- government imparted educational reform, family planning, health care
    - Very successful

**Government Policy and Fertility- Nigeria**

- Population challenge
  - Largest population of any African country

- Very high reproductive potential: 43% of population is less than age 15

**Current National Population Policy**

- Improving health care
- Population education

**Government Policy and Fertility- Europe**

- Population concern
• Proportion elderly people in population is increasing
• Due to low TFR
  o Decrease in population could cause decrease economic growth

**Achieving Population Stabilization**

  o How can developing country governments help?
    • Increase $$ allotted to public health and family planning services
    • Education on affordable, safe, effective methods of birth control
    • Increase average level of education
      • Especially for women
  o How can developed country governments help?
    • Provide financial support
    • Supporting research and development of new birth control methods