Bangladesh – Overpopulation

Information Sheet IGCSE Geography

What is overpopulation?

The population of a country is one of its most invaluable assets. When the population exceeds the optimum level, the invaluable assets become a liability for the country.

Some facts about Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is a small country with an area of 147,570 square kilometres

- It has a population of 161 million.

- The country has the highest density of population in the present world (that means more people live in a small area than anywhere else)

- In 1971, when Bangladesh achieved independence, its population was about 75 million and this has increased by more than double within the past 42 years.

- Population grows every year by 1.75 per cent a year

- Considering an annual average growth rate of 1.75 per cent a year, Bangladesh's population will be 350 million by 2055

What caused Bangladesh to be overpopulation?

Various economists, analysts and researchers have identified the causes for the population boom in the country

- Illiteracy and ignorance (people can't read and write and can't find out about other ways of doing things)
- climatic conditions
- poverty
- unemployment,
- early marriage (meaning that girls often don't go to school to learn)
- polygamy (mean can marry more than one woman)
- superstition,
- lack of family planning knowledge (condoms and other contraception methods not available)

Other problems that Bangladesh has to deal with

Experts and geologists believe that the effects of climate change will effect Bangladesh's population,.

The country is losing 8,000 hectares of cultivable land every year from its original 13 million hectares due to industry, towns and cities expanding due to increasing population

The country is also very low down. Every time that there is a typhoon (storm), most of the country floods.

Problems caused by overpopulation

- shortage of food
- not enough fresh water for drinking water
- overcrowding, jam,
- pressures on the transport and traffic systems
- high crime rates