**Case Study – China one child policy**

A greater population reduces the environmental damage and overuse of resources such as water and food, so as a result, resource allocation becomes increasingly difficult.

**Why was the one child policy implemented?**

* If the one child policy was not introduced, then 1.3 billion populations would have been reached 4 years ago, therefore this helped reduce the population.
* More people are needed to work on a farm, and support their parents in old age, so parents started to have more children.
* Allow for social stability and economic growth and prevent the overuse of resources such as water due to the increasing population.

**How was the policy implemented?**

* Large fines, if the policy was not followed. These were a large proportion of the wages, and each province issued fines differently depending on whether it was a rural or urban area. Rural areas had fines up to $15,000; while urban areas had fines up to $67,000 as the wages in these areas differ according to development.
* Houses pulled down and timber/ horse carts taken away from rural people if they were unable to afford the fines they owned up to.
* Workplaces help propaganda and promote the one child policy for example the iron and steel factories educate families, parents in school and issuing articles in company’s newsletter, through TV and radio as well to publicize the idea.
* Free contraceptives and healthcare for employees and parental care provided as well.
* Employees are monitored and marriage age risen, counseling available in offices where employees can get family planning services free of cost.
* Girls are supported in education to eliminate gender imbalance, which happened as a result of the one child policy.

**What were the positive impacts of the one child policy?**

* As a result of the one child policy, forced abortions were banned in 2001, meaning that women faced fewer instances of inequality.
* This policy also became slightly relaxed as the government started to have less influence on the people and the more affluent people in the urban areas can afford to pay the fines and have more kids, or prefer to have one child anyways due to well paid jobs and better standards of living, as they are fully educated about the circumstances involving all the situations.
* One-child policy certificates were received as a result of the policy, meaning that children were able to have access to free healthcare and education.
* This policy also improved the quality of the population as mothers get better maternal care and child is offered better healthcare and education.

**What were the negative impacts of the one child policy?**

* Rural population suffers more as women are not empowered and poorer people cannot afford fines, so if they were caught having more than one child, which was very likely as women had no say in society, then their quality of living would go from bad to worse, and they would really struggle to survive. (Fines involved up to 4 times their annual income)
* Rural populations lived in harsh conditions after paying fines and often survived on eating porridge 3 times a day.
* There was the worry of developing a spoilt generation of little emperors who would step into society in the future with a lack of social skill, and ability to share, as they would have never had a sibling to experience this with.
* There was a gender preference for males so now it has been made illegal to find the gender of your child through ultrasound. However, illegally people who are affluent still continue to do this and carry on the tradition of having sons.
* This resulted in a clear gender imbalance in Jiangxi, resulting a ratio of 142 boys to every 100 girls born, this created many social consequences, so not enough girls to be married to men, and this meant that lots of female kidnapping took place. This was referred to as ‘bare branches’ as many men could not marry, creating a generally more violent population due to the abundance of single men.
* If abortions didn’t work, then the child was often separated form their parents and put up for adoption. This caused separation of many families, resulting in greater social conflict in communities.

**Evaluation:**

* Fertility rate dropped from 6 to 1.7, therefore the policy worked. The availability of contraception increased as well, meaning the rich and the poor could access these.
* 250 million births prevented since 1979.
* Policy was successful according to the aim of reducing population, as without the policy China would have had an extra 300 million people in their population. But this caused a lot of issues to do with social and economic consequences.
* Policy was open to corruption so many people paid bribes to have extra children.
* This one child policy reduced birth rates and therefore created a shortage of workers in many areas.
* Children were abandoned for adoption creating many further social consequences.
* There were criticisms about human rights and freedom of choice linking to forced abortions and sterilizations.
* Due to decreased birth rates, there was an ageing population overtime, which meant that there was a high dependency ratio between the young and old.
* However even due to the one child policy being in place, the population still continues to grow due to population momentum. (However at a much slower rate due to the policy in place.

**Case Study – Population policies in India (Rajasthan and Kerala are two opposing examples) (can also be used for gender inequality against females)**

India’s population is growing at a rapid rate of 1,5% (2013) and a current population of 1.24 billion people.

**How was the policy enforced in the Rajasthan region?**

* **Campaigns** – to try and educate people with benefits of having smaller families. Some campaigns suggested that parents should adopt rather than have their own children to decrease the number of newborn babies.
* **Money** **incentives** – 145 rupees were offered for male sterilization, and 70 rupees for female sterilization to encourage people to have fewer children. These often encouraged people as many of the women who have high fertility rates live in poverty and therefore these small amounts are huge monetary incentives for them.
* **Other** **incentives** – If they postponed birth of a child, 2 years after marriage, they would receive 5000 rupees as part of a ‘honeymoon package’. Opportunity to enter lottery and win cars if you undergo sterilization. This ease of pressure on families to raise children. Common household appliances like blenders, mobile phones, and radios are also offered as incentives. All these utilities are very helpful to the poor families and are thus major incentives for them.
* **Sterilization** – India has carried out 37% female sterilizations, and forced sterilizations in many of the poorer neighborhoods. Many women would give birth and then immediately be taken for sterilization. As a result of this, 11 died and dozens were hospitalized due to increasing health risks due to poor conditions in which sterilization was carried out. Greatest % of female sterilization is 75%, compared to the global average of 34%.

Education is seen to be a more sustainable and stable way of reducing population as it causes less conflict socially. Reducing populations quickly through immediate methods such as abortions in LEDC’s causes many deaths and thus has many disadvantages socially.

* **Sex** **selective** **abortions** – Traditional preference for boys, leading to mass female foeticide. India has lost 10 million girls in the past 20 years. Boys will inherit property and care for their parents in old age, whereas girls will leave their families. Female foeticide was highest among the most educated wealthy people. These people can afford the ultrasound tests to determine the sex of the fetus. There are just 880 females born to every 1000 males born.

**Negative social effects of reduced female population: (relate to human rights + evaluation)**

* Unmarried men turning into crime and violence against women have increased.
* Wealthy men have taken to buying brides in other parts of India. Many of these wives become slaves and their children are shunned.

**Case study – Kerala, India – Population policy (more sustainable)**

* Good primary healthcare, and therefore low infant mortality and highest life expectancy in India.
* Declining population growth as high literacy rates for men and women
* High status of women as they are empowered due to tradition in female schooling
* The gap between the rich and the poor is small resulting in less inequality
* High literacy rates of 92% (female schooling and universities)
* Awareness of different methods of fertility controls, and good healthcare infrastructure

**Why was the policy implemented?**

* National population policy had limited success and so another program was designed which aimed at improving general welfare of the population and trying to control population growth
* In the 1980’s, increased numbers of family planning programs were implemented through the state government. In rural areas, they were extended through a network of primary healthcare centers.
* By 1991, India had more than 150,000 public health facilities.

**What did the programs include?**

* Cash incentives for those who were willing to be sterilized.
* Commissions for health workers
* New schools, drinking water and roads for areas that met their targets
* Education of women of 92% means that they have to get better jobs and wages and have fewer children as they have less disposable time. They are also more aware through education of contraceptive use. They are also empowered in Kerala and can make decisions about how many children they want.
* More health clinics so better access to health clinics and supplies so the children can get treated quicker and receive inoculations.
* Free contraception and family planning education, which recued the average family size and therefore the population. Further reduced pressure on healthcare centers so people have quicker access to healthcare.

**Evaluation**:

* India still continues to experience rapid population growth. However, there was a slight decrease in 1981-1991, because of the family planning program.
* Kerala has had dramatic success in lowering its birth rate without regulation in places such as China and other regions of India, which is more sustainable, than how it was done in regions like Rajasthan, as it caused many social conflicts.

**Case study – Pronatalist policy – Singapore**

**Pronatalist policy** – tries to increase birth rate. You cannot force people to have children, so you have to offer incentives e.g. free education.

**Incentives** – such as money, extended maternity leave and paternity leave and pay, free or subsidized childcare, healthcare and education. Reduced cost of these services reduces the cost of having children thus reducing the burden on parents so they can go to work.

1. **Marriage and parenthood packages (2013)** – making it faster and easier to get housing to support early marriage or birth, providing support for contraception and delivery costs, further defraying child raising costs including healthcare costs. Middle-income Singaporean households enjoy $24,000 in Baby bonus cash. And all of these offers are worth $198,000 until both the children turn 13.

* The size of Singapore is 710.2 km2, so less area means that space is at a premium and housing is expensive. Bigger houses offered as a result of having more children are truly valued as a result.
* Slogan changed from ‘stop at two’ to ‘have 3 if you can afford it’. This policy was only aimed at the more affluent educated people as they want to maintain their status in the world economy (5th highest GDP in the world)
* 1966-1982, Singapore had an anti-natalist policy, but the policy worked too well therefore a Pronatalist policy had to be introduced in 2001.

**Problems for the Pronatalist policy: (difficult to change the mindset of people)**

* **Social barrier** – Highly educated women tend to have more difficulty with finding suitable spouses.
* A solution for this would be the Romanticizing Singapore scheme:

1. State sponsored matchmaking events
2. Rock climbing for couples
3. Love boat river race
4. Private sponsors have made their own contributions including spa packages and tango parties
5. Weekend getaways like a love boat cruise
6. Pizza hut offering a 3-course ‘love meal’ including a heart shaped pizza.

* **Lifestyle choice** – Some people choose to remain single, get married older or have fewer children. Mean age of marriage increases over 2008 to 2012: males from 29.8 to 30.1 and for females, from 27.3 to 28. Fertility rates (per female) have increased from 1.15 to 1.29, however this is nowhere near the replacement rate they would like.
* **Financial consideration** – there is a high cost of living in Singapore. Parents want higher standards for children therefore work longer and have fewer children.
* To overcome worker shortages, the government encourages immigration but also trying to increase the population through rising birth rates. Increased maternity leaves to cover the cost of maternity leave for first 4 babies and therefore parents don’t have to worry about security of their work to support their children.
* Other problems – Abortion is common – 1 in 4 pregnancies are terminated, divorces are rising and number of childless couples is 6% and rising.

**Other ways to boost population:**

* Importing foreigners can boost population size and sustain economic growth, but only encouraging graduates to maintain their status in the world economy.
* Large number of foreigners only 74% is Singaporeans and the government wants the cultural mix to stay the same, so foreigners are subject to ‘stop at two’ policy. This could create a wide culture or conflict.