



Environmental Consequences of Population Growth: A Socio-Demographic Study of Asia with Special Reference to Iran

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ABSTRACT Human resources and environment have reciprocal impacts on each other, but it is more the population to affect the environment in the modern era; and that creates poverty both in rural as well as urban areas. Hence, we can say that: "Unless the vicious circle of poverty is broken out, sustainable development is not a possibility". According to the ecological and demographic studies mainly done by the UN agencies at the end of 1990s, about one-fifth of the world's 6 billion population live in absolute poverty, whose main factor is high population growth. This percentage is even higher in developing regions such as Asia with 3,637 billion of population in 1999. High population growth causes depletion of resources, or unfair use of present resources. The ecological challenge in Asia as a part of world community could be pronounced in the sense that: Worldwide, every second over 200 tons of carbon dioxide pour into atmosphere, and 750 tons of topsoils are lost. Each day 47000 hectares of forests are destroyed, 345000 hectares of lands are turned into desert, and probably as many as 300 species become extinct. Such catastrophes and many more awaiting us, could be prevented or solved, only if the world leaders of the planning body could bring about an equilibrium between human resources and environment. Such an equilibrium could directly and quickly affect the quality of life; a measure representing the development of a country. So far as the population and environment of Iran as a part of Asia is concerned, a brief picture of the country has been reflected, followed by some solutions to the problem.

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