

What is SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?



These definitions are from the Brundtland Report produced by the World Commission on Environment and Development.

According to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation there are **3 PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

something that is essential to achieve sustainable development

SOCIAL development



Social development plans should:

- respect the family as the basic unit of society
- promote the achievement of an individual's full potential

ECONOMIC development



Economic development plans should:

- invest in human capital and proper use of resources
- be coupled with good governance, which prevents corruption

ENVIRONMENTAL protection



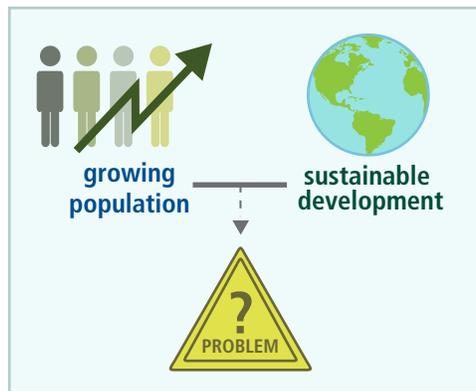
Environmental protection plans should:

- be long-term solutions that foster responsible stewardship
- protect the well-being of present and future generations

The connection between

POPULATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the *Rio Declaration, Principle 8* states, "To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should **reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption** and **promote appropriate demographic policies.**"



Some people believe a **growing population in itself poses a problem** for sustainable development.

WHAT MAKES THEM THINK THIS?



According to the **Population Bomb**, written by biologist **Paul Ehrlich** in 1968, the Earth was overpopulated and there would not be enough resources for everyone.



What did they think was

THE SOLUTION (?)

Slow down population growth

WHY?

In Ehrlich's mind, this would decrease the rate of consumption and relieve the strain on the environment.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

What are some of the policies and programs that States have implemented to slow down population growth?

1 Reproductive health policies and programs and family planning that promote smaller family size.

2 Population control policies and programs.

e.g., 1-child policy in China, sterilization incentives in India

But what are the possible repercussions of these policies and programs?

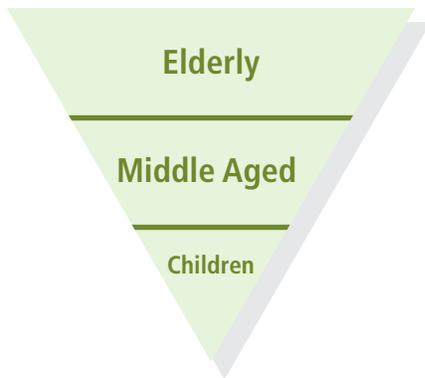


The result of

POPULATION CONTROL POLICIES

1 OVERBURDENED WORKING CLASS

The Resulting Demographic



The increase in population is largely due to the **increase in the average lifetime expectancy.**

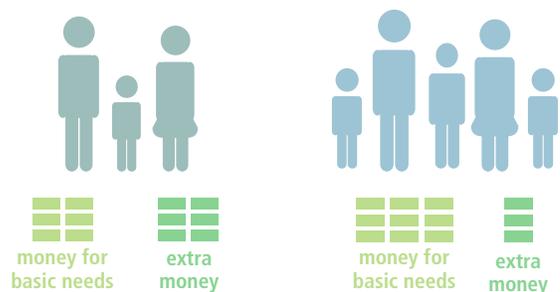
By promoting smaller families with fewer children, **the number of children who later on enter the workforce decreases.**

The increase in the number of elderly presures those in the workforce to work harder and longer to support these elderly.

2 INCREASED CONSUMPTION

Population control policies were created with the understanding that there would be **fewer mouths to feed** and therefore **less consumption and strain on the environment.**

But when families have fewer dependents (children), they can afford to spend more, as has happened in China. **Consumption has actually increased.**



Smaller families can afford to spend more since they have fewer dependents. In this way, they actually consume more food, energy, and goods.

3 HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES



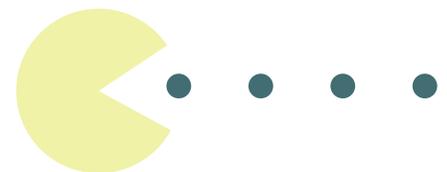
Population control policies and programs **result in coerced or forced abortion, infanticide, and family planning, and aggravate social preferences for boys.**

These forms of coercion violate **the unborn child's right to life** and **the parents' right to decide the number and spacing of their children.**

Population control does not give families the freedom to choose how they want their family structure to be.

WHAT IS WRONG?

Population control policies **view people as mouths to feed.** Population reduction policies **reject the reality that it is poverty, not population, that causes problems.**

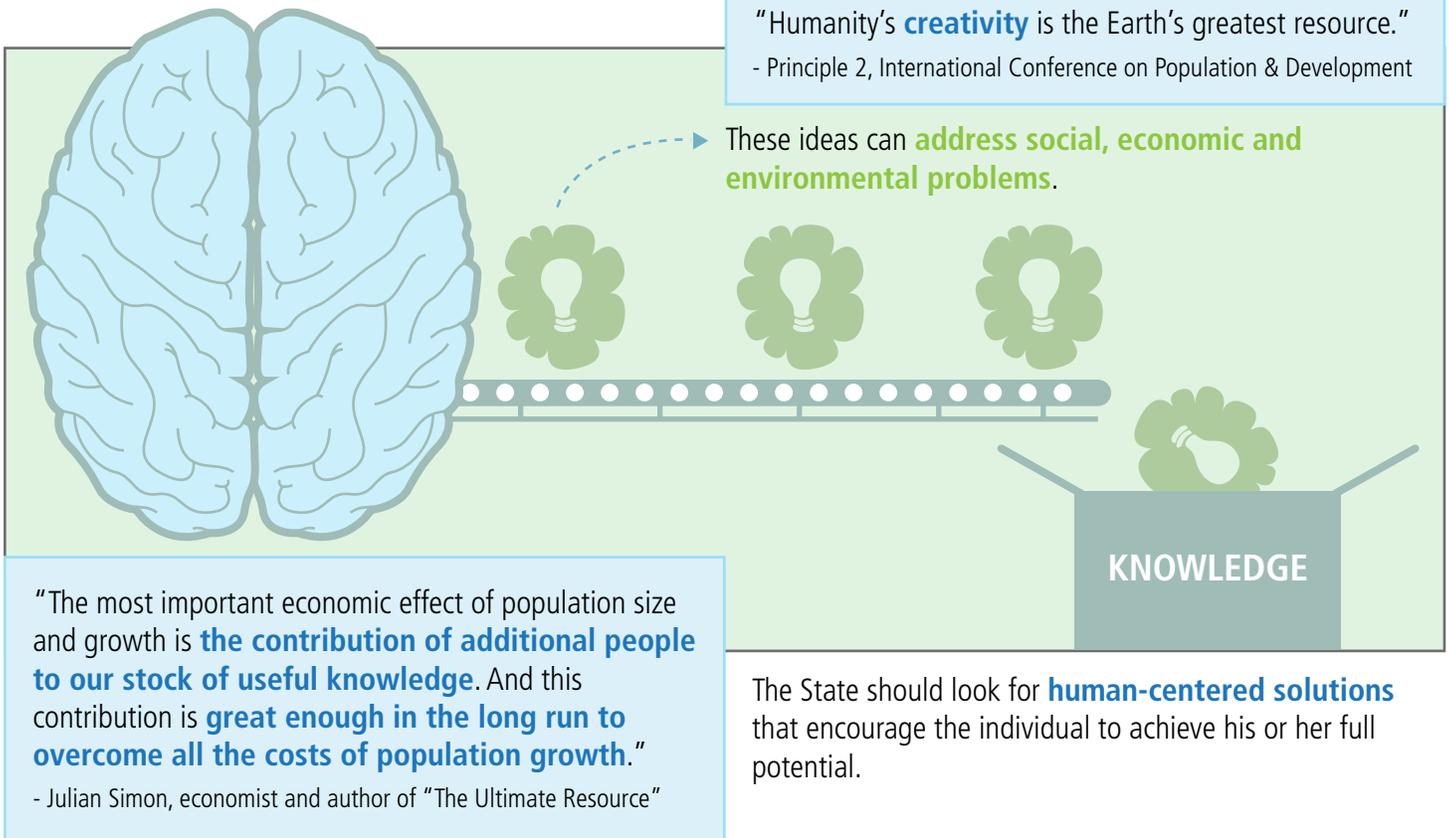


People are more than mouths to feed.

What is the REAL SOLUTION?

✓ PEOPLE

People are **problem-solvers**, not problems. The human mind is a **factory for creative and innovative ideas**.



According to international entrepreneur and government advisor Michael Fairbanks there are

7 FORMS OF CAPITAL

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|--------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| LOWER FORMS | 1 NATURAL ENDOWMENTS
Forests, beaches, climate, location, etc. | HIGHER FORMS | 5 KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES
International patents, universities, etc. |
| | 2 FINANCIAL RESOURCES
Savings, international reserves, etc. | | 6 HUMAN CAPITAL
Skills, insights, capabilities, etc. |
| | 3 HUMAN-MADE CAPITAL
Buildings, bridges, roads, telecommunication, etc. | | 7 CULTURE CAPITAL
Music, language, attitudes and values linked to innovation, etc. |
| | 4 INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL
Legal protections of tangible and intangible property, efficient government departments, firms that compensate and train workers, etc. | | In order to be prosperous, people should focus on cultivating these forms of capital and transforming lower forms to higher forms of capital. |

Based on the White Paper on Sustainable Development © 2013

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World Youth Alliance