

Managing Human Populations



ESS 2017

Learning outcomes

Categorize factors that influence human populations

Evaluate policies to manage human population growth

Compare Malthusian and Boserup's Theories

What is under- and overpopulation?

- Carrying capacity =
 - Maximum population that can survive indefinitely in an area
- Optimum =
 - population that produces highest economic return per capita using all available resources
- E.g. UK and The Netherlands - high pop. density but can support with high quality of life... Only with imports!
- E.g. Brazil with low pop. density in North (< 2 people/km²) as resources are scarce

What is under- and overpopulation?

- Population density where
 - people cannot maintain quality of life
 - where economic return is lower than the potential
- Can result from
 - increase in births,
 - a decline in mortality rates,
 - an increase in immigration,
 - an unsustainable ecosystem,
 - depletion of resources,...

What influences family size?

- High infant/childhood mortality
- Security in old age
- Children as economic assets in agricultural societies
- Status of women
- Unavailability of education and contraceptives

Tackling family size

- Provide education
- Improve health - hygiene, nutrition, medication
- Contraceptives and counselling
- Small-scale economic development
- Improve resource management

Compare Malthusian and Boserup's Theories

Population growth and food supply

Thomas Malthus - clergyman and economist - b. 1766 d. 1834

Ester Boserup - economist - b. 1910 d. 1999

Complete the activity individually