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Japan, Factor 13: Demographics

Demographics of Japan

How big of a role does population play in today's society? Population is one of the biggest roles in the world; it determines how much financial resources are spent on the economy, the availability of natural, fiscal and medical are inter-related to the population. One of the very substantial predicaments is that our planet is having to fight, from overpopulation to under population, it is still a very massive obstacle that must be fixed. Japan is a stupendous example of a country battling underpopulation. Although our neighbor across the Pacific Ocean may be a very exquisite and attractive from the outside looking in, Japan has many problems of its own. The birth rate is waning at an exponential amount; leaving Japan almost vacant. As a result, many mandatory jobs are deserted which is squandering the government and the money. Because of the low childbirth rate, the only people that inhabit Japan are the older people who can no longer work every day, negatively impacting the future of the economy. While decreasing population is occurring, agriculture is starting to fail too as is no one is capable to do those particular jobs.

The typical agricultural family farms rice or has a fishing business. Rural Japanese homes are a lot smaller than the normal urban home; due to the overcrowding and density of the country. The usual diet of most Japanese families includes a lot of rice, soups, fish, and vegetables. Most families make and farm the same product, there has been an overproduction of fish and rice. The government of Japan has started making farms more diverse to slow down rice production. The biggest impact after the decline of the population has been on the agriculture aspects of Japan. after a rough year after "1,001 million people were born and 1,269 million people died last year, leaving the country with 268,000 million fewer people overall" (Swanson 2). In theory, that is a large amount of jobs lost and left vacant in that amount of time. Also, because of Japan's location in the world, the fishing and farming industry is the largest factor in the upside of the economy. The fishing industry is led by a majority of the older side of Japan because of the family owned business. After so long, the elders won't be able to work anymore. The problem is the same for farming because the farmers are aging, but the birth rate is so low that the citizens aren't creating enough people to fill in for their jobs. The fact that families are decreasing in Japan is a major barrier. Also the fact that the average farming family only earns \$23,458 annually is low. The market is suffering because the loss of people is excelling which means workers for markets are very scarce in numerous regions in Japan. Also, one third of single women in Japan are facing poverty and having to raise children.

Farming and fishing is labor induced work, under population is taking a large toll on Japan and the families. Aging families don't have the young strong able bodied children to do the labor. As the elders become too fragile to work, there are not enough offspring to fill in causing farms to be abandoned. Families now begin to lose money and become poor and unable to provide food for the family causing poverty. Less food is being put on the tables at markets and at agrarian homes. Markets are the main source of food for the local communities and families. If the food isn't on the table at the markets, numerous amounts of families and households will face consequence. in Japan As the farming and fishing market drops the government loses a substantial amount of money. In 2015 the process is still growing; however there are still more deaths than births. As 268,000 lives that still haven't been replaced is a considerable amount, especially for such a large country. At the rate the population is dropping, Japan's government can collapse after so many years. In the past couple of years, Japan has been at its worst since the wars in the 1900s. Families are getting worse and the government is facing the exact same problem as they mutually affect each other. So many farms and fishing companies but not enough patrons to hold the

businesses afloat. Under population is a severe problem that Japan must overcome to stay afloat in the world today. If there ever happened to be a solution like Japan starting to repopulate, after many tough years the young would be able to work and take the place of the elders. With so many job spots being filled up, Japan's government would go into a rapid production process that would greatly improve the economy.

Japan faces more challenges than an aging under populated society. Although under population has an ample amount of cons, it has a modest amount of pros. The positives are only for the moment and will end up becoming problems in the future. The ratio of people to resources is tremendous, but many resources will decrease and never grow back. Another positive is the number of jobs compared to the people. The government would not have to worry about excessive amounts of people being unemployed because there are more jobs than people. Even 2,000 schools have been closed down in the last ten years due to the lack of students and children being born. The country faces more problems like single women poverty, high rates of child abuse, radiation, powerless government, animal destruction of crops, and many more. Single women poverty is a large reason of why the birth rate is declining because abortions have jumped to the high number of 340,000. Single people can't raise the children which in this case is the reason for the large amount child abuse and abortions. The government in hand can't protect the children from abuse because of how powerless it has become recently. In ancient Japan communities raised the children together, but now the communities are disappearing, leaving the women alone to care for their children. Another problem is how low the salaries are for women who work in Japan. The weakness and loss of money from the government is terribly affecting the workers as they earn less and less every year. Citizens are left to fend for themselves because of the lack of government aid nowadays leading to less money to care for families and children, which means the Japanese do not want any more children because they don't have the proper amount of financial funds to raise children in a stable household. The government's inability to be involved and have power is costly to its own citizens. If the government can't provide for the citizens, then the people are abandoned in an already sinking system. Although there are pros and cons to being under populated, the cons outweigh the positives by an insurmountable amount. Although there are positives, they are only for the moment and will not help in the long run. There would not be enough people to make resources to hold over the population which would cause the government to fall over. The other positive that was stated, was the drop in unemployment. Although there would be a drop in the unemployment rate, there would not be a lot of people compared to the amount of jobs. So a large amount of businesses would lose money then end up going bankrupt which in turn hurts the government. The next concern for Japan is the radiation problem coming from volcanoes and tsunamis damaging nuclear reactors. Radiation is another prime reason why people are fleeing into other countries. Signs of radiation are being found in the food sources which can be very damaging to the human body so Japan has resolved to take certain foods out of some areas and banning them.

In order to fix the problems that Japan is facing, many nations or organizations like the UN (United Nations) must come together to aid Japan's ailing government. All the countries must put in an effort to help strengthen the Japanese economy. Whether it's putting in the money to put Japan back on its feet or helping the government find new ways in gaining power back. Once the government is straightened out, Japan should pass on the message to encourage families to reproduce because they now have the strength to support the upcoming families. Also, more food regulating programs like the FDA to regulate the food that goes out into the public. The radiation that is found should be pulled off the shelves in order to protect the society. In order to save Japan, the government must become strong enough to support its own patrons and families must reproduce.

Another possible choice to help with the problems is for the government to send more money into dating programs to get the citizens back into the flow of dating. The government is currently setting up immense speed programs to hopefully cause more marriages amongst the people. As speed dating is on the rise in

society today, it could be a possible catalyst in the rebirth of Japan's population and economy. A possible choice that the government of Japan is deciding to use is adding a robot to each family. They want the basic family to consist of a mother, a father, grandparents, a daughter, and a son and a robot. The plan is to have the robot to carry out all of the household chores while the mother and father can spend more time with the children according to Jennifer Robertson who presented the plan. If the government can possibly push out the funds, women will have the chance to have more time to have more children and to raise them attentively.

Japan is best known as a working society where most of the citizens like to be alone instead of having families. Most Japanese people don't want to be bothered by others and are uninterested in relationships or they work too often to be able to go out and mingle with other citizens. For the progression of the economy, the people must take charge of the problem and take action. Government plans and funding can only go so far until the reigns are out of the government's hands and into the hands of the people. The prime minister of Japan has spent over 3 billion yen in many different programs in order to soothe the population disaster. Even the grandest amount of money won't solve this problem. The people must get motivated to begin the baby booming process that will repair the dying economy. The government must do a better job of spreading out the information of possible outcomes of an underpopulated society to the citizens. The people must be educated to know the future of the economy if they don't take action as soon as possible. The more educated the society is on the real problems that they are facing the better chance of the crisis being fought against.

One possible plan that could be added to the laws of Japan in order to improve the population is to up the percentage tax on the families without children. By making it seem that having children will lessen the taxes on people will up the chances of the people wanting to have more children in fear of the fact that the government will tax them more. This tax may be drastic, but it has been proved to work in the past like it has in Romania. More solutions have been put under plan in Japan like the plan to reduce stress on the working families by lessening the hours of the job giving them more free time to have children or to unwind and relax. If families are less stressed and have more time on their hands, the more likely they are to have or want a child. In addition to lessening the hours of the working families, the government should give some financial aid to some of the poorer families. With the aid and encouragement to have more children in each of these families, Japan could see a slight improvement in the birthrate and the population as a whole.

A key reason why Japan is running out of people is because the government was suspected of encouraging the people to produce less children in order to lessen the population of the country. The reasons for these orders were to preserve the resources for the society, tighten up on poverty, decrease the number of people so there would not be more people than the jobs that were currently available which would drop the unemployment rate. These actions have proved to be smart for the moment but detrimental to Japan's economy in the long run. Threatening the economy more than any other problem Japan has had in the past. Although the plan seemed to work in fighting overpopulation, the government didn't expect the people to become this uninterested in reproduction.

The next step in fighting the underpopulation disaster is to seek aid from one of the largest economies in the world, which is the United States of America. Although the United States has a multitude of its own problems like any other country, we must help Japan. The modern world today is based on the interdependence of all the countries together. No one country is self-sufficient in the world today. Just like in businesses, countries follow the same code today. If one business or country goes down, then all the others will take a heavy penalty like a domino effect. The decline of Japan should be a heavy concern to the government of the United States because Japan's top exports this past year were: Vehicles, Machines, Electronics, Medical Equipment, Iron/Steel, Plastics, Organic Chemicals, Oil, Steel Products, Ships, and boats according to worldstopexports.com. Japan's largest trading partner is right across the

ocean which is the United States. If Japan falls over then our economy will take the biggest hit because we get an abundance of resources from Japan. Many everyday products that are sold at a low regular price will become scarce and the price will begin to rise. The last thing the United States want's in the economy today is an inflation in the goods that are sold to the citizens of the country. Inflation will cause more problems for the middle to lower classes of America as Minimum Wage will then have to be increased to the point where even the most simplistic items will become expensive. All of these problems can be avoided if the United States sends more funds over to Japan. The United States is known to be the country that always helps in foreign affairs, so why would we decide to stay out of an affair that will end up impacting our economy and our people the most. The government wants the best for its own society and helping Japan in this time of need is the best option. Japan's problems should alarm the United States the most out of all the countries in the world. With the United States jumping into the affairs that Japan faces, hopefully the United Nations will be inspired to help with the funding because the fear of the domino effect that this problem poses. The funding that can be poured into Japan, the better off they will be in the outcome.

In conclusion, it can be inferred that Japan's problem poses a threat to the rest of the world. The problem must be reversed before Japan loses too many citizens to be able to put the country back onto its feet. Underpopulation poses as much of a threat as overpopulation does. These problems must be solved as soon as possible before the rest of the world is affected by this crisis.

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