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 China, Factor 13: Population

Agencies to help the population in China

Background

With the largest population in the world, containing 1.435 billion or 18.47 percent of the world's population (Population, Total). China has encountered severe economic and social problems associated with overpopulation in the years to come. With overpopulated regions it leads to environmental degradation, pollution, and dangerous living conditions (Cause and Consequence of Overpopulation).

“China is one of the many countries around the world that is facing overpopulation and needs to begin to find different ways to deal with overpopulation so they do not encounter another food crisis” (Co, About Renewable Resources).

China is home to 1.435 billion people and approximately 3,476, 887 square miles in size which is about 2.2 percent bigger than the United States (Worldatlas). China is home to various landforms which includes many plateaus, plains, basins, foothills, and mountains (What Is the Weather, Climate and Geography like in China.). Currently, 12.6 percent of the land is cultivated some of its major crops are rice, wheat, corn, soybeans, etc . . . (China - Agriculture). The major exports are electrical machinery equipment, computers, vehicles, plastic, and furniture (Workman 1). Climate varies region to region in the Northeast summers are dry and hot while in the winter it is freezing cold (What Is the Weather, Climate and Geography like in China).

Average Family

Since 2017 the average family size has been 3.17 in 2017 and now 2.52 people per household (Han 1). The tap water is unsafe to drink, China has 18 percent of the world's population but only seven percent is freshwater (The Domestic and global shocks of the growing water crisis in China). Their typical diet consists of grains, vegetables, fruits, meat, soymilk, and tofu (Nutrition Country Profiles)

“Between 1982 and 1992, there was a reduction in the intake of all major food groups except for meat, fish, milk and milk products, eggs and oils and fats” (Nutrition Country Profiles 1). There has been an increase in the portion of protein and fat in total energy selection from 10.8 percent to 11.8 percent for protein.

Almost 150.8 million people are malnourished given the size of China (World Food Programme). Most of the citizens that suffer from hunger are children, women, and elderly people from the rural regions (Borgen Project). Citizens that live in rural areas are not making enough off of minimum wage to provide their families with food, the rural population has yet to see the benefits of growth (Borgen Project)

They choose to eat stir fry, deep- fry, steaming, and red stewing (Nutrition Country Profiles).

The human labor average wage is three dollars and sixty cents while the states job average wage is twenty five dollars (Yan 1) . “Chinese factory workers are now getting paid more than ever: Average hourly wages hit \$3.60 last year, spiking 64 percent from 2011” (1).

“China has made progress in access to health care, reducing infant mortality from 65 to 19 deaths per thousand births” (Children of China). However, residents from rural or poor areas, and from ethnic minorities rarely have the opportunity to see the doctor and receive medical care (2).

In past decades, there has been an improvement in the nutritional status of the population. This improvement results from availability of unpolluted water, better distribution of food throughout the country, and improvement of health facilities.

The goal of China is to provide nine years of compulsory education. However, several kids leave school each year. The teaching methods in China are traditional, which does not encourage the active involvement of students (Children of China).

Problem

Food production are vital elements to a sustainable food system that must be considered along with consumers (Cui and Shoemaker 1).

China has experienced countless food shortages from 1955-1993, then corrected them by applying a quota system and land reform that encouraged farmers (1).

Today China feeds 18 percent of the world's population by paying a heavy price (2). Likewise, the water situation is difficult with low efficiency, poor quality, and unbalanced distribution all over the country (3). Watering of crops account for sixty percent of the total water demands, in some areas of northern China where water is limited, uncontrolled amounts of groundwater are directed to agriculture (3). Therefore, it is important for China to consider how to accomplish food security through a balance of resource management, environmental protection, and agricultural development (3).

Solution

The best action China can take to control overpopulation and food crisis is re-enforcing the one child policy, expand rural agencies, and develop adoption agencies. In recent decades the “ One- Child Policy” that was put in place in 1979 and removed 2016 was in response to China's sudden population growth and they seen it as a threat to the country's living standards of the people and economic growth (Festini and de Martino).

A less restricted one-child policy was introduced in 2013, it made couples where at least one parent was an only child they were entitled to have a second child. “ The law was then changed into the two-child policy in October 2015 and became effective January 2016 ” (Han 1).

In 2016 China abolished its decade long one child policy which required married couples to apply for a planning service certificate once they learned of a pregnancy (Li 563). If you had more than one kid you would be taxed 50 percent of your income, punished by a loss of employment, and you would lose all your benefits (Hilali 20). “In 2017, there were 17.6 million births in China, representing 12.43 births per thousand people. However, that was a drop from 2016, when the one-child policy was first relaxed a year that saw 12.95 births per 1,000 people” (Whyt 1).

If China sets in place the one- child policy there will be more control of the population growth (Hilali 5). Although if couples are not supposed to have a child unless they have an official permit. Unplanned pregnancies of women who have not received birth permits are terminated (Hilali 9).

“Government can motivate families and parents with special facilities only to parents that have only one child and reduce fertility. Facilities like improving children's health, education, and future it can be done with special management programs...” (Li 100).

Another action that can china can take is expanding rural agencies give more space for families if they exceed more than two children. This will give families the opportunity to have space rather than living in urban areas. However, the expansion into rural agencies will cost money because more than 70 million rural residents live on less than a dollar a day (Borgen Project). Also the children in rural areas would have critical malnutrition disadvantages. “ Up to 51 percent of children between eight and twelve suffer from anemia . . .” (Borgen Project).

Lu Mai, the secretary- general of the government run charity argues that “. . . [R]ural children are far behind urban kids in academics because of their health conditions” . Therefore, the government is taking a course of action to handle such health problems. “Schools in 600 different rural communities provide daily nutritional supplements to children” (Borgen Project). The country is working on a five year plan to end poverty all over the country by 2020 (1).

Another step China can take that may be beneficial is developing adoption agencies. This solution will help families that have more than one child to limit the stress or pressure and from being punished for ignoring a specific policy implemented. However, there is not a high possibility that some children will not get adopted. Some children will not have the opportunity to get adopted if a family already has one or two children. Also, this solution will cost money in order to develop adoption agencies around areas in china both urban and rural areas. Adoption agencies needs to be built on great land spaces so that every child is comfortable in their environment.

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