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Honduran Population and City Overflow

Honduras is a tropical and underdeveloped country located in the middle of Central America. It shares its borders to the southeast with Nicaragua, to the west with Guatemala and to the southwest with El Salvador. This democratic country (Presidencia de La Republica, 2019) has access to both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, which is a big privilege that they get to have. Also according to Trading Economics, there are around 9,265 million Hondurans living in the country out of which 55.32% of them live in urban areas. 28.91% of the Honduran land is currently cultivated, mostly by corn, coffee, rice, beans and plantains. Hondurans eat corn, beans, coffee, eggs, plantains and dairy products as their main diet (Trading Economics, 2019). Hondurans get their foods from supermarkets and many get them in “mercados” all around the country, where food is much less expensive and affordable. The website ArcGIS Online says, an average of 4.4 Hondurans lived per household as of the year 2016 (Esri, 2013). Jobs differ a lot, and in some cases, people are paid so low that they can't even afford to pay for food. If they get enough money for food, the most affordable things to eat are red beans, rice, eggs and if they're lucky some cheap dairy products too. Over 75% of Hondurans have access to clean water and other main services. However, Honduran families face many more barriers to their success, including bad education, terrible jobs, too many taxes, violence, exploitation and much more.

This country has many problems to do with its population. All the way from public healthcare issues to overpopulation and murder all around the country. The problem that will be discussed the most and what is trying to be solved is city overflow. This is the overpopulation in specific cities in the country of Honduras. According to Trading Economics, 55.32% of people live in urban areas, which is not a good thing at all, considering that most of the land in Honduras is rural and not part of cities (Trading Economics, 2019). Also the fact that there are only two considerably big cities in Honduras, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, these cities are the main cities that are the most invested in by foreigners. There are other big cities like La Ceiba, Siguatepeque, Choluteca and others. However these ones are not as developed and overpopulated as the two main ones (Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula), so we will focus the most on these two. People are moving to these two cities, and leaving their home towns and farms in rural areas.

So what is the solution that I am offering to this problem? We have to somehow get people have to somehow get people to move away from the big cities into rural areas around Honduras. To find the solution we must first find the roots of the problem, the place where it starts. Why do people move into these cities in the first place? Why don't they just stay in their home towns? As a Honduran, and after taking a good look at the percentages at charts, I can say with confidence that there are three main reasons why these people have decided to move away from rural areas, and into the bigger cities (Honduras, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba) around Honduras (Trading Economics, 2019).

The first of the previously mentioned reasons is that people take off with the goal of finding better jobs than the ones offered in their towns. Jobs aren't available for every Honduran in the country, this being the case of many, especially in the main cities. People expect to go to Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula and hope to find good jobs. Which is not the case most of the times according to the web site IndexMundi. When they do find jobs in these main cities, they are often paid low wages (IndexMundi, 2017). In some extreme but common cases, Hondurans are terribly exploited.

Number two is education, which is not that good according to the web site Honduras Good Works. People want their kids to go to Tegucigalpa or San Pedro Sula, because the better schools and universities are located there. Which is not that inaccurate considering most of the schools outside these cities are public, and public education is not that good in this country (Honduras Good Works, 2019). That goes for primary education for the most part, since one of the biggest universities in the country is the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH), which is public, but one of the best in the country as well. In fact, this university has been ranked as the best in the country (UniRank, 2019).

Last but not least of my three reasons, is how modern these cities are compared to other towns and rural places all around the country. These cities offer many more services than the ones offered in rural areas. For example healthcare service, restaurants, more variety of food, flying airlines, parks and even luxurious hotels. Humans in general like spending their money and having fun, which is something that you can't really do in the small towns that Honduras has, since all malls, circuses, etc. are located in the cities mentioned previously (TripAdvisor, 2019). This one is a big factor on why people decide to move to the cities and not stay in their home towns. It is a flaw, but people enjoy spending money on commercial stuff.

So how do we get Hondurans to live outside Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula? I think we should invest in rural areas that are available to produce more coffee. According to the web site World Atlas, Honduras is the 6th country that produces the most coffee in the world, falling behind Ethiopia in the 5th place (World Atlas, 2019). Some of the departments in Honduras produce tons of coffee, investing more on them would be great. The land is clearly up to the task, so I think we just have to invest more on it than we already have in the past. Some of these departments are Santa Bárbara, Copán, La Paz, and Ocotepeque, which are the ones that produce the most coffee. Investing on these departments would generate more jobs, bringing more people into towns. There many good crops in Honduras like bananas, corn and beans. However, the one with the most impact in the world is coffee. That's the reason why I believe this is the one that should be invested the most in our country.

Many years after these towns are built and supported, they will become cities and they would grow. Money would be generated and the overpopulation problem would be solved, since people, in theory, would start moving to them. Schools and hospitals would be built around, attractions established, and then slowly but surely foreign investment would come. Some people will start noticing the potential and opportunities offered in these new cities, which is exactly what they want and need. The Honduran population will hopefully be persuaded to move away from main cities like Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. With economic aid from the government, I believe this project is possible.

As I said before, we would need aid from the government and some organizations if possible. We would not only have to seek help from the Honduran government, but from international organizations as well, like the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Only if we get the economic aid from others will these be a possibility, since it would take millions to invest in all of these towns and departments in Honduras. Even if it were possible, an association or foundation could be built so it can maintain itself and be self-sustainable, therefore not depending from the government. This of course, regardless of this association being international or just inside of the country. Although hopefully, this association benefits other countries that are in need all over the world, and not just my country. Countries like Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela have similar problems and could benefit as well from the idea.

Supposing that this project is a success in a near future, Tegucigalpa won't have half of the problems it has to do with population as it does today. People move into cities to get better jobs,

education and for the services they offered. With this project, all of that will be offered in rural areas. People will start moving away from the main cities (Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula). Leading into more security and safety. Which is exactly what the people have been asking for a long time ago now. Other than that, it will also be leading into more job and education opportunities for Hondurans all around this country. Which it is not only what the people have been asking for, but what we really are in need of and have been for so many years. Investing more in coffee and rural areas is the clue to fix all our problems. This would finally let our country take that big of a step into the future that it needs. For the Honduran people and the development of Honduras. This project is the key for the success of Honduras as a country, and I sincerely believe, that it is the future of this country.

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