

CHAPTER X

CONCLUSION

In the underdeveloped countries, it appears that population is likely to grow at a faster rate in the near future, making it more difficult for the people to attain a high standard of living. Something must therefore be done immediately, and on a greater scale to eliminate the population threat, so as to clear the way for economic development. As we have seen, fertility control is the most effective means to this end.

A reduction of birth rates has both, immediate as well as long-run effect on economic development. A decline in birth rates would mean an immediate change in the number of dependents. Each adult would now have few number of children. As a result, his burden on consumption is less, and he thus finds an opportunity to save. With the increase in savings, investments would likewise increase, thereby acceleration; the speed of economic development. In other words, a low ratio of dependents to producers has the effect of raising the per capita incomes. Hence, it explains the paradoxical finding that a smaller population produces a greater total product.

In the long-run the fall in birth rates would change the size of the adult manpower. The change in fertility usually take 15 years or more to influence the adult manpower. With the availability of more adult workers, the productivity of the country concerned would likely to increase assuming other factors such as capital, have increased simultaneously. Greater productivity means greater income, generally a reflection of high living standards.

Probably, it is due to the economic benefits derived from fertility decline that many underdeveloped countries which are development-minded, are beginning to adopt the policy of birth control.

Though emphasis should be given to fertility control, industrialisation and agricultural development have to be encouraged. Through industrialisation, the developing countries would be able to import food from overseas in order to supplement food produced at home and thus to meet the increase in demand. Industrialisation remedies the disguised unemployment in the rural sectors. Agricultural development promotes industrial growth by supplying food to industrial labour and raw materials.

In conclusion, if the development-minded nations aim to increase their per capita incomes and raise their living standards,

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In conclusion, all the development-minded nations aim to increase their per capita incomes and raise their living standards,

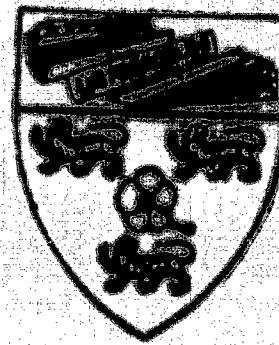
they have to accept the idea's of birth control, develop their industries, and improve their agriculture. Otherwise, they would forever remain backward and would not have the opportunity to taste the fruits of economic development.

The ghost of Malthus that roams in the overpopulated parts of the underdeveloped world must be eliminated.

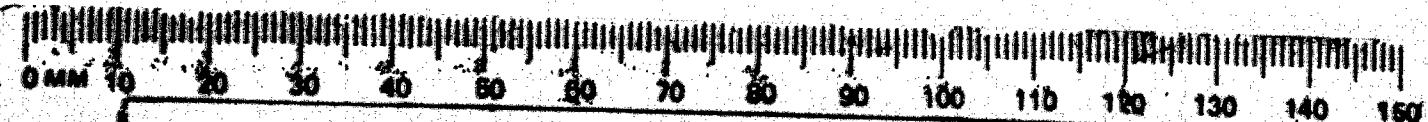
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