CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A dichotomy of the world into the developed and the underdeveloped countries is now widely recognized. The division has emerged after the Industrial Revolution, which had begun in England in the late eighteenth century. This dividing line is mainly based on differences in the level of per capita income. Myint suggests that those countries having per capita income of US$1,000 a year or more can be said to be developed, while those having US$100 or less, underdeveloped.[1] Countries such as the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and New Zealand therefore would come under the developed group. The per capita income of the United States is about US$1,870. Canada has a per capita income ofabout US$1,310 Switzerland, US$1,010, and New Zealand, a per capita income of about US$1,000. On the other hand, the underdeveloped group would include countries such as India, Pakistan, Burma and Belgian Congo. The per capita income of India is around US$60. Pakistan, Burma, and Belgian Congo share a per capita income of about US$50 each.[2]

The underdeveloped countries, however, as a result of the close contacts with the western countries, are aware of their backwardness and desire for a better material life. In other words, with improved transportation and modern communication, the people of the underdeveloped areas are "waking up quickly and are increasingly conscious of their poverty, serious malnutrition problems, poor health and sanitation conditions, and high rate of illiteracy."[3] Hence, they are becoming development-minded. Many aimed at achieving a high living standard, have

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[1]Myint, H. The Economics of the Developing Countries, London, 1965. p. 9

[2]Refer United Nations, Per Capita National Product of 55 countries 1952 – 1954, Statistical Papers Series E, No. 4, New York.

[3]Kuan-I Chen, World Population Growth and Living Standards, New York, 1960, p.38

therefore their own plans of economic development.[4]

As a consequence of high birth rates and falling death rates, population in the developing countries is growing at a rapid rate. Their average rate of growth is around 3 per cent per annum, a rather unprecedented population growth rate. This rapid increase in population retards economic development. And unless steps are being taken immediately to check rapid population growth the development efforts of the developing countries will not be fruitful.

The purpose of this paper is thus to discuss mainly with the various factors determining population growth, the effects of such a growth on economic development, and the possible solution to the population problems. Other relevant topics to our discussions include the Malthusian doctrine, world population and its future growth, and the effects of economic development on population growth.

Finally, in regard to our demographic study, we should bear in mind that the underdeveloped countries are not well equipped with adequate statistical data. Even if they are available, they are not always accurate. For instance censuses made in India, Pakistan, Philippines, and Thailand in 1961 revealed that there were large discrepancies with

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[4] In passing, we may note that economic development is defined by Meier and Baldwin, two well known authors, as a process whereby an economy's real income increases over a long period of time. In addition, John Kenneth Galbraith, a contemporary economist, has classified economic development into 3 types, namely, Symbolic Modernization, Maximized Growth, and Selective Growth. Symbolic Modernization, he explains, is designed to give the country concerned the outlook of a modern state by requiring certain things such as a glittering airport, a capital with pavements, some impressive buildings of state, a diplomatic corps, one considerably hydroelectric project, perhaps the intention of erecting a steel industry and perhaps also, in practice, a balance of payment deficit. This type of development explicitly indicates that it would not benefit the people as a whole, though outwardly every economic development plan aims at raising the living standard of the masses. Another undesirable type of development, Maximized Growth, though aims at the greatest possible increase in total and per capita income and product, fails to take into consideration the composition of the output. Probably, the third type - Selective Growth, is the most desirable because it is intended to satisfy the need of every member of the population.

the previous estimates of mid - 1960, as illustrated below:-

TABLE I

POPULATION ESTIMATES OF INDIA, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES,

AND THAILAND, MID - 1960 - 1964

	1960	1961
India	407.8 millions	438.7 millions
Pakistan	[illegible] "	92.6 "
Philippines	[illegible] "	27.8 "
Thailand	22.3 "	26.3 "

Source:- United Nations, *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East 1962*, Bangkok, 1963 P. 155

The reliability of statistical data, however, is improving in some developing areas. This development, a product of the governments' efforts to better their statistical information about population as a basis for a purposeful economic policy, is somewhat recent. Ceylon is among the few which have improved their statistical data. An island-wide sample survey in Ceylon, to test the completeness of births and deaths revealed that 88.1 per cent of all births in Ceylon, and 96.3 per cent of all births in urban areas were registered.[9] In addition, 88.6 per cent of all deaths and 94.7 per cent of all urban deaths were registered. Generally, however, the statistical data in the underdevelop-ed countries are still poor in quantity and in quality. For our purpose, we have to be contented with the available data even though they may be unreliable or outdated.

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[9] United Nations, Proceedings of the World Population Conference 1954– Summary Report, New York, 1955, P. 52