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Poverty in the Third World: High Population Birth Rates

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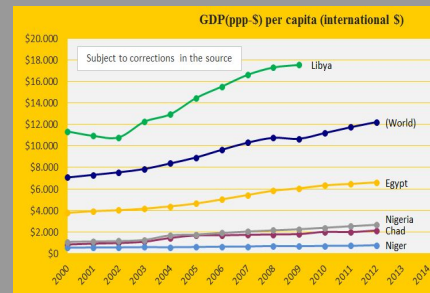
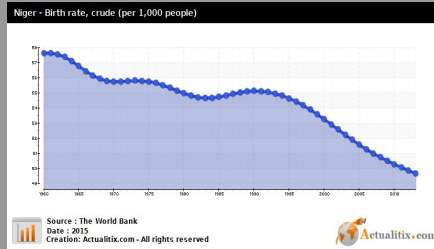
Poverty in the Third World: High Population Birth Rates

Abstract

Poverty can be defined as the state of being extremely poor. Nearly one half of the world's population — more than 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day. Furthermore, more than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day. There have been numerous efforts from major Non-Governmental Organizations and International Governmental Organizations such as the United Nations. Who attempted to implement The Millennium Development Goal in 1990s, which was a goal that consisted of 8 large objectives. One goal was the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. The UN set a deadline to reach these goals by 2015. Despite their efforts to push this agenda, poverty still persists in our world today. Even though, some instances of poverty occur within well developed countries, poverty tends to be a trait associated with countries who are less developed commonly known as the Third World. This term was coined by a french demographer named Alfred Sauvy in 1925. He intended the term to refer to countries who were not as wealthy, capitalistic, or democratic. The Third World generally consists of countries within the southern region of the world, countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and most of Asia. As previously stated, poverty is a common trait among Third World countries. The aim of this paper is to explore the relationship between poverty and high birth rates specifically within the Third World. In effort to uncover the factors of this epidemic we will discuss a few major works done on poverty within the Third World. I will also perform an additional case study of an African country. As well as provide a logical analysis, all in effort to demonstrate that high birth rates is a contributing factor to poverty within the Third World.

Theoretical Analysis

Theoretically speaking, one could argue that as a result of birthrates being so high in the poorest parts of the world's poorest countries it makes addressing poverty very challenging. Poverty stricken families have difficulties acquiring the necessities of life. A family who has a large amount of children to provide for have an even more difficult time satisfying basic needs because they have more mouths to feed. Thus, having to spend more money on food or using more energy to grow more food for themselves. The effects of high births can potentially be seen in all aspects of life. People who spend all their money on basic needs can not hope to save for retirement. Also, a family has more children, they need more of their children to work in order generate more money to feed everyone. As more children leave school to work there becomes a lack of educated people who can help these countries generate economic growth. The lack of education causes people to be stuck in generational occupation like small farming.



Results

Many demographers project that the world population will reach 10 billion people by 2050. The African continent in particular, is projected to account for much of this increase, with its population being projected to reach about 2.5 billion by the middle of the century. In the 1990s, African countries accounted for about 27 percent of the world's growth and the number could potentially reach 37 percent by 2050. As stated in the theory section of this paper, having too many infants can potentially reduce economic development thus make it harder for these countries to climb out of poverty. So based on the estimations above, one could argue that the future of Africa may be grim.

Methodology

I chose to conduct case study of the african country Niger. Historically Niger has shown high levels of fertility. I will conduct research and examine how these high birth rate compare to the economic development of the country