

Editorial Piece – Is overpopulation inevitable? (Broadsheet)

By Azan Bari

“Overpopulation in various countries has become a serious threat to the well-being of many people and a grave obstacle to any attempt to organize peace on this planet of ours” said Albert Einstein back in 1954 once he recognised the pace of how much we are populating. As we grow, expand our land, grow massive communities and commit to our goals, the world around us grows with it. Everything that we use to live is provided by us. We are responsible for our own lives and Humanity; allowing us to live until we’re on the brink of extinction which is billions of years away. Due to overpopulation, this may shorten that billion to a million, to a couple of hundred thousand to who knows much shorter we can make it. Every time we make progress, someone else or something gets effected in the process of that. We may be getting to our peak in expanding industrially and with agriculture growing more than ever. The main problem is that, how much of us can we provide for? We’re populating and at a gradually faster rate and if that continues, can we provide for anyone? Let’s go over some of what overpopulation can cause and if there is a solution to it.

Ever since the 1800s, the population has sparked and has begun to grow at an exceptional rate. From one billion to around 7.7 billion living beings today according to [Worldometers](#). Let’s consider the number of wars, massive plagues and deaths to natural causes that had occurred within that 200-year time span. Yet the death rate is not even close to a minimal impact, enough for us to not worry about losing too many lives. So many gone yet it feels like nothing has been lost. It’s clear that the death has little to no impact to the exceptional birth of Humans. This all occurred within the expansion of the industrial revolution and how 90% of the earth’s population relied on farms to live according to [ourworldindata.org](#)

When it comes to the industrial revolution, there was high demand for more labour work which had impacted the lives of many who would’ve needed something to live. As more and more people were able to live economically and form a functioning society, it allowed to us expand and become and massive in terms of developing further industrially for the benefits that we have now in our lives. This cycle has been continuing since then to a point where getting jobs and demand for labour isn’t as high as it was before. Sure, there is still work around the world to do but the accessibility and capability that we have cannot meet those standards that we have set so high. There is too much for one to grow. In relation to agriculture, livestock is at its peak and production is rapid but the growth in humane population is even larger than what we can produce from natural resources. Thus, making it much harder to expand at a faster rate compared to Humans.

There is plenty of much more massive negative impacts that overpopulation will have. As we live, many of us are to reasons that lead to problems such as pollution and waste of natural resources. These aren't spared and don't take it for granted. The more people that live the more waste and damage is done to the earth which can possibly make the earth reach a point where it's uninhabitable. It's not going to happen anytime soon just like overpopulation but it's still very much so possible and it's bound to happen at some point the longer we live on this earth. It's important that we're raising awareness for these issues as it's our responsibilities and basic human instinct to make sure that the communities we form, the place where we are born, the ones that we become and the ones that we raise, recognise that our environment is just as important as our lives. There is no life if there is no earth live it. It's not just Humans that affect the earth but also natural causes such as climate change, where our climate sees a distinct change in its behaviour and will likely cause issues to our planet. Issues like these are hard to tackle as its out of our control but it's possible for us to find work arounds and combat this issue to prevent it from affecting human lives. But let's not ignore the fact that we still contribute to the change of our climate due to agriculture, deforestation, industrial activity and increasing carbon emissions. Causes like these contribute to the change in our climate and we must find a way to fix this, to prevent ourselves to adding to something that may do a lot of damage to our earth.

Now, there are a couple of ways that we know of as right now that can prevent overpopulation from being a threat to our planet. However, all these depend on us as Humans to act on it and follow through to prevent this. These solutions come with a change to our lifestyle and our choices that we make throughout our lives. Some may be fine with making these changes, but others might see it as a threat on our will, the freedom to live a style they entail in our society. It starts with countries with huge fertility rates. In order to prevent this, a proposition should be made that allows contraception to be legal and easily accessible. Introduce laws that restricts child marriage and have it to a higher age where it's legalized such as 18 years old. Education should be accessible and worked upon and it should be provided throughout the years of being a teenager to becoming an Adult. Adoption is something that most people should investigate for those that want to have Children and can provide for a child that needs a loving parent to raise them. A much stricter law that's quite controversial is imposing a one-child legislation, meaning that one cannot have more than one child.

Our world is full of problems with very little solutions that are being made to help these problems. I believe overpopulation is inevitable and is bound to happen at some points as long the population continues to grow at the rate it currently is at. It may be a while before we decide to do something about it and the solutions that we come up with so far, are just the bare minimum compared to something better that we can try come up with. We know

until it happens, how exactly it will and what would be the best way to prevent overpopulation and its effect on our environment.