Population Explosion and Control
The Population Explosion

- Countries shift into post-transition as they experience the benefits of economic and social growth.
  - Urbanization
  - Changed role of women in society
  - Rich resource base
  - Accessible education
  - Healthcare
  - Advanced technology
The Demographic Trap

- *The demographic trap* – birth rates stay high instead of declining like the other late transition stage countries. The increase in population places great demands on the country for...
  - **Food**
  - **Medical services**
  - **Educational services**

- The result is a lack of revenue to promote the social and economic development needed to move into post-transition.
India

- Population grows by 19 million annually.
- This means the needs of 19 million more people must be met each year before improving the standard of living for the already existing population.

China

- Population grows by 7 million annually.
- The demands of these growing economies will exceed their countries’ carrying capacity. This is called overpopulation.
Food

- Food supply is the most basic problem with overpopulation.
- India has been able to provide for most of its people because of the Green Revolution.
- By using modern agricultural technology, India doubled its rice and wheat production between 1950 and 2000.
Education

* Education is needed to help a country move through demographic transition.
* India’s exploding pop. has hindered its ability to educate its citizens
* More than half of India’s adults remain illiterate.
Employment

- India has about 10 million people entering the workforce per year!
- In 2007, the Indian labor force was 516.4 million; 60% worked in agriculture.
- The agriculture sector is shrinking, people flock to cities to find jobs in the growing urban economy. Unfortunately most lack the education needed to be successful.
Population Control

- China and India are the world’s most populous countries with 37% of the world’s population.
  - China > 1.3 billion
  - India > 1.1 billion

- Both countries have reduced their fertility rates through government-driven population control measures, but China’s approach has been more strict.
India’s Approach to Population Control

- Since 1950, the fertility rate has decreased from 6 to 3. Birth rate has dropped but death rate has too.
- Until 1921 population was stable. Sanitation programs, famine and epidemic control increased India’s pop. since then.
- The UN projects a pop. of more than 1.5 billion by 2030.
What has been the impact of Population Policies?

- India’s pop. policies have gone through 6 phases. **Figure 6-7 page 89**
- These phases have been unsuccessful because of the large cultural, religious, and economic differences within the country.
Male sterilization is unpopular in India. Female sterilization is the most popular method of family planning.

Contraceptive methods have increased from 17% to 53%, but are still not trusted by women for various reasons.
• Male children are preferred because they help support parents, work on the farm or family business and carry on the family name.

• In the past female babies were killed, or were allowed to die. Since the mid 1980’s, aborting female fetuses has been the norm.

• In 1994, the government made it illegal for ultrasound operators to tell families the gender of the fetus.
National campaigns have improved the status of women, encouraged parents to value female children and highlighted the accomplishments of young girls in India.

- **Save a Girl Child**
- **Billionth Baby**
- **Girl Child Protection Scheme**

*Have these campaigns come too late?*
Men wishing to marry may have to …
- Travel great distances.
- Marry outside their socio-economic group.
- Look outside the country for a wife.

Other results are…
- Poor families selling or trading their daughters to richer families sons.
- In some cases the tradition of a dowry has been reversed. The groom’s family is presenting a dowry to the bride’s family.
China’s Approach to Population Control

- In 1950 – 550 million citizens
- In 2006 – 1.3 billion citizens
- China is a little smaller than Canada in size, but has 40 times the population.
What has been done?

- In the 1950’s the communist government began taking dramatic steps to control population.
  1. Great Leap Forward
  2. One-child Policy
- Examine Figure 6-10 pg. 91

- On the surface, the one-child policy seems to be successful. Chinese officials claim the policy prevented 400 million births.
However there are issues...

- An increasing gender gap.
  - 1982 boys to girls ratio was 108:100
  - 2005 boys to girls ratio was 118:100
- As many as 3.5 million girls were killed in a ten year period.
By 2020, about 40 million Chinese men will not be able to find a Chinese wife. The government is considering drafting bachelors to keep them occupied.