

**EE 463 GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

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The Philippines Population Growth Problem

Group 3

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A good, balanced paper. Well-written with minor edits needed. Overview, issues and conclusion well done. On few policies/strategies per shorter to include only key highlights. Lessons learned should flow from issues and strategies.

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**Overview: The overview of the economics problems
and overpopulation in the Philippines**

The Philippines is one of the largest archipelago nations which consists of more than 7,600 islands. The island nation is situated in Southeast Asia in the Western Pacific Ocean. The Philippines is the world's 13th most populous country with a population of 109 million people in 2020. An average live birth is about 7,255 people per day which is quite high however, in the limited area of the country with this high growth rate creates many problems to the society. Such as poverty, unemployment, education and availability of social services. An important sector of the Philippines economy is agriculture and manufacturing, especially consumer goods, raw materials, automobile parts, and electronics. The majority of industries are located in the urban areas around Manila. Another important sector is mining since the Philippines occupies chromite, nickel, copper including natural gas. All this industry sounds great, however, the economy of the Philippines in the past was very fluctuated.

Since the Philippines ^{was} ~~was~~ independent ^{at} ~~at~~ the end of the Second World War in 1946, the country's growth was suddenly rapid and moved toward modernization and industrialization. In the 1960s, it had become the most developing country in the Asian-Pacific region in the after Second World War period, however, the growth slowed over time. Twenty six years after independence, Marcos, the president of Philippines, proclaimed martial law which is the temporary imposition of direct military control. During the Marcos years, the gains made in the 1950s and 60s were lost to the failures of economic mismanagement underpinned by corruption and cronyism which made the Philippines the "Latin-American in East Asia". This affected the Philippines economy in the 1970s and 80s, shrunk and became one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia while other neighbors grew.

The Aquino administration came to reform the image of the country and pay off all debts. Economic growth occurred in the next few years, the peso became more competitive and the confidence of investors slowly recovered. Unfortunately, the country was dominated by a prolonged drought and massive natural disaster leading to the extensive destruction. The situation became exacerbated by coup attempts, causing frequent brownout, lack of public transportation, inadequate garbage removal, and more.

After a severe recession during the Aquino administration, president Ramos reformed the economy and boosted business growth and foreign investment leading to a higher growth period. The Philippines turned into an economic powerhouse which is referred to as the next Asian tiger. Nevertheless, the Asian financial crisis occurred in 1997-98, the economic development slowed down once again. However, the Philippines was less seriously affected than other neighbors, as money sent home by Filipino workers from overseas assisted the steady currency.

*Good
overview*

Next period is the economy under president Estrada. This seems to be a sense of hope of investors but Estrada put the corruption into action once again bringing about a drop in investment and investors' confidence. Moreover, his scandal about misspending instead of doing something that benefits people, also is the cause of the drop in the economy. After he departed, he left a large debt payment and budget deficit to the next administration. The sick man of Asia has become sicker and sicker.

Arroyo was welcomed by the local and international business communities with the sense of hope, the stock market gushed 30 percent. During her term, she needed to try so hard to make the economy still grow to keep pace with the rising in population growth despite high oil prices occurred at that time. Conversely, the inflation and growing in deficit became a problem. The deficit and debt burden turned larger and larger until reaching the peak in 2004. However, Arroyo was selected for her second term in the same year. As she was an economics professor, her management in the second term is quite well, tax revenue increased, inflation decreased, and the budget closed to balancing but still need a lot of fixing. Unfortunately, in 2008 and 2009 the global financial crisis affected the Philippines economy again, such as, the peso falled down and hit its worst since 2000, the stock market made a huge annual loss, and more.

The Philippines was richer than Thailand in the last 60 years. In 1960, the Philippines had the GDP per capita about 2.5 times more than Thailand. Conversely, Thailand GDP per capita became larger around 2 times in 2018. One of the main causes of this situation is the growing population within only 300,000 square kilometres ^{in area of}.

Since 2000, the Philippines' population growth has risen over two percent each year, bringing about stumbling in efforts to fix social and economic problems. Since the Philippines has a large population, the agricultural product is never enough for all people. This forced the Philippines to import food including rice, the main ingredient, costing a large amount of money every year. Additionally, the growing population causes a higher unemployment therefore, many people who have abilities and skills have to immigrate to work overseas. Nevertheless, this group of people remittances of a lot of money back to their country assisted the Philippines from the deficit crisis.

The sum of everything that has been staged so far, the Philippines economy has been fluctuating for 60 years after the end of the second world war. The particular reason for the problem is overpopulation and corruption. To solve this the population has to be controlled and the government has to spend money on sensible works then the Philippines may turn into an interesting country once again.

**Identification of Key Issues: The Causes and Effects of Rapid Population Growth
in the Philippines**

The causes of rapid population growth in the Philippines

The Philippines is one of the ASEAN countries which has the fastest growing populations. The population growth rate or PGR of the Philippines is 2.04 percent per annum between 2000 and 2007. Many researchers predict that the population of the Philippines in 2040 could reach 147 million people depending on level of fertility.

Now we analyze the possible explanations that causes the overpopulation in the Philippines. There are positive natural increase, the population momentum, and the low net of international migration rates.

Positive natural increase

Year	Crude birth rates (CBR)	Crude death rates (CDR)
2000-2005	26.4	5.0
2005-2010	25.0	4.8
2010-2015	23.1	4.7

The data from the United Nations Population Division shows that although the crude birth rates decrease from 26.4 to 23.1, the population is expected to increase because the crude birth rates are higher than the crude death rates. Moreover, the total fertility rate or TFR of the Philippines declines from 3.5 in 2001 to 3.3 in 2006 but the actual fertility is still around one child more than wanted fertility.

From the NDHS data in 2008 represented that around 51 percent of marriage women of reproductive age in the Philippines used contraceptive methods to prevent pregnancy. The most popular method is family planning which there can be counted by 60 percent. Around 16 percent of people used the pill and around 9 percent of people used female sterilization. However, there are some people using the traditional method which can be counted by 17 percent. The traditional method has the lower rates of effectiveness than the other methods. The traditional method can cause the unwanted pregnancy in the women which this can produce the society problem in the future.

The Population Momentum

As today's children will become tomorrow's parents, the population will continue to grow although the fertility rate declines. The age-structure of the Philippine population is young with a median age of 21 years based on 2000 census of population and housing. The youth is around 37 percent of the population in 2000. The senior citizen is counted for 6 percent. For the productive ages which is 15 to 59 years old are counted for 57 percent. Nimfa Ogena, the researcher of population and development from University of the Philippines, said that the population in the Philippines may take more than two generations

Probably could include a graph indicating population/pop. growth

in order to attain a stable population condition because the net reproduction rate or NRR could lead a further decline in the fertility. Until it recovers and settles are replacement level on the long term.

Low Net of International Migration Rates

The Philippines deployed an increasing number of workers to foreign countries at about one million people per year. The census counts the people who are expected to return to the Philippines within five years meaning that these people may not emigrate to the foreign countries permanently. However, the low negative net international migration rates have small effect on the population. The positive natural increase and the population momentum have big influences to the population of the Philippines.

Effects of Overpopulation of the Philippines

Human Overpopulation is one of the biggest challenges that affects people environmentally, economically, and socially. These effects are entirely no-good for developing country like the Philippines. The impact of global warming, poverty, crime rate, and unemployment rise while life expectancy falls.

Overpopulation affects greatly on the environment. Due to imbalance food in the Philippines, the government use pressure rather than support to push food producers resulting in detriment of farmers since the price control only benefits urban consumers. Deforestation and land degradation are the effects from overpopulation as well. Intensive farming appears when there are more mouths to feed. It is a solution to starvation but, it is not a good one. In the long term, intensive farming will result in land pollution. It will also mess up local ecosystems. More machinery will be used along with more CO₂ emission resulting in environmental pollution.

Deforestation, hunting, and pollution seem to rise in overpopulation situation leading to depletion of natural resources. The planet has limited raw resources every year when the consumption rate of resources is higher than the production rate, the number of natural resources per person is declining. Industrial pollution and CO₂ emissions definitely affected the air quality which also caused respiratory diseases. Overpopulation means more usage of oil, coal, and other resources. All of these lead to global warming. However, the Philippines has to keep polluting the air since their industrial labor take up a lot of space in the labor force of the Philippines. Besides that, overpopulation alone leads to faster climate change since basic human activities create individual carbon footprints and are proven that it changes the temperature of the planet. The Philippines became farther away from being sustainable.

Rapid population growth inevitably interrupts economic development. When the rate of population growth is higher than the rate of economic growth, living standards tend to get

worse. Lower life expectancy causes a shortage of resources, jobs, food, medical care, and freshwater. When the country is overpopulated, there are fewer jobs to support a larger number of people. The unemployment rate rises leads to more crimes because the unemployed must commit crime to earn money to provide basic amenities for their families and themselves. Also, the cost of living is higher than before due to excess demand from overpopulation. The prices of basic amenities such as food and healthcare are higher since the supply is scarce resulting in malnutrition, starvation and diet-deficiency diseases.

Overpopulation of the Philippines occurs mostly in Manila, Quenzon City, and other big cities due to migration away from rural areas to hunt for jobs creating crowded cities and depopulation of rural areas. The poor has to live tightly and unhygienically. If there is an infectious disease like COVID-19, the higher densities of population, the longer and harder the government can end the pandemics.

The effects of human overpopulation are unbearable. It is mainly caused by inadequate recourses. The imbalance of supply and demand leads to higher price which encourages suppliers to deforest, farm intensively, and hunt causing depletion and degradation the environment. When the population rate outgrown the economic growth rate, the unemployment falls, the crime rate and the migration rate to the cities rise lead to lower life standards due to unhygienic living in overcrowded cities.

**The Government Strategies and Policies: Solving the Overpopulation
in The Philippines**

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ✓

MDGs is a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, diseases, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. It consists of 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators. In September 2000, member states of the United Nations (UN) gathered in a total of 189 countries, including the Philippines committed themselves to making the right to development a reality for everyone. *target year 2015.*

From 8 goals, 4 goals are related to the policies addressing overpopulation and its associated problems.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Population Act *year?*

Section 2: The Congress of the Philippines hereby declares that for the purpose of furthering the national development, increasing the share of each Filipino in the fruits of economic progress and meeting the grave social and economic challenge of a high rate of population growth, a national program of family planning which respects the religious beliefs of the individuals involved shall be undertaken. The national population policy and program will include the following elements:

- quantitative goals will be established and adopted.
- a broad understanding of the effects of alternative rates of population growth on family and national welfare be promoted.
- family planning will be made part of a broad educational program
- safe and effective means will be provided to couples desiring to space or limit family size.
- policies and programs guiding and regulating labor force participation, internal migration, and spatial distribution of population will be adopted.
- contact with international agencies and private organizations concerned with population problems will be established and maintained on a regular basis.

probably could just highlight the important elements

Section 4: Functions and Duties

- To formulate and adopt coherent, integrated and comprehensive long-term plans as it relates to economic and social development consistent with and implementing the population policy.
- To put up family planning clinics in cooperation with the Department of Health

- To assemble and disseminate technical and scientific information relating to medical, social, economic and cultural phenomena as these affects or are affected by population.

Philippine Population Management program (PPMP)

2 strategies of PPMP addressing the key population issues in Philippines are Responsible Parenthood Family Planning (RPFP) and Adolescent health and Development (AHD).

Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning (RPFP)

It specifically aims to attain zero unmet need for modern family planning through an increase in access to family planning information and services. The following priority strategies will be pursued with relevant implementing partners:

- Intensify demand generation activities especially among poor women and families at the community level through the conduct of RPFP sessions.
- Strengthen the Pre-Marriage Counseling (PMC) Program at the local level to prepare would-be-couples for responsible parenthood including family planning.
- Improve health facilities and service delivery mechanisms to enhance access of persons with disabilities to FP information and services.
- Establish and operationalize the integrated Service Delivery Network for maternal health and family planning.

Adolescent Health and Development (AHD)

AHD key strategies aim to significantly reduce adolescent pregnancies through responsible sexuality and effective life skills among young people. The following priority strategies will be pursued with relevant implementing partners:

- Advocate and support the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) standards in schools including alternative learning systems and modalities and in communities to reach out to out-of-school adolescents with special needs.
- Capacitate adolescents with leadership skills, including parents, teachers, youth leaders, and other significant adult groups, as peer educators to effectively and properly guide their peers in making responsible and informed decisions in relation to their sexuality and making appropriate referrals to responsible adults.
- Advocate social protection interventions for teenage parents to enable them to prevent repeat pregnancies and continue their education up to completion or pursue economic activities within an enabling social support system.

if possible, include the years that the policies

Outcome and Lessons Learned: The Experiences from Problems and the Solutions of the Overpopulation in the Philippines



graph!

The population growth rate of the Philippines peaked in 1985, as shown in the graph, and remained consistently higher than the growth rate of the world. However, it maintained a downward trend consistent with those countries until 2008. After the government launched population controlling policies and regulation in 1986, the rate of population growth in the Philippines has been continuously declining as shown in the graph. It would appear that the reduction of fertility, given that such reduction is desirable from the standpoint of achieving sustained development, will be achieved through the indirect impact of development efforts particularly education, health, and employment opportunities for women on fertility in the long run and as an unintended consequence of promoting family planning to improve maternal and child health. However, the influence of Catholic Church is one of the obstacles against population management since over 80 percent of Filipinos are Catholic. Bishop argues that family planning violates the right to determine the size of the family of the parents. Moreover, Contraception is considered as equivalent as abortion which against the belief of the catholic.

Overpopulation leads to many problems such as poverty, pollution, imbalance available jobs, and education opportunities. One of the major causes of overpopulation is the lack of education, therefore, we should solve the problem at the root by prioritizing the education system to make it easier to access especially for the girl to prevent adolescent pregnancy. The improvement of education is the most effective and sustainable way to manage the population. Since enhancing education will never be against any religions, there will not be an obstacle in population control.

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