

Forum: *Economic and Social Council*

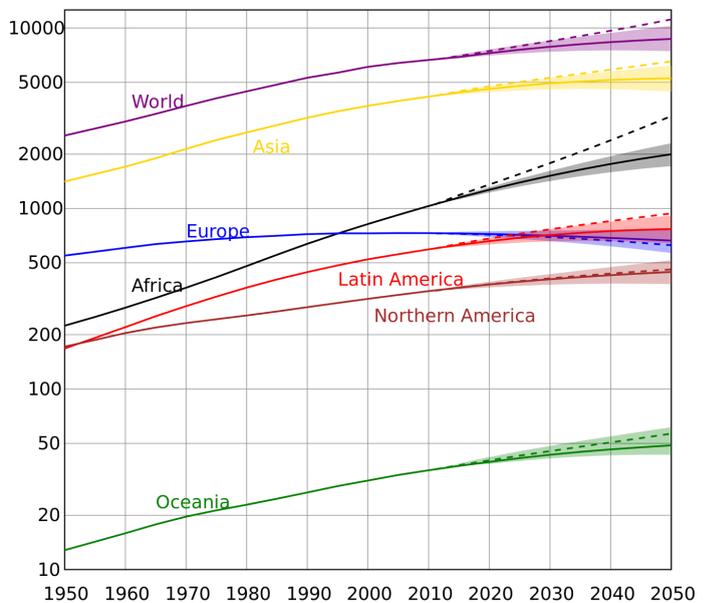
Issue: *The effects of demographics on sustainable development*

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Introduction

Global population has grown significantly over the past century and it will continue to grow as estimated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); moreover, it is estimated that global population will reach 11.2 billion by 2100. Population dynamics continually influence development at the local, regional, national, and global levels, provided that population dynamics are tremendously affected by the increasing of divergence and complex migration across countries and regions. The graph beside shows the past and predicted population growth rates of different continents, which the vertical axis is measured in millions of people. Africa's population growth is substantial given that many countries in the African continent is at stage two of the Demographic Transition Model (DTM) which modern technology decreases the death rate while birth rates are still high, resulting in rapid population growth.



Caption #1 population growth in different continents

Thomas Malthus was a British scholar that had great influence on economics, political economy, and demography. He proposed that the growth of a population posed a threat to the economic prosperity and that the population would outgrow available food resources. To reduce the threat of overpopulation, Malthus suggested that wars, famines, epidemics, or other events leading to sudden decline of the population would mitigate the threat. However, his views on overpopulation as a threat have been deemed irrelevant due to multiple issues within his theory, such as the fact that his principles on agricultural economy may not necessarily apply to the industrialized world. Today, demographics are still important factors to consider and study while making progress on sustainable development.

Demographic analysis of a society or population is investigated by three main process: aging, birth, and migration and defined by criteria including literacy rates, religion, nationality, and ethnicity. Sustainable development is defined as established principles for meeting human development goals while sustaining the environment in order to prevent the undermining of the integrity and stability of ecosystems in providing natural resources which the society and economy is dependent upon. Sustainable development can be categorized into four aspects: economy and overall development, environment, equality, and education. Sustainable development cannot be achieved if demographics are not accounted; in other words, without ensuring that all men, women, children, and elderly enjoy the same rights and dignity to expand their capabilities, secure their reproductive health, find decent work, access to quality and inclusive education, and contribute to the growing economy, sustainable development cannot be achieved.

Definition of Key Terms

Demographics

Demographics is the study of population that comprises to statistical studies and analysis of the size, structure, and distribution of the population. Fertility, mortality and migration can change the population as a whole as fertility is a the number of child a woman has in contrast to woman's childbearing potential. Which mortality is the study of the causes and consequences of death. Migration is only accounted when it is permanent, as traveling are also seen as migration. Religion, ethnicity, gender, and nationality are all criteria that helps define a groups and are used to evaluate the population.

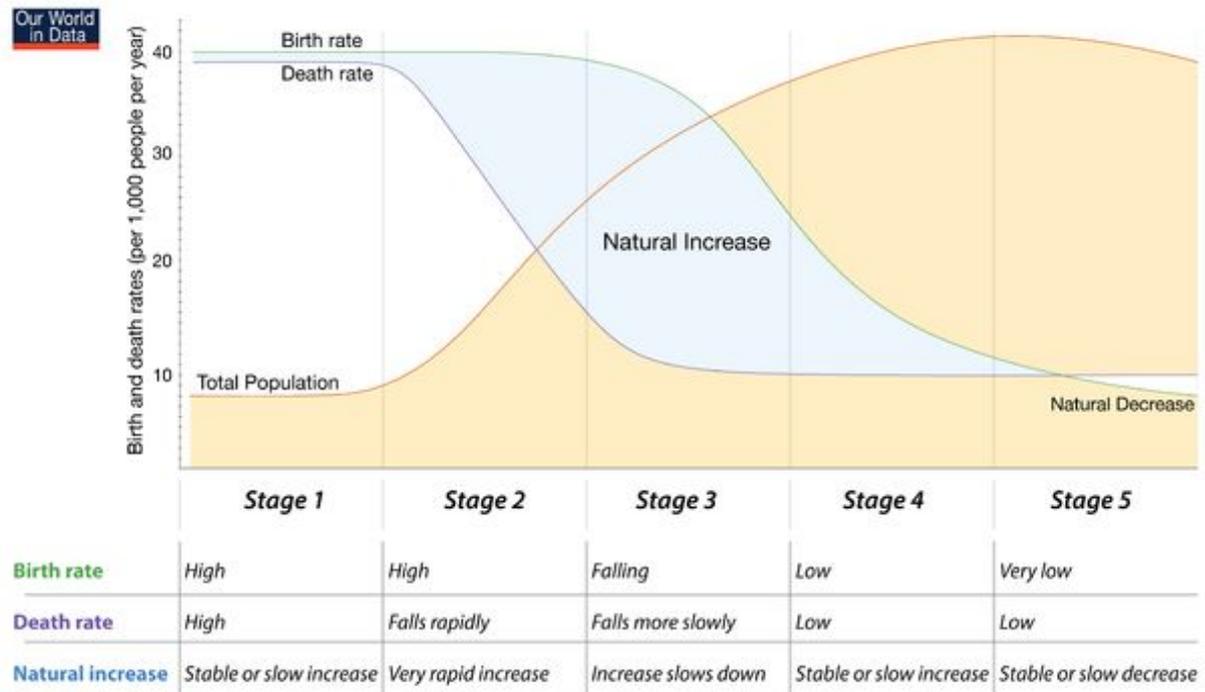
Demographic Dividend

A demographic dividend is "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)." (UNFPA) as defined by the United Nations Population Fund Agency. A demographic dividend occurs when a large portion of young healthy working individuals are entering or are present at the workforce with smaller numbers of dependents, indicating that there will be better family planning with small household and larger investments for each child. Furthermore, more women will be allowed and are free to enter the formal workforce, better provisions for child and the elderly, and there will be larger saving per household.

Demographic Transition Model (DTM)

The DTM is a model that is created based on historical population trends to account for a population's growth rate in relation to the country's economic development. The model demonstrates the

phases through which a society progresses and develops in five stages. The DTM does not account for variables such as migration; however, the relationship between birth rates and death rates are important factors and variables to consider when discussing patterns in demographics.



Caption #2: demographic transition model graph

Family Planning

Family planning describes methods, information, and means for people to understand and decide when and how to have children; likewise, family planning includes a wide range of contraceptives including condoms, pills, surgical procedures that limits fertility, non-invasive methods such as the calendar method and promoting sexuality education. Access to information about family planning is a basic human right, which it involves the empowerment of women and gender equality.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are goals set to ensure that every individual enjoy peace and prosperity, end poverty, and to protect the planet. The SDGs are built upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), moreover, the SDGs provide a clear guideline for all countries to act in accordance to their challenges; thus, provides guidelines for right choices to improve life in a sustainable way. It tackles the root of the problem and strives to bring positive change for both people and planet.

Sustainability

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” quotes from the UN Commission on Environment and Development; in addition, sustainability is a complex concept that involves many factors and issues regarding human development and climate change in general. Sustainability is that the property of biological systems to remain diverse and productive, by which both human and nature can exist in productive harmony in order to support present and future generations. (United States Environmental Protection Agency). Sustainable development are the organizing principles that is targeted to meeting human development goals without undermining natural resources nor destroying biological systems. Sustainability is important because the global future is dependent and rooted in the harmonizing between human and natural.

Background Information

The effects of demographics on development is a topic that has been debated frequently among politicians as it severely impacts the development of a country. The DTM, a model that describes trends of age distribution, has demonstrated how the distribution of age can influence the overall development of the country as the dependency ratio continues to grow in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and birth rate decreases. Other factors that may influence economic prosperity include the participation rate of the population, which, itself, can be affected by social attitudes that limits women from the entering the formal workforce to the availability and provision of care of the elderly and children. The growth of population increases pressure on the planet as sustainability is not achieved yet; therefore, allocates immense pressure on biological systems, available food source, clean water, and fossil fuel. However, population dynamics do not only affect critical development goals but they are themselves affected by social, economic, and environmental changes. For instance, regions suffering from poverty often result in population growth as many countries are in a demography poverty trap, believing that population growth would lead to a growing GDP; however, in reality, unless population grows at a lower rate with larger investments per children for quality education, these Less Economically Developed Countries cannot attain economic prosperity.

Economy

Demographics can influence the economic development of a country in many aspects: age distribution, labor productivity, and labor force; the aforementioned can also significantly impact on the economic development of the global world. Age distribution, labor productivity, composition of the workforce, urbanization, and industrialization are all factors that may lead a country's economic to prosperity or decline. Population trends can heavily influence a country's economy; moreover, population

dynamics also creates opportunities for sustainable development for instance reaping a demographic dividend.

Labor Force and Productivity

The composition of the labor force influences economic growth through various ways. For instance, the United States is experiencing a change in the labor demographics as the “baby boomers” (people born between 1946 and 1964) are approaching the age of retirement. The US economy had been dependent on the service industries, however, due to technological advances and increased competition in the US, the service industries’ productivity gains started diminishing. At the end of World War II, there was a substantial working age population; both the US and European countries were experiencing a peak in the working age population in the past decade. However, it is set to drop a full percent at 2040. While life expectancy of retirees is increasing, birth rates have fallen since the 1950s as health conditions and medical technology are continually improved.

As the working age population decreases globally, there will be an increase in the cost of provisions for the elderly population, which will continually increase. This will therefore restrain economic growth and increase pressure to the labor force, while straining government-sponsored programs such as healthcare and social security. Hence, the labor participation rate has yet decreased and is at its lowest since 1970s. The composition of the labor force is constantly changing as there is an increase of retirees and a decrease of birth rates caused by technological advancement and better medical resources. In developed countries, birth rates decreases mortality because mortality rates are low and their lifestyle choices are influenced by economic affluence.

These factors all signify a potential decline the global economy due to the decrease in the workforce population provided that technological advances have given a boost to labor productivity. Given that there are fewer people working, technological advancement has increased a person’s overall productivity. Thus, new systems, machinery, and technology have allowed the output of a worker to be the highest ever. The composition of the labor force and labor productivity are demographic factors that substantially impacts on economic prosperity which impacts on sustainable development. It is suggested that population trends affects labor the composition of the labor force thus influences labor productivity, in which affects the overall development of a country.

Industrialization and Urbanization

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural areas to urban areas of a country and industrialization is a period of social and economic change that transforms a human group from one that depends on agriculture to an industrial society. In other words, an economy which primarily depends on agricultural goods is transformed to one that is based upon manufactured goods, where individual manual labor is replaced by systematic mass production and assembly lines. There are both social and economic consequences of industrialization, such as exploitation, urbanizations, and economic growth. Urbanization is caused by industrialization; it is the concept which the concentration of factories result in increased urbanization rates because a greater amount of people could serve as factory workers. Industrialization may often lead to economic growth and more efficient and productive labor; however, it also leads to social issues such as exploitation of workers and children, the wellbeing of the workers, and gender equality. Urbanization has the potential to initiate a new era of well being as it increases the resource efficiency and enhances in the field of economic growth. Under appropriate policies, urbanization will lead to greater economic growth and a more sustainable world. An urbanized world has the capacity for more efficient land use, thus, protects biodiversity and natural ecosystems given the correct circumstances. However, urbanization can result in inequality and vulnerability; residents of the urbanized world may endure extreme poverty, exclusion, marginalization, and vulnerability. Sprawl is a phenomenon that refers to the fast expansion of land which exceeds urban population. Sprawl undermines and hinders the purpose of urbanization, therefore misleading the purpose of an urbanized world leading to the marginalization of poor people and increasing vulnerability.

Environment

In order to achieve sustainable development, the world must prevent the depleting of non-renewable resources and ensure the sustainability of current policies. The concept of Sustainability is that both present and future generations can meet their own needs without compromising and to remain the natural world diversified, harmonized, and productive. Combating climate change is one of the main goals of human development.

Climate Change

Climate change ultimately affects everyone on the planet. However, it disproportionately affects the ones who suffer from poverty and less economically developed countries(LEDGs) as they tend to lack the resources and methods to adapt. Migration and urbanization are both events that take place on a unprecedented scale which require a better understanding of these population patterns and trends. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges humanity is facing today; it affects whole populations and disrupts ecosystems and climates. As it has

severely impacted on LEDCs, for instance, India is experiencing changing rainfall patterns that had led to droughts. As the changing rainfall patterns have consequented from extreme heat, the warming climate have altered and affected agriculture in India. These severe conditions can cause development issues and prevent India from achieving development. A common mistake when approaching the issue climate change is that an escalating population equates to more emission. Only 2.5 billion of people around the globe have been earning enough money - more than \$10 per day - to consume and contribute to emissions. This means that a small portion of the population earns enough money to consume and be capable to contribute to emissions; thus, they are responsible for the overwhelming damage caused by emissions, such as extreme heat, changing patterns of rainfall, droughts, water security, and health, and that these damages disproportionately burdens those who suffer from extreme poverty and are marginalized. Unequal burdens are being placed upon countries due to geographical locations. Peru is vulnerable to climate change as it is a country that had been situated in geographic disadvantages. Water sources are diminishing in Peru due to glacier melts and it is subjected to harsh weather conditions such as warming and devastating events such as the El Nino. El Nino is a event that occurs every three to seven year and it is the unusual warming of surface waters in eastern the Pacific Ocean. Climate change had been impacting and threatening the wellbeing of societies, and thus, the conditions for the poor and marginalized have become worse due to the lack of appropriate resources to combat and adapt to these abnormal weather patterns. Likewise, negative effects of climate change have disproportionately burdened poor women as they account for much responsibility for food production and water collection in many parts around the globe.

World Population Trends

Dramatic growth of the human population is caused by increasing numbers of people surviving reproductive age, fertility rates, urbanization and accelerated migration. Modern medications and improvements to living standards have induced the quickly growing population. While more developed regions have decreased birth rates and death rates, which demonstrates better family planning and better provisions and availability of healthcare and conditions, less developed regions have higher birth rates, that indicating the lack of knowledge for family planning and resources to contraceptives. Maternal health and family planning also prompts the fast growing population, therefore, the increasing provisions of healthcare for mothers have hinted the accelerating population. As people are living longer due to better living conditions, provisions of healthcare, and economic prosperity, social and economic challenges are set against aging. Preserving health and safety and independence of elderly people is essential to the modern world where people are living to a much older age. Since affordable housing and

accessible transportation can enhance in the role of older people in the modern society as for them to remain as active members of the society.

Key Issues

Well Being of Each Individual

The wellbeing of every individual is essential to sustainable development, and that dignity and human rights are basic rights that should be enjoyed by every individual. With well-being of each individual defined as “ a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.” by the World Health Organization (WHO) Without ensuring that all human have the capacity to expand their capacities and potentials, and positively contributing to the workforce and economic growth is substansial. Each individual must realize their own potentials to contribute to the society and engage in the formal workforce. Therefore, individuals that are subjected to discriminations are not in a healthy mental state which is one of the key factors demographics are affecting sustainable development.

Gender equality

Having gender-based violence being the prevalent human rights violation in the world, an estimate of one out of three women will experience either sexual or physical abuse in her lifetime. Gender-based violence undermines the integrity, capacity, and autonomy of women; victims of these acts of violence often experience poor reproductive and sexual health and suffer from forced abortion, forced pregnancy, or infection of sexually transmitted diseases. Gender-based violence and equality restrains women from entering the formal workforce, and thus, restrains sustainable development. Gender equality disproportionately burdens women and limits their contribution to economic growth.

Youth Participation and Leadership in Society

Youth participation and leadership in societies are crucial to sustainable development as there is a massive amount of the youth that is marginalized from participating fully in societies causing them to be excluded by decision making. The exceptional number of the youth living today indicates that the SDGs will be predominantly driven by this generation, thus, the investing and empowering in the youth is critical in achieving the SDGs.

Adolescent pregnancy

Adolescent pregnancy is the result of the lack of comprehensive sexuality education and also the lack of choices a girl has. Pregnancy can severely impact on a girl's future and life, her rights to education and job offers decreases; therefore forcing her to become more vulnerable to poverty and marginalization. Health is another factor that can also impact on a pregnancy girl's life, which complications from pregnancy and childbirth can be severe enough to cause death. Adolescent pregnancy is also an issue of human rights which a pregnant girl is most likely denied her rights to education as she will be pressured or forced to leave school. In addition, a girl who is denied the rights to contraception or reproductive health information is a violation of her right to health. While girls who suffers from poverty, is illiterate, and is living in rural areas has an increased chance of becoming pregnant, while comparing to those in living in the wealthier families. Girls forced into child marriages are more likely to become pregnant, which they are the ones who lack choices and opportunities in life; thus, they have limited knowledge to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health. Moreover, adolescent pregnancy can lead to devastating health consequences while they are physically not ready for pregnancy and childbirth.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

India

Birth rates in India are higher than death rates due to population policies accounting that abortion is only legal up to two weeks of pregnancy under specific circumstances. Family planning in India had been greatly promoted by the government and that contraceptive usage have tripled from 1965 ~ 2009; thus, fertility rate had been halved, however, the fertility rate in India is still high which causes significant population growth. Overpopulation is a critical issue in India, which are caused by demographic factors. Child marriage, illiteracy, poverty, and old culture norms induces overpopulation in the country which consequents in issues such as unemployment, unbalanced income distribution, and pressure on infrastructure. Climate change is also a crucial issue that had resulted from population dynamics, which pressures to the poor and marginalized. These issues in India prevents India from achieving the SDGs.

Botswana

Botswana has one of the most successful stories of development in Africa and has a reputation of being the most stable country in Africa. Botswana, with the help of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) is becoming more and more economically stable and developed, moreover, the country is currently the longest and most continuous multi party democracy in the African Continent, it is free of corruptions and have almost no record for abusing or violating human rights. The fertility rate is

reduced, by reasons such as women being educated and being involved in workforce. In addition, maternal and infant mortality have declined and life expectancy rates have increased. Noting that fertility rates have declined, it's representative states that it is important to promote comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive rights. With that being said, the need of the youth population is another factor to consider.

Peru

The geographic location of Peru had made Peru vulnerable as victims of climate change. Indigenous people living in rural areas have limited access to water and climate change impacts on their livelihoods. Irregular rains and extreme heat have been reported by farmers, in this case, agricultural outputs have been greatly affected. The raining seasons have changed and they have been losing almost two months of rain, which farmers are struggling to adapt to these irregular climate patterns. Glacier melts have limited water access in Peru as the rural population in Peru is about 8.9 millions of people with 3.3 having no access to drinking water. These extreme conditions in Peru have been impacting them on development.

Bangladesh

The low literacy rate in the country induces child labor and child marriage which is an abuse of human rights. Children are sent off early of age to work as child labor because their families could not afford to educate their children. As a result, once the child grows up they are more likely to remain working as laborers which will neither improve the status of their family nor it will help develop the country with technology. Women's literacy rate is barely over half which is 58.5%, while men only with 64.6% of literacy rate. The rural areas of the Bangladesh consist of mostly farmers, which they are likely earn lower incomes due to the geography of Bangladesh. As there is already discrimination against women in Bangladesh, both of geographic and gender equality factors direct families into child marriage. Bangladesh has the highest percentage of children marrying before 15, this is because of the low income the people in the rural areas are getting. Although having more teenagers in the country is beneficial but as many of them are lacking of education and most women are married off before the age of 15. As child marriage continues, discriminations against women increase because at this state women would be considered not as important because they are married off to another family at such a young age.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The UNFPA had been involved in the research of human population trends and creating better living conditions. The UNFPA has launched many programs that targets specific aspects of the population trends and dynamics including the Demographic Explorer for Climate Adaptation. It is

designed to clarify the linkage between demographics and adaptations to global warming and climate change. The UNFPA have been approaching the issue by using studies of population dynamics to formulate policies that helps achieve sustainable development and combat climate change.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of event
1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840	<p>The Industrial Revolution</p> <p>The industrial revolution revolutionized production by instilling concepts of mass production and the utilization of machines as a means for efficient production. Earliest known traces of urbanization can be traced back to the industrial revolution as factory jobs became more common, and the economy shifted to adjust to new circumstances involving more goods to be produced at a cheaper cost. During the industrial revolution, issues such as child labor, women in the workforce, workers rights, and environmental impact emerged as consequences of human development.</p>
1969	<p>Establishment of the UNFPA</p> <p>The United Nations started to account population dynamics and demographics as factors that affect development. Their main objective is to present a world where every pregnancy is wanted and they account demographics factors and population dynamics when formulating policies and solutions.</p>
January 1, 2016	<p>The establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>17 goals have been set by the UN have come into force by 2016 and that by 2030 the world should have met theses goals. The goals were created based on the principles of meeting human development.</p>

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- New Trends in Migration : Demographic Aspects (**E/CN.9/2013/7**)
- Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (**E/CN.9/2016/**)

- Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, 17 October 2011 (**A/HRC/RES/18/22**)
- Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, 3 December 1984 (**A/RES/39/29**)
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There are many programs in the UNFPA that supports the victims of climate change and gender based violence, which enhances sustainable development. Demographics have greatly impacted and affected the progress of sustainable development. Research has been conducted to further understand the population trends and dynamics; in order to, fully understand the relationship between these trends and dynamics and its relation to sustainable development. The SDGs are criticized for its high cost as it the Economist estimates that 2 to 3 trillion USD is required to alleviate poverty for the next 15 year, therefore the goals set are highly unrealistic. In addition, there have been criticisms stating that there are way too many goals set and are viewed as misconceived and a mess. Moreover, the SDGs are said to be contradictory seeing as increasing wages can work against reducing the cost of living and comparactivity seeking for increment of global GDP is capable of undermining biological and ecological systems. However, unlike the MDGs, the SDGs receive much assistance and support from NGOs, having said that SDGs deals with the cause of the problems.

Possible Solutions

Through promoting and acknowledging the population about **family planning**, we can further enhance and utilize the demographic dividend within a country to strive for economic prosperity and growth. As a matter of fact, family planning saves lives since it is capable of preventing abortions and maternal deaths, as the access to information about family planning can additionally prevent 35 million abortions and 76,000 maternal deaths each year. (UNFPA) In addition, family planning is important as it promotes the idea of having less children per household, which may lead to larger investments per child. That guarantees more freedom for women to enter the formal work force and more savings for retirement. However, limiting the amount of children per household would lead to problems such as increase population of stateless child and female orphans as children born illegally would become stateless. Through promoting both sexuality information and contraceptive methods, it is likely that decreased unwanted pregnancy will be achieved and also empowers women in general as women are

more exposed to the information and planning for their future and family as they are enabled to obtain higher levels of education and increase their autonomy within the household.

Demographic dividends have significantly enhanced the growth of the Asian economy and cast a opportunity for economic development, whereas, in Latin America, countries had slower economic growth rates as they did not start with an advantage of demographic dividend. Those countries with the greatest opportunities are those entering in a period which the working age population that has quality education, decent employment, good health conditions, and a lower proportion of dependents. Through using demographic dividend as an advantage

Since population dynamics are shaped by policies within a country, the strengthening of policies and developing of policies are also approaches that may help solve the issue. Human rights, social and economic factors should also be taken into account when developing solutions to the issue. **Migration policies** can also affect population dynamics. Therefore, implementing better migration policies can further support sustainable development. Better migration policies can be formulated by studying migration patterns and demographics within a region. Family planning as stated previously is the means, information, and methods that allows each individual to decide when and if to have children, which includes information such as when to become pregnant when desirable and contraceptives. Appropriate migration policies is another approach to resolve this issue, through studying human migration and developing corresponding policies such as the emergency quota acts to be implemented.

It is essential that populations and communities are well adapted to **climate change** as it is a security issue that haunts the world ever since the industrial revolution. It is only that humans adapt to climate change, that mankind can progress and gain economic growth and prosperity. Through migration and promoting climate change development in the future, sustainable development can be achieved. Responsible consumption and production should also be addressed as it significantly influences sustainable development in terms of the stability of the ecosystem and to prevent the undermining of natural resources.

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