China

Population and Family Planning
(chapter 6)

Labor Shortage in China?!

- 1.4 Billion vs. 325 million (U.S.)
- "Made in China", China as the "factory of the world" V.S.
- Chinese Labor, Cheap No More
- In Coastal China, A Labor Shortage
- Why?

Outline

- Population pattern
- Population policy and family planning
- Population issues/challenges

Population Pattern

- Large population (1.4 billion, 21%)

Population Growth, A.D. 0 - 2050

Population from Censuses

Total Population from Population Censuses

- 1793: 13.14M
- 1871: 134.6M
- 1920: 470.5M
- 1949: 553.1M
- 2000: 1.19B
Demographic Transition in China

Why was there a sharp decline in fertility, increase in mortality around 1960?

Population Pattern
- Large population
  - Demographic transition leads to rapid growth in the last century
- Uneven distribution

Uneven Distribution

Uneven distribution in China

China’s Population Density, 2014

Population Pattern
- Large population
- Uneven distribution
- Geography
- Uneven socioeconomic development
- Uneven growth
  - Natural growth = birth - death
  - Total growth = birth - death + immigration - outmigration
Population Pattern

- Large population
- Uneven distribution
- Uneven growth
  - Population policy
  - Uneven socioeconomic development
- Declining fertility rate since 1960s
  - “Later”, “longer”, “fewer”
  - One-child policy

Demographic Transition

Population Pattern

- Large population
- Uneven distribution
- Uneven growth
- Declining fertility rate since 1960s
- Declining population growth rate
- Massive rural-urban migration since 1980s and rapid urbanization
Population Policies

Confucianism: pro-natalist
- Large family means prosperity
  - “There are three un-filial deeds, having no offspring is the number one”
  - Only sons carry the family line

Socialist government: pro-natalist
- Nationalism and Marxist perspective

Reform era: Neo-Malthusian
- Uncontrolled population growth will deter economic development
- Family planning

Mao, Zedong (1956)
- “Of all things in the world, people are the most precious. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, as long as there are people, every kind of miracle can be performed. We believe that revolution can change everything, and that before long there will be a new China with a large population and great wealth of products, where life will be abundant and culture will flourish. All pessimistic views are groundless.”

Reform Era: A Shift in Philosophy (Neo-Malthusian)
- “If we let the population grow without effectively controlling it, the realization of the second step strategic goal for China’s modernization drive will be directly affected, and the efforts to further improve the people’s living standards will be thwarted. This will create heavier pressure on economic and social development in the next century, further reduce China’s per capita resources, worsen its environment and bring endless misery to our posterity” (Xinhua News Agency, April 28th, 1991)

Acres of Arable Land per Person
History of Family Planning

- **1st family planning: late 1950s**
  - 1953 census: 583 Million
  - Postwar stability, rapid growth
  - More than 100M added between 1949-1957
  - Promote maternal and infant health
  - Interrupted by the Great Leap Forward

- **2nd family planning: early 1960s**
  - Promote maternal and infant health
  - Interrupted by the Cultural Revolution
  - Birth rate was even higher than the 50s
  - 130 M added during 1964-70

- **3rd FP (1971): wan xi shao (later, longer, fewer)**
  - Increase legal marriage age
    - 1950 Marriage Law: 18 for women, 20 for men
    - 1970s: 23, 25 in rural areas, 25, 27 in cities
    - About 100 M births averted between 1950-1980 due to late marriage campaign.
  - “one child is not too few, two are good, and three are too many”
  - TBR reduced from 6 to 3 children per woman

---

Family Planning has many advantages, 1964

- Healthy mother and child
- Good welfare
- Good education
- Good job and education
- Good national development

---

Family Planning Has Many Advantages 1975

- Healthy mother and child
- Good welfare
- Good education
- Good job and education
- Good national development
History of Family Planning

- 1st family planning: late 1950s
- 2nd family planning: early 1960s
- 3rd FP (1971): wan xi shao
- 4th FP (1979): one-child policy
  - Linked to economic goals
  - “one birth is the best, two are the maximum, and a third birth should be strictly regulated”

One Child Policy

- Incentives:
  - “One-child Certificate”
  - Monthly allowances paid to couples with only one child.
  - Longer maternal leave
  - Privilege in housing and employment
  - Free educational and medical services

- Disincentives
  - Fine up to 15% of annual income.
  - Couples forced to give up all privileges if a second child was born and had to repay any cash awards it had received.
  - “black child”

One Child Policy

- Employers and residents committees had to enforce guidelines.
  - 1) Authorization for marriage:
    - 25 years for male and 23 years for female.
  - 2) Mandatory contraceptive use:
    - IUD used for women with already one child.
    - Incentives for sterilization after the first child.
    - Couples with two or more children had to have one partner sterilized (women 80% of the time).
  - 3) Pregnancies must be authorized in large cities:
    - Unauthorized pregnancies had to be aborted.
    - Abortions are legal.

"Excellent birth, excellent education, glory, happiness"
One Child Policy

- Launched when the population reached 1 billion.
  - Initial goal: Stabilize China’s population at 1.2 billion.
  - Revised goal: Keep China’s population under 1.4 billion until 2010.
  - Population expected to stabilize around 1.6 billion by 2050.
- Under the responsibility of the State Family Planning Commission (SFPC).
- Population control perceived from a strategy point of view.
- Great variations in implementation and performance between regions.

Recent Changes in Family Planning

- Relaxed in the mid-1980s:
  - 2 children permitted in rural areas.
- A new family planning law in 2002:
  - One child, but permission may be granted for a second under specific circumstances (e.g., long interval, first child is girl).
  - People who were born in single child families would themselves be allowed to have up to two children.
  - Late marriage and childbearing.
  - More flexibility for provinces, autonomous regions and minorities.
- 2014: a couple can have two if either spouse is a single child.
- 2015: one couple, two children!
Birth Rate, 2003

Birth Rate, 2014

Percentage of Women Having More Than One Child, 1998

More Minorities

Impact of Population Policy

Positive:
- Fertility declined
- Rapid economic development
What would have happened if there was no family planning?

- Population by 2000 would have reached 1.6 billion (instead of 1.3).
- Annual increase would be 40 million (instead of 17-19).
- Require much higher level of economic development.
- Larger numbers of surplus rural labor to be transferred from the agricultural to a non-agricultural field.
- More rapid urbanization and create more pressure on cities and towns.

Impact of Population Policy

- Positive:
  - Fertility declined
  - Rapid economic development
  - Girls’ status/education

- Negative:
  - Regional difference, inequality
  - Abnormal sex ratio
  - Coast vs. inland, rural vs. urban areas

Figure 1
Decline in Chinese Fertility, 1960-1990
Impact of Population Policy

- **Negative impact:**
  - Regional difference, inequality
  - Abnormal sex ratio
  - Old age security (4-2-1 family structure)

- **Positive impact:**
  - Declined fertility level
  - Rapid economic development

- **Negative impact:**
  - Regional difference, inequality
  - Abnormal sex ratio
  - Old age security
  - Population aging
  - China “becomes old before it becomes rich”
Population by Age and Sex 1950-2050 (population in 1000)

Percentage of Older Adults (Age 65+) in China, 1950-2050

Demographic Dividend?

Population Pyramid of China, 2000

Population Pyramid of China, 2050
Impact of Population Policy

- Negative impact:
  - Regional difference, inequality
  - Abnormal sex ratio
  - Old age security
  - Population aging
  - Labor shortage

- Psychological consequences:
  - Currently around 70 million single child.
  - 4-2-1 syndrome:
    - "Little emperors" or "little empresses".
    - Self-centrism.
    - Pressure to succeed.
  - Violation of human rights (e.g. forced abortion, sterilization)

Group Discussion

- Should the state play a role in the nation's bedroom? (Should the government decide family size?) Why?
  - A) Yes
  - B) No

Group Discussion

- What should the Chinese government do now to address population problems?
Position paper #2

- If you were the leader of China, would you adopt the one-child policy? Why?

Summary

- Population pattern
- Population policies over time
- History of family planning
  - Later, longer, fewer
  - One child policy
  - Impact of one-child policy