

THE PEOPLE BOMB

Nine babies are born into this world every two seconds; 270 every minute; 388000 each day. It is predicted that in the next century three times as many people will inhabit planet Earth – nearly 15 billion of us vying for food, shelter, and jobs.

The stress on an increasingly fragile environment could be extraordinary. Competition between rich and poor nations would grow increasingly tense. Overpopulation and its rampant, unchecked growth is perhaps the greatest threat to our survival. It's a universal problem. And it's closer to home than you know.

CNN's award-winning documentary team, Special Reports, traveled to 13 countries for a powerful look at the personal, national and global efforts to diffuse an explosive crisis before it's too late.

PART 1: WHO'S OVERPOPULATED?

How does Pleasant Valley, California compare to a remote village in Nepal when it comes to human impact on the environment? What does this have to do with overpopulation? Using the T chart below, organize your thoughts to answer these questions.

PLEASANT VALLEY CALIFORNIA	NEPALI VILLAGE

Did you catch these statistics about how much we (in the industrialized world) use in terms of resources and how much we emit as waste?

_____ of the world use ... _____ of all the energy

_____ of all the steel

_____ of all the wood

and produce ... _____ of all CO2 emissions

_____ of all greenhouse gasses

PART 2 MEGACITIES: FOCUS – Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL

In the spaces below, outline the W5 of the situation in Rio de Janeiro.

1. What are some of the visible symptoms of the problem?
2. Where is it occurring in the world today?
3. Why is it a problem?
4. Who are the people causing the expansion and what reasons do they have for migrating to Rio?
5. When has this become a problem?

PART 3: DESPARATE DECISIONS – Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Below are several quotes from this section of the video. For each statement, outline the specific problem, and how it relates to population explosion in Ethiopia.

1. *“Using contraceptives is like killing your own child. I want my daughter to have as many children as possible.”*

2. *“It is the will of Allah to have as many children as possible.”*

3. *“My husband thinks we should accept as many children as god says, but I don't agree. When he found out I was using 'the pill' he got angry and started hitting me.”*

4. *“Children are the joy of one's life. They're also a necessity. When they grow up they're able to help us.”*

5. *“If I had the money to buy contraception I would not have as many children. I would have stopped.”*

More stats!

In Ethiopia ...

One year's supply of birth control pills would cost _____.

This is equivalent to what % of their year's income? _____.

_____ 's die from abortions every year.

The government's education program reaches _____ % of women.

PART 4: SON MANIA – Rotak, India

“It is said that through a son a man conquers the world.”

1. Why are ‘high tech’ medical clinics springing up all over India and how are the different birth results dealt with?

2. What are the two views dealing with these clinics?

Advocates say: _____

Critics say: _____

3. What does infanticide mean?

4. In the Hindu scripture it is written: a son must light the fires of a funeral pyre for the spirit of a Hindu parent to enter heaven. Comment on how this has led to huge population increases in India.

PART 5: WHEN BABIES DIE – Gourka, Nepal

In Nepal about 350 children are dying each day – that’s equivalent to a 747 crashing each day! Yet this startling statistic does not make the news.

1. Explain the statement and the event that surround the problem in Nepal, that despite the huge number of child deaths, the population in Nepal is still rising.

PART 6: ABUSE – India

India's solution to the problem has been disastrous. Fill in the blanks.

In 1975 police in New Delhi surrounded Mahindra Singh. He was given a _____
_____. He now suffers from _____.

During a _____ month period, _____ of India's poor were _____.

In 1986 _____ were sterilized in one month. They were tricked into
thinking they would be receiving _____ and _____.

In 1988, Mahrajee Raju was _____ to get sterilized by a wealthier
official who was to be sterilized himself because of a government quota system.

Today in Jaipur, the government has set up 'Sterilization Camps'. One doctor was said to
have performed _____ sterilizations per hour. Unclean conditions have led to
_____ and _____. _____ people die each year from
sterilizations.

PART 7: ALL GOD'S CHILDREN – Smokey Mountains, Philippines

In this segment you will see an entire community that survives by scavenging a land fill
site. The goods recovered by these people are consumed by the family (food) or sold to
business. (plastic containers, glass bottles, etc.)

Outline the policy of the Roman Catholic Church and how it has led to the current
population problem.

PART 8: NO CHOICE – La Paz, Bolivia

How has a country like Bolivia with a small population (7 million), experienced similar
problems as India in that families are too large? Why is this a problem in a country that is
under populated?

PART 9: THE PRICE OF SUCCESS – Indonesia

Outline the reasons why Indonesia has been able to curb their population explosion. Families have gone from having six children to three. Poverty has been cut by 2/3.

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What are the risks associated with this government initiative on family planning?

PART 10: MACHISMO FACTOR – Mexico City, Mexico

“I am King. My word is law.” Explain how this male attitude has led to Mexico’s cultural problems when confronting it’s own population crisis.

PART 11: INDIA’S VICTORY – Kerala, India

Despite the enormous problems India is experiencing, there are positive conditions in the small state of Kerala. Outline them.

Explain Kerala’s ‘holistic approach’ to population control and family planning.

PART 12: CHINA'S CROSSROADS – China

“Educate, Indoctrinate, Intimidate”

What is China's official policy towards family planning?

How do they organize officials and monitor growth.

Where has it been successful, and where is it more difficult to control.

What is China's new rule for the rural segment?

VIDEO SUMMARY

Reasons for the global population explosion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.