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Nigeria: Using contraceptives to reduce the rate and growth of population

Some researchers say that in about 50 years, the population will double. Population growth was a serious problem many years ago and unfortunately it still is. The great Thomas Robert Malthus once believed that the food supply would later run out because the ever growing population grows “geometrically” and the food supply only expands “arithmetically”. (Rosenberg) So what he is basically saying is if we do not cut off our population growth, we are going to outgrow the world’s food supply.

The population growth in Africa is the highest in Nigeria. The population by the time of July of 2012 is going to be 170,123,740. The population growth rate is 2.5 percent each year. (Nigeria) The reason that Nigeria’s population is so high is because of the fact that they are a poor country with very few job opportunities. The families unfortunately started to believe that if you have more children, the more opportunities you have to make money. (Steele) This hardly ever happens. It comes down to the fact that the more children you have, the more mouths you have to feed. These children then grow up malnourished.

People aren’t the only ones affected by the rapid population growth, animals are too. They are losing the resources that are necessary to survive. Their homes are being destroyed to make more land for the people of Nigeria to use as their own. These animals are losing their places to hide and so poachers, looking to make a quick buck, are killing them off. We are increasing the human population and decreasing the population of the animals. We need to find a way to decrease the people population. Otherwise if we do not, the animals that were once found in abundance in Nigeria will soon disappear. (Steele)

Why would you bring a child into this world if you knew what kind of environment they would be living in? But sometimes unplanned pregnancies happen. We cannot stop the inevitable. But we can help men and women become educated on the ways to avoid unplanned pregnancy. No one is saying you have to become abstinent. They are also not saying that genocide needs to happen to help reduce the population. Making laws about limiting how many children you can have in a family, like what China did, is very inhumane because it took away people’s rights to choose. That is not the solution to our problems.

What we need to do is introduce contraceptives into Nigeria. Did you know that 16% of pregnancies among women ages 15 to 24 in 2003, were unintended? (Nigeria Country Program) There is a very high unintended pregnancy rate and a very low contraceptive use. Studies show that women are more open to the idea of contraception use men, because apparently the men think that it gives the women the available resources that could later lead to infidelity. But that is based on the relationship, so that is not an excuse.

In the long run if we cannot reduce the population, more animals need to be used for food and the animals are going to slowly die. Hunger between people is going to be worse than ever before. For us to help protect the animals we could try using insemination. We could extract and freeze-storage the semen from the animal species who are becoming extinct. It will help save some of our rare species who are going to end up disappearing. (Borlaug)

So what’s my solution to it all? We need to introduce pregnancy clinics, such as the Planned Parenthood clinics we have in America. It gives the people of Nigeria the available resources to learn about the use of contraceptives, if they choose to use birth control and condoms.

There are 450 million condoms sold each year worldwide. That is enough to supply Nigeria with condoms for at least 2 years. That sure as heck would help the people of Nigeria be able to control the population within their own families. (Condom)

There are so many people out there who do not believe in using contraceptives because of religious views. But how could you raise a child in a world where they are going to have to go to bed every night with their stomachs grumbling and feeling like they are being eaten from the inside out? How can you stand knowing that maybe if you give birth to this child, they are going to have a rough life ahead of them filled with poverty, starvation, war, and anything else that is so horrifyingly unimaginable?

We waste so much food in the United States that it is sickening. We have a country based on people who are overweight or so obese that they cannot even leave their house. On the other side of the world there are people who are so stick thin from starvation that you can see every crevice and bone in their body. The biggest problem is their populations are growing so fast that they are going to use all of the little bit of food they have!

Did you know that Planned Parenthood is already doing everything they can to help the people of Nigeria? Now all we need to do is our part. Planned Parenthood is helping Nigeria by giving local organizations grants and providing technical assistance. It gives them access to HIV testing and counseling, sexual education, family planning, and safe abortion services. In 2006, Dr. Benjamin Dikko started working in Nigeria as a primary care physician, providing women with safe access to abortion services. If we were able to have more doctors like Dr. Dikko, then we would have fewer deaths caused by unsafe abortions. (Nigeria Country Program) If we had more doctors willing to do that, then there would be more of a request for healthcare physicians. If we helped Nigeria (and other poor countries) by providing more health caregivers, more people would be strong enough to train others. If our government were to spend less foreign military aid and more aid toward survival concerns, there might be improvement in our foreign relationships. Decreasing the world population needs to have more government funding because these people really do matter!

All we need to have is our government's cooperation and funding. Even if we do not get funding, there is the use of propaganda. Like what we did in World War II, to convince people not to ride by themselves because riding alone is like riding with Hitler (poster for fuel rationing; introduction to carpooling). We could make websites, pass out flyers, and make brochures and posters, just to help. Heck, we could even do public service announcements. There are endless opportunities for us to get the word out there. We just need to maximize the potential to the fullest.

When we reduce the population we are helping everyone, not just humans but also animals. We will even be helping the trees. Now I know that it might be shocking, that if we reduce the population that it would somehow help the trees, but it will. As the population rises, the forests are vanishing. The use of forests is needed because it absorbs the waste of gas that comes from the carbon dioxide and gives off new fresh oxygen instead. The fewer trees we have, the more impurities go into our ozone layer. The more the ozone layer deteriorates, the less protection we have from the sun's ultra violet rays.

There are probably quite a few Nigerians out there who have misconceptions about sex, pregnancy, and contraceptives. If we inform them of the real facts about sex and pregnancy, they are less likely to have unsafe abortions that may disable or even kill mom and/or the fetus.

About 59,000 women in Nigeria die annually from pregnancy-related complications and childbirth. 13%-20% of maternal deaths are caused by unsafe abortions. (Nigeria: Abortion Law Blamed For High Maternal Death) For every maternal death, 30 others suffer long term disabilities. Nigeria is only 2% of the world's population, but accounts for over 10% of the world's maternal deaths in child birth.

(Nigeria Country Program) Women may realize the risks of abortions, but these are illegal and safe abortion services are hard to come by. (Nigeria: Abortion Law Blamed For High Maternal Death)

We need the Nigerian people's help to be able to get everything that would be needed, done. This idea is not a new idea, but it is an idea that has brought up in a whole new perspective. The reason we could not get this accomplished the first time is because we were just noticing that the population would become a problem in the future. So we were not giving it our all. But now, fast forward 20 years in the future and it is the biggest world issue, hunger. That is the reason we have so many families out there who are only able to eat once a day. We are the ones who need to make the change, because if we leave it up to other people, there is a good chance that nothing will ever get done. It is all up to us.

Every reaction causes a chain reaction. By reducing the population, we have more land, and if we have more land to grow fields, we have more food. You get the idea. There were constitutional rights set many years ago to protect our rights as a nation, but some countries do not have that luxury, like Nigeria. Unfortunately, abortion in Nigeria is illegal unless it is considered necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman. (Nigeria: Abortion Law Blamed For High Maternal Death) There are people whose religion refuses to allow them to condone abortions, so we have to provide other forms of contraceptives.

Education and protection are really the answers to all this. Educate the people on the rights they have. Then teach them how to use the resources that are provided to them. Use the protection that the contraceptives are providing to the country of Nigeria. Not only does a contraceptive help with family planning, it helps prevent getting sexually transmitted diseases. (Seeing how HIV is a known issue that is affecting many Nigerians today). But no matter what you do or say, it all comes down to population. If we cannot reduce the population, there is no chance in having world peace or stopping world hunger. Everyone knows that anything can be accomplished as long as you put your mind to it. The great Norman Borlaug once said, "I am convinced you have a great future ahead in wildlife programs if we can all collectively convince the naked ape to use his brain and mind to anticipate the catastrophe that will result if he does not voluntarily restrict his increase in human numbers". (Borlaug) We have the available resources, we just need to use them properly. Or enjoy everything while you still can, because in a few years, it is going to all be gone. There is going to be nothing left and trust me, war will ensue. So you better stock up on your weaponry supplies because if you do not, you may end up fighting for your life!

If we do not decrease the population, major war will ensue. There will be poor people feeling vulnerable and then a big leader guy will say stuff about trying to bring the nation back together and they will see him as their leader. He will start a massive revolt that, because the people will be so vulnerable, they won't realize what they are doing is bad. He will convince them to do his bidding, which could lead to them doing something drastic, like killing people. They will worship him like he is some god. He will team up with other leaders who have taken over other poor countries and they will start an alliance. They will do something drastic that will lead to other countries that are against them, coming together and forming their own alliance and there will be war between those two alliances and many will be injured and killed. Before you know it, World War III is happening! That's why I cannot stress enough about reducing the population. If we do, our children do not have to grow up with "victory gardens". (Egendorf)

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