China’s Future Population and Development Challenges

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Presented by Jeremy Vates
Fertility Decline

- 1970: 5.75
- 1992: 2.0
- “one child” policy launched in 1978
  - Based on long term population increase projection
“One–Child” Policy

- Restricted to urban areas
- Caused distain for female babies
- Couple with no siblings may have 2 children
- Did, in fact, prevent 200 mil births which drastically reducing the population Growth pressure

A Battle of the Sexes

- Sex birth ratio peaked to 114.1 in 1993

- Due to the OCP and ancient traditions, best described in the ancient “Book of Songs” (1000 – 700 B.C.):

  "When a son is born,
  Let him sleep on the bed,
  Clothe him with fine clothes,
  And give him jade to play...

  When a daughter is born,
  Let her sleep on the ground,
  Wrap her in common wrappings,
  And give broken tiles to play..."

Effects of Incorrect Gender Ratio

- Increased mental health problems in men
- Socially disruptive behavior in crease in men
- Left many men unable to marry and have a family
- Increase in female kidnapping and trafficking of women for marriage
- Increase numbers of commercial sex workers
  - Which increases spread of std’s

# China’s Population Projections

## Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Urban (m)</th>
<th>Rural (m)</th>
<th>China (m)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>334.40</td>
<td>766.44</td>
<td>1100.84</td>
<td>30.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>367.40</td>
<td>768.51</td>
<td>1135.91</td>
<td>32.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>450.04</td>
<td>778.57</td>
<td>1228.61</td>
<td>36.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>530.51</td>
<td>781.49</td>
<td>1312.00</td>
<td>40.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>702.50</td>
<td>725.12</td>
<td>1427.61</td>
<td>49.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>875.66</td>
<td>654.56</td>
<td>1530.22</td>
<td>57.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>1015.66</td>
<td>578.95</td>
<td>1594.61</td>
<td>63.69</td>
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<td>2040</td>
<td>1122.59</td>
<td>481.01</td>
<td>1603.60</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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<td>2060</td>
<td>1233.56</td>
<td>306.86</td>
<td>1540.42</td>
<td>80.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>2087</td>
<td>1218.53</td>
<td>151.02</td>
<td>1369.55</td>
<td>88.97</td>
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</table>
Challenges

- Agriculture–food
- Employment
- Urbanization
“... annual population growth will be much greater over the period 1995–2020, and on average will increase by 12.06 million per year in that period, hence the annual increase in grain production needs to be 4.47 billion kilogrammes. Will China be able to meet this challenge?”
Agricultural–Food Crisis Cont.

TABLE VI

Decrease of arable land in China, 1991–1995 (000s hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State capital construction</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>131.7</td>
<td>161.0</td>
<td>132.6</td>
<td>111.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural collective construction</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural private construction</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural disaster and other causes</td>
<td>362.2</td>
<td>519.0</td>
<td>461.3</td>
<td>462.9</td>
<td>392.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>488.0</td>
<td>738.7</td>
<td>732.3</td>
<td>708.7</td>
<td>621.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SSB, 1996

- 100 ha = 1 km²
- From 1991 to 1995, China lost 1/3 of the size of Indiana in arable land
Effects of Food Crisis

- Increasing number of malnourishment cases
- Increase in food prices
- Increase in natural resource usage and prices
- Decrease in China's standard of living
Employment

- Unemployment rate increased from 1.8 to 2.9 from 1985 to 1995
- Currently 40% of rural workers were under-employed and needed to be redeployed to non-agricultural sectors
- Projected working population increase 30% from 1995 to 2020
- What are some possible issues that will arise because of the employment shift?
“Rapid industrialization will be accompanied by a dramatic rural-urban population shift. With the increasing national population, the scale of urban development will be immense.”

- Urban population has doubled from 1978 to 1995
- Urban population in 1995: 450mil (29%)
- Projected urban population in 2040: 1123mil (70% of China will be Urbanized)

“A strategy of sustainable development needs to be adopted and the natural resources and environment must be managed efficiently and carefully.”

Do you think China should continue their urbanization?
Updates

- Current Population: 1.3 billion
  - Just below projected population of 1.4 billion

- Current urbanization: 46.6 %

- Current net loss of 290,000 mu = 193.3 sq. km = 19300 ha in arable land (huge decrease in the loss rate!)
Current TFR: 1.8


Current birth-sex ratio: 119.45


Current unemployment rate: 4.3%

Pro’s and Con’s

- The study was 12 years old
  - Pro: can see how accurate the projections were
  - Con: needed additional sources to see current stats

- The paper included plenty of data and graphs to represent the data

- Did not go into detail of the cause of some of the projected problems
Questions?