



## Overpopulation: A threat to World

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### Abstract:

This paper intend to research about the menace of overpopulation. Like the problems caused by it and like how the world if getting affected by it and what will be the future consequences. The population wasn't a threat until it burst and kept on increasing without control. However, several precautions and preventions were taken to curb the population but were of no use. Especially, in the underdeveloped countries or developing one, the population went on surging because of better medical facilities to them and lack of awareness regarding the birth control and birth control pills. The amount, by which the world population is growing, is going to lead to the mass extinction of the humans, actually not only humans, but also the flora and fauna. This problem, whenever discussed, always get a natural reaction of denial, because human brain is always trained to neglect the things which in long term going to be the reason of their doom.

### Introduction:

Before the 1800, the average life expectancy of the humans was less than 30 years which now reportedly is more than the triple what it was in 19<sup>th</sup> century i.e. 73 years. Prior to 20<sup>th</sup> century, overpopulation wasn't even a trouble for the humans, but the urge of giving better medical facilities brought a long-term problem along with it. With better progress in the field of medicine lead to decline in the mortality rate, of course, a positive approach, but no one has ever imagined that such positive change would lead to dreadful consequences for the future generation. With this progress, as per the United Nation Population Projection Report, it will touch the mark of 8 billion by 2023 and by the end of this century; it would be nearly 11 billion with medium fertility variant.

So, how this is affecting the world and what are the impacts, it will have on the future generations? Certain questions are there which need to be answered, including what is the ideal population that this planet should have so that the nature resources it have can be utilized in a better way.

### Global Distribution:

The total world population is globally distributed among the 235 countries as per the UN reports of World Population Prospectus 2019. Instead of making data more complicated, the population of continents is counted which are Asia, Europe, Africa, America and Oceania.

Asia contains the maximum proportion of the world population which is 59.5% of the total world's population, then followed by Africa with 17.51% of population. Out of total African population, 90% of the population is living in 21% of the land area with a population density of 45 people per square km. Europe, the third largest continent, is having 9.6% population and density of 34 people per square km making it the third most dense continent as well.

33 countries of South, Central America and Caribbean countries are categorised under one group that is Latin America and Caribbean, this makes it the fourth largest continent with 8.4% and density of 32 people per square km.

### World Population by Region

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#	Region	Population (2020)	Yearly Change	Net Change	Density (P/Km <sup>2</sup> )	Land Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Migrants (net)	Fert. Rate	Med. Age	Urban Pop %	World Share
1	Asia	4,641,054,775	0.86 %	39,683,577	150	31,033,131	-1,729,112	2.2	32	0 %	59.5 %
2	Africa	1,340,598,147	2.49 %	32,533,952	45	29,648,481	-463,024	4.4	20	0 %	17.2 %
3	Europe	747,636,026	0.06 %	453,275	34	22,134,900	1,361,011	1.6	43	0 %	9.6 %
4	Latin America and the Caribbean	653,962,331	0.9 %	5,841,374	32	20,139,378	-521,499	2	31	0 %	8.4 %
5	Northern America	368,869,647	0.62 %	2,268,683	20	18,651,660	1,196,400	1.8	39	0 %	4.7 %
6	Oceania	42,677,813	1.31 %	549,778	5	8,486,460	156,226	2.4	33	0 %	0.5 %

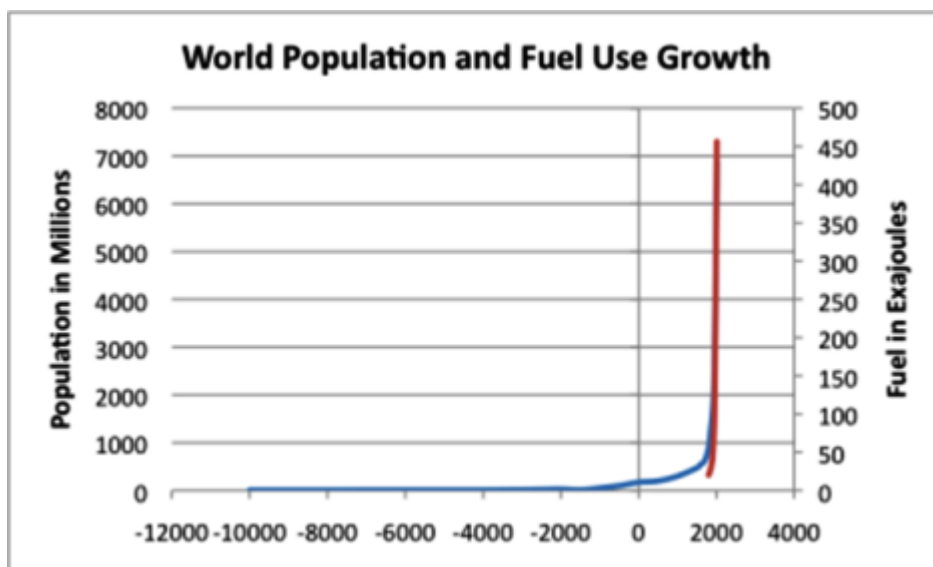
The following figure explains all the necessary details regarding the population, population density, world share and other factors.

**Effects of overpopulation:** Overpopulation is becoming the reason for all the growing problems for the humans as they all are interlinked from lack of natural resources to the global warming, poverty to the species extinction. This is silently affecting all these things, and human natural response when talked about this issue is denial. All these effects will be discussed below briefly:

- **Species Extinction:** There are two main factors responsible for the extinction of animals which are illegal hunting also called as poaching and habitat destruction. Humans for their survival and better living style kills animals and occupy their living space which compel wild animals to either move to cities or end up being dead from

hunger or in some accidents. A recent example of the Northern White Rhinoceros possibly extinction as it is now under the category of critically endangered. This species was poached because of its horn used in traditional Chinese medicines as it is said that it have great healing power so because of this believe they were hunted by the humans, but as per the article of National Geographic<sup>1</sup>, it is found that Northern White Rhinoceros's horn has no significance for the humans.

- **Depletion of Natural Resources:** To cope up the needs of 8 billion populations isn't an easy task as the depletions of resources is way much faster than the way it can replenish itself. Resources are quiet limited and needs, we know, have no end, so does population have. The growth of population is not only harming animals, but also to themselves indirectly in the name of depletion of the natural resources. This fast depletion is raising the prices of commodities which are directly raising the poverty, another issue to human being. To give ravishing facilities and comfortable lifestyle to themselves by using the latest gadgets is also contributing in the declining resources. The table below given shows the relation of the fuel use and the human population:

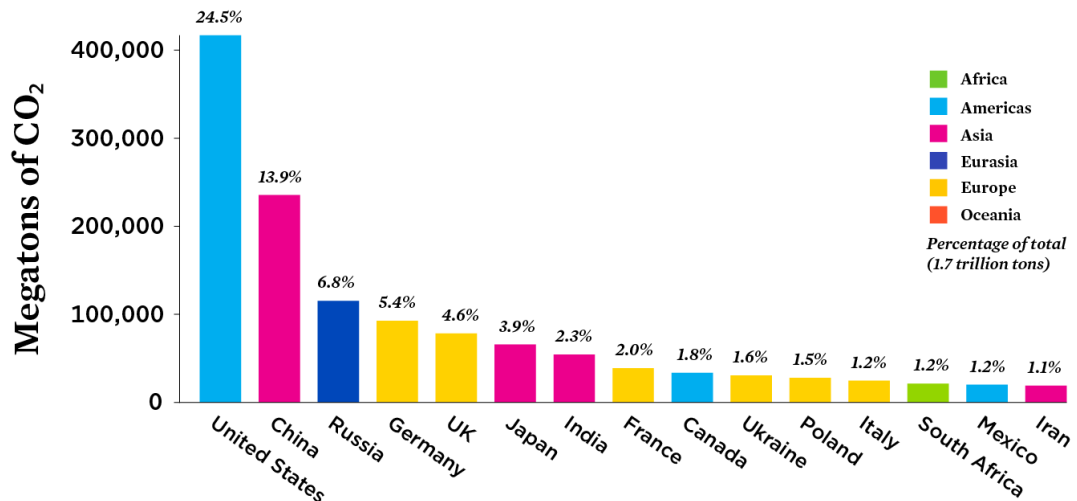


(Source: World population from US Census Bureau, overlaid with fossil fuel use (red) by Vaclav Smil from Energy Transitions: History, Requirements, Prospects)

- **Scarcity of Food:** Denial isn't the answer to the looming issue of food scarcity that is getting bigger day by day, especially in the third world. In an article published by the New York Times on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 "[Climate Change Threatens the World's Food Supply, United Nations Warns](#)" it was clearly explained the crisis of the food that world is facing by another factors like mass migration of climate change, but as per "*Philip Cafaro*"<sup>3</sup> they forgot to mention the most important factor the growth of population. Majorly the food production is dependent on the agricultural output, but because of crowding earth the land is being used for building habitat leads in the less area available for the agriculture, along with it change in climate id also contributing in affecting the food production. As said earlier, all effects of over population are interlinked; somewhere one is responsible for the cause of the second and second is giving birth to third.
- **Increasing Global Warming:** With the increasing population, the use of resources is hiking causing the incline in the emission of the CO<sub>2</sub>, the major gas responsible for the greenhouse effect and ultimately lead to the global warming. As per the article of the Scientific American<sup>2</sup>, it is stated that during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in which the population burst occurred, it made a boom in the carbon emission as well by 12- fold and continued that major developed countries with less population are more contributing in this. The following figure is explaining CO<sub>2</sub> emission by individual country.

## Top CO<sub>2</sub> Emitting Countries, 1750-2020

(from fossil fuels and cement)



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Data: Global Carbon Project via Our World in Data

- Elevated Crime rate:** an outcome of the above mentioned problems caused by overpopulation is high crime rate, as the population will grow, proportionally the resources will decline and in order to survive the competition will raise leading to the high crime rates. It is found that the cities with high population are more likely to have high crime when compared to the cities with less population density. The problem is majorly seen in the nation which are still developing as they are having less resources to fulfil the need of their population, and causing the crime to get those resources bring some social issues along with it like corruption, disturbing communal harmony, riots, war etc.

### Conclusion:

The problem of overpopulation is being the greatest threat to the human species which is taking them to the brink of extinction. The global distribution is also discussed in this paper so that we can understand the problems it creates globally. Several effects it has on the world which includes extinction of humans, food scarcity, inclining world's temperature and reduction of the available resources. After researching a lot about found out that all these reasons are somewhere interconnected to each other



making it easy to understand and learn about them. Like the increase in global warming is raising the temperature that much high that it causes draughts which ultimately affects the food production, similarly lack of natural resources is making people deprived of the basic amenities which they require for their survival which compel them either to fight for it or accept the fate and left to die. How because of overpopulation several issues are being created has lead to the elevation in the crimes among several cities of the world making the world even more unsafe. If the problem kept on increasing, one day the world is going to have a war over the basic living amenities and humans will be solely responsible for their own end.



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