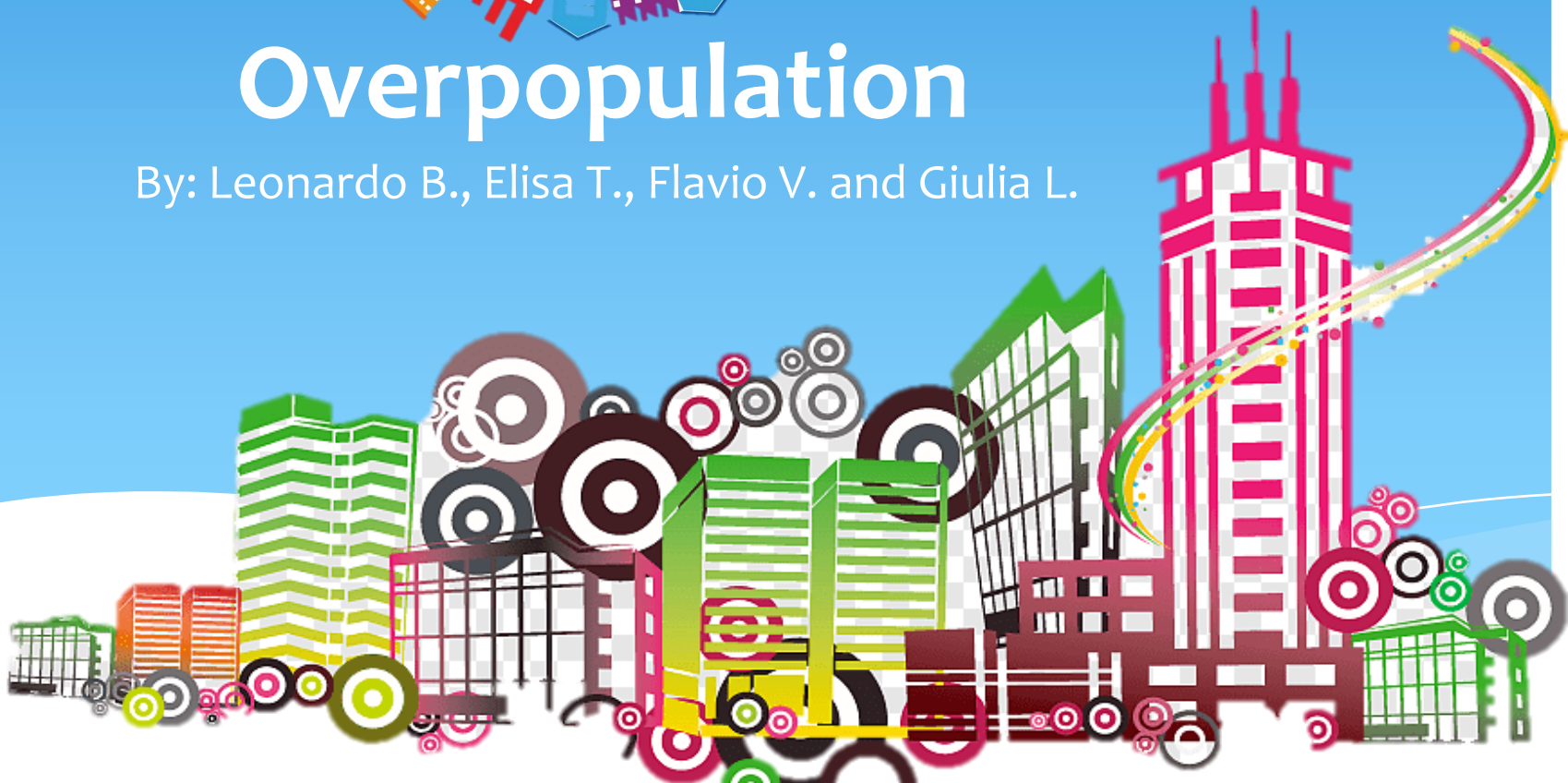




Overpopulation

By: Leonardo B., Elisa T., Flavio V. and Giulia L.



Introducing the topic

DEFINITION AND MEANING OF OVERPOPULATION

- * Overpopulation is the condition of being populated with excessively large numbers.
- * It refers to a population which exceeds its sustainable size within a particular environment. Therefore, overpopulation describes a situation in which the ecological footprint of a human population in a given ecosystem is larger than the carrying capacity of the habitat. This causes the damaging of the environment faster than it can be repaired by nature.

WHAT IS THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT?

- The ecological footprint measures the quantity of nature it takes to support people or an economy.
- It is a calculation of the human impact on Earth's ecosystem.



Current situation and future predictions

- * The current world population, as of May 2020, is 7.8 billion.
- * Many scientists think that planet Earth has a maximum carrying capacity of 9 billion to 10 billion people. The carrying capacity of the planet for humans has increased over time, especially with the development of agriculture and other technologies.
- * However, the population is expected to reach between 8 and 10.5 billion people between the years 2040 and 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100. Depending on which estimate is used, human overpopulation may have already occurred.



CAUSES

POVERTY:

- * The leading cause of overpopulation is poverty. Due to the lack of educational resources, coupled with higher birth rates, result in large booms in population. The poorest countries in the world are also likely to be the most populated.



CAUSES

CHILD LABOR:

- * Unfortunately, child labor is still used in many parts of the world. Approximately 150 million children are currently working. They often lose educational opportunities, particularly when it comes to birth control.

IMMIGRATION:

- * Immigration may lead to overpopulation, especially in countries where immigration numbers are higher than emigration ones.



EFFECTS/IMPACTS

EXHAUSTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

- * The main effect of overpopulation is the unequal and unrestrained use of resources. The planet has a limited capacity to generate raw materials and each year the natural resources deficit is reached earlier. This happens because resources are being consumed at a faster rate than the planet is able to generate them.



EFFECTS/IMPACTS

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT:

- * A high number of workers exist for a limited number of vacancies and this seems destined to lead to high rates of joblessness in the future. This in turn could provoke rising crime and social revolt.

DEGRADATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

- * The overuse of coal, oil and natural gas, has started producing some serious effects on our environment. The growth of the number of vehicles and industries has badly affected the quality of air. The huge amount of CO₂ emissions has led to global warming. The melting of polar ice caps, change in climate patterns, rise in sea level are a few of the consequences that we might have to face due to pollution.



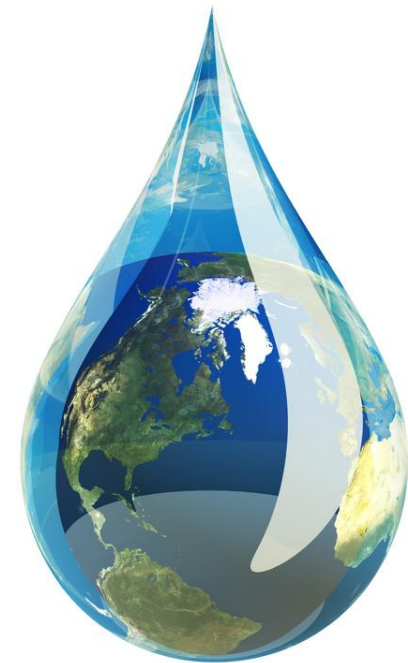
EFFECTS/IMPACTS

CONFLICTS AND WARS:

- * Overpopulation in developing countries puts a major strain on the resources that are being used for development. Conflicts over water are becoming a source of tension between countries, which could result in wars. This causes more diseases to spread and makes them harder to control. Starvation is a huge issue that the world is facing and the mortality rate for children is being fuelled by it.

HIGH COST OF LIVING:

- * As the difference between demand and supply continues to expand due to overpopulation, it raises the prices of various commodities including food, shelter and healthcare. This means that people have to pay more to survive and feed their families.



REDUCTION/PREVENTION

Possible solutions for the reduction of overpopulation are :

- * Have fewer children! One is good, two is enough.
- * Educate teenagers about sex and contraception at an early age, making education entertaining.
- * Restrict child marriage and raise the legal age of marriage (minimum 18 years)
- * Studies show that women with access to reproductive health services find it easier to break out of poverty, while those who work are more likely to use birth control. The United Nations Population Fund aims to tackle both issues at once.



REDUCTION/PREVENTION

- * Overpopulation will not decline unless average birth rates drop below an average of two per woman (or per man) in the world. And the further the birth rate drops, the sooner humanity will reach a truly sustainable population level.
- * 1 child per family would reduce the total population by over a billion people by 2070, back to about 6 billion. And by 2100 we would be below 4 billion, cutting our total human consumption by nearly half from its current levels.



EARTH DAY

- * Earth Day is an annual global event, observed on April 22nd, that celebrates the environmental movement and raises awareness about pollution and ways to maintain a clean habitat.
- * This year, the theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. The enormous challenge of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.
- * By following the afore mentioned solutions to stop overpopulation and many other environmental problems in the world, we can make earth day happen every single day and save the planet together.





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