

(a) Discuss policies that developing countries can use to reduce population growth.

General policies that aim at eliminating absolute poverty, lessening income inequalities, expanding educational opportunities, providing increased job opportunities, providing benefits of modern preventative medicine and public health programs, improving maternal and child health and providing a more equitable provision of other social services to wide segments of the population.

There are five more specific policies that developing countries can use to try to adopt a lower birth rate in the short run:

1. They can try to persuade people to have smaller families through the media and the educational process, both formal and informal education.
2. They can enhance family-planning programs to provide health and contraceptive services to encourage the desired behaviour.
3. They can deliberately manipulate economic incentives and disincentives for having children such as the reduction of maternity leave benefits, the reduction of financial incentives, or imposing penalties for having children beyond a certain number.
4. Governments can attempt to coerce people into having smaller families through the power of state legislation and penalties.
5. A policy to raise the social and economic status of women and hence create conditions favourable to delayed marriage and lower marital fertility.

(b) Outline what developed countries should do in the consumption of resources.

Developed countries must lower their own consumption demands and lifestyles so that these changes will free resources that could then be used by the poor nations to generate social and economic development essential to slowing economic growth.

(c) Explain how developed countries can assist developing countries to achieve population objectives.

Developed countries can assist developing countries by providing support which consists of more than expanded public and private financial assistance but also improve trade relations, such as tariff and quota free access to developed country markets, more appropriate technology transfers, assistance in developing indigenous scientific research capacities, better international commodity-pricing policies and a more equitable sharing of the world's resources.

Developed countries can also assist research into technology of fertility control such as the contraceptive pill and voluntary sterilisation procedures. They can also provide financial assistance for family planning programs, public education and national research activities.