

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a body of water. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, dreamy quality. The palm trees are lush green, and the water is a calm, light blue. The sky is bright and overcast.

# **Overpopulation in India**

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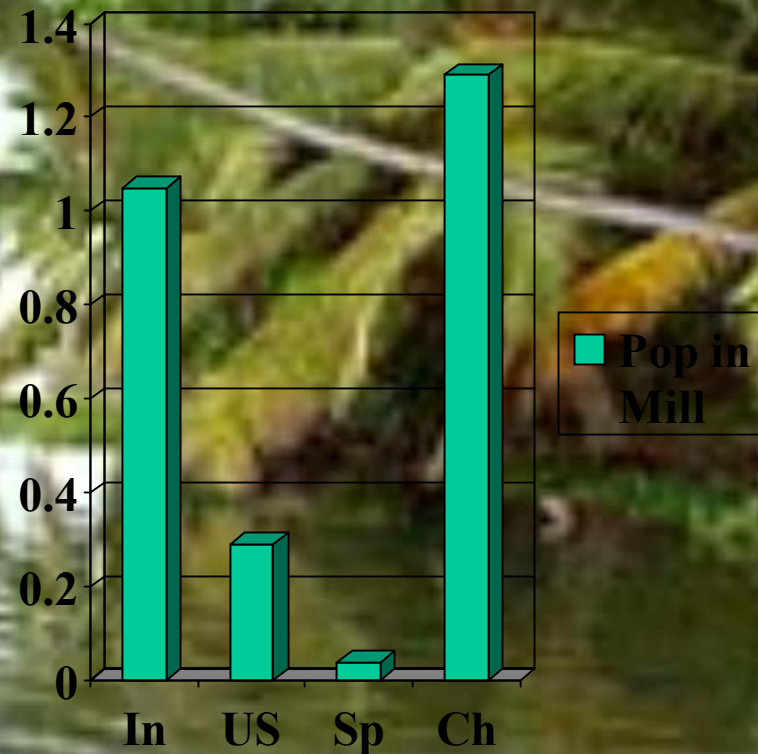
# The Basic Discussion

- **Present day statistics- World and India**
- **Brief History**
- **What is happening in India?**
  - **Economics**
  - **Education**
- **What are the consequences?**
- **Can we come up with a policy?**

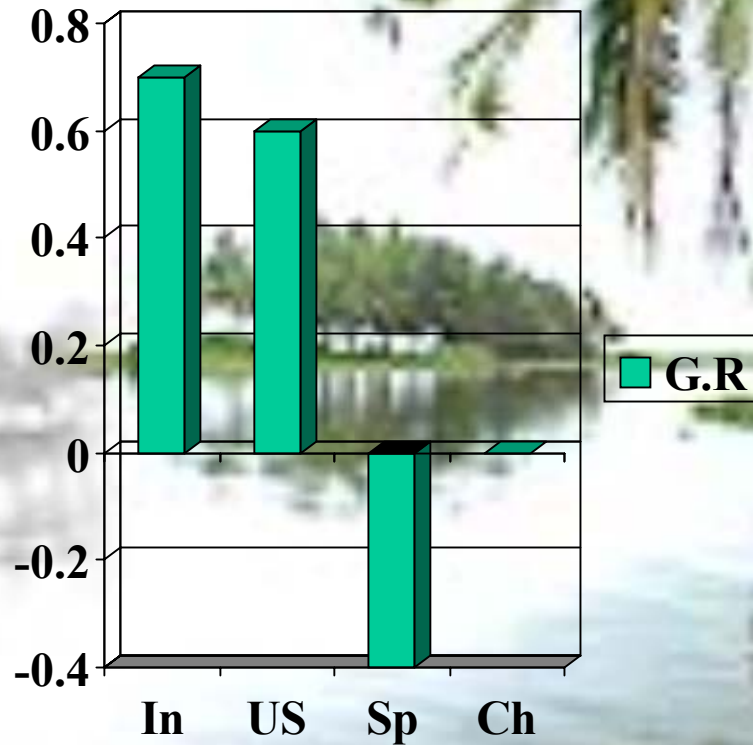


# Present Day Stats

- The year is 2003
- India covers only 2.4% of the world's surface area
- One person out of every 6 is Indian
- Consider Growth Rates...



# Present Day Stats (contd.)



- Even if India and US have similar growth rates the fact is a much larger base is producing the next generation.
- Density Issues- India 10 times as dense as US



# Population Map Of India-2001



## Legend

population between

- < 10million
- 10-50million
- 50-75million
- 75-100million
- > 100million



Map not to Scale

# The History

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a person walking. The background is a soft-focus image of a beach with several palm trees and a person walking in the distance. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

- **Pre-Independence**
  - Fairly stable
  - High Birth rates balanced by high Death rates
- **After independence (1947)**
  - Sudden increase in numbers
  - Mortality rates dropped without a matching drop in Birth rates
- **Birth rates continually dropping since 1966 and yet doesn't show that it's enough to deal with the problem**





# The Economics

A tropical landscape featuring several palm trees in the foreground and middle ground. In the background, there is a body of water, possibly a lagoon or a bay, with a small boat visible. The sky is bright and slightly hazy. The overall scene is lush and green.

- **Urban Poor – contribute most to population**
- **Urban Poor- maximum production of labour force**
- **Low income = more children; an inverse relationship**
- **Desire for male children**
  - **Security when parents get older**
  - **Female children considered a liability**



# Perception of the Child

- **Quantity of children versus Quality of children**
- **When production of a child becomes more of a source of an income rather than an investment.**



# Producing to Compensate



- **High child and infant mortality pre-independence**
- **Relatively high now but lower than survival rate.**
- **Fear of communicable diseases and child death**



# **The Economy's Role**

- **Economy is growing and has been for a while**
- **Growth in labour force due to previous generation.**
- **Kind of labour generated- unskilled/children**
- **Whom does it serve?**
- **Reinforcing the problem of population indirectly- a positive feedback mechanism**

# **Necessity of Education**

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a body of water. The palm trees are lush green and their fronds are reflected in the calm water. The sky is bright and clear.

- **Awareness**
  - **Contraceptives**
  - **Job opportunities**
  - **Medical services**
- **2 ways of education**
  - **Women**
  - **Children**



# **Women's Education**

- **Delay's marriage- reduces childbearing lifespan**
- **Acquisition of information**
- **Access to mass media**
- **Desire to move up in the economy**
- **Employment opportunities**
- **Removes perception of children's economic utility**

# **Women's Education (contd.)**

- **Reduces infant and child mortality-  
knowledge of medical services**
- **Self-efficacy**
- **Media to learn about family planning**



# Children's Education

- Education of children is financially taxing on the family
- Forces the child to become an investment rather than a source of income
- Incentive for families to pursue this?
  - Old age security
  - Tradition of children taking care of old parents made better because of better jobs and a better long term income

# The stats to support this?

- **Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the state- 90% also accompanied by the lowest child mortality rate and lowest growth rate**
- **Uttar Pradesh has one of the lowest literacy rates and the highest growth rates along with the highest mortality rates**



# Consequences of Overpopulation

- **India can't afford to have 1.5 billion people by 2040- we will still be only 2.4% of the world's surface- Space!**
- **Resources- e.g.: food**
  - **Distribution versus Availability**
  - **Snowball effect due economic inequality**
- **Urbanisation- Mutual Poisoning**



# Complications

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a wooden walkway. The background is a soft-focus image of a tropical beach with several palm trees and a wooden walkway leading towards the water. The sky is bright and slightly overcast.

- **Traditions**
- **Communication gap caused by the rift between social classes**
- **Communication within families**
- **The fact that India has a gradually decreasing growth rate does NOT help**
- **Where is the economy focused and what is that doing?**
- **Unequal allocation of resources**

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a person walking on the shore. The text is overlaid on the image.

# **Complications of Policy/planning and implementation**

- **Methods have not been very successful**
- **Do we want Sanjay Gandhi's method?**
- **Do we want a forceful/coercive one-child policy?**
- **Catering to grass root levels**
- **Undemocratic, discriminating plans**



# **Policy/Solution**

- **My theoretical solution- from E.F Schumacher's "Small is Beautiful"**
  - **Intermediate technology**
    - **Local materials, local skills, local labour**
  - **Reinforce need for local skill and therefore education**
  - **Prevents mutual poisoning**
  - **Helps build grass roots economy**



# Discussion

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a body of water. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, dreamy quality. The palm trees are lush green, and the water is a light blue-grey color. The sky is bright and overcast.

- **Policy that takes into account**
  - **Traditions**
  - **Economy**
  - **Rift between social classes**
  - **Need for education**