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Fair Start Background:

Policy Intervention, Ethical Foundation, Sociological
Underpinnings, Dynamics in the Family, and Child
Welfare Facts to Support the *Fair Start* Model

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Intervention

“A Global and Intergenerational Storm” from *Climate Change, Consumption and Intergenerational Justice: Lived Experiences in China, Uganda and the UK* by Kistina Diprose.

In her second chapter, Diprose addresses the struggle for intergenerational equity in the Anthropocene. She summarizes how we see the climate crisis progress, and the international community's efforts to address it. Diprose concludes by reflecting on intergenerational relationships in China, Uganda and the UK, and advocacy for effective justice for future generations.

“Annual energy consumption today is equivalent to each person on the planet having more than 100 full-time servants doing manual work on their behalf” (14).

Diprose argues that we must shift focus from countries who emit the most, and focus on which individual people emit the most. “We can attribute primary responsibility for climate change to the 500 million people who emit half of the world’s carbon, but not all of them live in the rich countries of the North” (23). Additionally, “in both China and the UK, the per capita carbon footprint of the richest 10 percent of households is at least four times higher than the bottom 50 percent ” (24) .

China’s family planning shifted towards child-centric values, as opposed to parent centered. *The Little Emperors Phenomenon*: “because of the shrinking number of children in each family due to the family planning policy introduced in the late 1970s, the previous parent-centred family pattern has dramatically transformed into a child-centred one” (29). Chinese cultural values about family and interdependence have been able to flourish in this model.

“A Global and Intergenerational Storm.” *Climate Change, Consumption and Intergenerational Justice: Lived Experiences in China, Uganda and the UK*, by Kristina Dirprose et al., 1st ed., Bristol University Press, Bristol, 2019, pp. 13–38. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvnp0m2d.7.

“Population growth” from *Thinking Beyond Sectors for Sustainable Development* by Susannah H. Mayhew and Tim Colbourn (2015)

Mayhew and Colbourn relay the history of population management in international law utilizing country-specific case studies and overall international coverage. They discuss how population growth was connected with poor economic development in the 1950s, which led to poorly implemented, harmful policy in many countries. To conclude, they review how the issue of population is currently addressed in international law.

Family planning programmes have historically focused on decreasing fertility in married women, which has led to coercive, inhumane and racist effects for women in those countries due to discounted demographics (37).

“Countries and regions where information and contraceptives were made available saw a moderate to rapid decline in the birth rate,” but “countries where many pregnancies remained unwanted and the birth rate did not fall are now seeing a growth of urban slums, a failure of the state to keep pace with educational demands and... continuing oppression of women” (40).

In 2008, “the use of modern methods of contraception in developing countries was responsible for averting 230,000 maternal deaths, equivalent to a 43 per cent reduction... larger numbers of abortions and miscarriages were also averted” (41). Greater gender equity, especially in education and professionalism, has been shown to increase interest in smaller family sizes and use of contraceptives (41).

Mayhew, Susannah H., and Tim Colbourn. “Population Growth.” *Thinking Beyond Sectors for Sustainable Development*, edited by Jeff Waage and Christopher Yap, Ubiquity Press, London, 2015, pp. 37–44. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv3t5rcm.13.

“Climate Change and Children’s Rights: An International Law Perspective”
***Climate Change: International Law and Global Governance: Volume I: Legal Responses and Global Responsibility* by Oliver C. Ruppel, Christian Roschmann and Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting (2013)**

This chapter examines the treatment of children by the international community. Children are the primary victim of climate change, and international law must address that issue. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the League of Nations in 1924, Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959 are both international legislation for the protection of children. *Children are the most vulnerable population affected by climate change* because of four main reasons: “physiological and cognitive development and innate curiosity” leave them exposed to environmental factors, the main killers of young children are caused or exacerbated by climate change, countries with the highest proportion of children will be the most significantly impacted by climate change, and climate strife will have more impactful psychological effects on children. “Although international law... provides a solid legal framework to protect children, children’s rights remain at risk, not least because of the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms (374).

Ruppel-Schlichting, Katharina, et al. “Climate Change and Children’s Rights: An International Law Perspective.” *Climate Change: International Law and Global Governance: Volume I: Legal Responses and Global Responsibility*, edited by Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting et al., 1st ed., Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft MbH, Baden-Baden, 2013, pp. 349–378. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv941w8s.17.

“Population and the Economy: The Ups and Downs of One and Two” from *Control*, by Jane Golley (2017)

Golley explores the relationship between economic growth and population management, focusing on the One Child Policy in China. Golley begins with the positive sides of declining

population, and then the negatives, including nonconsensual abortion, infant femicide, and the male-heavy sex ratio.

Evidence shows that the potential demographic positive connected to the transition towards slower fertility and population growth and a growing share of the population engaged in the work-force can be substantial for economic growth (80). This transition explains as much as one quarter of China's income growth per capita since the 1980s (80).

Mao Zedong favored a large population growth rate, but the "improvements in health care, female education, life expectancy, and infant mortality" (80), led to rapidly declining population growth in the first 30 years of Chinese communism until Mao recognized the need for reproductive policy. The highlights of the One Child Policy and higher per capita earnings include higher quality nutrition, increased levels of education, and higher quality of living; additionally, the policy has saved about 1.3 billion tonnes of Carbon Dioxide between 1989 and 2013 (81).

Golley, Jane, et al. "Population and the Economy: The Ups and Downs of One and Two" from *Control*, by Jane Golley." *Control*, ANU Press, Australia, 2017, pp. 75–94. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1sq5tvf.11.

"Human population reduction is not a quick fix for environmental problems" by Corey J. A. Bradshaw and Barry W. Brook, Edited by Paul R. Elrich (2014)

Bradshaw and Brook inquire about the constraints of increasing population moving into 2100. By comparing population control strategies and success over time, the authors found that there is no way to significantly decrease population in this century. However, according to this research, policies to decrease population control are still worth it in damage control for future generations.

With a universal one-child policy and catastrophic mortality, world population would probably "likely result in 5–10 billion people by 2100" (Abstract).

"Enforcing a one child per female policy worldwide by 2045 and without improving survival resulted in a peak population size of 7.95 billion in 2037, 7.59 billion by 2050, and a rapid reduction to 3.45 billion by 2100" (Results).

"... our model comparisons reveal that effective family planning and reproduction education worldwide have great potential to reduce the size of the human population and alleviate pressure on resource availability over the long term, in addition to generating other social advantages, such as fewer abortions, miscarriages, and lower maternal mortality" (Discussion).

The article concludes by stating that although population growth is unavoidable, there is no "excuse for neglecting ethical measures for fertility reduction now; it could avoid millions of deaths by midcentury and possibly keep the planet more habitable for *Homo sapiens* in the next" (Conclusion).

Bradshaw A. and Brook W., "Human population reduction is not a quick fix for environmental problems," <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1410465111>

Ethics

“Procreation, Adoption and the Contours of Obligation” by Travis N. Rieder (2015)

Rieder evaluates the validity of the Anti-Natal Pro-Adoption (ANPA) viewpoint, which holds that the will to procreate can only be fulfilled responsibly through adoption. Rieder ultimately concludes that ANPA has many truisms, but does not account for intercourse in extraneous circumstances, nor does it reflect the procreator’s wish for gestation. Therefore, Rieder argues that it is morally acceptable to have children naturally so long as the parents are cognizant of the consequences of the action, and their natural kin are limited. In these cases, the parents would fill the rest of their *child-raising* needs through adoption.

There are no moral reasons to procreate, given that the potential to be a fulfilled human is not relevant if that person is not born, and the incredible risk of suffering is moot.

“Our current population has far exceeded what the earth could sustain if everyone ate and otherwise consumed as we privileged folks do” (295). With more than seven billion people on the planet, additional wealthy, new first-world lives are only sustainable if the rest of humanity suffers to compensate for first-world wants (295).

“The decision not to have a child is estimated to be nearly twenty times more effective at reducing one’s environmental impact than the summed total of many other ‘green’ actions, such as driving a hybrid car, recycling, and using energy-efficient appliances” (295).

The Rescue Principle holds that, ‘when the loss to another is so great and the cost of rescue to the agent so small in comparison, then we morally ought to provide rescue (296), which Rieder supports with exception.

Most people agree that a fetus in *Not Worth Living* in extreme and dire circumstances, but Rieder also advocates for *Sad Worth Living* cases, which also present a moral case not to have children if that child is more likely to be *Sad* (298).

Rieder, N. “Procreation, Adoption and the Contours of Obligation.” *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, vol. 32, no. 3, 2015, pp. 293–309. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/26813113.

Sociology of Population

“Revisiting the Environmental and Socioeconomic Effects of Population Growth: a Fundamental but Fading Issue in Modern Scientific, Public, and Political Circles” by Camilo Mora (2014)

Mora reviews the history of overpopulation in academia and media, and argues that population control is crucial moving forward. Her evidence includes public debt, welfare, biodiversity loss and climate change. According to Mora, public education, media coverage, and academic focus can help resolve this issue by diminishing our predominantly pro-natal culture.

“The share of international funding on family planning has dropped to ~5% in 2007 from ~55% in 1995” (4).

Rapid population growth increases the proportion of the world population that is impoverished, which makes poverty that much harder to relieve, and increasing global wealth inequality. Increased poverty has a devastating impact on women specifically, and increases fertility (5).

Government welfare programs, including healthcare, do not expand as needed for our population growth rate (5).

Global demand for food is forecast to increase between 70% and 100% by 2050 due to increased population (6). Increasing demand is concerning for several reasons:

1. The supply of nature’s freshwater is fixed.
2. More than 65% of the world’s continental water discharges are threatened by human activity.
3. Agriculture uses 70% of the world’s water withdrawals
4. 70% of the Earth’s suitable area for food production is already in use or cannot be used.
5. There is ongoing shifting of farmland to the production of more lucrative biofuels
6. Climate change will devastate agriculture.

“According to the United Nations Population Fund, ~215 million women lack but want access to family planning, which in turn leads to ~76 million unwanted pregnancies worldwide annually; averting such births would reduce population growth by ~20%” (6).

Solutions from Mora include *empowering women, reproductive education, providing affordable family planning, subsidies that promote natality, and public attention.*

Mora, C. 2014. Revisiting the environmental and socioeconomic effects of population growth: a fundamental but fading issue in modern scientific, public, and political circles. *Ecology and Society* 19(1): 38. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-06320-190138>

Population Control Policies and Fertility Convergence by Tiloka de Silva and Silvana Tenreyro

Silva and Tenreyro examine the role of family planning policy in fertility rates, both on global and situated scales. While their statistics demonstrate many aspects of fertility, I am particularly interested in the effects of media portrayal and family planning.

The least successful cases of family planning funding and accessibility to contraceptives are in areas with the highest rates of Roman-Catholicism and Islam practiced (212).

Increased access to contraceptives proved insufficient to lower fertility to the desired levels; instead, altering social norms to reflect small families aided in bringing down fertility rates completely (211). Indonesia had a successful pamphlet entitled “Views of Religions on Family Planning,” which included the perspectives on family planning from Catholic and Protestant Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism (212). Many other countries in Asia and Latin America released similar media campaigns.

De Silva, Tiloka, and Silvana Tenreyro. "Population Control Policies and Fertility Convergence." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 31, no. 4, 2017, pp. 205–228. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/44425388.

Empowering Women through Education and Influence: An Evaluation of the Indian *Mahila Samakhya* Program by Mary Arends-Kuenning (2012)

While observing the effects of a community-level female empowerment program in North India, Arends-Kuenning finds that the empowerment of women, defined by freedoms, ownership, and participation and representation.

"Gender empowerment also has important ramifications for the rest of the household; empowered women have fewer children and higher child survival rates (Rosenzweig and Schultz, 1982; Dyson and Moore, 1983), healthier and better-fed children (Lundberg, Pollak and Wales, 1997; Kanbur and Haddad, 1994), and a generally greater allocation of resources to children (Thomas, 1990; Handa, 1996). Development programs have aimed to empower women by increasing their control over contraceptive choices, by providing them access to credit, and through education" (3).

Additionally, in Bangladesh, studies have also found a positive link between empowerment and contraceptive use (9).

Kandpal, Eeshani & Baylis, Kathy & Arends-Kuenning, Mary. (2012). Empowering Women Through Education and Influence: An Evaluation of the Indian Mahila Samakhya Program

Family Institution

"Parenthood and Happiness: Effects of Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in 22 OECD Countries" by Jennifer Glass, Robin W. Simon and Matthew A Andersson (2017)

Glass et al propose that parents are less happy than nonparents in the US relative to other English speaking countries, due to lack of social support in the form of general welfare policies. Policy support is defined by a *Comprehensive Policy Index* as paid childbearing leave, paid vacation and sick days, flexibility in work hours and schedule, and child care assistance. While they acknowledge that many factors can be responsible for the happiness level of parents and nonparents in the US, lack of proper policy support for parents is certainly a reasonable (partial) explanation for the stress, dread, and pressure experienced by parents.

"Abundant research shows a significant negative association between parenthood and emotional well-being in developed countries" (3).

The increasing instances of voluntarily not having children suggests that many adults currently view parenthood as unnecessary, especially if they do not have access to financial and emotional resources (4). Decreased family size among those not procreating suggest that many parents no longer view having children as a necessity for happiness, and may now see procreation as a detriment to happiness (4). The dominant

explanation of the parenthood gap in emotional well-being comes from theories of stress and mental health (4).

As opposed to well-off parents, disadvantaged parents usually cope with the additional “stress of living in unsafe neighborhoods with under-resourced schools as well as insufficient food and inadequate child and healthcare for their offspring,” due to systemic failures (4).

Glass, Jennifer et al. “Parenthood and Happiness: Effects of Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in 22 OECD Countries.” *AJS; American journal of sociology* vol. 122,3 (2016): 886-929. doi:10.1086/688892

“The Changing Association Among Marriage, Work, and Child Poverty in the United States, 1974–2010” by Regina S. Baker (2015)

In this article, Baker shows the association between marriage and child poverty has weakened over time, whereas the association between work and poverty has gotten stronger. These findings “suggest the limitations of overemphasizing marriage and the growing importance of work for reducing child poverty in America” (1166). Baker concludes that the greatest reduction in child poverty and increased worker and child welfare is through healthy government support policy.

Baker, Regina S. “The Changing Association Among Marriage, Work, and Child Poverty in the United States, 1974–2010.” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 77, no. 5, 2015, pp. 1166–1178., www.jstor.org/stable/2458272

Fact Sheets

The AFCARS Report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (2019)

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	63%	158,258
Drug Abuse (Parent)	34%	86,694
Caretaker Inability To Cope	14%	34,594
Physical Abuse	13%	32,008
Housing	10%	25,658
Child Behavior Problem	8%	20,871
Parent Incarceration	7%	17,669
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	5%	13,637
Abandonment	5%	11,424
Sexual Abuse	4%	9,782
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	5,500
Child Disability	2%	3,969
Relinquishment	1%	2,350
Parent Death	1%	2,141
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	991

423,997 children were estimated to be in foster care. 251,359 children were estimated to have entered foster care in this fiscal year.

The most common reason for a child's removal from the home was neglect.

NOTE: These categories are not mutually exclusive, so percentages will total more than 100% and counts will be more than the total number of entries.

UNICEF Data on Child

Displacement (2019):

Nearly 33 million children have been forcibly displaced globally by the end of 2019, including 12.6 million child refugees, nearly 1.5 million asylum-seeking children, and about 19.4 million children displaced domestically due to unsafe conditions. Another 2.1 million more children have been displaced domestically as a consequence of natural disasters.

“Children make up less than one third of the global population, but they were 50 per cent of the world’s refugees in 2019.”

“Nearly 1 in 3 children living outside their countries of birth are child refugees; for adults, the proportion is less than 1 in 20.”

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/displacement/>

“Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates” by Susan Hillis, PhD, MSN, James Mercy, PhD, Adaugo Amobi, MD, MPH, Howard Kress, PhD (2016)

Thirty-eight reports provided quality data for 96 countries on past-year prevalences of violence against children.

Base case estimates showed a minimum of 50% or more of children in Asia, Africa, and Northern America experienced past-year violence, and that globally over half of all children—1 billion children, ages 2–17 years—experienced such violence.

Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, Kress H. Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates. *Pediatrics*. 2016 Mar;137(3):e20154079. doi: 10.1542/peds.2015-4079. Epub 2016 Jan 25. PMID: 26810785; PMCID: PMC6496958.