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**Matric Number: 19/MHS01/271**

**Overpopulation in the Society and its Consequences**

Human overpopulation is among the most pressing environmental issues, silently aggravating the forces behind global warming, environmental pollution, habitat loss, intensive farming practices and the consumption of finite natural resources, such as fresh water, arable land and fossil fuels, at speeds faster than their rate of regeneration. However, ecological issues are just the beginning. In the next paragraphs I will explain a few other problems including the issue of increased emergence of Pandemics which we are sadly bearing the consequences of currently.

I would like to start with the issue which I feel will be the deadliest for us all in the nearest future and which has a possibility of affecting us, as Africans more than any other culture or there I say, continent in the world and that is, Increased global warming and climate change.

It is common knowledge that global warming directly causes climate change and climate change can cause changes in agriculture and farming. Unlike other continents, Africa is at a higher risk than the others simply because of our gross level of uneducated people which is the highest in the world. We simply don’t know the risk, and even if we did, we would have no way to implement the solutions in time because of our neglect, which has been going on for too long. I would like to highlight another issue which is habitat loss in the next paragraph.

Human overpopulation is a major driving force behind the loss of ecosystems, such as rainforests, coral reefs, wetlands and Arctic ice. Rainforests once covered 14% of the Earth's land surface, now they cover a bare 6% and experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years and certainly by the end of the century at the current rate of deforestation. Due mainly to warming temperatures, acidifying oceans and pollution, close to 30% of the ocean’s reefs have already vanished since 1980, including half of the reefs in the Caribbean and 90% of the Philippines’ coral reefs,  and scientists forecast that Australia’s Great Barrier Reef may be dead by the year 2050 and all coral reefs could be gone by the end of the century. Furthermore, the area of permanent ice cover is now declining at a rate of 11.5% per decade, relative to the 1979 to 2000 average. If this trend continues, summers in the Arctic could become ice-free in as few as 4 years or in the next 30 years. Wetlands are increasingly under threat in the United States, but also all over the world. In the U.S., less than half of original wetlands remain with 53% being lost, which is about 104 million acres. In Europe, between 60% and 70% of wetlands have been completely destroyed. As human populations continue to grow, so will our footprint on the interconnected, ecological infrastructures of life. I would like to touch one more issue before providing solutions to the major problem which is, overpopulation and that issue is elevated crime rate.

As human overpopulation drives resources and basic necessities, such as food and water, to become scarcer, there will be increased competitiveness for these resources which leads to elevated crime rates due to drug cartels and theft by people in order to survive. As Aisha Tariq of the Pakistan Times states, "It has been observed that the countries which have balanced population, crime rate is very low in such regions. When people are not provided with the basic necessities, it elevates crime rate. This essay would not be complete without giving a general solution every country can accept and I shall do that in the next paragraph.

In order to reduce the adverse impacts of overpopulation, mitigation measures, such as spreading awareness and education about overpopulation, enacting birth control measures and regulations, and providing universal access to birth control devices and family planning, must be taken. In countries like China, the government has put policies in place that regulate the number of children allowed to a couple, and some leaders and environmentalists are suggesting that the United Nations implement a China-like one-child policy globally to help control and reduce overpopulation gradually.