CHAPTER - IX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The world's population has more than tripled since 1958. On Monday, October 31, 2011, our world's population hit the milestone of 7 billion people -- up from 2.5 billion in 1950 -- with almost all of the growth expected to happen in the cities of less developed countries. This means that the problems the world faced when I was a child are even more urgent now for my grandchildren.

If fertility rates continue at expected levels, the world's population is likely to reach 10.1 billion in the next 90 years. Based on conservative estimates, the number of people in the world should pass 8 billion in 2023, 9 billion by 2041 and 10 billion at some point after 2081.

And the population explosion, though it is slowing, is far from over. Not only are people living longer, but so many women across the world are now in their childbearing years—1.8 billion—that the global population will keep growing for another few decades at least, even though each woman is having fewer children than she would have had a generation ago.

Moreover in 1798, the same year that Malthus published his dyspeptic tract, his compatriot Edward Jenner described a vaccine for smallpox—the first and most important in a series of vaccines and antibiotics that, along with better nutrition and sanitation, would double life expectancy in the industrializing countries, from 35 years to 77 today.

After World War II the developing countries got a sudden transfusion of preventive care, with the help of institutions like the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Penicillin, the smallpox vaccine, DDT (which, though later controversial, saved millions from dying of malaria)—all arrived at once. In India life expectancy went from 38 years in 1952 to 64 today; in China, from 41 to 73.
When child mortality declines, couples eventually have fewer children—but that transition usually takes a generation at the very least. Today in developed countries, an average of 2.1 births per woman would maintain a steady population; in the developing world, “replacement fertility” is somewhat higher. In the time it takes for the birthrate to settle into that new balance with the death rate, population explodes. Demographers call this evolution - the demographic transition. All countries go through it in their own time. It’s a hallmark of human progress.

One of the best ways to ensure that the 7 billionth child born will live in a safe, healthy and sustainable world is to focus on what women want and need. Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute found there are 215 million women worldwide who want the ability to time and space their pregnancies, but do not have access to effective methods of contraception. Women want to be able to deliver children safely and provide for them.

South of the Sahara, fertility is still five children per woman; in Niger it is seven. But then, 17 of the countries in the region still have life expectancies of 50 or less; they have just begun the demographic transition. In most of the world, however, family size has shrunk dramatically.

According to the World Health Organization, in developing countries, pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death among women in their reproductive years. In the developed world, one out of 4,300 women will die as a consequence of pregnancy. That number is one in 31 in sub-Saharan Africa, and a staggering one out of eight women dies giving birth in Afghanistan. The real tragedy is the fact that one-third of these deaths could be prevented if women had access to voluntary family planning.

9.2 SUMMARY

China copes with promise and perils of one-child policy

China's one-child policy, implemented in the late 1970s, has prevented an estimated 400 million births in the country.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

1. If not for China's one-child policy, world population would have hit 7 billion five years ago
2. Fertility rates in China, the world's most populous nation, are declining
3. Supporters of the policy say it helped spur China's double-digit economic growth.

4. Policy's unintended consequences include female infanticide, lopsided sex ratio.

5. The sex ratio for 0-6 age group is similar to India. China is facing a lopsided sex ratio in infants and young children. According to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, for every 100 Chinese girls born, there are about 123 boys. The global norm is about 100 to 103-106. At that rate, China is likely to have 30 million unmarried men by 2020.

China holds the largest population on earth with 1.34 billion people, but will not for long, as the fertility level has been declining for years. Since the Chinese government adopted its so-called "family planning policy" three decades ago, China has limited couples to one child, with few exceptions. Those who broke the rule were slapped with heavy fines or were forced to abort pregnancies. Since 1979, experts at the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China say, the policy has prevented more than 400 million births in the country.

Why was the draconian policy necessary? Proponents rationalized it as an emergency measure to curb the large number of births expected from the baby boomers of the 1960s.

A Canadian demographer says supporters of the policy now cite the double-digit economic growth rate since 1979 as the so-called "demographic dividend. If population control had not been enforced, China would most likely be economically and socially worse off today. The population policy might have also helped girls and women get ahead, as a survey by the All-China Women's Federation and the National Bureau of Statistics found.

But the policy has also brought about a list of unintended socio-economic consequences. China's one-child policy has been blamed for abuses, including female infanticide and forced abortions and sterilizations.

Chinese traditionally prefer boys over girls because they are seen as more able to provide for the family and carry on the family line. As a result, the practice of aborting female fetuses or abandoning infant girls still continues today in rural areas.

This remains a sensitive topic in China, poignantly depicted in Mo Yan's "Frog," a novel about a midwife in rural China and her experiences with forced abortions and sterilizations. Mo recently won China's prestigious Mao Dun
literary award—a potential indication that China has become more open to talking about the issue.

The unusually rapid decline in fertility has also produced a rapidly aging population. Two decades ago, demographers say, the share of China's population aged 60 and above was only 7.6%. That has risen to 10.5%, according to China's 2000 census, and has now reached around 12%, or 167 million.

By 2025, demographers predict, one in five Chinese who live in urban areas will be 60 or older. By 2050, there would be only 1.6 working-age adults for every person aged 60 and above. That means a heavy dependency ratio.

In 10 years, the 20-24 age population is expected to comprise of only half of today's 124 million. Experts say this could cripple the health care and social insurance system with fewer young people taking care of the aging population. If the government does not change its policies, experts say, China's population could become old before it becomes rich.

Canadian demographer Aprodicio Laquian says the Chinese authorities are aware of these unintended consequences of their population policies and are committed to dealing with the situation. It is anticipated that China's strict population control program will most likely be relaxed as the objective situation changes.

9.3 CONCLUSION

Young people 'more likely to reach 100 years old' – The Demographics of Aging.

In this Final Chapter important aspects are summarized and conclusions mentioned.

By 2066 it is estimated there will be at least half-a-million people aged over 100. Today's 20-year-olds are three times more likely to live to 100 than their grandparents and twice as likely as their parents, official figures show.

And a baby born in 2011 is almost eight times more likely to reach their 100th birthday than one born 80 years ago. According to the statistics, a girl born this year has a one-in-three chance of reaching 100 years old and boys have a one-in-four chance.
And the explosion, though it is slowing, is far from over. Not only are people living longer, but so many women across the world are now in their childbearing years—1.8 billion—that the global population will keep growing for another few decades at least, even though each woman is having fewer children than she would have had a generation ago.

After World War II the developing countries got a sudden transfusion of preventive care, with the help of institutions like the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Penicillin, the smallpox vaccine, DDT (which, though later controversial, saved millions from dying of malaria)—all arrived at once. In India life expectancy went from 38 years in 1952 to 64 today; in China, from 41 to 73.

**China's Aging Population**

The Chinese population is rapidly aging, due to a lower mortality rate and the one child policy. This will lead to a pension problem for the Chinese government and may reduce China's ability to compete in the future. At the same time, this creates a growing market for healthcare products and services in China.

Advances in healthcare and nutrition, combined with the one child policy, have led to rapid aging of China's population. Just as the rise of the Baby Boomers had placed an indelible mark on the U.S. economy, China's demographic shift to an older society will have a profound impact on the Chinese economy and investment opportunities in China. Western pharmaceutical manufacturers may be able to sell more offerings for older adults in China, while the Chinese government may need to alter its budgetary policy to accommodate heightened expenses.

One of the key factors in China’s population spurt, from slightly more than 500 million in 1949 to its present population (as of mid-2007) of 1.32 billion is its rapidly falling mortality rate. This increase in lifespan and the aging of China's population with over 11% of the population over the age of 65 in 2020, has future implications in healthcare costs, pensions, and the capacity of its workforce. Recently to fight this trend Shanghai (the largest city in China) reversed its one child policy.
9.4 LIMITATIONS

In this study we have covered data collected by International Organizations and Government of India or directly sponsored by them. Apart from such studies some none Governmental Agencies also do surveys on Health related matters, which was included in this thesis.

Here perhaps some other things may be included, such as a section of other topics that could be studied for which some surveys are conducted by other non Governmental agencies, for example the Global Tobacco Survey (GATS). The use of tobacco use from the West to other parts of the world especially among the disadvantages groups, raises concerns not only about the indisputable harm to global health but also about worsening health inequality. The study results showed that social and economic patterns of cigarette adoption across low and middle income nations foretell continuing, and perhaps widening disparities in mortality. This needs to be studied for the Indian sub-continent.

A note on some of the data on China may perhaps be included here for comparison.

It may be denoted that INDIA has a **Demographic Dividend** as the working group population age 16-64 against nonworking population aged 0-15 (young) and old age group 64+. In the West and in China also, the population in the age group 64+ is going to be much larger in comparison to the working group.

The **population pyramids** vary by geography of the world. A wide base and narrow top characterize population s with a high birthrate and high death rate. As conditions improve, the death rate declines, and the pyramid tiers for older ages begin to fill out. A population with fewer children emerges as the birthrate falls, life expectancy increases. In aging population such as in Japan and China, annual deaths may exceed births, without immigration, population may fall.

9.5 FUTURE SCOPE OF RESEARCH

By 2100, we could have nearly 50% more people on this planet than we did at the beginning of the century, competing for the same food, water, space and attention. Close to a billion people go hungry each day. Decades from now, there will likely be two billion more mouths to feed, mostly in poor countries. The scope of demographic research will increase exponentially.
The United Nations (UN) projects that the world will reach replacement fertility by 2030. “The population as a whole is on a path toward non-explosion—which is good news.”

Universal access to voluntary family planning is a cross-cutting and cost-effective solution to achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). In addition to reducing maternal mortality, providing voluntary family planning methods and education enables young women to avoid early pregnancy, allows more girls to attend school longer, makes it possible for women to have fewer, healthier children and helps break the inter-generational cycle of poverty. Additionally, it would reduce HIV transmission, empower women to pursue income-generating activities in their communities and promote environmental sustainability.

Focusing on these needs is also a smart investment. There is no better value for the money than international family planning, which provides a higher return on investment than almost any other type of development assistance. Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute have found that providing quality reproductive health care and modern contraceptives to all women who want and need them reduces the cost of maternal and newborn care for each dollar invested, resulting in a net total savings of $1.5 billion.

Despite the low cost and many benefits of voluntary family planning, world leaders have not consistently made funding for these programs a priority. The current economic climate has forced Congress to take a long, hard look at its spending and rightly make some tough choices. However, far too often in this debate, the needs of women and children are the first items heaped onto the chopping block.

Two of the most disturbing and shortsighted of the foreign aid budget cuts for 2012 are those in funding for international family planning and the U.N. Population Fund. The fund is an agency focused on assisting governments in delivering quality sexual and reproductive health care -- including voluntary family planning -- throughout the life cycle of women across the globe who want and need it.

The investments we make today will shape the world we leave the next generation. If the United States wants to maintain its global leadership role, we must be thinking and making smart investments that will help us address both current and future responsibilities. The best way to do this is to listen to women and fund international family planning. Our future depends on it.

Demographic factors have also played a key role in explaining how the world survived the population bomb. The three major demographic factors are: urbanization, fertility decline and investment in children. The world in 2011 is
much more urban than it was 50 years ago. The population explosion has mainly been absorbed in cities and towns, not in rural areas. Fertility decline was obviously fundamental to surviving the population bomb, since it is the reason world population growth has declines rapidly since the 1960s.

Looking at the TFRs for the different regions, East Asia, led by China, has the largest declines, falling below replacement fertility by the 1990s. The TFR in South-Central Asia, dominated by India, fell below 2.8 by 2010. Africa has had a later and slower decline, with a TFR around 5 in 2010. The period from 1960 to 2010 was surely the fastest fertility decline the world will ever see. (D. Lam, Demography). This fertility decline alone would make the last 50 years on of the most exceptional periods in demographic history, even in the absence of unprecedented population growth.

**In a nutshell…**

What's it like to be a woman today? On Thursday, March 8, 2012, the world marked International Women's Day, first observed more than 100 years ago.

Decades later, I took a look at how women fare in the areas of education, jobs and more, and how American women compare with others around the world:

**Health and well-being**

86 years -- The average life expectancy for a woman in Japan, the longest in the world
81 years -- The average life expectancy for a woman in the United States
44 years -- The average life expectancy for women in Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, the shortest in the world
16.5 million -- The approximate number of women living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, 50% of the total number
59% -- The percentage of HIV-positive adults in Sub-Saharan Africa who are female, approximately 12.9 million people
0.1% -- The percentage of HIV-positive adults in North America who are female,
54% -- The percentage of U.S. women who died of heart disease, cancer and strokes in 2007 out of all causes -- approximately 658,000 people
177 -- Number of countries that provide paid maternity leave
0 -- Amount of paid maternity leave guaranteed in the United States

**Labor and employment**
91% -- The percentage of a man's paycheck that a woman in Sweden earns, working in manufacturing
57% -- The percentage of a man's paycheck that a woman in South Korea earns, working in manufacturing
81% -- The percentage of a man's paycheck that a woman in the United States earns, in all fields
58% -- The percentage of U.S. women who participate in the work force, up from 33% in 1950
0 -- Number of female CEOs in the top 20 companies on the Fortune 500

**Education**

86% -- The percentage of girls enrolled in primary school worldwide
39 million -- Number of girls worldwide who are not in school, 54% of the total number of children
850,000 -- Number of girls in North America and Western Europe not in school
510 million -- Number of illiterate women worldwide, two-thirds of the total number of illiterate people
87% -- Percentage of U.S. women who have at least a high school diploma
28% -- Percentage of U.S. women who have at least a college degree

**Politics**

95 -- The number of women serving in the 112th Congress in the United States
17% -- The percentage of U.S. Congress members who are female
56% -- The percentage of Rwanda's parliament who are female
2 -- The number of countries that allowed women to vote in 1911
2 -- The number of countries that prohibit women from voting in 2012 (Saudi Arabia and Vatican City).

In future, I would like to study the effects of demographic programs that benefit women world-wide and the progress of women in general.

According to 2012 UNDP report, in India the mortality rate for females is higher during childhood and the child bearing age (upto age 49). After that the male mortality rate is higher leading to higher life expectancy for women.
Particularly, per the 2011 Indian census, the sex ratio of female child is 914 compared to 1,000 male child (age group 0-6 years). So a study on the life and health of an Indian woman (upto age 49) is an important factor for further study.

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