THE POPULATION PROBLEM IN EGYPT

Egypt is suffering from an acute population problem. The rapid population growth   constitutes a challenge obstacle to the country's social and economic development. The population problem in Egypt has two main aspects.   The first is connected to the rapid growth of the population. The second is connected to the pattern of the distribution of the population in the country

Rapid Population Growth:
About 46% of the population in Egypt is rural and favors high fertility and the total fertility rate in Egypt is 3.5. The real reason behind the rapid population growth is a declining death rate, and a constantly high birth rate.

This means that Egypt is now in the heart of a transitory demographic stage. It progresses towards the stage of maturity at which the birth rate goes down and the death rate reaches its usual minimum

A reading of the population census since 1897 indicates: that Egypt's population has doubled in the first half of the 20th century, increasing from 10 million to 20 million by the middle of the century, and doubling once again to 40 million in 1978

This means that it took 50 years for the population to double first, then only 20 years to double again. If our population goes on increasing at   the   same rate, it is expected to reach 90   million by the year 2020.

The pattern of the distribution of the population in the country:

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The total area of Egypt amounts to 998,000 square Kilometers of which only about 45, 000 kilometers are inhabited at present (About 4% of the total area). In over populated areas in Cairo like Bab El-Sharia and Rod EL-Farag, the density reaches more than100, 000 persons per Square Kilometer. Overall density in Cairo is 30,000 persons per Square Kilometer.

Until now the country could not utilize the manpower resources in the productive age and the population problem has precipitated a problem of low income. The redistribution of the population is not a substitute to decreasing the birth rate, but a complementary solution.

Solution of the population problem in Egypt;
Both aspects complement each other and therefore parallel and integrated plans should be drawn up to solve both problems.

I- Socioeconomic Development; (long term solution)

Improving and increasing educational facilities.

Providing more employment for women.

Increasing agricultural mechanization.

Increasing industrialization.

Increasing social security.

Reducing infant mortality.

II- Fertility Regulation (short term solution)

Birth control is the imperative short-term solution of the problem:

Broadening family planning information.

Improving family planning services.

N.B

- Currently by the end of the year 2004,the number of the population is about 71 million.
- Egypt's population still grow each year by approximately 1.5 million people, grow from 62.3 million in 1995 to 95.6 million by 2026 and will reach 114.8 million before it stabilizes in the year 2065- an increase of approximately 84.4 percent over the current total

- The national council for population has developed a strategic plan for population from 2007 to 2017 aims to achieve the total fertility rate the distribution of the given population with respect to age and sex
- Stage I demographic transition(high stationary) is characterized by very high birth rate and very high death rate

- Stage II demographic transition (early expanding) is characterized by a decline in the death rate while the birth rate remains unchanged
- Stage IV demographic transition (late expanding) is characterized by birth rate is lower than death rate

- Among the fertility rates, CBR is expressed as 10^n multiplied by the number of live birth in certain locality and year divided by the mid-year population
- Total fertility rate is the average number of children that would be born to women over a women's life time if she will experiences the exact current ASFRs rates through her lifetime

- Replacement level fertility is said to have been reached when NRR=1
- The single most informative indicator of health level is life expectancy rate