

Discuss the relationship between poverty and fertility rates essay sample

[Sociology](#), [Poverty](#)



Poverty has been rapidly increasing with the growing population with more than three billion living on less than two dollars day, along with extreme shortages of food and water. Whilst in many areas of the world the population is booming rapidly. A casual link can be seen between these two factors.

Initially, countries with high fertility rates seem to be mainly in areas of developing countries and areas that are experiencing high levels of poverty such as several regions in sub Saharan Africa. Poverty is proving to be a quiet a driving factor for the high fertility rates. Regions in sub-Saharan area are experiencing extreme poverty which pushes the population to have more children, mainly because most of the population is dependent on agriculture and primary basked work hence a need for a working hand is needed to help support the family in the daily work and earn enough for living and survival. Moreover, many of regions such as Sierra Leone that are experiencing high levels of poverty with things such as chronic hunger, lack of access to clean drinking water and other social factors that deplete the quality of living. These then contribute to factors such as lack of proper sanitation and maternal care available at hospitals further contributing to new born to be more prone to diseases such as water diseases like cholera causing early death. These result into high infant mortality rates and low chance of survival for infants encouraging the parents to have another child. Statistics show that every 1 in 3 new born child in Sierra Leone does not live past the age of three.

In comparison to areas in developed countries such as Canada the fertility rates are quite low due to less pressures and urges from social factors that encourage people to have children. Many people in developed countries are working in multinational firms while many do not marry till quite late, and still many delay the possibility of having child due to high cost of living, work stress and family planning issues. In a survey 2010 produced that majority of working class families living Toronto reject the possibility of having child till very later on.

However, France is a slightly different example because regardless of it being developed it has reasonably high fertility rates. These are mainly due to the pro-natalist policies in France that encourages people to have more children, set by the government in 1939. France has had a problem with its birth rate since the middle of the eighteenth century. France experienced a period of population stagnation caused by low levels of fertility (desire to limit inheritance to fewer children, late marriage, high levels of celibacy) and higher than average levels of infant mortality (due to poor sanitation, nutrition and health care). This low level of fertility continued into the twentieth century and was furthered by such events as the two world wars, and the influenza epidemic of 1919. Therefore the country wanting to achieve a higher population for a larger work force and loss of people before it uses schemes such as incentives for couples more having more children including reduction on transport facilities, tax relief and space for house accommodation.

In addition to this, China a very rapidly developing country experiences very low fertility rates that can possibly induced by the fact of its strict anti-natalist policy, the ' One Child Policy' that was introduced in 1979 and although it was designed as a temporary measure it still continues today. The main reason was due to overpopulation caused the area to become much stretched and lack of space for housing and high pressures on the countries resources. There are very strict regulations on this policy with abortion cases and large fines acclaimed for people who disobey the regulations. This has been a very effective strategy for the government to control its rate of population growth.

Poverty is still very evident throughout the world however many goals and actions are being taken to improve living conditions and education in areas that are experiencing extreme poverty. Education and access to contraception and empowering women is a approach taken by the UN to help people in these areas to support and sustain themselves through making informed decisions about having a child. Therefore still a very strong link can be seen that areas that are experiencing poverty and also the ones experiencing high fertility rates.