

Analyzing the Effects of Emigration from Rural Areas on Poverty

I. Statement of the Problem

1. The rural population has declined drastically due to urbanization and government's lack of encouragement to continue agricultural practices. In 2005, half of the world's population lived in urban areas. Most of the 125 million people that have migrated internationally are either political or environmental refugees, leaving rural life in favor of cities. ^[1]
2. Recently, rural inhabitants in the United States are being burdened with heavy taxes, falling prices of their products, and lack of infrastructure leading to a mass migration.^[10] Also, corrupt governments such as those in the Anhui province of China have oppressed the rural people leading to the huge surge in migration into urbanized places. This is especially true of young people who make up most of the migrants.^[4]
3. Agricultural production on "family farms" in the United States has fallen from 6.8 million in 1935 to 2.2 million in 2002. This is largely due to the governments setting certain prices for products sold by farmers in order to make the product financially available to more consumers^[12], slashing their incomes and making job losses for farmers highest. ^[10]
4. The establishment of corporate farms has caused the loss of jobs for many rural workers and have contributed to the rise of poverty in many countries.^[2] In the post soviet nations of Eastern Europe the lack of education on how to run private business after the fall of the Soviet Union has caused a sharp rise in the poverty of the area making it higher than the hunger rates ^[5]. In 1994 and 1995 the number of impoverished people in this area was determined to be 147 million also contributing to the migration of people from rural areas. ^[5]

II. History of the Problem

5. Within the past century, family farms have declined drastically and have been replaced with corporate farms. This has led to an economic downfall for rural areas. For example in Australia, government has not been advocating for the rights of farmers in the rural area leading to economic disparity and large scale migrations. ^[2]
6. The Governmental policies implemented by the governments such as China which prevent chinese rural migrant workers from living in the city with healthcare or social security has burdened the rural people and made it harder for migration to occur. Also, it has forced 250 million migrant workers to move back to the impoverished rural area. ^[4]
7. In the past, FAO has promoted the development for rural areas and the fair treatment of all rural

farmers (gender included). Also, FAO has been in collaboration with the ILO (International Labor Organization) to implement the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) which will hopefully better establish better connections between urban areas and rural areas while also promoting better wages for agricultural production to encourage rural population growth. ^{[8] [3]}

8. The recent switch to conventional farming by many developing countries has caused a loss of biodiversity and a great loss of arable lands.^{[6] [9]} According to FAO, the world is possibly losing about 50,000 square kilometers of farmland annually due to many factors including, but not limited to agrochemicals, urbanization, mining, and pollution.^[9]

9. The World Bank has previously been involved in the making of schools in rural areas that promote literacy, rural development, sustainability, and equal rights. According to a study done by the World Bank, people who have gotten a minimal education have been known to have better output with crops and better opportunities with off-farm jobs. It is said that people who have migrated with an education have been able to find better, longer lasting jobs than those who haven't. ^[6] In the United States, there are programs at Universities to help rural farmers in dealing with the economics involved in farming, and to help families maintain their farms for the long term. ^[11]

III. Potential Solutions

10. The issue of rural migration is not a simple issue to find a solution for. Delegates should consider a solution that grants rural workers better payment and easier access to monetary funds outside of the countryside while not hindering international business for larger corporations.^{[4] [5]} Delegates should also revise an international policy that categorizes rural migrants, and gives international protocol to sustain them civilly and humanely.

11. Delegates must also be wary of the rural population decline currently occurring all over the world. Be sure to address solutions to promote agricultural development and rural migration. Also, keep in mind incentives currently in place elsewhere to promote rural living. ^[7]

12. Remember to address the issue of rural education and whether it should be mandatory for people to obtain a basic education in rural areas. Also, keep in mind the cost of schools, teachers, infrastructure. etc. ^[6]

13. Lastly, delegates should address the treatment of the migrated and grant them social services in the country which they are currently residing.^[4] If delegates are not in coercion with this protocol, create a solution that addresses the status and social rights of the rural migrant workers.

IV. Position and Research Tips

15. Delegates, it is imperative that you remain authentic to your countries position on the given topic. Failure to remain true will hinder the your debate and the debate of the other delegates in the committee. While

conducting research, remember to find out what your country's position is on the given issue and what they have done to solve the problem. Discover the percentage of farmers in your country, find out how actively the government supports rural business.

- Is your country in favor of large corporation or small family business?
- Does your country have strict policy when it comes to migration?
- How has your country improved the life of the rural farmer?
- Does your country currently have social programs in place that represent small family farms?

VI. Note to Delegates

Delegates, on the behalf of the MUNSA Staff and my fellow co-chairs, I would like to commend you for taking on such a difficult and pressing topic. My co-chairs and I are super excited to hear the lively debate and your potential solutions. Remember to remain authentic to your country and find credible sources. I hope you have as much fun at the conference as we will!

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Evaluating Urbanization's Effects on Food Distribution and Quality

Report of the Chair

I. Statement of the Problem

1. As of 2010, nearly 925 million people suffer from hunger due to unequal distribution of food. Out of these 925 million, a slightly less than half come from Asia and Pacific area. This is due to rapid population growth these areas have faced compared to the rest of the world. Urbanization has created a trend of which population increases while number of producers decreases. Agriculture is perceived as able to keep up with population demands, but many living in these rural areas are suffering from hunger.^[1]

2. Many urbanized nations still have no electricity and the profits made in food retailing are too small to attract major companies. In Africa, multinational chains have yet to reach poor urban neighborhoods and have little presence in poorer countries. In addition, a large part of the urban population in both developed and underdeveloped low and middle class income nations have incomes so low that they struggle to meet their daily nutritional needs.^[2]

3. Although agriculture only makes up for 21% of India's GDP, nearly 71% of India's 1.1 billion people live in rural areas. Indian government has therefore made boosting agricultural production a priority. Many countries still hold agriculture as a priority and therefore have been taking certain measures in order to preserve its relevance in the modern world. Some, but few farmers today have been granted certain incentives in order to promote the importance of rural development.^{[3] [9]}

4. Urbanization has caused for uprising of population a new technology. With growing cities often comes growing neglect of rural areas. Millions of people around the globe suffer from hunger due to the fact that they do not dwell in urban areas. As members of the Food and Agriculture Organization Committee, it

is our duty to make sure that equal distribution remains a priority in the fight for hunger. ^[4]

5. Urbanization is associated with a loss of agricultural land caused by a decrease in food supply. The increase of urban space affect farm lands because many towns and cities are located where there is rich agricultural land. A compounding factor is that the spread of urbanization is land intensive. Urbanized space grows faster than urbanized populations, also known as urban sprawl. Cities and their increasingly growing populations also compete with the agricultural sector for water resources, which results in less water for irrigation and farming. Tanzania has a rapidly growing demand for water for domestic and industrial activities in the towns of Arusha and Moshi. This rapidly growing demand has caused the damming of large rivers to ensure urban water supply. A decrease in the water available for agriculture will further inhibit the ability of farmers to increase food production. ^{[5] [7]}

II. History of the Problem

6. As of the year 1970, the urban area of Bangkok nearly doubled since the early 1960's. Due to the urbanization increase, much of the land and air are being tampered with and polluted. With no clean resources, no sufficient agriculture can be produced. Now, after several failed attempts in the past thirty years, the Bangkok City Plan will be put to use by dividing the city into 356 blocks with 14 land use zones. These zones will separate residential areas from agricultural and industrial areas. ^{[6] [10]}

7. Shortly after Indonesia experienced rapid development, urbanization started to boom as well. Due to urban migration, rural areas in Indonesia faced great loss of rural occupancy. During the 1950's, only 15% of Indonesia's population resided in urban areas, but after just 40 years, its population nearly doubled. Due to increased speed in population growth, Indonesia has not been able to agriculturally keep up which causes for food shortages. ^{[5] [4]}

8. Due the Chinese 1978 reform, China has experienced extreme economic and urbanization growth. With a population of nearly over 1.3 billion and growing, China continues to experience harmful food shortages. With more of the population moving from rural to urban areas, agricultural land is becoming steeply less abundant. Despite China's promise for national food production, food security still remains an intense issue. Although many impoverished citizens still maintain some land rights, crop production still remains minimal. ^{[6] [8]}

III. Potential Solutions

The question of whether or not rural areas are important enough to save has been upheld for many years and is not an easy question to find an answer to. Many countries will have different opinions due to size and population. It is important to keep in mind that as members of the Food and Agriculture Organization committee, we can only make suggested solutions rather than take direct action. These are some example questions as to what the delegate should consider while creating potential solutions:

- How much of your countries per capita income comes from agriculture?
- In what type of area does a majority of the country's population live in? (rural/urban)
- What percentage of workers are employed due to agricultural production?
- Is urbanization a priority in your country?

IV. Position and Research Tips

It is paramount that delegates maintain a factual, identical opinion to their country's. In order to do this, it would be helpful to keep into consideration the following questions-

- Would your nation's government be open to negotiating with those of rural area in order to prevent neglect?
- Would your country prefer to promote or sustain from urbanization? What factors affect this opinion?

Useful Web Sources:

<<http://www.fao.org/>>

<<http://www.moyak.com/>>

IV. Note to Delegates

On behalf of MUNSA XVIII, and especially my fellow chairs and I, I would like to thank all delegates for their participation. It is understood that this is not an easy issue, but we have high expectations for you all. We hope that this background paper has been helpful to you and that we create strong resolutions as a committee. We hope that this will be an experience that you carry with you throughout your successful career. We look forward to meeting you all at MUNSA XVIII. Good luck delegates!

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