

‘This house would propose that we should impose a one child, one house policy or be sterilised due to increasing overpopulation’

While this is an interesting theory, I have to disagree. Most people's lives revolve around their children, and they wouldn't want it any other way. Without children, the world would decrease in population meaning when the current generation grow old, and become unable to work, the next generation can't take care of them and fill up the job vacancies and keep the economy stable and running. If the ratio of elderly was larger than younger people, the age of retirement would be older than it currently is due to responsibility.

On the other hand, the environment would benefit from a smaller population due to a smaller amount of finite resources being exploited. The more households, the more fossil fuels burnt to create electricity and fuel meaning the greenhouse effect is increasing. Lowering the population would save our planet and reduce human induced climate change. But to what extent is this playing 'God'? Do we really have the right to decide on who can and can't have children?

Sterilizing people who would create an unequal and unsafe environment for their children may be the most appropriate solution to this theory. Bringing a child up surrounding abuse, violence and crime can affect their primary and secondary socialisation. This introduces the 'nature vs nurture' debate. Personally, I believe our behaviour and personality is the outcome of how we have been socialised and who has socialised us which is all down to nurture. Many prisoners had a traumatic childhood/ experience which has prompted them to commit crime or break the law. People in this state and headspace are not suitable parents as their energy and persona can rub off on their child, leading to a bad lifestyle. Their children being raised in the same environment and around them as a role model are influenced and expected to live up to their family's 'reputation'. Yet those same children grow up to be able to truly understand, appreciate and make a change in the world around them? Now that, is self-actualisation.

Looking at this from a Marxist perspective, everyone should be able to choose whether a child is what they want because they are entitled to make this huge decision on their own, no matter their social class or status.

In conclusion, I think it is wrong to take away someone's ability to start a family. We are taught 'tolerance and equality' from as young as possible, we must make sure we embody that which we teach.

From Olivia Newland and Carys Gooding