

CIDA Assignment  
Nepal

Student Name  
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Socials Studies  
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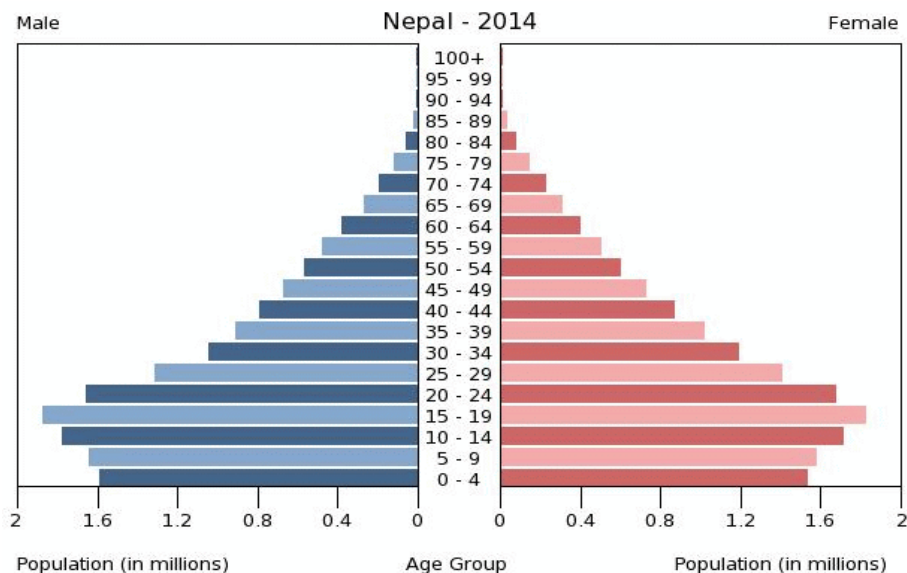
## I. Basic facts about Nepal:

According to Global Edge, Nepal's current head of state is Bidhya Devi Bhandari, head of the Communist Party of Nepal. She is their first female head of state. Nepal's current type of government is a Federal Democratic Republic (Global Edge). The OEC states that Nepal's top exports are Knotted Carpets (\$78.3M), Flavored Water (\$64.9M), Synthetic Filament Yarn Woven Fabric (\$59.1M) and Fruit Juice (\$44.8M). Nepal's top imports are Refined Petroleum (\$809M), Gold (\$275M), Soybean Oil (\$272M), Petroleum Gas (\$214M) and Semi-Finished Iron (\$142M). The World Bank writes that the GDP in Nepal is \$701.8 US per capita. Nepal is a low-income level country because Nepal imports more than they export which results in a negative trade balance, in 2013, the negative trade balance was \$5.53 billion (OEC).



## II. Population study

Nepal's population pyramid in 2014 is at the expanding stage in the DTM. From 15 and up one can tell that it was in the early expanding stage where every level lost a lot of people (high infant mortality rate) and many children were born each year. From 14 down the pyramid contracted a lot but that may be due to the fact that Nepal has been through a civil war in 1996-2006 claiming many lives and has gone through many natural disasters. The population has slowly declined in recent years leveling out the population growth. In the future the population will grow quickly since there are many people coming into their childbearing years. After that the population will level out as Nepal industrializes.



Nepal has a high birth rate according to the world fact book at 20.64 births/1000 people compared to Canada at 10.20 births/1000, that is about two times as much in Nepal. The birth rate in Nepal is lowering each year as the country industrializes. The infant mortality rate in Nepal as of 2015 is 39.14 deaths/1000 live births compared to

Canada at 4.65 deaths/ 1000 live births (CIA World Factbook). Nepal compared to an industrialized country shows that Nepal has an extremely high death rate but it is slowly lowering, from 40.43/1000 from the year before. Nepal's infant mortality rate will continue to lower as the country develops. Based on United Nations population's data, the doubling time of Nepal is 48 years. The CIA World Factbook states that Nepal's life expectancy for the totally population is 67.52 years, for men it is 66.18 years, and for women it is 68.92 years. Nepal's life expectancy is rising slowly, Nepal's life expectancy in 2008 was 60.94 years, and in 7 years the life expectancy has increased by 8 years. The World Bank states that the dependency ratio in 2014 was 63.68%. This high ratio means that the economy and the people of the working age face a great burden of supporting the dependent population including health care of children and the older population, retirement pensions, and support schools.

### **III. Living Standards**

Life for women in Nepal has come a long way in recent years. Although in the 1990's Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal contained a guarantee that no one should be discriminated against on the basis of sex no significant change was made on the status of women for many years. Later, in 2002 a bill was passed that granted women the right to inherit property, granted women the right to divorce under specific conditions, increased punishment for rapists, also 33% of seats in parliament are reserved for women now. This made it possible for women to be economically and socially strong. Now Nepal's head of state is Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Nepal's first ever female head of state.

Although the status of women has improved, the status of children is terrible. The under 5-mortality rate is 39/1000 according to the World bank. Though Child marriage is illegal in Nepal, it is still very common. Marrying young girls is often pushed by poverty; if parents can't pay off debts to others they use their daughters as a way to settle the debt (although dowry's are illegal as well). The girls are often taken out of school, never to finish their education to work in the house and live with their husband. This leads to pregnancy and birth at young ages, usually resulting in health problems. This is not a small issue either, 41% of girls in Nepal are married before their eighteenth birthday (Girls Not Brides). This continues the poverty cycles since more girls are not getting an education which is known to have a positive impact on the economy, health and poverty reduction. According to Save the Children the estimate of children working as domestic laborers in Nepal is 55, 000 working long hours with little or no pay. Human trafficking of young girls is also a major problem in Nepal today. Hundreds of Nepalese girls are sold to prostitution in India each year. Almost two million children are working in factories, restaurants, hotels and mining. Nepal also had a civil war that lasted 10 years from 1996-2006. This created the human rights issue of using child soldiers (Save the Children). According to Save the Children Somewhere between 7,000 to 9,000 children were believed to be fighting. This civil war killed more than 15,000 people and raised the percent of people living below the poverty line dramatically.

Access to save water and food security is also a major issue in Nepal today. According to the International Development Agency very few Nepali people have access to a clean water source and proper sanitation. Many women and children spend most of

their time getting water for their families, which pulls the children out of school and impedes the women from working on their farms. Although the government tried to build a public tap system, they frequently broke down and were never fixed (IDA). Nepal faces a high amount of water born diseases since only 27% of the population has access to basic sanitation. This risks water and food contamination which mostly children under the age of 5 are effected. An estimated 44,000 Nepali children are dying every year because of waterborne diseases (IDA). Food security is close to non-existent in Nepal for families living in the remote highland regions of Nepal (Oxfam). According to Oxfam agricultural production in these areas is low and imported foods are very expensive and hard to get. Climate change has worsened the issue from drought to flooding and changes in monsoon patterns; over 3.4 million (and that number is growing) people are in need of food aid (Oxfam).

According to the UN Human Development Index, Nepal's HDI value for 2015 is 0.489 in the low human development category. Nepal is at 145 out of 187 countries. Although Nepal's HDI value has increased by 98% since 1980 Nepal still has a long way to go before it can be considered high on the Human Development Index. The overall poverty rate of Nepal is 25%, 45% in the Mid-West and 46% in the Far-West region (UNICEF). Over 30% of all Nepali people live on less than fourteen US dollars a day (UNICEF). According to the World Bank the youth literacy rate is 97.7% as of 2014 and the adult literacy rate is 57.4%. According to UNICEF the 10 year long civil war was Nepal's worst crisis in history concluding in extreme economic downfall and human rights abuses. Although the Comprehensive Peace Accord was signed at the end of the

war, few improvements have been made that were promised. Another major factor to the current position Nepal is in is because of the many natural disasters that have plagued the country (Nepal Center for Disaster Management). According to Nepal Center for Disaster Management, Nepal's geographic location is a region prone to natural disasters. Nepal is geologically vulnerable to earthquakes, flood, avalanche, and droughts etcetera so the loss of lives a property are in consistent occurrence.

#### **IV. Recommendations:**

The main and underlying issue of Nepal is to make safe water accessible. Water is the most important resource in survival, in order to make any change in Nepal; water must be the first living condition to improve. Water Aid is an organization that works globally to improve water accessibility, quality, sanitation and hygiene all over Nepal including the poorest communities that are still facing issues from the most recent earthquake in April 2015. Canada will contribute \$50,000,000 (50% of the budget) to WaterAid and work alongside WaterAid and workers in Nepal to combat this issue. This will be done as two separate goals, first, clean drinking water then sanitation and hygiene together. First WaterAid finds the source yield then assesses the water quality. Then they find a sustainable, clean source. Depending on the countries situation there are a few different approaches. Frist they will access what technology is most sustainable to Nepal, Gravity-fed schemes, hand-dug wells, hand pumps, rainwater collection etc. Then we will install the system employing capable locals to help. Once that is established we will move to sanitation and hygiene. Depending on what

WaterAid finds will benefit a certain community they will put in community manages latrines, household stations, etcetera. Making sure that during the entire process WaterAid is working along side the government to come up with the best possible solutions. This project will tackle many issues Nepal faces including reducing the amount of waterborne diseases. Also with a proper water source women and children will not have to spend all day retrieving water and they can get an education and work. This will also help the agriculture in Nepal since the weather is unreliable from growing food. This will increase the amount of jobs in local farming and fix the issue of having to import food, overall helping Nepal's economy.

Food security is a huge underlying issue in Nepal. Natural disasters and climate change in Nepal has made food security in Nepal almost nonexistent. \$35,000,000 of the budget will go towards improving the food security in Nepal so Nepali people will not have to rely on expensive imported food. Canada will work with Oxfam in order to improve this problem. This money will go towards improving seed varieties, creating micro-irrigation systems, training communities (especially women) on farming techniques and more. The micro-irrigation systems will create food security in Nepal all year round since the weather in Nepal (like droughts) is a main contributor to the lack of food security today. The Improved seed varieties will insure that Nepal people will not have to rely on imported foods again and promote the selling of goods inside the country making Nepal more economically sustainable. Training communities will provide them will jobs during and after this process and keep the project sustainable because the Nepal people will know how to maintain their crops. Oxfam will also help supply



Nepal with the right tools and drought resistant seeds to make the project even more sustainable. Canada and Oxfam will also help improve the market between communities and traders improving the overall economy of Nepal. This aid will change the percent of Nepali people living in poverty and the environmental sustainability of Nepal dramatically. With sustainable food they will meet some of their most basic needs to end the poverty cycle. Creating jobs for the people in Nepal will improve the overall economy and rank Nepal higher on the United Nations Human Development Index.

Another large issue in Nepal is the status of children in Nepal. In order to change the poverty cycle in Nepal one must start with the future generations. There are laws in Nepal against child marriage, labor and trafficking in Nepal but they are very loosely enforced if enforced at all. \$15,000,000 of the budget will go towards improving the lives and status of children in Nepal. We will work with organizations like Girls not Brides and the government of Nepal to change the laws and help the laws enforced more. We will supply the money for things like a police service that will enforce the newly updated laws and make the crimes punishments greater. We will also use most of this money to improve the education system of Nepal trying to make school more accessible to poor families. Students in the updated school system will need to stay in school until at least the end of grade 9 and if they do drop out or leave they must give a reason and if it is about child marriage or child labor it must be reported to the local police. Teachers will be trained to deal with these issues and educate the children on them. This will completely change the poverty level in Nepal. If the next generation has a better education the status of children in Nepal will increase dramatically.

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