

Theories of Population

(3) Applied a Static Economic Law to a Period of Time:

The Malthusian notion that the food supply increases in arithmetical progression is based on a static economic law at any one time, i.e. the law of diminishing returns. Malthus could not foresee the unprecedented increase in scientific knowledge and agricultural inventions over a period of time which has stayed the law of diminishing returns. Consequently, the food supply has increased much faster than in arithmetical progression. Malthus has been proved wrong not only in the advanced countries but also in developing countries like India with the 'green revolution'.

(4) Neglected the Manpower Aspect in Population:

One of the principal weaknesses of Malthus' thought has been that he neglected the

manpower aspect in population growth. He was a pessimist and dreaded every increase in population. He forgot, according to Cannan, that **“a baby comes to the world not only with a mouth and a stomach, but also with a pair of hands.”**

This implies that an increase in population means an increase in manpower which may tend to increase not only agricultural but also industrial production and thus makes the country rich by an equitable distribution of wealth and income. As rightly pointed out by Seligman “The problem of population is not merely one of mere size but of efficient production and equitable distribution.” Thus the increase in population may be necessary.