

Theories of Population

(8) Preventive Checks do not pertain to Moral Restraint:

Malthus was essentially a religious man who laid emphasis on moral restraint, celibacy, late marriage, etc. to control population. But he could not visualize that human beings would invent contraceptives and other family planning devices for birth control. This was perhaps due to the fact that he could not make any distinction between sexual desire and the desire to have children.

People have sexual desire but they do not want to have more children. Thus moral restraint alone cannot help to control the increase in population which Malthus suggested. Family Planning is essential as a preventive check.

(9) Positive Checks not due to Over-population:

Malthus' pessimism and religious education led him to believe that over-population was a heavy burden on the earth which was automatically lessened by God in the form of misery, wars, famines, floods, diseases, pestilence, etc. But all these are natural calamities which are not peculiar to over-populated countries. They visit even those countries where the population is on the decline or stationary, such as France and Japan.