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Mr. E. K. Hawkins

December 30, 1971

K. C. Zachariah

Chapter II of the Population Sector Programme Paper

The present version of Chapter II of the Population Sector Programme paper can be improved by changing somewhat the order in which the materials are presented, by eliminating or modifying some of the statements which lack precision and adding a few additional materials.

The treatment of the demographic transition in developed countries may be improved by describing the trend in mortality, fertility and growth rate in that order in European countries followed by a treatment of the special cases of the U.S.A. and Japan.

The categorization of developing countries as high birth rate - high death rate, high birth rate - falling death rate, high birth rate - low death rate and falling birth rate - low death rate is somewhat misleading (para. 2.05). For the last two categories, for example, one gets the impression that mortality is not falling in these countries. This is not true.

The last part of paragraph 2.06, although factually correct, seems a little out of place. The main point is the difference between the growth rates and this is clearly made in the first part. The implications of this difference are several and the one described is not the most relevant.

From paragraph 2.06 b. one gets the impression that the difference between the age structure of developing and developed countries is due to adult migration. Although adult immigration played a part in North America, for the developed countries as a whole the difference is due to relatively lower birth rate and the relatively (compared with the current situation in the developing countries) higher death rate.

The sections on the demographic transition and population trends in developing countries could be improved by adding a few more facts. Its present treatment is too cursory to give an adequate summary of this important concept.

KCZachariah:jmd

c.c. Mr. P. D. Henderson



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