

abortion and sterilization in 1970. Incentives such as priority in registration for primary classes in schools were given to children whose parents underwent sterilization. Certain categories of people were even offered cash incentives to have a small family. (Find out what conditions are attached to such awards and how much is given to each family.) However, disincentives like the withdrawal of tax allowance for children were enacted for those who insisted on having a large family.

Sterilization, abortion, and other birth control techniques were generally accepted as means of controlling population growth. Most married Singaporeans had accepted the idea of having a small family.

However in March 1985 the SFPPB was dissolved and the many functions concerning family planning were taken over by the Ministry of Health.

Has Singapore been successful in planning and controlling its population growth?

In recent years, the government has reviewed its population policy of encouraging Singaporeans to have a small family. Incentives are now available to encourage married people to have more children. See Fig. 13.3(b).

Population Planning and Control in Japan

As mentioned earlier, Japan's population before the 1870s was relatively stable at about 30 million. This was partly due to economic and social practices. For example, it was not expected of the *samurai* to marry before the age of 30. The preference for boys was widespread in Japan (and China), resulting in some infanticide of girls. A combination of such practices has enabled Japan to maintain a stable population.

Although the Japanese government had encouraged the growth in the population after the 1870s, the plan was reversed after the Second World War. Japanese were encouraged to keep their families small. Abortion and other birth control techniques like sterilization and the use of contraceptives were widely practised. For example, there were about 246 000 abortions in 1949 and a record 1 000 000 in 1955.

Population Planning and Control in India

We have seen that India's population growth during the early twentieth century was due mainly to a declining death rate with the birth rate remaining high. In the past three decades, there has been a reduction in the birth rate. There has also been a growing awareness among the people for the need to plan and control the population.

As early as 1950, India was already promoting family planning but the information did not reach the majority of the people. It was only in the 1960s that a more intensive campaign was launched by the Indian government. More than 50 000 family planning centres were set up throughout India, compared with only 147 in 1956. See Fig. 13.32 for the family planning messages and posters in India.

Some of the measures were tough. In Maharashtra State, anyone with three or more children was required to undergo sterilization. Many incentives like food, cash and consumer items such as transistor radios were also given to encourage more people to accept the government's population plan. An estimated 22.5 million Indians have been sterilized since the programme began. Generally, there has been a decline in the birth rate since then. Figure 13.33 shows two recent articles