Brazil Overpopulation And The Effects

Brazil is facing five large overpopulation problems. I find the reasons for this overpopulation and the effects of it to be quite interesting. When an area becomes overpopulated, it becomes very crowded. People live right next to each other and many times multiple families share one house. With the increase in people there needs to be an increase in infrastructure,resources, and jobs to accommodate the needs of the people. If the needs of the people are not met and the people do not have enough resources, money, and infrastructure then many of the people might turn to crime as a way to meet these needs.

The reasons for the overpopulation in Brazil are simple. The first reason is the number of elderly Brazilians aged 70 or older is rising because there is better health care. The second reason is the high amount of illegal immigrants already in and going into Brazil. The last reason is the rapid urbanization. The population growth rate in Brazil last year was 1.102%, but most of the overpopulation in Brazil is caused by urbanization. There has not been much growth of infrastructure, resources, and jobs to accommodate the rise of population in big cities.

For instance, overpopulation has led to a serious shortage of proper housing. Since there are not enough jobs migrants cannot afford proper housing and are forced to build temporary housing without proper utilities. Many people living in cities are forced to build their own houses in shanty towns with
scrap materials such as iron sheets and wood. These settlements are known as favelas. Basic sanitation, water, electricity and sewage systems may not be available leading to a spread of diseases. Favelas are also overpopulated and located in areas that are not fit for residential use such as flood zones, areas subject to land slides, and public rights-of-ways.
The favelas are not built according to any laws or safety regulations and residents are constantly at risk of being killed in land slides or fires. The main reason why the housing deficit exists is mostly because of the lack of proper resources and aid from the government.

Another problem caused by overpopulation is crime. Due to the poor living conditions and the lack of money and resources, the favelas are full of crime. Muggings, robberies, kidnappings and gang violence are very common. The largest amount of crime in Brazil is from drug trade and alcoholism. Thousands of human trafficking cases are reported each year, most of them are illegal immigrants from Asia and Latin America trying to get into the cities. Crimes like these are easy to do in such crowded areas and the criminals who do them can end up making a lot of money. In some areas, current and former members of the police have formed vigilante gangs in the favelas. These gangs say they are protecting people but are widely considered to be dangerous and particularly

proficient criminal gangs. They chase out or kill local drug dealers and then impose protection rackets and tax local businesses. Areas under these gangs control tend to see a drop in murder rates but a rise in other forms of violent crime. Brazil continues to have high crime rates, despite recent improvements by the government.

   To try to control the effects of overpopulation the government has created two new police units. One of the police units is for population safety. This police unit is the National Public Security Force (NPSF). The NPSF is specialized to act in emergency situations. The NPSF is controlled by the National Security Bureau and brings together the best police states and the Federal Police. With the setting up of troops, the federal government wanted to prevent the transmission of the Armed Forces to assist the state police in the fight against crime.

   The other police unit is for population control. This police unit is BOPE. BOPE is the elite group of the Military Police. BOPE's are spread out across Brazil and many are near favelas. Their missions are: break barricades constructed by drug traffickers; extract police officers or civilians injured in confrontations; serve high-risk arrest warrants; hostage rescues; suppress prison rebellions; and conduct special missions in rough terrain such as swamps or mountainous areas.

   There are also a few more solutions that the Brazilian government could do. The first solution is the government could build housing for the migrants so they do not have to live in the favelas. The second solution is the government could give migrants land to build shacks on so they are more spread out. This would make it harder to do crimes. The final solution is the government could give the migrants food and money. In turn there would be much less favelas.

   Once the issue of overpopulation is under control, they can start to fix it. Without overpopulation there would not be favelas and if there weren't favelas there would be less crime.

Citations:

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