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Course

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Don't Panic – the Facts about Population

Don't Panic – the Facts about Population is a presentation by Hans Rosling. The presentation urges individuals not to worry about the future state of the world, because the world is not at risk as people may think. Rosling begins by announcing the fact that during the beginning of human civilization, there were ten million people in the entire world. He states that this number is the present population of Sweden. Since then, the population has increased up to seven billion individuals. However, scholars, scientists, and common people should not be afraid of these circumstances. The speaker identifies several reasons why modern people should not worry about the future world. To begin with, the child birth rate per every woman has decreased to 2.5 children per woman. This means that women and men in Africa, Asia, America, and Australia take part in family planning. This will ensure the control of the future world populations, as they will be manageable. Secondly, Rosling mentions the aspect of a united world. Today, nations have come together under one major organization, the United Nations. Every nation also belongs to other regional organizations. The existence of such organizations means that many nations work together to share ideas and help each other solve crises. The united world means that every nation and every individual grows economically, physically, and socially, which leads to the improvement of living standards. Modern people also value

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education for both boys and girls. This means that there is equality among genders. Education for girls means that more women can make concrete decisions about the number of children they want and careers they want to have. This reduces population increase ensuring economic growth. Rosling also mentions the availability of technology to modern people. For instance, there are mobile phones, new medicine, new ways of treating patients, vaccinations, and all kinds of scientific inventions. The aim of these inventions is to improve human life, control global populations, and ensure that the world progresses to become a better place.

Rosling's presentation is very compelling, as it provides the audience with new ideas. It gives human beings new hope that the world is improving instead of collapsing as many people believe. I totally agree with the fact that the world will be a better place in the future, because people practice population control and there are new technological discoveries whose aim is to improve human life. In addition, I agree with Rosling's idea that education plays a significant role in the lives of modern people. For example, parents are able to control childbirth by taking birth control pills; people live longer thanks to new forms of medication; individuals can easily communicate because of globalization. The world is improving and there are many new improvements to anticipate in the future.

However, Rosling fails to notice that there are many disasters and technological mishaps that tend to endanger human lives. These disasters show that there is no hope for the future human lives. For example, the modern humankind does not seem to notice that technology can bring destruction to other people. Nations are fighting against each other; aggressive states want to take over regions of their neighboring countries. This can be seen in the case of the Crimea crisis. Such conditions only enhance destruction of human lives and everything around them creating hopelessness. There are also natural disasters that people cannot control by technology.

For example, tornados, landslides, and volcanic eruptions all seem to control the humankind instead of being controlled by people. This means that the progress of human beings has a limitation, since there are powers that are greater than technology and people. These powers dictate the future course of human development. Therefore, one cannot be sure of what is in store for human beings.