

CRITICISMS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION MODEL (DTM)

- The demographic transition can be called a cycle because it shows how countries transition from a period of no or low growth back to a period of no or low growth.
- The demographic transition can be called a model because it is based on how the population growth rates, birth and death rates changed for countries that are now developed. Developing countries (LIC's and MIC's) may not follow the same pattern.
- **The death rate for developing countries may fall sooner and more quickly, due to :-**
 - Input from HIC's (the developed world) in terms of more advanced medicines, medical care and inoculations that may lower death rates, especially the Infant Mortality Rate.
 - Aid from HIC's and from NGO's based in HIC'S (Oxfam, WaterAid) lowers the risk of food or water insecurity which reduces malnutrition, disease and the death rate.
- **The birth rate may fall sooner and more quickly than the model predicts based on HIC's due to :-**
 - Birth control methods, condoms and the pill, being made available from HIC's and improvements in distribution and education often based on NGO's.
 - globalisation, the internet giving quick and easy spread of ideas may bring societal and cultural changes concerning the size of families sooner than expected.
 - more rapid urbanisation and industrialisation again based on globalisation may bring the emancipation of women and their introduction to work sooner. It also reduces the benefits of having children who are no longer the asset they were in a rural agricultural society.
- **Death rates may remain high, however, due to :-**
 - global challenges such as climate change and global warming. This can lead to desertification and soil degradation that may lead to increased food insecurity, water insecurity, malnutrition and even famine.
 - This can also lead to increasing tensions within a country and the possibility of civil war than can lead to deaths, migration and more water and food insecurity.
 - pandemics such as AID's and Covid have also had a greater impact of LIC's who do not have the finance or expertise to put medical programmes in place.
- Government policies can have a dramatic impact on birth and death rates and therefore growth rates and population dynamics (eg China and Sri Lanka).
- The model does not consider migration and both emigration and immigration can have marked impacts on population growth. This can be by either decreasing or increasing the population of by the fact that most international migrants are young, and they take their fertility with them.