The government should intervene with individual’s family planning rights

I truly believe in Human Rights but one of the factor influencing sustainability issues is overpopulation. It is true that men/women should have the right to decide if they want to have kids but the government should implement policies or establish a taxation system for people who decide to have too many kids without any control. More people means more emissions, more waste, etc. I consider that there should be some kind of mechanism. Sometimes giving money to single mom’s on developing countries only encourages them to continue to have more and more children without any meaning (this happens in Venezuela).

Reference: Post Carbon Reader Chapter 6: Population

Animals exists to make people satisfied

A recurring topic in media around the world is the treatment of animals, and I got interested in this subject during the 30 Day Challenge. Humans use animals or part of them in the meat industry, the fur industry, for cosmetics and in winter jackets. Have the animals become just a part in our way of living and is it so obvious that we don’t even reflect about it? It has become more and more common to be a vegetarian and skip the meat, but what about the leather in shoes, down in jackets and fur in vests and hats? Due to the increased desire of food, the big companies often care more about money and success than the health of the animals. This leads to that many spices do not have anywhere to go, due to that the forests are cut down in favor of plantations. Is it sustainable to use animals and their local environment to such a great extent?

I recommend following links to read about how animals sometimes are treated.

http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-clothing/fur.aspx
http://www.peta.org/issues/Animals-Used-for-Clothing/down-industry.aspx
http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-clothing/other-animals-used-for-their-skins.aspx
Western countries should not impose Western values on other countries

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZMbTFNp4wl

“No women, no drive”
Aala Wardi, an Iranian-born singer based in Saudia Arabia, rewrote one of Bob Marleys’ famous song for the women of Saudia Arabia, who are not allowed to drive. Even though there is no law banning them from driving, they cannot apply for a license and has been arrested on brought in to run a car.

Equality contributes to economic growth and sustainable development (http://ec.europa.eu), something that is familiar to many men in positions of power, especially in the Western World, and still so few men fights for a more equal society between genders. Why? Gender order, in which men and women are seen as different, rules the world. Men and masculinity is over subordinate women and female, and many men refuse to change this. They can’t handle losing power to women, let alone take orders from them (Abrahamsson, 2009). Men are the biggest obstacle to equality, which contributes to economic growth and sustainable development!

(The subject is not a personal anger towards all men. In a man´s world, it may easy be interpreted as if that is the case in order to neglect the subject. For me, it is an extremely important matter of debate that must be raised, if we want to accomplish a sustainable future.)

Reference:

It is necessary to export garbage and recyclables to China in order for them to continue their industrializing

Wealthy countries often export their garbage or recyclables (for example metals) to countries like China, which is viewed negatively. It is often said that we are externalizing our problems and sending our scrap to places with low wages, few labour laws and where pollution is already a major issue. However, these scraps, like metal, help keep China running, and can be a very profitable business. If we stop exporting our waste and recyclables to China will that impact their economy, and then what will we do with the waste in our own countries?

We are morally obligated to help those in poverty due to our lifestyles being partly to blame for their condition, and as our institutions contribute to and in some cases exacerbate poverty

With growing inequality the world over and with the increased threat of devastation from global warming I am fearful that poverty on a global scale is set to see a dramatic rise in the future. From the majority of articles we read we can see that those who will be most affected by climate change are those in the global south, who are not are not the cause of this. Given the Global North’s capacity to make changes and because we have caused this I feel we have a moral duty to alleviate this poverty now and into the future.

I also believe this issue ties in with some of the other debate topics I’ve read such as our use of animals and why some of us feel with have the right to exploit and torture while not acknowledging the damage and suffering we are causing, and the production of food, which there is more than enough of in the world to feed everyone, yet this does not happen.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-23899195

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We need a restriction in the use of technology for the ordinary human

Not long ago I read an article about that people working at day nurseries were worried about that the parents’ attention was on their smartphones instead of on their children. However, this change can be seen everywhere. Today, most of us own a smartphone, computer, television, tablet and other new technologies that keep us distracted from “the real world” outside. You might call it an exchange in values. For example, not many of us today would prefer a walk in the woods before watching a good movie (and if we would prefer a walk we would do it while listening to music and uploading a photo on Instagram). One might say that “technology is the future” – but should it really? After all, watching TV demands more energy and exploiting more resources than taking a walk.

But of course technology can be good – it makes things more energy efficient, gives us the opportunity to better healthcare and can come up with solutions for how to use renewable energy sources. The question is if it should be available for “ordinary humans” to use as substitute for other more sustainable items and interests which, in turn, will change our values or if it should be restricted to certain people who can use them for the right thing in the matter of a sustainable development.

Here is the article about the worried employees at the day nurseries (unfortunately in Swedish):

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/forskolelarm-foraldrar-slapp-mobilen_8657440.svd