**THE IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY**

**Abstract**

The impact of population growth on economic growth has always been a subject of disagreement among economists. The rate of population growth in Nigeria is high and thus the need to evaluate its impact on economic growth is necessary. This paper evaluates the impact of population growth on economic growth in Nigeria (1980-2010) The research is conducted using primary and secondary data. Data were obtained from the World Development Indicators from 1980-2010. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics as well as chi-square. The result revealed that there is a positive relationship between economic growth (proxied by GDP growth) and population, fertility and export growth; while negative relationships were found between economic growth (proxied by GDP growth) and life expectancy, and crude death rate.

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**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background of the study**

The consequences of population growth on the economic development of less developed countries are not the same because the condition prevailing in these countries are quite different from those of developed economy. Therefore the body of literature on population growth in Nigeria has always emphasized either the negative or the positive effect.

Therefore in every discussion, it is conventional to start with a definition of terms used in such discussion. However, population growth can be seen by a demographer as a change in the size of the population. But when this change occurs in such a way that it reduces the size of population, the demographer refers it as a negative growth but when it adds to the size of the population he regards it as a positive one As the twenty –first century began, the world’s population was estimated to be almost 6.1 billion people. Projections by the United Nations placed the figure at more than 9.2 billon by the year 2050 before reaching a maximum of 11 billion by 2200. Over 90% of that population will inhabit the developing world. (Todaro and Smith, 2006). “Two thousand years ago population growth and production were positively correlated. More people meant greater productivity and security.” The current modernization and technological advancement of today’s world is highly attributable to centuries of rapid population growth and economic expansion. Hundreds of years ago, when societies and economies initially began to flourish, success was dependent upon a productive agricultural sector. A growing population meant more workers and laborers who would increase overall output. With more productive labor, the economy inevitably expanded and society reaped the financial benefits. Centuries ago, population booms were positive indications of the potential for long term economic growth. High fertility rates during these times allowed for increased labourers and also helped overcome the correspondingly exorbitant death rates. The combined effects of “famine, disease, malnutrition, plague and war” resulted in death rates that were high and inconsistent. Given the lack of modern medicine that many countries faced until recently, death rates remained relatively elevated for several centuries. Thus, in order to have any net population growth and eventual economic development, fertility rates had to be elevated (Latimer and Kulkarni, 2008). In the twentieth century, modernization and technological expansion allowed societies to gain control of the ailments that previously killed large percentages of the population. Suddenly, societies were equipped to overcome famine, malnutrition, and other life threatening diseases. Rapid technological advances in modern medicine and sanitation drastically reduced global mortality rates. Increased technology also improved labour productivity. This combination of both technological and medical improvements set the conditions for unprecedented booms in world population growth.” Despite a rapid decrease in mortality rates, global fertility rates remained constant and caused exponential growth within the global population. No longer do birth rates struggle to keep up with death rates. Currently, global fertility rates far outweigh mortality rates, forcing the world to confront serious population growth issues. With almost 7 billion people, the world population is placing a huge strain on natural resources. Unfortunately, the projections for the future do not appear to be improving. At a population growth rate of 2.8 percent per annum between 1952 and 1991, Nigeria is one of the fastest growing countries in the world. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and accounts for one in five of Sub-sahara’s people. By 2013, the population forecast for Nigeria is 169.7 million. However, the composition of this population is mainly in the youthful category with 49% below the age of 21 years and a dependency ratio estimated at 89%. A large proportion of this population favours and is living in the rapidly expanding urban areas, presently estimated at over 45.2% and will likely hit 55.4% mark by the year 2015(UNDP, 2000). Over the years, it has become established that the existence of an efficient and effective human capital is the key to economic growth and development in any nation. This stems from the fact that every other facility and resource required for economic growth is driven by the availability of human capital. More so, in the absence of effective human capital development, an increasing population can have adverse negative effect on the economic growth of a nation. This is because a lot more resources are taken out to manage and cater for the teeming population that the same can generate Brand (2009).It is therefore correct to state that the economic growth of a nation is significantly dependent on the growth of its population. The effect or impact can be either negative or positive dependent on the existence of certain factors and conditions, when studied and understood can be managed or controlled to ensure continuous and sustainable economic growth and development. Dennis (2004), Nigeria is one of the fastest growing countries in the world. With an estimated population of 140 million and an annual population growth rate of 2.9% (NPC 2006), Nigeria is the most populous nation in sub-sahara Africa and the tenth most populous in the world. However, the composition of this population is mainly in the youthful category with 49% being youths below the age of 21 and a dependency ratio estimated at 89%. A large proportion of this population favours and is living in the rapidly expanding urban area, presently estimated at over 45.2% and will likely hit 55.4% mark by the year 2015 (UNDP, 2007). With this statistics however, the population growth shows profound inequities and disproportions when analyzed with development indicators such as: 21 doctors per 100,000 people, infant mortality rate of 112 per 1000 live births, maternal mortality of over 980 per 100,000 live births, life expectancy at birth projected at 50 years.We can now define population growth as the increase in the number of human inhabitants of a given place. The total population of any area of the earth‘s surface represents a balance between two forces. One is natural change caused by the difference between the number of births and deaths. If births are more numerous than deaths in any period, the total population will increase. However, if they are less numerous it will decrease. This simple relationship is modified by a second force; migration. When immigrants are more numerous than emigrants, there will be a population increase. (We assume, of course, that we are ignoring natural change for the moment). When emigrants are more numerous, there will be a population decline. Ben, (2005).Net changes in population totals are caused by the interaction of four elements: Births and immigrants tend to push the total up: Deaths and emigrants tend to bring the total down. Although migration may be the most important factor in small areas (for example, in a small village or a city block), it is less significant on the national level.

**1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Much of contemporary economics on population problems have centered on what could be the optimum size and its impact on economic growth and development (Caldwell, 1990; National Research Council, 1993; Onokerhoraye, 1995; Bon goarts, 1996; United Nations 1999; FAO, 2000; UNDP, 2001 and Onwuka 2003). This line of thought originated from the question posed by Malthus (1803) as to whether food production could keep pace with the demand of a growing population and his answer that the power of population is indefinitely greater than the resources on earth to provide the needed subsistence for mankind. The debate triggered by the Malthusian hypothesis points to a lack of universal applicability of his paradigm because in industrialized countries, technological advances have spurred increases in agricultural production which ensures food security for the citizens. According to statistics from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the gross domestic product (GDP) computed at 1984 factor cost for the period 1970-71 stood at N54, 148.9, it grew steadily between 1972-73 and 1979. By 1980, the GDP had risen to N96, 186.6. However, it plummeted from the 1981 figure of N70,395.9 to N77, 752.5 in 1988 then the economy recovered marginally. The GDP stood at N113, 000 in 1998 with an annual average rates of growth of GDP of 2.1% (percent) little wonder why the economy has not been able to cope with the teeming population explosion. This can be seen from available statistics on per capital income. Again, the world research institute (WRI) estimated the percentage change of Nigerian‘s capital income for the 1990‘s to be minus 75.4. Similarly, agriculture became severely difficult by the teeming population growth. For example, the percentage change of the total cropland (000 per hectare) between the last 10 years was minus 21.3. This fact that this percentage field to livestock per capital (0.13) war lower than percentage changes of cereal production within the same period indicates that environmental resources was under stress (Mantu, 2001).The actual articulation and implementation in any economy population programme would not be possible without a determination and serious commitment in the part of the government. Neither can it be realized without putting in place a comprehensive and long perspective planning machinery informed by rich and reliable database. Obviously, we cannot hope to come close to realizing the dream of a sustainable development with the present economic thrust, which places misguided confidence on a deformed and parasitic private sector as the prime mover of the economy and engine of growth (Mantus: 2001). A large body of demographic literature documents the incidence of population growth in Nigeria (see, for example, Olusanya and Pursell, 1981; Farooq, 1985 National population commission, 2002, and federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004a). Ordinarily this growth of population could be to the advantage of a country in terms of the sheer size of its domestic market, better division of labour, and increased productivity through improvement in the ratio of labour force to population as well as enhancement of its political and military power. A large population also diversifies the demand for products and services and promotes the tendency to increasing returns to scale, thereby raising economic development (Yesufu: 2000).

**1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of this study is to ascertain the impact of population growth on the Nigerian economy

1. To ascertain the impact of population growth on Nigeria economy;
2. To examine the effect of population growth on the availability of labor;
3. To examine the relationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth;
4. To investigate the dangers of overpopulation in Nigeria;

**1.4 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**

For the successful completion of the study, the following research hypotheses were formulated by the researcher;

**H0:** population growth does not have any significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy;

**H1:** population growth does have a significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy

**H02:** there is no significantrelationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth.

**H2:** there is a significantrelationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth

**1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

It is believed that at the completion of the study, the findings will be useful to the management of Nigerian population commission as the findings will help them monitor the merit and demerit of mortality and maternity rate in the country. The study will also be useful to the employers of labor as the study seek to explore the merit of Nigeria’s young population as the serve as a very important factor of production in the country. The study will also be useful to researchers who intends to embark on a study on a similar topic as the study will serve as a reference point to further research. Finally, the subject will be useful to the general public as it will contribute to the pool of existing literature in the subject matter.

**1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The scope of the study covers the impact of population growth on the Nigerian economy. The researcher encounters some constrain which limited the scope of the study;

**a) AVAILABILITY OF RESEARCH MATERIAL:** The research material available to the researcher is insufficient, thereby limiting the study

**b) TIME:** The time frame allocated to the study does not enhance wider coverage as the researcher has to combine other academic activities and examinations with the study.

**c) Organizational privacy**: Limited Access to the selected auditing firm makes it difficult to get all the necessary and required information concerning the activities

**1.7 DEFINE OF CONCEPT**

**Population:** The total number of persons inhabiting a country, city, or any district or area

**Population growth:** In biology or human geography, population growth is the increase in the number of individuals in a population. Global human population growth amounts to around 83 million annually, or 1.1% per year

**Economic growth:** Economic development is the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people. The term has been used frequently by economists, politicians, and others in the 20th and 21st centuries

**1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This research work is organized in five chapters, for easy understanding, as follows: Chapter one is concern with the introduction, which consist of the (overview, of the study), historical background, statement of problem, objectives of the study, research hypotheses, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of terms and historical background of the study. Chapter two highlights the theoretical framework on which the study is based, thus the review of related literature. Chapter three deals on the research design and methodology adopted in the study. Chapter four concentrate on the data collection and analysis and presentation of finding. Chapter five gives summary, conclusion, and recommendations made of the study.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

**2.1 Introduction**

Nigeria has a growing population and what can also be referred to as an increasing population. The 1991, census figure put Nigerian population at about 89 million people with the growth rate of 2.82 and the total fertility rate as revealed by Post Enumeration Survey (PES) at 5.89 percent. The Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), (2003 and 2008) put the total fertility rate at 5.7 percent as against that of 1999 NDHS which was 5.2 percent. Going by 2006 Nigerian National Population Census, Nigeria had a population of one hundred and forty million, three thousand and five hundred and forty two (140,003,542) (National Bureau of Statistics, 2009). The growth rate was 3.02 percent per annum. The population is capable of doubling itself in less than twenty three years. In addition, the United Nations estimates of 2009 put the Nigerian total population at one hundred and fifty one million, thirty thousand and four hundred (151,030,400). Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and also the most populous among the black nations of the world. Globally, Nigeria is among the ten top countries with the largest population, in fact, the seventh among the countries with the largest population in the world (United Nations, 2009). Population of Nigeria is increasing rapidly. Rapidly increasing population may result due to the effect of three important factors. They are birth rate, death rate and higher net migration. Migration has played a negligible role in Nigerian population increase. Therefore, it will not be given prominent in this write up. If an increasing population is brought about as a result of an increase in birth rate, there will be higher percentage of young people and children in the population. However, if it is by a decrease in death rate, then, there will be an increase in the total number of old people in the population. Furthermore, if an increase in population is brought about as a result of a higher net migration, then, there will be a larger number of people between ages of 16 and 50 years. Nigeria population is increasing mostly due to the effect of the first factor, that is, high birth rate. For instance, Crude Birth Rate (CBR) was 39.0 and 44.6 in 1990 and 1991 respectively (NPC, 2000). It was 42.0 in 2003 (NDHS, 2003). All these buttress the fact that there is high CBR in Nigeria.

**2.2** **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

There is a marked difference in the models of technological and economic growth proposed by Malthus (Malthus and Smith 1798) and later Solow, which allow for no per capita growth of income as capital is fixed. However, later models do allow for per capital economic growth and appear to fit the observable conditions in the recent past. The Malthusian model is considered accurate in pre-industrial societies but fails to work correctly in industrialized environments. To reconcile the differences between the two fundamental environments, some have created multiphase models which allow for Malthusian, Post-Malthusian and finally Modern regimes, (Galor and Weil 1998) whilst others such as Simon-Steinmann (Simon 1986) have created two models, one of each of the two stylized named the More and Less Developed Countries (MDC and LDC respectively) (Simon 1977), effectively treating the two groups as distinctly separate. The rationale behind this distinction is that a ―demographic transition‖ has occurred in one (the MDC) and is now beginning to occur in the LDC nations but under different circumstance. Most of these circumstances are economic in nature and the tacit assumption is that economics is the driving force behind the transition and not the other way around as has been suggested by Knodel and Van De Walle (Greenhalgh 1995). In the case of Galor- Weil model, there appears to be an assumption that today‘s economic world is different from the one that Malthus observed. Simon does not explicitly make this assumption but also does not deal with any historical perspective earlier than the industrial revolution other than anecdotal evidence of Greece and Rome in “The Ultimate Resource”, in part due to lack of economic data. Assuming that today‘s economic environment is operating using the same mechanisms as before, there is a question that needs an answer. Do current growth models accurately portray not just trends of population and economic growth but also elucidate the mechanisms by which the economic growth occurs? Based on the need for multi-phase models and separate handling of different types of economies, there is a good chance they do not. As well, Simon dismisses the effect of demographic anomalies on the short-term economics of nations in favour of long-term trends. He specifically dismisses the impact of age-structure and dependency ratio on economic growth as minimal compared to that of the level chosen for the savings rate (Simon 1977). What he does not deal with is the possible effect the age-structure and other demographic dynamics may have on the saving rate. Assuming there is a demographic effect on the level of investment, then it only stands to reason that these population dynamics have an effect on the short-term and long-term economic growth of the economy. Due to speed of the current demographic transition in LDC nations, these effects may be exacerbated and causing current observable conditions to appear different from those conditions leading to the wealth of the MDC nations. Using a simplified illustration based on current anthropological theory, the framework for the link between population growth, population size, carrying capacity of the land and economic growth will be explored. This possible link may also help elucidate some of the possible mechanisms for economic growth; something which Simon does little of, as he tends to approach the subject from the standpoint of having the model match known trends

**Simon-Steinmann Economic Growth Model**: The basic idea to the theory proposed by Julian Simon and Gunter Steinmann is that the greater the total population, the greater the level of technological growth yielding the greater the per capita income. An idea derived from Boserup (Simon 1977), which Simon refers to as the Population Push model, and distinguishes between current knowledge and knowledge being applied for production. Underlying the population push model of technological development is the added idea that technology can and does develop independent of population growth (learning-by-doing) and therefore technology builds upon itself, reconciling the pull and push models of technological progress. So even in the case of a static population, there will be some level of technological advancement, albeit slower than in situations of growing population. It is just necessity remains the mother to, and is the primary force behind, invention. This technological progress function is added to the Douglas-Cobb production function to produce a model containing endogenous technological progress based on population growth and learning-by-doing. One other aspect of note in his model is that labuor supply and population are used synonymously as he dismisses the impact of age-structure and dependency ratio on economic growth as minimal to the effect of the savings rate. He uses Japan and the US as an example of the disparity between savings rate and the effect it has on output (Simon 1977). The results of the model yield modest per capita economic growth at equilibrium and Simon determines that maximized long term economic growth (always in per capita terms unless otherwise noted) requires 1-2% per annum population growth and a 2-4% rate of savings with a low discount rate below 4%. At a higher discount rate of 5-10% there was still increased consumption. This population growth rate, he makes clear, is higher than the rate that produces the highest adoption of technology (Simon 1986). Any growth that occurs too fast will have diminishing return or create a circumstance where is stagnating. As well, modest negative population growth will have the effect of limiting growth but large negative out flows in population will stagnate growth outright. The level of total technology (available and in use) never decreases since this is, in his estimation, illogical. (Simon 1986)

**THE CLASSICAL THEORY**

This theory has its roots and foundation on Malthusian theory. It was postulated by David Ricardo and is also called Stationary Theory. It states that when population increases demands of population for food and shelter also increases, in the beginning fertile lands are brought under cultivation but with the passage of time when population pressure raises less fertile land are also cultivated. The burden on each piece of land tends to rise, wages increase and cost of production also increases, as wages increase profit falls and a negative trend of growth i.e. zero growth rates of profit ensues. This theory was perfected and extended by Mill (1909), who argued that technological progress can arrest the tendency of zero growth rates. However, again unfortunately technological changes are taking place in the developed countries more often and LDCs are prone to be the victims of stagnation. In LDCs and UDCs, agriculture is the dominant sector of the economy. Approximately 2/3 of their population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture for their subsistence. It is also a reality that agriculture sector is traditional in these countries. People are static and risk aversive .There is little technological transformation. Therefore, population explosion brings about stagnation (zero growth, or very low economic development) Ghatak and Ingersent (1984) state that the obvious implication of model is that in predominantly agrarian societies, curtailment of population growth is the sole feasible means of materially improving living standards of the majority of the population Again this theory has relevance for many LDCs, because these countries are unable to import the requisite amount of food and other things due to many constraints. In addition to that the population trends as observed today in many UDCs have never been observed in developed countries.

**NEO MALTHUSIAN THEORY**

This theory or the model was developed by William and Paul Paddock. This model is more like a forecasting, in that time period when it was presented. After the World War II, less developed countries were exporting more and more food grains and they were losing the capability to feed their people as their population was increasing rapidly. It became a growing concern for the world concerned agencies. At that time in 1966, Science Advisory Committee of the US President made a special study of the emerging food problem and their expert report drew the attention to the grim reality of food shortages that would occur during the two decades 1965- 66 to 1985-86. Although this prognosis, that the world would face a visible food shortage did not prove to happen, yet food shortages in the present era in many of the LDCs; due to excessive burden of their population, on one hand and their inability to feed their masses with imported food supplies on the other hand, speaks volume of severity of situation. It is also pertinent to mention here that import bills of many LDCs are enormously big. They are not importing capital which can help in their development and add to capital formation; instead the large chunk goes for import of food. When this is the situation, trade deficits become a recurring phenomenon, the gaps between saving and investment, imports and exports and technological gaps are filled by foreign debts and foreign direct investment which mortgage the country on very harsh terms and conditions, thus a vicious circle of financial slavery sets in.

**2.3 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW**

**POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**2.3. 1 POSITIVE EFFECTS**

**The “Economies of Scale” phenomenon of population growth**

Despite of the Malthus’ theory of diminishing return when it comes to scarce resource like food and water, some of optimistic ”population growth” economists, like Kuznets (1956), Boserup(1965) and Simon (1981), believed that population growth can really help the nation economy to turn from ineffective economy into “economies of scale” state. According to Kendrick (1977), economies of scale are an important factor to increase the productivity (increase in output per unit of labor) of one nation. A country, which has a rapid population growth, can suffer many burdens, such as capital dilution, shortage of necessity resources and the casualty could lead the whole population to poverty, famine and starvation. However, there are three arguments supported for the idea that population growth can boost the country economy by “economies of scale” phenomenon. Firstly, a nation, which has a rapid population growth rate, means that its population size will develop with a quicker rate. The bigger the population size is, the larger the market size becomes. In order to meet the product demand of the large-size market, bigger and more effective as well as longer performance period manufacturing plants are required to develop (Simon 1994). Therefore, the producing cost and setup cost per one output have tendency to reduce. Secondly, the large-scale of population not only have a large size market but also possess an impressive number of labors. Because of the availability of labor force, it is possible for firms to divide their labor into particular division of labor to do specific tasks. An excellent example of specialization is car assembly line in which each division just takes responsibility of installing only one part of the car such as engine or car wheels. According to Adam Smith, “division of labor has caused a greater increase in production than any other factor. This diversification is greatest for nations with more industry and improvement, and is responsible for "universal opulence" in those countries”. Moreover, through specialization, working skill of labor force is likely to improve more quickly with learning-by-doing. Since a large size of population demands a tremendous number of products, these workers have more chances to improve their working skill. As a result, the average time spending for producing one unit of output have tendency to decrease more quickly than in smaller market-size. Correlating with saving producing time, the cost per one product is also deducted and firm is more efficient through specialization. Finally, the rapid population growth rate could cause a positive effect on communication and transportation. Transportation plays an important role in economic development. A good transportation system can help reduce transportation cost and travel time. Along with high population growth rate, the increase in population density is inevitable. A dense population is likely to pressure the government to develop more in transportation system such as railroad, highways and road. Take China as an example, according to United Nations Population Division, in 1985, its population density was 110 people/km2 and the total amount of railroad was 52,000 km while in 2010, the total length of railroad is 91,000 km (increase 75%) and its population density is 141 people/km2 (increase 28%). Transportation improvement is surely a general trend for every economic development, but it is not deniable to state that the population density has a strong impact on number of construction of transportation. As Julian L. Simon stated in “The Ultimate Resource”, “population growth clearly leads to an improved transportation system, which in turn stimulates economic development”

**Acceleration of technological progress**

The Industrial Revolution started at the beginning of 18th century and ended at the end of 19th century. This is the period when Malthusian “population growth” model was broken down and technology proved its own importance for the economic growth. In CobbDouglas model, y = Akα h 1-α ; where y is output per worker, A is productivity and h is human capital per worker; technological progress, which increase the value of parameter A, eventually lead to the higher output per worker with the same number of input. According to early neoclassical model of Solow (1956), the role of technological change is crucial and he emphasized that it is even more important than the accumulation of capital. There are some theories supported for positive effect of population growth on technological growth, two most well known theories belonged to Boserup and Simon. Among in the optimistic economists in “population growth” field, Boserup is quite famous as an anti-Malthusian economist. In her theory, she argued that when the population faces a critical event like shortage of food or other necessity goods, people would find a way to overcome the situation by increasing workforces, using new method of producing or inventing new machines, tools, etc. In Simon-Steinmann Economic growth model, Simon also shows the idea that the greater the total population, the greater the level of technological growth which eventually lead to yield greater capita income. A country, which has a higher population growth rate, implies that there is a rapid increase in school-age population. Instead of investing in other essential industrials to increase the overall capital accumulation, the government has to spend more public spending in schooling and educational facilities. The pressure created by massy number of school-age population also retards the general education level of the nation. However, in long run, huge investment in education in present can result in the accumulation of human capital, which is a special stock of competence, knowledge, personalities as well as the ability to produce economic value. Human capital has two effects on economic development. First, human capital can be used as a productive factor like other capitals like machine, vehicles etc. Second, human capital can directly contribute to the development of new technology which effect positively to the productivity. Hence, greater population growth tends to raise the level of technology growth. The population growth enlarges the size of labor force, so, the average wage rate, therefore, is pushed down. In developing countries, low wage rate is considered an important factor in the progress of industrialization and modernization, which are closely related to the wealth of the nation. Moreover, instead of spending a huge amount of money to pay the labor, firm can invest more in R&D sector, which finally result in the sufficient development of new technology that leads to higher productivity. Hence, the growth of population is likely to help firms to have a better chance in competing with other foreign rival firms.

**2.3.2 NEGATIVE EFFECTS**

**Capital dilution:**

The first problem caused by population growth is capital dilution. In Asian Developing countries, the total population is going up dramatically. For example, acording to United Nations Population Division, in 1965, India had the total population around 497 thousands while in 2010, the total population of India is approximately 1,214 million (increased 1.44%). Assume that the amount of capital in a country is constant; an increase in population will lead to a decrease in capital per worker (since adding more workers can lower the amount of capital at each worker’s disposal). In economic, this situation is called capital dilution. According to the Solow Model, y A k. α which means that the= reduction in capital per worker k can make a decline to the output per worker y since parameter A is constant. To understand the impact of output per worker on output per capita, we need to set up a link between these two variables. According to David E. Bloom (1997), we analyze the following identity:

Y =Y L

N L N

where Y, N, L denotes the amount of output, total population and labor respectively. The equation above illustrates that output per capita is equal to the multiplication of income per worker and the ratio of labor to the total population. Since the Solow model assumes that the quantity of labor L will not change overtime, the increase in population N and decrease in income per worker Y/ L can lead to the reduction in output per capita Y/ N . As a result, it will bring detriment to the economy.

**2.4 POULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (DEVELOPMENT)**

The recipe of economic development is not very difficult ‘although it has become the most important issue of today. The centerpiece of all economic activity is ‘development’ it is another matter that definition of development varies for every school of thought. Nordhaus and Samuelson (1998) write that if we look at the history, we come to know that all the countries of world did not follow the same path. Britain, for example started with industrial revolution, Japan by contrast, and started first by imitating the foreign technologies and protecting industries. So the path, modalities and time required for development is different for every country. They have, however, described that there are four wheels of economic development, these are:

Human resources

• Natural resources

• Capital formation

• Technology

They add that it is also very interesting to note that history of advanced nations can be summarized approximately by the following trends:

Trend 1: The capital stock has grown more rapidly than the population. Trend 2: This indicates a strong upward trend in real wages.

Trend 3: The share of wages and salaries in national income has edged up very slightly over long run but has been virtually constant over the last two decades.

There are many other trends in other areas but the Trend1 shows that the decline in population growth rates has enabled most of the countries to achieve development targets, sustain that development and share it with the broader segments of the society. Prediction of economic and social trends can be optimistic or pessimistic, but still the situation can be seen with a realistic view as well. The analysis is, however, is by the author.

**2.5 MALTHUSIAN THEORY**

About two centuries ago, Thomas Robert Malthus presented his theory and stated that population increases geometrically and food supplies increase arithmetically subjecting population to poverty. Human reproductive power outstrips the power of land to feed people. Hodgson (1983) opined: “On the basis of this theory, we can say that there is negative relationship between: fertility rates and standards of living (the higher the fertility rates, the lower the standards of living and vice versa), second negative relationship is between fertility rates and social class and the third negative relationship is between fertility rate and urbanization. Because of these three relationships an explanation of western fertility decline emerged.

**2.6 THEORY OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION**

Theory of Demographic Transition, although had been able to synthesize the population dynamics of advanced nations yet it failed to take into consideration the population explosion of UDCs and LDCs by an annual growth rate of above two percent . The theory of demographic transition was initially presented by W.S. Thomson and F.W. Notestein and further modified by C.P Blacker. The theory explains the effects of change in birth rates and death rates on the growth rates of population. This theory is based on the actual population trends of advanced countries of the world. This is the most acceptable theory of population growth. It does not adopt a pessimistic view point like Malthusian theory but this is superior to other theories. In the fourth stage of demographic transition, the fertility rates decline and tend to equal the death rates. Thus more or less the population growth rate is stationary (remains at the replacement level). As a result of this, standards of living of people rise, output expands, educational facilities become widely available, family planning finds a place amongst the priorities of the masses, and such a decline in population growth rates give impetus to increase in per capita income and a further decline in fertility rates. If we observe the populations trends in advanced nations, it is found that they are passing through this fourth stage. It is also worth mentioning here that universality of this theory gave the impressions that similar patterns would be followed in LDCs and UDCs as well, but what is happening in these countries is not ‘Demographic Transition’ but ‘Population Explosion’, The reason thereof, is that the population growth rates in these counties is much higher than what was historically observed in developed countries. Following are some of the reasons:

* The birth rates in developed countries were much lower when they were not developed as against in the less developed countries at a comparable state.
* The birth rates in LDCs are twice that of the developed countries. There are almost• seven times more births in LDCs than in developed countries as a whole.
* In developed countries, fertility rate of women is at replacement level, whereas in UDCs, women bear five children on average. If this trend continues the size of population doubles in only three decades.
* In LDCs mortality rates are declining at a greater speed because of advancement of medical facilities, therefore, the gap between death rates and birth rates is widening.
* Developed countries gained benefits of increased life expectancy due to fall in fertility but in LDCs life expectancy is increasing due to fall in mortality.
* Pattern of demography are different in LDCs and developed countries, children under age 15 make up almost 40% of the total population but in developed countries this ratio is 20%. This phenomenon leads to ‘dependency burden’ that shows that the number of non productive members of society increases.

**2.7 EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

According to Aguirre (1999), There are many groups taking part in the current population debate. All approach the question of population from very different points of view and with different motivations. A working knowledge of the parties and their underlying philosophies will allow one to sift through the diverse rhetoric and hold then up to the light of scientific data.‖ Frank Furedi, in his book population and Development: A critical introduction, (1997) has provided a brief outline of the variety of approaches to the issues of population. The Easterlin (1985) framework is often used to explain fertility levels in developing countries. Unlike other theories on population that draws solely from economics, Easterlin framework is strengthened by its combination of the demand concept from economics and the supply concept on population from sociology (Macunovich, 2000). The argument is that declining infant mortality leads to an excess supply of children thus decreasing the demand for children and motivating fertility regulation. This is relevant in Nigeria because infant mortality and other indictors of socioeconomic development have made little progress since the recession of the 1980s. Caldwell‘s 91982) wealth flow theory of the expected social and economic returns to parents from their investment in children seems close to the current economic realities in Nigeria. The high cost of schooling the dwelling financial support form government, and the increasing unemployment of university graduates may have created the context for the reversal of the wealth flow (National research council, 1993). Empirical studies which have used cross-country data to try and evaluate these claims, have however, found little evidence to support either argument. Once the effects of initial income, education and other determinants of growth are taken into account, population growth is found to have a negligible effect on growth of GDP (Bloom and Freeman, 1986). This gave rise to the ―population neutralist‖ or ―revisionist‖ perspective, which held that demography, was not a significant factor in the economic growth process. This view was in responsible for the tenuous position population variables have recently occupied in studies of economic growth. The study by Eke (1966) is a simple statistical approach that attempted at estimating the de jure population of Nigeria for the period of 1952 to 1965. The aim of Eke‘s paper was to point out the inadequacy of official Nigeria census statistics, the general intellectual confusion and the diseconomies inherent in political approach to census taking. In a related study, Olusanya (1966), tried to analyze the consequence of rapid population growth in Nigeria by drawing some lessons from the Mauritian experience. The study by Tuny (1984) can be regarded as one of the most comprehensive studies on the relationship between population growth and economic development. This model, which utilized time-series data from Taiwan, comprised about one hundred and fifteen equations and identities. The results obtained from the simulation showed that in the short run, a reduced rate of population growth would bring about a higher rate of per capital income. However, it must be noted have that these results did not consider the impact of migration especially, from the rural and the urban areas.Ogujiliba (2005) attempted to quantify and examine how changes in population dynamics affect household portfolio choices (expenditure on food, monetary transactions, goods and services and non-cash expenditure) in Nigeria given the fact that Nigeria is going through a demographic transition. Previous efforts to assess impacts of population growth have ignored the household expenditure response which has been far from being definitive on the transmission net effects on household portfolio choices. This study focuses on Nigeria with the aim of overcoming these defects and obtaining reliable information. The study established a link between demographic variables and household expenditure components using the Vector Error Correlation Methodology. Next the estimated equations are used to project the pattern of the different components of expenditure income based on three population scenarios generated from different assumptions on changes in fertility. The results suggest that population growth in Nigeria can produce significant effects on the economy via the expenditure profiles of households. The results also suggest that other factors such as real per capital income, ratio of other expenditure categories to total expenditure influence growth of household expenditure components. Oladosu (2001) suggest that the prospects for fertility decline in Nigeria are bright. Trends in the use of contraception between 1990 and 1999 increased. The proportion of women who had births in the five years before survey declined. More women think that they have the same reproductive goals as their husband. These are favourable indicators for future decline. In addition, young women who work away from home are more likely to use contraception; they are more likely to not have had birth in the fives years before data collection and are more likely to have the same desire for children as their husbands. Young women who married at later ages are likely not to have births in recent years (at the time of survey).Shavazi and Jones (2001) explore population dynamics and characteristics of Muslim population to aid deeper understanding of the Muslim world having defined Muslim-majority countries and countries with large Muslim populations, the study explains demographic, social and economic characteristics of Muslim populations, and second, analyze demographic transition in the Muslim world. A population policy in Muslim majority countries was examined.Makinwa and Adebusoye (1991) analyzed the adolescent reproductive behaviour in Nigeria using five cities which are Enugu, Kaduan, Jos, Onitsha and zaria as a case study. The findings indicated that the lives of a large segment of Nigeria‘s youth may be in jeopardy in many ways from early unguarded sexual resulting in unwanted pregnancies, disruption of education and illegally induced abortions

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

* 1. **Research design**

The researcher used descriptive research survey design in building up this project work the choice of this research design was considered appropriate because of its advantages of identifying attributes of a large population from a group of individuals. The design was suitable for the study as the study sought to examine the impact of population growth on the Nigerian economy

* 1. **Sources of data collection**

Data were collected from two main sources namely:

(i)Primary source and

(ii)Secondary source

**Primary source:**

These are materials of statistical investigation which were collected by the research for a particular purpose. They can be obtained through a survey, observation questionnaire or as experiment; the researcher has adopted the questionnaire method for this study.

**Secondary source:**

These are data from textbook Journal handset etc. they arise as byproducts of the same other purposes. Example administration, various other unpublished works and write ups were also used.

* 1. **Population of the study**

Population of a study is a group of persons or aggregate items, things the researcher is interested in getting information for the study the impact of population growth on the Nigerian economy. 200 staff of national population commission, Akwa Ibom state was selected randomly by the researcher as the population of the study.

* 1. **Sample and sampling procedure**

Sample is the set people or items which constitute part of a given population sampling. Due to large size of the target population, the researcher used the Taro Yamani formula to arrive at the sample population of the study.

n= N

1+N(e)2

n= 200

1+200(0.05)2

= 200

1+200(0.0025)

= 200 200

1+0.5 = 1.5 = 133.

**3.5 Instrument for data collection**

The major research instrument used is the questionnaires. This was appropriately moderated. They staff were administered with the questionnaires to complete, with or without disclosing their identities. The questionnaire was designed to obtain sufficient and relevant information from the respondents. The primary data contained information extracted from the questionnaires in which the respondents were required to give specific answer to a question by ticking in front of an appropriate answer and administered the same on staff of the organizations. The questionnaires contained about 16 structured questions which were divided into sections A and B.

* 1. **Validation of the research instrument**

The questionnaire used as the research instrument was subjected to face its validation. This research instrument (questionnaire) adopted was adequately checked and validated by the supervisor his contributions and corrections were included into the final draft of the research instrument used.

* 1. **Method of data analysis**

The data collected was not an end in itself but it served as a means to an end. The end being the use of the required data to understand the various situations it is with a view to making valuable recommendations and contributions. To this end, the data collected has to be analysis for any meaningful interpretation to come out with some results. It is for this reason that the following methods were adopted in the research project for the analysis of the data collected. For a comprehensive analysis of data collected, emphasis was laid on the use of absolute numbers frequencies of responses and percentages. Answers to the research questions were provided through the comparison of the percentage of workers response to each statement in the questionnaire related to any specified question being considered.

Frequency in this study refers to the arrangement of responses in order of magnitude or occurrence while percentage refers to the arrangements of the responses in order of their proportion.

The simple percentage method is believed to be straight forward easy to interpret and understand method.

The researcher therefore chooses the simple percentage as the method to use.

The formula for percentage is shown as.

% = f/N x 100/1

Where f = frequency of respondents response

N = Total Number of response of the sample

100 = Consistency in the percentage of respondents for each item contained in questions.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**PRESENTATION ANALYSIS INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

**4.1 Introduction**

Efforts will be made at this stage to present, analyze and interpret the data collected during the field survey. This presentation will be based on the responses from the completed questionnaires. The result of this exercise will be summarized in tabular forms for easy references and analysis. It will also show answers to questions relating to the research questions for this research study. The researcher employed simple percentage in the analysis.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

The data collected from the respondents were analyzed in tabular form with simple percentage for easy understanding.

A total of 133(one hundred and thirty three) questionnaires were distributed and 133 questionnaires were returned.

Question 1

Gender distribution of the respondents.

TABLE I

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender distribution of the respondents** | | | | | |
| Response | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Male | 77 | 57.9 | 57.9 | 57.9 |
| Female | 56 | 42.1 | 42.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 133 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

From the above table it shows that 57.9% of the respondents were male while 42.1% of the respondents were female.

Question 2

The positions held by respondents

TABLE II

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The positions held by respondents** | | | | | |
| Response | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| **Valid** | Directors | 37 | 27.8 | 27.8 | 27.8 |
| Administrators | 50 | 37.6 | 37.6 | 65.4 |
| Senior staffs | 23 | 17.3 | 17.3 | 82.7 |
| Junior staffs | 23 | 17.3 | 17.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 133 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

The above tables shown that 37 respondents which represent27.8% of the respondents are directors, 50 respondents which represents 37.6 % are administrators23 respondents which represents 17.3% of the respondents are senior staffs, while 23 respondents which represents 17.3% of the respondents junior staffs

**TEST OF HYPOTHESES**

Population growth does not have any significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy

**Table III**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **population growth does not have any significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy** | | | |
| Response | Observed N | Expected N | Residual |
| Agreed | 40 | 33.3 | 6.8 |
| strongly agreed | 50 | 33.3 | 16.8 |
| Disagreed | 26 | 33.3 | -7.3 |
| strongly disagreed | 17 | 33.3 | -16.3 |
| Total | 133 |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
|  | **population growth does not have any significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy** |
| Chi-Square | 19.331a |
| Df | 3 |
| Asymp. Sig. | .000 |
| a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 33.3. | |

Decision rule:

There researcher therefore reject the null hypothesis that state that population growth does not have any significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy as the calculated value of 19.331 is greater than the critical value of 7.82

Therefore the alternate hypothesis is accepted that state that population growth does have a significant impact on the growth of Nigeria’s economy.

**TEST OF HYPOTHESIS TWO**

There is no significantrelationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth.

Table V

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **there is no significant relationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth** | | | |
| Response | Observed N | Expected N | Residual |
| Yes | 73 | 44.3 | 28.7 |
| No | 33 | 44.3 | -11.3 |
| Undecided | 27 | 44.3 | -17.3 |
| Total | 133 |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test Statistics** | |
|  | there is no significantrelationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth. |
| Chi-Square | 28.21 1a |
| Df | 2 |
| Asymp. Sig. | .000 |
| a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 44.3. | |

Decision rule:

There researcher therefore reject the null hypothesis that state that there is no significantrelationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth as the calculated value of 28.211 is greater than the critical value of 5.99

Therefore the alternate hypothesis is accepted that state that there is a significantrelationship between population growth and Nigerian economic growth.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 Introduction**

It is important to ascertain that the objective of this study was to ascertain the impact of population growth on the Nigerian economy.

In the preceding chapter, the relevant data collected for this study were presented, critically analyzed and appropriate interpretation given. In this chapter, certain recommendations made which in the opinion of the researcher will be of benefits in addressing the challenges of population growth on the Nigerian economy.

* 1. **Summary**

The population of Nigeria has a built-in potential for rapid growth through natural increase. Nigerian population is growing rapidly without corresponding growth in socio-economic development, as explained by Rev. Thomas Malthus an increasing population without corresponding increase in the means of subsistence will breed poverty, diseases, unemployment and other social ills. Nigeria needs to design an 11 intervention programmes that will help in reducing population growth rate and stimulate socio-economic development. Government should create enabling environment that will facilitate savings, investment, innovation, entrepreneurship and technical know-how

**5.3 Conclusion**

This study examines the impact of population growth on economic growth. Our conclusions is that economic growth formed a significant relationship with population growth.The existing state of knowledge does warrant any clear-cut generalization as to effect of population growth on economic growth in today‘s less developed countries. The actual evidence on thee association between growth of population and economic growth not point to any uniform conclusion. But it is possible that the effect of population growth on economic growth rates, densities, and income levels as do today‘s less developed countries. Clearly, there is need for more intensive research on the actual experience of nations, currently and in the past.

**5.4 Recommendation**

Based on our analysis and research findings, we recommend the following policy guidelines:

* From our analysis, for population growth to positively impact on economic growth, one idea would be to let the level of per capital technology to increase. This will lead to better resource utilization in the economy.
* Savings rate of Nigerians should increase as this will be used to invest in more research and new techniques. Each of these techniques being a less than perfect substitute requiring more labour or resource of a different, more labour intensive type and therefore added more value added services to the production. This continues to add to the total output at a higher rate than population growth, rising per capital out as a result.
* Government should make concerted effort to check population growth rate. Any population growth that• occurs too fast will have diminishing returns or create a circumstance where economic growth is stagnating.

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**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**INSTRUCTION**

Please tick or fill in where necessary as the case may be.

Section A

1. Gender of respondent

A male { }

B female { }

1. Age distribution of respondents
2. 15-20 { }
3. 21-30 { }
4. 31-40 { }
5. 41-50 { }
6. 51 and above { }
7. Marital status of respondents?
8. married [ ]
9. single [ ]
10. divorce [ ]
11. Educational qualification off respondents
12. SSCE/OND { }
13. HND/BSC { }
14. PGD/MSC { }
15. PHD { }

Others……………………………….

1. How long have you been a work with national population commission?
2. 0-2 years { }
3. 3-5 years { }
4. 6-11 years { }
5. 11 years and above……….
6. Position held by the respondent in national population commission
7. Director { }
8. Administrator { }
9. Senior staff { }
10. Junior staff { }
11. How long have you been in national population commission
12. 0-2 years { }
13. 3-5 years { }
14. 6-11 years { }
15. 11 years and above……….

SECTION B

1. There is no effect of population growth on the socioeconomic development?
2. Agrees { }
3. Strongly agreed { }
4. Disagreed { }
5. Strongly disagreed { }
6. There is effect of population growth on the socioeconomic development?

(a) Agrees { }

(b) Strongly agreed { }

(c) Disagreed { }

(d) Strongly disagreed { }

1. National population commission is the only means to reduce population rate
2. Agreed { }
3. Strongly agreed { }
4. Disagreed { }
5. Strongly disagreed { }
6. Nigeria government are reforming national population commission
7. Agreed { }
8. Strongly agreed { }
9. Disagreed { }
10. Strongly disagreed { }
11. National population commission know the rate of unemployment
12. Agreed { }
13. Strongly agreed { }
14. Disagreed { }
15. Strongly disagreed { }
16. There are causes of population rate in Nigeria
17. Agreed { }
18. Strongly agreed { }
19. Disagreed { }
20. Strongly disagreed { }
21. Population growth reduce rate of trafficking?
22. Agreed { }
23. Strongly agreed { }
24. Disagreed { }
25. Strongly disagreed { }
26. Population growth increase rate of poverty
27. Agreed { }
28. Strongly agreed { }
29. Disagreed { }
30. Strongly disagreed { }
31. Population growth increase the rate of illiteracy in Akwa Ibom state
32. Agreed { }
33. Strongly agreed { }
34. Disagreed { }
35. Strongly disagreed { }