

# **CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF RAPID GROWING NIGERIAN POPULATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**BY**

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## **Abstract**

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. Increasing population can have adverse negative effect on the economic growth of a nation. The economic growth of a nation is significantly dependent on the growth of its population. This study therefore, assessed the impact of rapid population growing in Nigerian. It also investigates why Nigerian population is increasing rapidly. The study used trend analysis of the study with the scope spanning between 2007 and 2014. Information was by creating awareness to stakeholders, schools, health centres, seminars and using a structured questionnaire developed by the researcher to collect data. Data was analysed using mean and simple percentage. The findings established how population can be managed or controlled to ensure continuous and sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria.

**Keywords: Critical Analysis, Impact, Population Growth, Economy  
Development, Nigeria**

## **Introduction**

The nature of the relationship between population growth and economic growth has attracted the attention of a large number of the world's most influential thinkers that most of them have started propounding theories to explain the relationship. Generally the various explanations of the relationship between population growth and the society have focused on the causes of population growth, the consequences of population growth, and the responses of people to population growth. Most of the early writers on population growth were very much concerned with the need to balance population with resources.

According to Okafor (2004), population is a critical factor in the development plans of any civilized society. For effective planning for the development of developing countries, it is necessary to have an actual count of the population. This will enable government to know how many people to whom they should distribute amenities and social services.

Udabah (2002) goes on to say that it is a central problem of economic development if the population of a nation expands as fast as national income, per capita income will not increase. Much of the problem of developing nations like that of Nigeria is due to population growth. Most developing nations have made appreciable gains in income, like Nigeria do in exporting crude, but most of the gains have been eaten up by the increasing population. On the other hand, the early Roman Christians and Islamic writers were largely in favour of population growth without showing concern for the need to balance the number of people with available resources. This attitude was apparently influenced by high mortality, which characterized the period.

The United Nations announced that the global population had breached seven billion and would expand rapidly for decades, taxing natural resources, if countries cannot better manage the growth. Nearly all of the increase is in sub-Saharan Africa, where the population rise far outstrips economic expansion. It went on to say that elsewhere in the developing world, in Asia and Latin America, fertility rates have fallen sharply in recent generations and now resemble those in the United States – just above two children per woman. That transformation was driven in those countries by a mix of educational and employment opportunities for women, access to contraception and urbanization. Whether similar forces will defuse the population bomb in Nigeria is unclear.

The pace of growth in Nigeria is unlike anything else ever in history, and a critical problem. Joel E. Cohen, a professor of population at Rockefeller University in New York, was quoted as saying. ‘Across sub-Saharan Africa, alarmed governments have begun to act, reversing longstanding policies that encouraged large families. Nigeria made contraceptives free some years back, and officials are promoting smaller families as a key to economic salvation’. What good news?

Nigeria, already the world’s sixth most populous nation with 167 million people, is a crucial test case. If this large nation rich with oil cannot control its growth, what hope is there for the many smaller poorer countries?’ Knowledge of the population of any area – country, state, local government area, ward, village, hamlet, etc. is very important at any given time, because it is what will aid growth and development and adequate provision of social services.

Awareness campaigns on this should be intensified by the government, the media and the relevant NGOs, especially at grass root level. With more than a hundred universities in the country, graduates are poured into the streets every year to chase jobs that are not just available. Unwanted pregnancies, death from abortion, abandoned babies, criminal activities, militancy, and violence at home and on the streets, are on the increase. These nightmares of increased violence/criminal activities are robbing us of peace.

‘...Whole families squeeze into 7 by 11 feet rooms along a narrow corridor. Up to 30 people share a kitchen, toilet and sink, the pipes in the neighbourhood often no longer carry water’, ‘In Makoko, Nigeria, a newborn baby is attended to by the light of cell phones or rechargeable lanterns; due to power failure.’; ‘at Surulere Secondary School, more than 120 students cram into most classrooms, two to a desk and some sitting on broken blocks or wood to receive their lessons. These were some of my experiences during our teaching practice supervision exercise. There is the dismal electricity supply in the country. The African population boom means more illegal immigration. There are up to 400.000 undocumented Africans in the United States.’

## **Definition of Concepts**

### **Population**

According to Thomas (1972), the population of an area is the total number of all individuals alive in a particular point in time. In the Higgs (1963), population of a country is the number of its inhabitants and whatever account is taken of differences of quantity, it is of quality in close relation to numbers. Thus population can be regarded as a label for a human aggregate.

### **Economic Development**

Wikipedia website (2006), define economic development as any effect or undertaking which aids in the growth of the economy. That is, it is the “process” of developing and maintaining “suitable economic”, social and political environment” in which “balance growth” may be realized increasing the wealth of the community (Nigeria). While this definition looks simple enough at first glance, an examination of each of its component parts shows how complex economic development actually is. Economic development is a “process”. The highlight is the fact that economic development has two series of steps that build on each other to create a desired product or out come.

## **Theoretical Framework**

The prospects of Malthusian prediction enacting itself due to population outstretching the available resources are time for developing countries, low Per Capita income of the developing nations lead to poverty which is on the increase in the developing nations because of rapid population. The crux of the matter now is how to manage the population growth. This study considered the complex interrelations between population and economy. It examined the consequences of economic development with regard to the increase in population in Nigeria. Often, many scholars, particularly economist, consider the relationship that exists between an urban area and rural area only on the level of a country's national economy as indicated by the gross domestic product (GDP), per capital income and population.

Ominde and Ejiogu (1972) observed as to whether population growth will generate the type and intensity of tension and stress required to act as an effective catalyst to urge people into rational, forward looking economic decisions and actions aimed at improving their present economic conditions which will depend on the social, economic, physical resources and political situations within which the people concerned are operating their economy.

Jhingan (2005) contributed by considering the consequences of population growth on economic development. To Jhingan, these have attracted the attention of economists ever since Adam Smith wrote his "Wealth Nations" Adam Smith, (1776) "The annual Labour of nation is the resource which, originally supply with it all the necessaries and conveniences of life" it was only Malthus and Ricardo who raised an alarm about the effects of population growth on the economy. But their fears have proved unfounded because the growth of population in Western Europe has led to its rapid industrialization.

Population growth has helped the growth of such economies because they are wealthy, have abundant capital and scarcity of labour. In such countries, the supply curve of labour rate of population has led to a rapid increase in productivity and every increase in population has led to a more than proportionate increase in the gross national product.

## **Why Nigeria Population is growing rapidly**

Among many other factors causing unprecedented growth of population in Nigeria is birth rate and this has affected greatly the growth rate of the population. According to 2006

Population Census, the growth rate was 3.02. This shows that Nigerian population doubled in less than 22 years.

There are many factors that have generated increase in birth rate. One of them is improved medical services and facilities. Compare to many decades ago, there are better though not adequate medical services and facilities. Better drugs and immunization services which have reduced greatly infant, child, maternal and other forms of mortality and consequently high birth rate.

Another factor is early marriage most especially in the northern part of Nigeria. Early marriages tend to lead to high birth rate because women will have opportunity of having many children due to long child bearing/reproductive years. Another is the increase in material well being of some families. When people are materially well off, they give little thought to the number of children to have. Wealth has encouraged many people to have large families and thus result to high birth rate.

Old age security also encourages people to have large families. People want to have many children base on the fact that these children would provide for them when they are old. They believe the more the children the more the guarantee of better life at old ages.

In Nigeria, religions, superstitions and customs have encouraged population growth. All these favour large families and discourage the practice of family planning. Many religions and customs also allow polygyny. For instance, Islam favours polygyny and allows men to have up to four wives each. Death rate is also worth mentioning as a factor in population growth in Nigeria. Many of the factors mentioned above can also be held responsible for low death rate that is generating increase in population growth. Factors that affect death rate include improvement in medicine, dietary standard, hygiene, increase in the levels of standard of living and literacy etc. They are part of the reasons for the decline in mortality or death rates of infant, child and adult in Nigeria and consequently continue to generate rapid increase in population.

### **Efforts and Failures to Reduce Rapidly Population Growth in Nigeria**

Nigeria government made the first serious efforts to influence the population variables in 1988 during the Buhari administration, the present Nigerian president. The policy, “Nigeria Policy on Population for Unity, Progress and self-reliance” was introduced after the approval

of the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC). A lot was done in preparation for the policy. It was a proof of the government seriousness and concern about family planning as part of overall socio-economic development of the country. The Head of State and Government emphasized the need for the policy (Federal Ministry of Health, 1985).

Furtherance to this, another policy was introduced in 2003 by Olusegun Obasanjo Administration. This was called “Nigeria Policy on Population for Sustainable Development”. However, the rate of population growth in 1991 (2.82 percent) and in 2006 (3.02 percent) attest to the fact that the policies have little or no influence on the people (Council of State, 2007). Despite the two policies, the Nigerian population is growing rapidly and the rate of growth in 2006 was higher than that of 1991. The policies have not achieved the stated aims and objectives (Ebigbola, 1988).

Many factors militated against success and proper functioning of the population policy programmes. Ebigbola (1988) explained many socio-cultural and other constraints that militated against effective implementation of the population policy programmes in Nigeria. The policy was voluntary in nature. According to the policy document, ‘couples will only be encouraged to have the number of children that they can adequately cater for, since all couples have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children’. There is also prevalence of polygyny most especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Islamic injunction allows a man to marry many wives. The policy advocated four children per woman rather than four children per couple.

Another impediment is the belief that Islam does not support the fixing of marriage at 18 years or more. The programme cannot be implemented wholly or in part most especially in the Muslim community of the North due to this belief. There is a wide belief that the male children are the pillars of the family and object of perpetuation of the family lineage. Therefore, many families strive to have many male children irrespective of the number of female they have had. In addition, the policy was voluntary in nature. There is no legal backing, sanction or incentive for compliance. Frequent change of government in Nigeria is another serious impediment. Every government wants to be the architect of a new policy. For political reasons there is no continuity or equal zeal to implement the policy on the part of most successive governments (Ebigbola, 1988).

## **Impact of Population Growth on Economic Development**

Population growth affects economic development in two ways; by promoting economic development this occurs in the developed economies, by retarding economic development this occurs in the developing countries like Nigeria.

### **Economic Impact**

Growing population will create a large market for goods and services. Many people need large demand for commodities and services. There will be high number of consumers. Demand for food, clothing and shelter will be on the increase. Moreover, demand for materials being used by children will also increase. A rapidly growing population always has large number of children. According to 1991 population census of Nigeria, 45% of the total population fall into 0-14 year's age group. Therefore, there will be an increasing demand for toys, children wear, etc.

Jhingan (2005) viewed that the effect of population growth on per capita income is unfavourable. The growth of population tends to retard the per capita income in 3 ways: It increases the pressure of population on land; It tends to rise in cost of consumption goods because of the scarcity of the cooperate factors to increase their supplies, It tends to a decline in the accumulation of capital because with increase in family members, expenses increase. These adverse effects of population growth on per capita income operate more severely if the percentage of children in the total population is high, as is actually the case in Nigeria. Children involve economic cost in the form of time spent and money expended in bringing them up. Economic development depends upon investment. In Nigeria, the resources available for investment are limited.

Rapid population growth retards investment needed for higher future consumption. According to the SCOFNAS, (1972) as cited in Adediran (2012), rapid population growth holds down the level of saving and capital investment in the means of production and thereby limits the rate of growth of gross national product. As explained above, a growing population will stimulate demand and change investment pattern. A large children population means large production of materials needed by the children. Many producers will change their production pattern and shift to the production of children's goods. On the part of government, more school built for children especially nursery and primary schools, more recreational facilities provided, more health institutions that will treat them and give vaccines.

An increasing population will increase dependency ratio and workers will have more mouths to feed. More children or aged people to cater for. There will be greater dependants on the working population. There will be social burden and economic liability on the working population. Having met their needs and that of their dependants, there will be little or nothing left out of the populace income. This will reduce savings and there will be a lower rate of capital formation. This in turn will hamper the socio- economic development of the country. This is one of the reasons why Nigeria is experiencing low capital formation and epileptic or very low socio-economic development.

Increase demand without corresponding increase in production will bring about high cost of living. Many people will be chasing few goods and this will lead to upward movement of prices of commodities and services. Demand and price are increasing in Nigeria due to population pressure and cost of living most especially in the urban areas. Many people in Nigeria are spending large percentage of their income on goods, services and children upkeep. Lagos, Kano and Abuja are typical examples.

Another effect of a rapidly increasing population is the low level of income per head. There will be fewer income or resources per head. The result of this is a lower standard of living or general fall in the standard of living. The consumption of goods and services per head will be low. This in Nigeria lead to consumption of sub standard goods and inferior commodities. Moreover, this can as well generate a situation whereby many people live in ghetto or slump areas. Such areas are conducive for contagious diseases and epidemics. This is the case in many places in Nigeria especially in Lagos, and many parts of the Northern Nigeria based on the field work exercise.

In addition to aforementioned points, high and rapid population growth without corresponding social and economic growth will lead to inadequate social services and misuse due to heavy pressure on housing, educational facilities, roads, health facilities, water supply, etc. To forestall incessant breakdown of these facilities and also to meet the increasing demand for them, the government will spend more money on provision of more facilities and on the repair and maintenance of existing ones.

In Nigeria, rapidly increasing population has generated rapidly growing supply of labour. 1991 Population Census also revealed that 51.7% of the total population belonged to age group 15 - 64. Now in Nigeria, there are a great number of people who are able, capable,



willing and available for employment. But it is saddening to also point out here that there are no enough jobs to absorb this great number of labour force. The resultant effect is the high level of unemployment and poverty.

Growth in population normally results to growth in population density especially in developing countries of the world. The average population density for the country in 1991 was 96 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. In some parts of Nigeria, population density is as high as 1,000 persons per square kilometre. For instance, the most densely populated states are Lagos (1,712), Anambra (534), Imo (438) and Akwa Ibwa Ibom (389). These states are all in the southern part of the country. Kano State is the most densely populated in the northern part of the country, with a population density of 281 persons per km<sup>2</sup> (NPC, 1998).

### **Literature Reviewed**

In recent times, policymakers in the country have shown great concern in the economic growth of the nation. Both urban and rural economies have come under the lens of the policy makers to check what the real factor(s) that enhance economic growth. However, it has been accepted that economic growth is mainly affected by the population explosion, because the more the human activities the more driven economy will be and this in-turn brings the needed growth in the economy. For instance, fewer people live in rural areas which has little or no economic problem compared to urban, semi urban area that have more population. The federal government at one time or the other has introduced many policies to consciously enhance economic growth through the distribution of the nation's population evenly. It was thus realized that one of the factors responsible for the development of human capital formation in turn affects the economic growth of a nation.

Nigeria is the most populous and largest demographic population census in Africa, with 56m total population census count in 1963. During this year the major economy resources was only agriculture and it's principal export are cotton, cocoa, palm oil, rubber and timber. These agriculture resources constitute the gross domestic product (GDP) which is used to measure the economic growth with the total population of 79.8m, around 1970 when Nigeria discovered oil as a natural resource, the labour force of Agricultural tends to reduce about 30% compared to 1963. In this the labour force abandoned agricultural for oil because of higher incentive and more so people from the rural area that also contribute mostly to the economic growth of agriculture move to the urban areas to search for a white collar job which

eventually lead to the decrease in agriculture. The efforts of governments in the developing countries to feed their peoples and also provide quality social services for them are being frustrated by rapid population growth. This growth as earlier stated is attributable, on the one hand, to improvement in human survival associated with the application of modern medical science to health matters, better sanitation and immunization of children, which have caused the death rate to decrease (Ashford, 2001; United Nations, 2001a).

On the other hand, the traditional beliefs about the value of children, particularly sons, as an asset to be relied upon by their parents in agricultural production and to support them during old age have combined with the practice of polygamy, the fear of child mortality and low levels of female education to encourage high fertility. The continuity of the matrilineal decent group and the influence of religions, which teach that children are gifts from God sharply, limit the prospects for lowering the birth rate (Lee and Miller, 1990; Renne, 1995; Ainsworth et al., 1996 and National Population Commission, 2003).

However, population growth affects our condition for determining the golden rule level of capital accumulation. The country tends to be least able to cope with the development and environmental consequences of rapid growth due to their low per capital incomes, indebtedness, and limited capacity for investments (UNFPA 1991). The situation in Nigeria is not different from what is obtainable from other African countries; her population is large which make it a “giant” relative to the other African countries. The efforts of governments in the developing countries to feed their peoples and also provide quality social services for them are being frustrated by rapid population growth.

This study is an attempt to evaluate the extent population growth affect economic growth of Nigeria. In order for Nigeria to meet up with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) declared by the United Nations, this study hereby posited that urban agriculture is a sine qua non to the achievement of economic growth.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The research aimed to point out the eminent and unavoidable results of continuous increase in human population in Nigeria. Some of these results are; depletion of resources, human congestion, weather modification, high unemployment rate, environmental degradation and a lot more. To really appreciate the seriousness and danger of population crash in Nigeria, one needs to examine its impacts on Nigeria’s ecosystem and resources. These impacts are seen already through: rapid urbanization; land degradation and waste disposal; water pollution;

desertification; soil pollution and air pollution; weather modification; non-renewable resource consumption and depletion like crude oil; coal etc. Population control is seriously needed if Nigerian's are to leave sustainably and a lot of factors have been noted to work simultaneously to inhibit population control in Nigeria. The factors amongst many are: religion; lack of education; male-child preference; old-age social security; high infant mortality; demographic data; among others.

China is one country that almost suffered the same fate with Nigeria, but where able to manage this problem by taking some bold steps like the limitation on the birth rate. The government of China restricted child birth to one child birth per family and as a result, this has reduced high infant mortality as it is currently inversely seen in Nigeria and other third world countries. The overall effects of this growth will continue to change the Nigerian landscape for a very long period of time if nothing is done to checkmate the rapid population growth. These effects are presently felt most especially in; energy consumption, carbon emissions, air pollution and human congestion. Hence, the need of this study.

### **Significance of the Study**

The study will help to achieve the goals of the 2003 Nigeria National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development i.e. sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, protection and preservation of the environment, and provision of qualify social services, balance between the rate of population growth, available resources, and the social and economic development of the country and complete demographic transition to a reasonable growth in birth rates and low death rates and also that of Millennium Goals. Population management is desirable.

Malthus wrote many years ago about the possible consequences of a rapidly growing population. Malthus explained that when population increases more rapidly than the food supply, population is checked by war, diseases, famine, etc. Malthus' proposition is relevant to Nigerian situation. Rapid population growth is detrimental to economic and social development. Population will continue to eat up any gain in economic development and these may lead to adverse effects on the people as put forward by Malthus, hence, the need of this study.

The study will help Nigerian government to learn from China's experience in the 19th century when the Qing government faced many problems associated with population growth.

More and more people lived in poverty; and were unable to cope when floods or droughts occurred. The government of Qing was unprepared for the effects of population growth.

The study will help the Nigerian government to turn the tide of its economic misfortunes and mismanagement; it will have to take steps to raise domestic food production, labour productivity, reduction of absolute poverty and lower population growth. The population situation of Nigeria and issues related to it need to be discussed to bring many population related factors to the consciousness of people. Nigeria is suffering from wide spread poverty and rising unemployment. There is mass movement of people from rural areas to urban areas thereby creating many social vices. This is because the available industries cannot afford to employ the growing number of labour force.

The study is for the health of mother, child and welfare of the family; as population growth should be monitored and regulated. Healthy family can help in socio-economic development while an unhealthy family is a liability to the government and society. It is also inimical to economic growth and development of the nation and the world at large.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The study will create awareness to Nigerian citizens as to:

1. Examine the consequences of rapidly growing population on Nigerian economic development.
2. Investigate why Nigeria population is growing rapidly.
3. Find out why past efforts by Nigerian government to reduce rapidly population growth failed.
4. Suggest ways on how to reduce rapidly population growth in Nigeria.

### **Research Question**

1. What are the consequences of rapidly growing population on Nigerian economic development?
2. Why is Nigeria population growing rapidly?
3. Why efforts by the Nigerian government to reduce rapidly population growth failed?
4. What are the ways to reduce rapidly population growth in Nigeria?

### **Methodology**

The research design used for the study was descriptive survey research design which involved a critical analysis of consequences of Nigeria rapid growing population on

economic development. It surveyed the extent of population growth and environmental degradation in human health in Nigeria. The design was also inferential because the study used inferential statistics for some of its data analysis.

Population of the study was comprised of various stakeholders, schools, health centres organised seminars and a structured questionnaire was developed by the researcher. The survey sample was randomly drawn from the states of the federation. The respondents were selected from the six geo-political zones in Nigeria.

Fifty stakeholders were selected per zone. The 50 stakeholder multiplied by 6 zones yields 300, while 10 were picked from the Federal city capital, awareness was created in 5 schools, 5 health centres and seminars organised in each of the 6 geo political zones in Nigeria, 32 structured questionnaires was drafted to illicit response from the respondents as to complete the total sample size of 500. The zones include: south south, south west, south east, north central, north east and north west, with each zone consisting of five, six or seven states.

A questionnaire titled “Impact of rapidly growing Nigerian population on economic development questionnaires (IRGNPEDQ)” was developed. Experts in the field validated the instrument and were administered to the respondents in a seminar and also during class lectures. The instruments reliability was obtained by pilot – testing using test-retest method. A reliability coefficient of 0.78 was obtained and the instrument was certified adequately reliable for the survey. The questionnaire is made up of two sections namely; A and B, which contained items eliciting information on personal issues and their perceptions on rapidly growing Nigerian population respectively. Section B consists of several items with response options patterned after Likert’s scale of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), strongly disagree (SD) and disagree (D) and also low, average and high.

## Result Presentation

### Research question 1: What are the Consequences of Rapidly Growing Population on Nigerian Economic Development?

**Table 1: Consequences of Rapidly Growing Population on Nigerian Economy**

Consequences items	Low (%)	Average (%)	High (%)	Totals
Consequences are felt in energy consumption	24	46	430	500
Impact on carbon emissions	57	31	412	500
Effects on air pollution	72	68	360	500
Consequences on human congestion	24	68	408	500
Effects on rapid urbanization	55	25	420	500

With an increase in human population in Nigeria, energy consumption will be in the increase as seen in the results above 430, 412, 360, 408, and 420 respondents rated high and this increase will cause more depletion and degradation of the Nigerian environment. The environment will be depleted and degraded because the quest for energy will be increased to meet the demands of increasing human population. That is to say that an increase in human population means an increasing demand on the environment to provide those resources needed to sustain it.

Energy consumption reflects annual consumption of commercial primary energy such as: coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas and hydro, nuclear and geothermal electricity. Nigeria's total primary energy consumption has more than doubled since 1980. Owing to its continuing population boom and the further development of the country's economy, Nigeria's energy consumption has risen from just 0.42 quadrillion Btu (quads) in 1980 to approximately 0.92 quads in 2001. See figure 1 below:

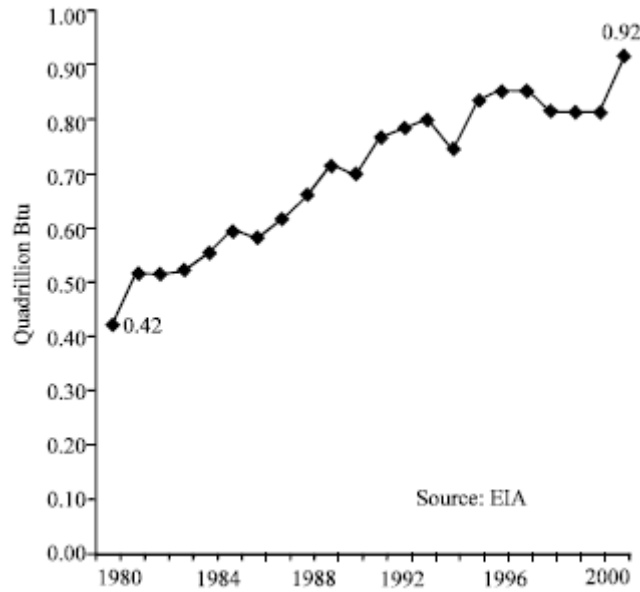


Fig. 1: Chart on Nigeria energy consumption (Department of Petroleum Resources DPR Nigeria (2005) in Oramah, (2006).

Fig.1. Petroleum consumption accounted for the lion's share of Nigeria's total energy consumption in 2005, making up 61.4% of the total (Fig. 1). Natural gas accounted for the bulk of the remainder with 31.7%, with hydropower (6.8%) and coal (0.2%) rounding out the country's fuel mix (Oramah, 2006). See figure 2:

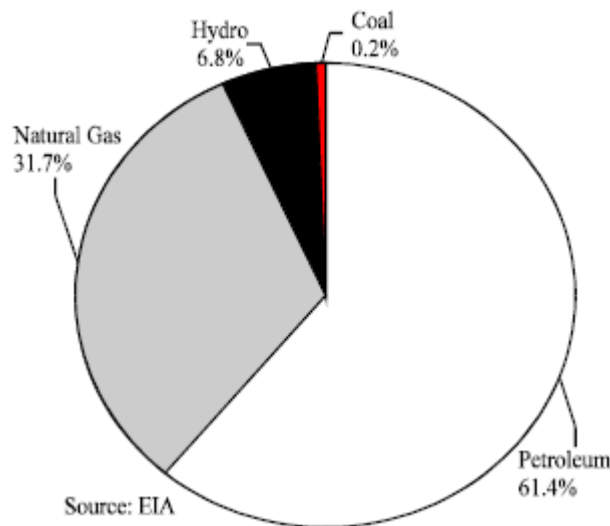


Fig. 2: Chart on Nigeria fuel share of energy consumption, 2005 (Department of Petroleum Resources DPR Nigeria (2005) in Oramah, (2006).

Natural gas has made inroads in Nigeria, up from 22% of the country's primary energy consumption in the mid-1990s to nearly 32% today. Recently, the Nigerian government is

looking to promote the use of coal for domestic consumption and industrial uses as a means of combating deforestation and over-reliance on oil from the growing human population. However, the country has limited coal reserves; much of which are lignite and sub-bituminous and Nigeria's coal production has declined by around 50% since 1997 (Oramah, 2006). See figure 3:

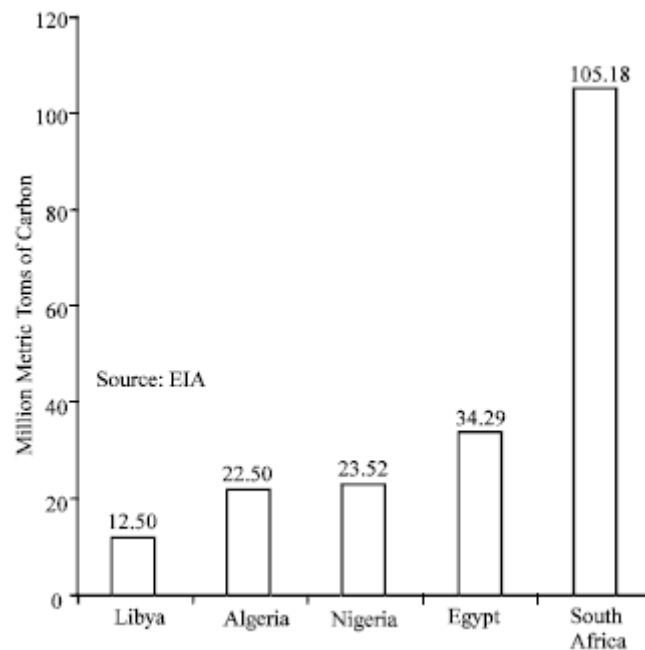


Fig. 3: The rank of Nigeria's carbon emissions (Department of Petroleum Resources DPR Nigeria (2005) in Oramah, (2006).

In addition, environmentalists are concerned that renewed emphases on coal mining will not only lead to environmental degradation, but they fear that using coal as a replacement for oil and fuel will lead to increased carbon emissions.

Fig. 3 of the carbon emission in Nigeria, the rampant flaring of natural gas in the Niger Delta during oil production is the main culprit making natural gas the main source of carbon emissions in Nigeria, other sources are fuel, wood, automotive engines and industries. Nigeria's per capita carbon emissions have fluctuated over the past 20 years, but generally have stood at or near 0.20 metric tons of carbon equivalent (although ranked among the lowest OPEC members in Africa). This will definitely increase if the population growth is not checked.



According to Oramah (2006), the increase in air pollution and human congestion in Nigeria has remained a problem, as other sources such as automobiles and diesel, electricity generators contribute to the choking air in cities such as Abuja and Lagos, which are plagued by daily smog shrouding the skyline of the central city. Studies carried out by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) show a moderate-to-high concentration of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, organic acids and hydrocarbons in the atmosphere, the majority of which come from automotive engines and industries. The population explosion in Lagos since the 1960s during the 1970s oil boom put tremendous pressure on city government resources, which could not keep up to manage traffic adequately, same is now being seen in Abuja the current capital territory.

The country's oil boom has led to an influx of cars and consequent traffic congestion which continues to get worse in major cities.

## Research question 2: Why is Nigeria Population Growing Rapidly?

**Table 2: Nigeria Rapidly Growing Population**

	Reasons items	Stakeholders		Schools		Hospitals	
		Respondents = 500	SA	SA	SA	SA	SA
		X	SD	X	SD	X	SD
1.	Low mortality rate due to improved agriculture and enhanced food security.	3.91	0.73	3.64	0.65	3.70	0.98
2.	Better nutrition and improvement in general sanitation among the people.	3.43	0.88	3.56	0.73	3.41	0.58
3.	Better medical care and the scientific break through in techniques for controlling infectious diseases.	3.16	0.92	3.24	0.85	3.06	0.65
4.	The place of vaccination, immunization and the use of insecticides to subdue mosquitoes and other insect vectors.	3.86	0.70	3.65	0.64	3.75	0.58
5.	Disastrous effects of wars, famines and other natural disasters have greatly been curtailed due to international co-operation.	3.47	0.93	3.54	0.64	3.60	0.58

6.	Improved transportation and information technology, coupled with the impact of industrialization that has added to the range of consumable and capital goods available for use.	3.49 0.84	3.28 0.61	3.44 0.68
7.	Religion in Nigeria promotes large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system.	3.88 0.74	3.58 0.74	3.67 0.65
8.	Lack of education especially as related to population education.	3.58 0.54	3.67 0.59	3.84 0.65
9.	Sex education and the lowering of infant mortality and birth rates.	3.62 0.87	3.57 0.58	3.72 0.67
10.	Male-child preference. In many cultures in Nigeria, male offspring are more highly valued than females for a variety of reasons.	3.25 0.71	3.45 0.81	3.54 0.82
11.	Old-age social security. In many cultures in Nigeria, children are the only form of support for the elder generation.	3.31 0.76	3.38 0.72	3.36 0.65
12.	High infant mortality. The perceived need to have many babies in order that some will survive, to work on the farm and support aged parents.	3.41 0.94	3.52 0.85	3.49 0.67

\*\*SD= Strongly Agree

Table two indicate the reasons for rapidly population growth in Nigeria with high mean and standard deviation ranges from 3.91 to 0.73 and 3.88 0.74 respectively. Low mortality rate due to improved agriculture and enhanced food security, religion in Nigeria which promotes large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system. See graph to support view.

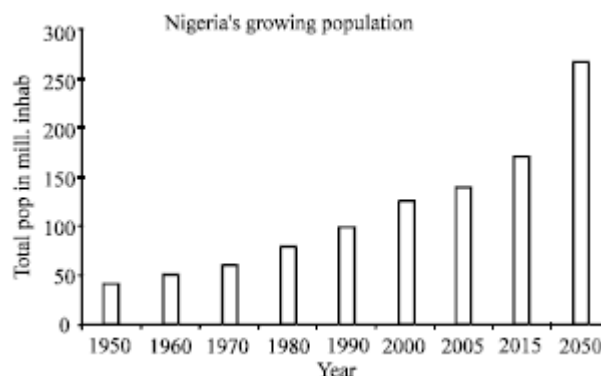


Fig. 4: The estimated total population of Nigeria in the near future (Globalize Interactive World Map. 2005)

**Research question 3: Past efforts by Nigerian Government to reduce rapidly Population Growth in Nigeria.**

**Table 3: Efforts to reduce rapidly Population Growth in Nigeria**

	<b>Questionnaire Items</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remark</b>
13.	In 1988, by introducing Nigeria Policy on Population for Unity, Progress and self-reliance.	1.50	0.76	Disagree
14.	Another policy introduced in 2003 by Olusegun Obasanjo administration called Nigeria Policy on Population for Sustainable Development.	1.80	0.79	Disagree
15.	People attesting that the policies have little or no influence on the people.	3.62	0.87	Agree
16.	The policies have not achieved the stated aims and objectives.	3.57	0.58	Agree
17.	Many socio-cultural and other constraints militated against effective implementation of the population policy programmes in Nigeria.	2.56	0.76	Agree
18.	The policy was voluntary in nature. As couples will only be encouraged to have the number of children that they can adequately cater for.	2.50	0.75	Agree
19.	The prevalence of polygyny in the Northern part of Nigeria. Allows a man to marry many wives. The policy advocated four children per woman rather than four children per couple.	3.36	0.65	Agree
20.	The belief that Islam does not support the fixing of marriage at 18 years or more. The programme cannot be implemented wholly or in part most especially in the Muslim community of the North due to this belief.	2.70	0.66	Agree
21.	Male preference and object of perpetuation of the family lineage making many families strife to have many male children irrespective of the number of female they have had.	3.75	0.58	Agree
22.	There is no legal backing, sanction or incentive for compliance to the policies made.	2.92	0.27	Agree
23.	Frequent change of government in Nigeria. Every government wants to be the architect of a new policy.	3.24	0.85	Agree

24.	No continuity or equal zeal to implement policy on the part of most successive governments.	3.16	0.92	Agree
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The data in table 3 reveals that apart from items 13 and 14, items 15 to 24 received mean scores above 2.50 signifying that they are the past efforts Nigerian government tried to reduce rapidly population growth. For items 13 and 14 the respondents disagree that in 1988, that the Nigerian government introduce Nigeria Policy on Population for Unity, Progress and self-reliance. Also, that in 2003 that another policy was introduced by Olusegun Obasanjo administration called Nigeria Policy on Population for Sustainable Development with mean ratings of 1.50 and 1.80 with corresponding standard deviation of 0.76 and 0.79 respectively. This disagreement might be due to poor awareness created for the policy.

**Research question 4: What are the ways to reduce rapidly Population Growth in Nigeria?**

**Table 4: Ways to reduce rapidly Population Growth in Nigeria**

	<b>Ways to Reduce Population Growth</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remark</b>
25.	Campaigns to sensitize families on the need to maintain a manageable family size should be taken seriously by appropriate government agencies.	3.44	0.59	Agree
26.	To emphasizes programmes and policies that will actively improve the status of women and change attitudes towards female children.	3.50	0.56	Agree
27.	Robust economic growth coupled with equitable distribution of income will lesson the negative consequences of population growth on development as the experiences of China, Indonesia and South Korea demonstrate.	3.05	0.83	Agree
28.	Declining fertility will make it possible for resources to be released for capital deepening, which helps the cause of poverty alleviation.	3.52	0.67	Agree
29.	Curbs are needed in Nigerian population growth rate to a level that is supportive of efforts to achieving sustainable development in the country.	2.73	1.12	Agree
30.	Curbs on population growth through appropriate policies that would integrate the country's population programmers into the mainstream development efforts are necessary.	3.29	0.79	Agree

31.	As population grows, capital widening is needed to maintain existing per capita income and savings.	3.09	0.83	Agree
32.	When population grows exponentially, the provision of basic services must also expand; requiring increased public interventions per capita in the appropriate sectors.	3.38	0.69	Agree

Table 4 shows the ways to reduce rapidly Population Growth in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

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 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 as population of Nigeria has a built-in potential for rapid growth through natural increase. There is no gainsaying the fact that accurate population statistics is vital to sound development planning and economic management. This explains the seriousness attached to the assemblage of population and vital statistics in the country today. Apart from the information on the stock of country's population, it is essential to know the rate at which the population is changing, structurally and in the aggregate. Vital statistics as computable from registration of important events (especially births and deaths), constitute an important set of data for studying the dynamics of a country's population.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the research findings, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Environmental law should be thoroughly enforced through task forces. The multinational companies and other industries with tendencies to generate pollution should be forced to carry out environmental impact assessment and put in place mitigation measures before carrying out production.
2. National policy on population can also be reviewed to assign a particular number of children to a couple and not just to a woman.

3. Improving the economic status of women would lead to improved financial standing which could allow them have fewer children. Women should be encouraged to be educated; this will make the delay in marriage to occur naturally. Family planning is another effective means of regulating birth. Awareness campaign should be intensified in the country.
4. As per solving the problem of environmental degradation, it is suggested that alternative source of energy should be developed to reduce the risk posed by use of hydrocarbon as fuel environmental education should be encouraged. People need to be thought how to use the resources of the environment without causing damage to the environment. This can be achieved through media publication and other means of creating awareness which include building environmental education into the school curricula.
5. From 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.
6. 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.
7. 1988 and 2003 Population Policies should be reviewed and there should be comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the population policy.
8. Effort should be made by government and other concern institutions to solve the problems of unemployment, underemployment, inadequate social amenities etc.

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