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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH ON THE PEOPLE'S WELLBEING IN JIGAWA STATE, NORTH WESTERN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the empirical relationship between population growth and people's wellbeing in Jigawa State Northern Nigeria. The relevant literatures were reviewed for the study. The findings revealed that, there is a significant negative relationship between population growth and people's wellbeing in the study area by complicating family access to portable water supply, good education, better health care, food, housing and shelter s well as good environment. The study concludes that unless population growth is checked all development achieved would be neutralized by increasing population. It is therefore recommended that economic incentives and disincentives should be introduced by government to check every marriages, polygamy and encourage women education and employment.

Keywords:

NDE - Directorate of Employment

WSP – Water and Sanitation Programme

VPO – Vaccine Preventive

BLP – Better Life Programme

FSP – Family Support Programme

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Introduction

The population growth rate of Africa is 2.5 compared to 1.2 percent in Latin America and Asia, this implies that Africa's population may double in less than 30 years (World Bank, 2009). This rapid population growth has put a lot of stress on Africa's ecosystem. Problems such as food security, land tenure, environmental degradation and lack of water supply are often related to high rates of population growth (Ogujiuba, et al., 2013). Continuing on our present path of acceleratory environmental degradation would severely compromise the ability of present and future generations to meet their needs. However, the rate and timing of fertility declines, and thus the eventual size of world population, will largely depend on the commitment of governments to create economic and institutional conditions that are conducive to limiting fertility (Ogujiuba, et al., 2013). Rapidly growing population has led to land, water and fuel wood shortages in rural areas and to urban health crises stemming from lack of sanitation and clear water. In many of the poorest regions in the globe it is clear that increasing population density has contributed to severe and accelerating degradation of the very resources that these growing populations depends on for survival (Ogujiuba, et al., 2013).

To meet expanding Least Developed Countries' (LDC) needs, environmental devastation must be halted and productivity of existing resources stretched further so as to benefit more people. If increases in Gross National Index (GNI) and food production are slower than population growth, per capital levels of production and food self-sufficiency will fall. Ironically, the resulting persistence of poverty would be likely to perpetuate high fertility rates given that the poor are often dependent on large families for survival (Todaro and Smith 2009).

Nigeria's population has been experiencing astronomical growth since the last decade and this has great consequences on sustainable development in the country. The centrality of poverty has made successive Nigerian governments to initiate sustainable development programmes aimed at alleviating or mininmizing the deadly scourge of the poverty phenomenon. According to Odion (2009) programmes such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) which was launched in the 1970s and Green Revolution initiated in 1980 existed in the past to address the problems of poverty. Other efforts made by successive governments include the establishment of the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure Nigeria (PBN), Family Support programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) and National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDs) (Aner, 2010).

Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was established in 1986 to construct feeder roads, provide rural water supply and rural electrification for the rural areas. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was also established in 1986 to provide training, finance, and guidance or unemployed youths. Better Life Programme (BLP) on the other hand came into being in 1987 to provide empowerment self-help and rural development programmes, skills acquisition and healthcare for the rural women. The People’s' Bank of Nigeria (PBN) was established in 1989 to encourage savings and credit facilities for the underprivileged in urban and rural areas while Community Banks were established in 1990 to operate banking facilities for rural residents and micro enterprises in urban areas. The Family Support Programme (FSP) came on board in 1994 to provide healthcare delivery, child welfare, youth development, etc. Family Empowerment Advancement Programme (FEAP) and their state variants State Empowerment Advancement Programme (SEAP) were initiated to provide credit facilities to support the establishment of cottage industries in rural areas (Aner, 2010).

The Poverty Alleviation Programame (PAP) was an interim measure put in place in 2000 to address the problems of rising unemployment in the society and to increase the productiveness of the economy. It was designed to coordinate and monitor poverty alleviation effort and ensure that Nigerians were provided with steady sources of income, high purchasing power, quality education, water, healthcare and housing, stable and affordable power supply, among others (Aner, 2010).

In 2004, the Federal Government of Nigeria set up the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDs) Strategy with a view to fighting the poverty scourge which it described as the most difficult challenge facing Nigeria and its people and the greatest obstacle to the pursuit of socio-economic growth. Over the years attempts were made at alleviating poverty as reflected in the expression of commitment by successive governments, increase in the number of programmes and increasing commitment of resources in the process, however, Very minimal success has been recorded or achieved (Aner. 2010), This, according to Muo (2011) I5 largely due to lack of coordination and commitment, lack of continuity, improper appreciation the roots and magnitude of the problem, poor funding of the programmes, policy inconsistency, deficient infrastructural facilities and corruption.

On the other hand, the Central Bank of Nigeria (2013) in its own view based on empirical investigation attributed the failure of poverty alleviation programmes to deterioration in fiscal discipline, corruption, political instability and inconsistent policies. To crown it all, NEEDs (2014) pointed out several factors that had hindered the effort of government at reducing the level of poverty. These included poor coordination: the absence of a comprehensive policy framework, excessive political interference: ineffective targeting of the poor leading to leakage of benefits to unintended beneficiaries; the unwidely scope of programme which caused resources to be thinly spread across too many projects design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The evidence suggests that the reforms and policies have not recorded the spectacular results expected. Thus, poverty alleviation remains a mirage in Nigeria.

Theoretical Perspective

This study will be guided by two theories, namely: Situational Theory of Poverty, Structural and or Marxian Theory of Poverty. However, the study will be hinged on the Structural/Marxian theory of poverty which is based on the fact that capitalism brings about fundamental social problems including severe inequality which leads to poverty. Since wealth is concentrated in the hands of a minority who are bent on pursuing profits through exploitation of labour, the redistribution of resources is more within classes than between classes. Those stricken by poverty are often subjugated by the bourgeoisie so as to glean (collect undeserved) profits and capital via exploitation. This means that poverty is a class rather than an individual or group issue (O'Donnell. 1997: Haralambos and Heald, 1980). It is the macro-structure of a capitalist society that produces inequality and consequently poverty.

Conceptual Perspective

Population growth is the increase in the number of individuals in a population. The population growth rate is the rate at which the number of individuals in a population increases in a given time period, expressed as a fraction of the initial population. Specifically, population growth rate refers to the change in population over a unit time period, often expressed as a percentage of the number of individuals in the population at the beginning of that period (World Population Factsheet, 2013).

Poverty is defined by Edoh (2003) as constituting various manifestations, including lack of Income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition, ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increase morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments, social discriminations and exclusion. It is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision and in civil, social and cultural life.

Sustainable development was defined by The Brundtland Commission Report (1987) as development, which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In broad terms the concept of sustainable development encompasses (Sen, 2000): a) help for the very poor because they are left with no other option but to destroy their own environment; b) people centered initiatives are needed; c) human beings are the resources. In fact it is a kind of development that is likely to achieve lasting satisfaction of human needs and improvement of the quality of human life.

Contextual Perspective

Overcoming the scourge of poverty, meeting the basic needs of the people, provision of adequate infrastructure developing human resources/capital for sustainable growth and equity are the main challenges to the advancement of the social pillar of sustainable development in Nigeria (Federal Government of Nigeria (2012). In addition, considering the rising population, rapid rate of urbanization and the relatively low level of water resources development which places Nigeria among the sub-Saharan African countries that lose about 5% of their GDP annually or US$28.4billion annually and 40 billion work hours annually; and bearing in mind that Nigeria needs about 56 billion liters of potable water supply for domestic use only as well large amount of water for industrial and agricultural use, there exist a huge funding gap towards the execution of the programs (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2012). Modern technology and capacity building to bridge the operational, maintenance and safety of dams for optimum use of water resources infrastructures requires adequate funding for sustainability. Therefore, multilateral and bilateral supports are required to fill the financial resource gap in the development of the sector.

Problem Statement

There is high poverty prevalence in Nigeria, a country with over 172 million people (World Bank, 2013). The majority of Nigeria's population lives in poverty with insufficient income to cover minimum standards of food, water, shelter, medical care and schooling. Given the Nation's rich endowment with natural resources, its poverty profile presents a sombre picture of a rich nation in decline (NBS, 2012). The government has for long recognized that poverty is a serious impediment to sustainable development and has made many attempts to alleviate it. Some of the early attempts include the establishment of:- Department of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI) with the major aims of opening up the rural areas and to improve the conditions of the vulnerable poor; National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to tackle the problem of mass unemployment; People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN) to cater for the credit needs of the less privileged Nigerians; Better Life Programme (BLP) which was gender specific and meant to improve the life of rural women. The programme was later replaced by Family Support Programme (FSP); National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), The Strategic Grains Reserve Authority (SGRA) and the Accelerated Crop Production (ACP) to improve the productive capacities of peasant farmers as well as improving their incomes and well-being; and The Nomadic and Adult Education Programmes to assist in the eradication of illiteracy (Federal government of Nigeria, 2012). However, even

with the above programmes, 68.0 percent and 84.5 percent of the Nigerian population lived below $1.25 per day and $2 per day (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012). This study is intended to explore the trend in population growth in Nigeria, poverty prevalence and their effect on sustainable development.

Purpose of the Study

To investigate the effect of population growth and poverty on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

i. To determine the effect of population growth on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

ii. To determine the effect of poverty on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

i. To determine the effect of population growth on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

ii. To determine the effect of poverty on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

Scope of the Study

Jigawa State Motto: "A new world" presupposes a virgin land full of opportunities". Yet for over a decade since was created out of old Kano state in August, 1991. Jigawa State is one of the thirty six (36) state that constitute Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is situated in North-Western part of the country between latitude 11.00N to 13.0W and longitude 8.W.E to 10.15qE Kano and Katsina states border Jigawa to the West. Bauchi State shares an intentional border with republic of Niger, which is a unique opportunity for cross border traditional activities. About 3.6 million people inhabit Jigawa State. Life expectancy as at 2001 was about 52 years with total fertility rate of about 6.2 children per women of child bearing age. Although population of the state is almost between male (50.8%) and female (49.2%). This pattern of population distribution is same across various constituencies in the state and between urban and rural areas in terms of age distribution, the 2002 survey indicates that 45.2% of the population was made up of young people aged 60 and above. This survey reveals a dependency ratio meaning that there is almost one dependent to every economically active person in the population. Average household size was about 6.7 almost all of which were headed by males about 60% of household heads were self employed with agriculture as their main occupation and nearly two thirds of these households were monogamous families. The literary rates were about 37% in 2002. 22% for women and 51% for school enrolment ratio is fairly high with very good improvement in the last few years even though there is still clear disparity between boys and girls. Basic indicators for water supply sector shows that access to portable water is over 90% which is among the highest in the country.

The sociocultural situation in Jigawa State could be described as homogeneous with Hausa/Fulani found in all parts of the state Kanuri largely found in Hadejia emirates with some traces of Badawa mainly in its North eastern part of the state. Islam is the predominant religion in Jigawa States. Islam is the predominant religion in Jigawa State. The state comprise of twenty seven (27) local government areas namely:

1. Auyo
2. Babura
3. Birniwa
4. Buji
5. Birnin Kudu
6. Dutse
7. Garki
8. Guri
9. Gwaram
10. Gwiwa
11. Gagarawa
12. Gumel
13. Hadejia
14. Jahun
15. Kafin Hausa
16. Kiri Kasamman
17. Kazaure
18. Kiyawa
19. Kaugama
20. Malam Madori
21. Maigatari
22. Miga
23. Roni
24. Ringim
25. Sule Tankarkar
26. Taura
27. Yankwashi

The twenty-seven local government areas (27) are divided into 30 state constituencies, eleven (11) federal constituencies and three senatorial districts

Geographical Scope

This study will be carried out in Nigeria which lies roughly between latitudes 4° and 14° North and longitudes 3° and 15° East in West Africa. It covers a land mass of approximately 923,768 km² representing about 14% of land area in West Africa. It is bordered by the elongated territory of Benin to the west, the semi-arid country of the Niger Republic to the north, the sub-equatorial Cameroon to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. The researcher preferred to carry out this study in Nigeria because it is the most populated country in Africa and has the fastest growing economy in the continent and yet poverty among its populace keeps increasing every other year.

Theoretical Scope

This study will be guided by two theories, that is, Situational Theory of Poverty and The Structural/Marxian theory of (Haralambos and Heald, 1980). The Situational Theory of Poverty holds that people are poor due to the fact that they find themselves in a situation of 'no' resource and opportunities for them to advance their welfare; while the Structural/Marxian theory of poverty is hinged on the fact that capitalism brings about fundamental social problems including severe inequality which leads to poverty.

Content Scope

This study will be limited to the effect of population growth on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria; and the effect of poverty on sustainable development in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

Time Scope

This study will review data covering a period of 30 years, that is, from 1985 to 2015. This period is chosen by the researcher because several government efforts to alleviate poverty in Nigeria started to emanate in the 1980s. This period will give the researcher data regarding population growth and poverty and their consequent effect on sustainable development. However, the actual study will cover a period of 1 year, that is, from October 2016 to October 2017. This period will help the researcher to write his concept paper, research proposal, collect data, analyze the data, write the final dissertation and do viva voce.

Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the findings of this study will be helpful to policy makers. It will help them to come up with policies targeted at promoting sustainable development and controlling population growth. Furthermore, future researchers will use the findings of this study to carry out a related study.

Theoretical Review

This study will be guided by two theories, namely: Situational Theory of Poverty, Structural and/or Marxian Theory of Poverty.

Situational Theory of Poverty

The theory holds that people are poor due to the fact that they find themselves in a situation of 'no' resource and opportunities for them to advance their welfare. It lays emphasis on the structural conditions that lead to poverty and at the same time focuses on the individual response to the objective situation of poverty (Haralambos and Heald, 1980). Situational

poverty differs from the culture of poverty as it does not assume the pre-existence of a subculture that makes the behaviour of the poor to become coherent and solid. It implies that in the absence of this sub- culture, the poor can easily get out of poverty if imposed constraints are tackled. That is, if the situations the poor find themselves alter, they are likely to escape from poverty. This theory underpins the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment where school leavers who are unemployed can be engaged.

This theory which was a response to the culture of poverty theory views poverty as a reaction to situational constraints rather than an issue of culture. That poverty results from imposed constraints such as low income, unemployment and illness (O'Donnell 1997). Haralambos and Heald further argued that the poor share the same culture with that of the society with the difference being their inability to translate opportunities into realities due to imposed constraints.

Structural and/or Marxian Theory of Poverty

The Structural/Marxian theory of poverty is hinged on the fact that capitalism brings about fundamental social problems including severe inequality which leads to poverty. Since wealth is concentrated in the hands of a minority who are bent on pursuing profits through exploitation of labour, the redistribution of resources is more within classes than between classes. Those stricken by poverty are often subjugated by the bourgeoisie so as to glean (collect undeserved) profits and capital via exploitation. This means that poverty is a class rather than an individual or group issue (O'Donnell, 1997; Haralambos and Heald, 1980). It is the macro-structure of a capitalist society that produces inequality and consequently poverty argued Islam. In their contributions, Archibong (1997) and Uniamikogbo (1997) argued that institutions and class exploitation account for poverty as people suffer in the hands of the privileged class and institutional arrangements. That the poor in, a society, arise spontaneously with inequality. In a similar vein, Students Media Services (2004) condemned the individualistic, culture and situational theories arguing that their analysis are mere excuses aimed at exonerating the capitalist system which exploits the poor to the advantage of the economic elite. The poor are unable to attain higher living standards and thus come out of poverty because the capitalist arrangement is biased against them.

This theory is also known as the power theory (Uniamikogbo, 1997 and Tella, 1997) because the structure of political power in a capitalist society determines the extent and distribution of poverty among the population. It sees poverty as a characteristic feature of a situation in which the few that possess and control the political power organize the economic system to suit their own selfish interests. Hence, poverty results from the fact that, office seekers, realizing that no condition is permanent, endeavor to maximize wealth acquisition at the expense of the majority within the shortest possible time.

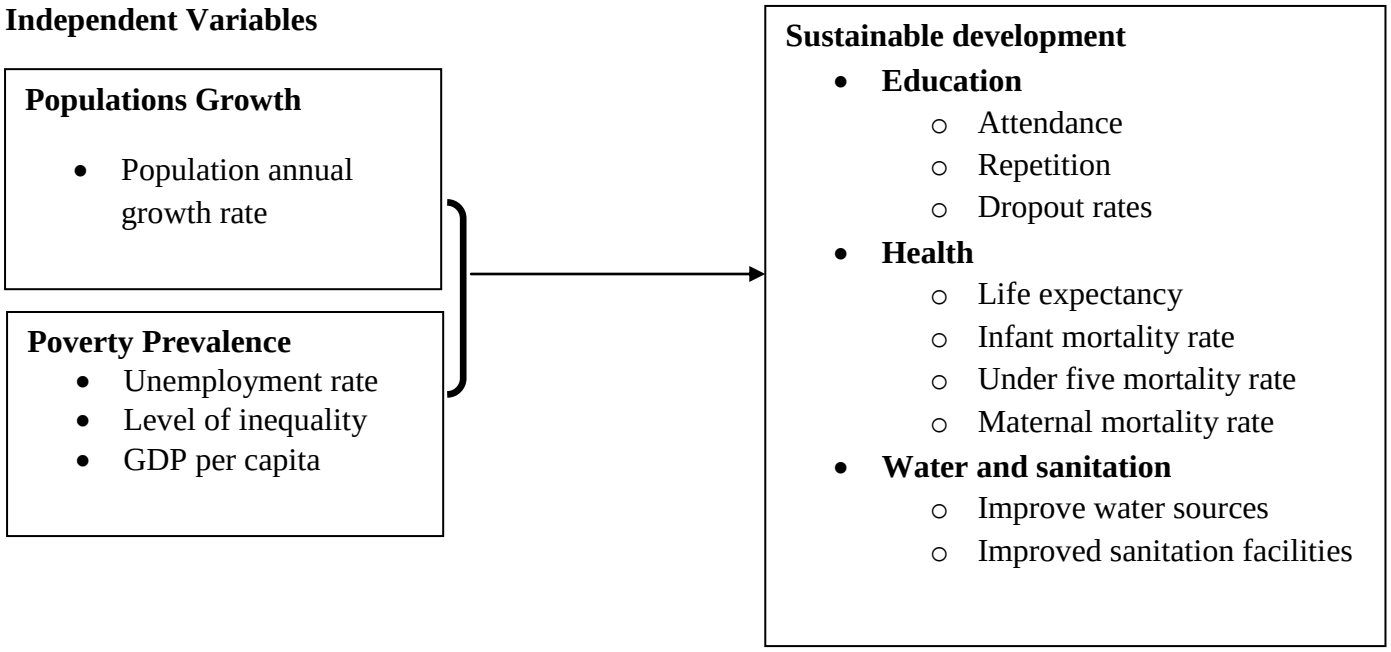
Here, element of greed is highly exhibited as asserted by Tella (1997) that: the longer the individual concerned stays in power or within the corridors of power, the more public property, including funds, he acquires for the uncertain future. In an economy with few resources to be exploited and colonized by the ruling class, political office is rotated among a few individuals, while in a more endowed country; there is the possibility of an extended ruling class. In both cases however, the ruling class is not only in minority, but is relatively few in number. The members of the powerful class control over 50% of the available funds and allow the larger society to share the rest. This ruling class sees the execution of every social and economic project such as: education, health, agriculture and industrialization projects in terms of private wealth acquisition. They are therefore avaricious. As a result,

such projects are not implemented for the interests and benefits of the society. The distribution of wealth and social amenities is constrained by such corrupt behaviour throwing the civil society into abject poverty.

It is important to stress that the degree of success or otherwise of the exploiting class depends on the consciousness of those oppressed to revolt as well as their organizational capacity to resist exploitation and overthrow the mechanisms of the oppressive property system. This theory therefore explains the situation of developing countries where there is co-existence of low political consciousness due largely to high rates of illiteracy on the part of the masses, and a high degree of centralization of resources which the ruling class exploit. This theory forms the basis of Nigeria's anti-corruption crusade which is a direct intervention towards ensuring that corrupt enrichment of public officers is curbed. The success of this action, all things being equal is expected to make more resources available for execution of projects and consequently raise standard of living of Nigerians including the poor.

Conceptual Framework

Independent Variables



Source: NBS (2012), CBN (2012), Federal Government of Nigeria (2012)

Review of Related Studies

Population Growth

The 2006 Population and Housing Census put Nigeria's population at 140.43 million with a national growth rate estimated at 3.2 percent per annum. The population has risen to about 167 million in 2011 (NBS, 2011). With this population, Nigeria remains the most populous nation in Africa. About 50 percent of the population is female, and 50 percent is male. The sex ratio (the number of men per 100 women) is 99. The ratio in rural areas is lower than that of urban areas (97 compared with 101). The results show that the household population has a greater number of younger people than older people. Forty-five percent of the total population is under 15 years of while 4 percent is 65 or older. The proportion of the population in each age group declines as age increases; the lowest age group (0-4) has the

largest proportion of the population (17 age percent), while the highest five-year age group (75-79) has the smallest proportion (less than 1 percent) (NBS, 2011).

Nigeria's population is unevenly distributed across the country. Large areas in the Chad Basin, the middle Niger Valley, the grassland plains, among others, are sparsely populated. The average population density for the country in 2006 was estimated at 150 people per square kilometre. The most densely populated states are Lagos, Anambra, Imo, Abia, and Akwa Ibom. Most of the densely populated states are found in the South East geo political zone, with an average density of 442 persons per square kilometer, Kano state, is the most densely populated state in the north (NBS, 2009, 2010). Almost 50% of the populations now live in cities compared to 35 percent in 2002.

The current population structure indicates a large base with in-built momentum for further increase as more young cohort enter into the reproductive age group. Indeed, the UN-DESA (2012) has projected that by 2050 Nigeria's population could rise to 350 million making it one of the third largest populated countries in the world. This means that more demand would be made for food, water, educational and health facilities as well as other infrastructure in the very near future.

Poverty

Poverty is very real in Nigeria, over the last ten years; the quality of life of the average Nigerian citizen has progressively nose-dived. It is so endemic that people have started seeing it as part of their lot in life (Barnes, 2010). In fact, scores of research studies have exposed the dimensions and the extent of poverty in Nigeria. For example Obadan and Odusola (2001), reveal how sharply the per capita income of Nigerians slipped from a high of over 1,280 dollars in 1980 to a low dollar in 1995. Nonetheless, this was still below 2 dollars by 2010 reports of the NBS. This and other studies generally paint a grim picture of a nation trapped in a vortex of abject and abnormal poverty and declining productivity.

Nigeria currently ranks 156 out of 187 economies (UNDP-HDR 2011). This position underscores not only the limited choices of Nigerians, but also defines the critical development challenges being faced by government. According to the 2011 National Bureau of Statistics' (NBS) report, about 69.1 percent of the Nigerian population or approximately 100 million people are living below the poverty level (NBS, 2011).

The country is currently struggling with high unemployment rate which surged from 3.8 percent in 2002 to about 19.7 in 2008, and now stands at 23.9 percent in 2011 (NBS, 2012). Lack of employment is one of the contributory factors to both poverty and inequality. The poverty situation is further reinforced by the high level of inequality. The Gini Coefficient for Nigeria in 2007 was 0.48, placing the country among those with the highest inequality levels in the world. The level of inequality is highest in the North Central with Gini Coefficient of 0.49 closely followed by the South West with 0.48, North West 0.420, South South 0.41 and South east with 0.38 (NBS, 2012).

There is also a very disturbing spatial divergence in the GDP per capita in the country with South-South zone having an average of US$ 3,617.4, followed by North-West US$1,898.9, North-Central US$ 1,320.3, South-West US$ 1,309.9, North-East US$ 343.3 and South-East US$ 297.2 (NBS, 2012).

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is tripartite in nature. For sustainable development to occur it must reflect on the environmental, social and economic aspects of the country's life (Ogujiuba, et al., 2013). However, this study will look at only one aspect of sustainable development, that is, social development. This is one aspect of sustainable development. Social sustainability encompasses human rights, labor rights, and corporate governance. In common with environmental sustainability, social sustainability is the idea that future generations should have the same or greater access to social resources as the current generation ("inter-generational equity"), while there should also be equal access to social resources within the current generation ("intra-generational equity") (Ogujiuba, et al., 2013). Social resources include ideas as broad as other cultures and basic human rights. Also we can speak of Sustainable Human Development that can be seen as development that promotes the capabilities of present people without compromising capabilities of future generations (Sen, 2000). In the human development paradigm, environment and natural resources should constitute a means of achieving better standards of living just as income represents a means of increasing social expenditure and, in the end, well-being (Sen, 2000). The different aspects of social sustainability are often considered in socially responsible investing.

Social sustainability entails continuous improvement in the social well-being and quality of life. It focuses on social and human development indicators. The indicators examined in this study include infant and under five mortality, life expectancy at birth, and maternal mortality; however, there are other indicators such as HIV prevalence rate, malaria prevalence rate, TB prevalence rate, population growth rate, total fertility rate, and rate of urbanization (Ogujiuba, et al., 2013).

Education

The results of the 2010 Nigeria Education Data Survey (NEDS) showed that primary school attendance ratios increased while pupil repetition and dropout rates were low. The net primary school attendance was 61 percent, although the ratio in urban areas was 74.4 percent compared to 52.2 percent in rural areas. For females, the net attendance ratio (NAR) was 58.4 while for males it was 63.5 percent. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) was 85, indicating that for every 61 pupils age 6-11, there were 24 pupils who were either younger than age 6 or older than age 11. Again the male GAR (90) exceeded the female GAR (81), yielding a gender parity index of 0.90 implying that primary school attendance favours males (Federal Ministry of Education, 2012). Overall, 47 percent of children aged 12 - 17 attended secondary school, with no difference in gender. However, 60 percent of children in urban areas attended secondary school, compared with 36 percent of those in rural areas. In 2010, there were 4,951,450 students enrolled in JSS with males constituting 54% and females 46%. But, attendance in school was directly related to socio-economic status of households (Federal Ministry of Education, 2012).

Health

Nigeria operates a pluralistic health care delivery system with the orthodox and traditional health care delivery systems operating alongside each other, albeit with hardly any collaboration. Both the private and public sectors provide orthodox health care services in the country. The public health service is organized into primary, secondary and tertiary levels (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2012). While the Constitution is silent on the roles of the different levels of government in health services provision, the National Health Policy ascribes responsibilities for primary health care to local governments, secondary care to

States and tertiary care to the Federal level. A number of parastatals based at the federal level for example the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), are currently engaged in primary health care services development and provision; the latter is evidently part of its mandate (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2012).

The health system remains overstretched by a burgeoning population with lots of challenges in infrastructural and skill development. Though the health indices have shown mixed performance over the last two decades, they are yet to meet international standards. Inequalities in health outcomes also exist between rural and urban areas, between northern and southern regions, and across income groups (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2012).

Life expectancy in 2002 for males was 45 years compared to 46 years for females. These improved marginally to 47.2 years for men and 48.2 years for women in 2010 (NBS, 2010). However, this is below the least developed countries (LDC) average age of 53 years. The disability adjusted life expectancy at birth is 38.3years.

On the other hand, infant and child mortality rates are high, though decreasing. Infant and under five mortality rates have improved from 91 and 191 in 1990 to 75 and 157 in 2008 and 141 in 2011 respectively (Lancet Maternal series, 2011). Similarly the percentage of one-year olds who are fully immunized against measles also rose from 46 in 1990 to 864 in 2011. Nigeria is still in the first stages of the epidemiological transition; communicable diseases are the major causes of mortality and morbidity in the country. In children, the major causes of mortality and morbidity are malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections (ARI), measles and other vaccine preventable diseases (VPD), and the exacerbating effect of children's malnutrition. These diseases, are however preventable and/or can be treated at small cost (Lancet Maternal series, 2011). According to (NDHS, 2008), maternal mortality ratio improved from 704 in 1990 to 545 in 2008; and 487 per 100,000 live births in 2011 (Lancet Maternal series, 2011). The total fertility rate in Nigeria remained at a high level over the last 17 years from 5.9 births per woman in 1991 to 5.7 births in 2008. The median age at first marriage in Nigeria among women age 25-49 is 18.3 years. On average, rural women are having two children more than urban women (6.3 and 4.7 children, respectively).

Water and Sanitation

Access to safe water and sanitation is a major challenge in Nigeria. According to the Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP, 2010), the proportion of the population using water from improved sources was only 47% in 2014, while just about 30% used improved sanitation facilities. According to the recent desk review by the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP, 2012), about 70 million Nigerians use unsanitary or shared latrines and 32 million have no latrine at all and defecate in the open. The government was, however, unable to attain the MDG targets of 75% coverage for safe drinking water and 63% coverage for basic sanitation by the year 2015.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The desire to investigate the effect of population growth on people wellbeing in Jigawa state northern Nigeria informed the conduct of this research. The research work was aimed at determining the effect of population growth on the people wellbeing.

Five (05) research questions and corresponding five null hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance guided the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study which was carried out in Jigawa state northern Nigeria. The entire rural and urban population made up the population of the study. The sample consisted of 400 but 382 responded comprising both rural and urban populations including gender.

Effect of population growth on wellbeing questionnaire, face to face interview, records and information were used for data collection. The reliability coefficient was determined with test re-test technique. A reliability coefficient 'r' of 0.78 was obtained. Inter-observer or inter-rather reliability of the instrument was established to enhance its reliability and this was done by correlating the observation of two or more observers.

Frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviations were used to answer research questions while regression analysis, Pearson product moment correlation and t-test was used to determine the significant effect.

The following results were obtained from the analysed data:

1. There was significant effect between population growth on people's wellbeing in Jigawa state north western Nigeria in terms of access to portable water supply.

2. There was significant effect between population growth on people's wellbeing in Jigawa state north western Nigeria in terms of basic needs, food, clothing, housing and shelter.

3. There was significant effect between population growth on people's wellbeing in Jigawa state north western Nigeria in terms of good health care delivery.

4. There was significant effect between population growth on people's wellbeing in Jigawa state north western Nigeria in terms of literacy rate and access to good education.

5. There was significant effect between population growth and people's wellbeing in Jigawa state in terms of environmental protection and care.

Conclusion

This study investigated the effects of population growth on people's wellbeing in Jigawa state northwestern Nigeria. So the focal point of the study was to get intimated with the variable (population growth) independent variable that have shown to have consequences or effect on the people's wellbeing in Jigawa state northwestern Nigeria.

It was found that there was significant effect between population growth on people's wellbeing in terms of access to portable water supply. It was also revealed that significant effect was found between population growth on people wellbeing in terms of access to basic needs, food, clothing, housing and shelter.

It was also found that significant effect was found between population growth on people's wellbeing in terms of access to good education, health care delivery and environmental protection in Jigawa state northwestern Nigeria.

The independent variable (population growth) has direct effect on people's wellbeing. It remained true that dynamic such as these certainly have impact on access to portable water supply, basic needs, health care delivery, education and environmental protection, and should be the subject of future research.

Recommendations

The essential of any study lay in the positive contribution it makes to the progress of education by utilizing the findings of the study. Therefore, any research which stops at probing into model operation of any system or unit without such contribution is tantamount to waste of effort, time and resources. The following recommendations were made in relation to the findings of the study:

1. Clean portable water should be provided to make it accessible to both rural and urban residence population.

2. Basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and shelter should also be provided to make it assessable to both low income earners and both rural and urban residence population. Housing scheme should be introduced to ensure that low income earners should have access to houses. Sound agricultural programme should be introduced with good agricultural reforms policy to provide foods and employment opportunities. There should be an increase in government expenditure to provide people's with basic necessities of life.

3. More health care delivery system should be provided with health insurance scheme. This may reduce infant and maternal mortality rate. Good health care system should be provided to both rural and urban residence population. More hospitals and primary health care system should be made available at both rural and urban settlement. There should be increase in the number of doctors per head of the population.

4. Government should ensure that schools are supplied with adequate facilities and adult literacy programmes should be well encouraged both in the rural and urban areas. Educational reforms policy and mass literacy programmes should be encouraged to enhance literacy rate.

5. Government should appreciate the role and importance of environmental protection. Environmental protection agency should be encouraged to prevent deforestation and desert encroachment. Tree planting should also be encouraged.

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