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The Economic Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Nigeria: A Review

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Abstract---Nigeria is currently the world's sixth most populous country. However, empirical research on the impact of this growing population on economic growth is divided. This study adds to existing research on the economic effects of Nigeria's rapid population growth. This study used a qualitative research design because it relied on secondary data gathered from books, journal papers, and online sources. Its content was examined in light of the objectives of the study, and Malthusian theory serves as the study's foundation. The majority of Nigeria's development issues, according to the study's findings, can be directly or indirectly linked to the country's rapid population growth. This study thus urges, among other things, the need for an all-encompassing mechanism that will address issues of conflict and insecurity, migration and displacement, access to education for girls, and proper regulation of infrastructure development, as well as the undiluted conservative ideology whereby many, especially in Nigeria, see population growth as the key to control of political power and resources that should be thrown away in favor of a more effective and functional system.

Keywords---population, economic growth, economic consequences, Nigeria.

Introduction

Rising incomes, particularly among the poorest strata in any country, have a tendency to enhance fertility rates while lowering mortality rates, according to Malthus' traditional economic theory of population expansion. The course of events since Malthus' time has both disproved that theory and helped the idea of demographic transition advance. Based on the premise that a man's reproductive behavior is particularly responsive to his environment, this hypothesis frequently connects a sequence of birth and death rates to a nation's economic advancement. In a typical rural peasant economy, which is characterized by a high level of self-sufficiency and a relatively mild shift in production processes,

birth and mortality rates are notably high. The death rates react right away to changes in diet, cleanliness, and the availability of efficient preventive and curative medical procedures, but the birth rates may stay high and relatively steady in such a situation. High birth rates have historically been linked to societal values, traditions, and the notion that a peasant family benefits economically from having more children. For instance, it is frequently believed that in an economy that is primarily agrarian, the advantages of having children come from the utility gained from using them as a consumption good, the income gained from having them work in a productive capacity for the family, and the potential for all-around security of receiving support and assistance from offspring in old age. As a result, when a nation transitions from an agrarian to a specialized market-oriented economy, the change is frequently accompanied by a drop in death rates, with the decline in fertility rates following (if feasible) with a significant time lag.

Recent years have seen a significant increase in interest in the effects of population shifts on economic growth, particularly in low-income nations, in part due to rising aspirations and plans to increase per capita output in these economies. However, current knowledge on the social and economic effects of high population rise is limited. It is difficult to find accurate quantitative assessments of the alleged burden of population expansion in general or for particular nations. Needless to say, a lot of empirical studies have shown recent scholarly attempts to estimate, at least in broad terms, the impact demographic factors could exercise on an economy given reliable data (Abdullah, Ghuluam, Asad & Waseem, 2015). However, for analytical purposes, the consequences of rapid population growth can be divided into two categories: those that appear over time and those that appear primarily as the rate of population growth varies. A high population growth rate has the economic effect of slowing the rate of structural change required to raise labor productivity and individual income in a dual economy. The proportion of current savings required to build the capital stock sufficiently to sustain appropriate labor productivity and per capita incomes is one method for assessing the long-term effects of population expansion on the rate of increase in per capita income (Ali, Ali & Amin, 2013). It is obvious that more capital accumulation is required to maintain a given level of labor productivity the faster the pace of population expansion. Analyzing the level of per capita income that would be possible if population growth and hence labor force growth were reduced but investment levels remained the same is another strategy for solving the issue (Azuh, Mathew & Fasina, 2015).

In the near term, changes in the pace of population growth can have an immediate impact on the family and society as a whole. The precise nature and scope of these changes, however, will depend on their origin and how they affect the population's age distribution. Changes in reproduction patterns not only increase the burden of dependency but also have an impact on the size of the labor force long before they modify the number of persons who are working age. Additionally, any changes in family size and age composition have an immediate impact on per capita incomes linked to any given total production, which may have repercussions for consumption, total demand, and capital formation (Aidi, Emecheta & Ngwudiobu, 2016). Nigeria was chosen as the subject of study in part because the relationship between its population and economic growths is pretty

obvious from an analytical standpoint. The nation is currently witnessing a demographic change as well as some significant economic advancement. Nigeria's population is known to be expanding quickly despite the lack of accurate demographic data. The population is increasing between 2.5 and 3.0 percent year, which is rather rapid given the country's resource base. The economy has been burdened by the fairly hurried rate of urbanization that comes after high population increase on a personal and social level. This implies that further study on trends and the impact of population expansion on Nigeria's economic development is certainly necessary (Ekwowusi, 2012). This is especially true given that Nigeria continues to suffer rapid population expansion with no real indication that economic growth rates are about to pick up.

Materials and Methods

This study adopts qualitative research design; the researcher used descriptive analysis to examine the economic effects of Nigeria's rapid population growth.. The study which is theoretical in nature draws its argument basically from secondary data which include journal articles, books and internet sources, and were content analyzed in relation to the scope of the study.

Review of Related Literature

Due to extremely high birth rates, Nigeria's population has been growing quickly for at least the last 50 years, quadrupling over this time. The term "exponential" refers to that kind of growth rate. In other words, its growth is not linear. Growth accelerated in the 1980s, following a sharp decline in child mortality, and has subsequently slowed slightly as the birth rate has slightly decreased. The population was 190,886,000 in 2017, up from only 37,860,000 in 1950, according to the World Population Prospects 2017 estimate (Fisayo & Adesojikolawole, 2018). In 2010, there were 44.0% of children under the age of 15, 51.0% of people between the ages of 15 and 59, and 4% of people who were 60 years or older. According to the population forecast for Nigeria, the country's population must have quadrupled to 297 million by 2035. This enormous population suggests that the nation has a large supply of human resources. Economic development has both a vital driver and component in the development of human resources. However, the influence of population expansion depends on quality and development indices like standard of living and literacy as well as population size and quantity (Ogbuabor, Udo & Onuigbo, 2018).

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, is endowed with a wide variety of natural resources, and is home to one in every five people in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to Ogunleye, Owola, and Mubarak (2018); with a population growth rate of about 2.44 percent as of 2016, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria. According to the National Population Commission, there were 182.2 million people living in Nigeria as of 2016. Nigeria's population is also expected to grow even more in the future due to the country's high population growth rate, which is not unique to Nigeria but is an important characteristic of a growing country. Given that it affects a wide range of socioeconomic factors, this is likely to have an impact on Nigeria's economic development. As a result, the current study will look at how Nigeria's population expansion has affected its economic development. The

study focuses on population growth rate, which is a crucial factor in the rate at which population size grows, in particular when it comes to Nigeria, where population size has been growing at a rapid rate over the past several years. In keeping with earlier research on economic growth, the measure of economic growth used in the current study to examine it is the log of real Gross domestic product (GDP) (Musa & Habibu, 2020).

It is challenging to predict Nigeria's future economic growth possibilities as a result of its expanding population because existing theories have not offered a clear-cut generalization regarding the effect of population growth on economic growth of developing nations like Nigeria. Some theories began with the Malthusian Population trap in their assertions that high population growth puts pressure on the natural resources available, reduces private and public capital formation, and directs additions to capital resources to maintaining rather than increasing the stock of capital per worker, thereby impeding economic growth. Other theories, on the other hand, believed that high population would result in high labor force numbers, productivity, and economic growth (Iwejingi, 2022). As a result, there is disagreement about whether population expansion is desirable; some scholars believe that it is a serious problem, while others claim that it is not (Ogunleye et al., 2018). Enhancing a country's social and economic well-being is what economic growth is all about. Nigeria has a high rate of unemployment, which lowers the country's standard of living. Over the course of the country's fifty-eight years of independence, successive Nigerian governments have struggled to address persistent problems like high levels of poverty, low per capita income, a deteriorating standard of life, and unemployment.

Population Growth and Economic Development in Nigeria

Therefore, taking into account the significant and detrimental effects of population growth on economic development, the relevant body, in this instance the National Population Commission, must devise sound population policies that slow down population growth in order to benefit from a thriving economy. This assertion supports the findings of Orumiem (2016), who looked at the impact of Nigeria's population growth rate and unemployment rate on the country's gross domestic product between 1970 and 2005. Multiple regression models were used to analyze the data, and the study's findings showed that, since 1970, the population and unemployment rates have increased while the gross domestic product has decreased. The results also show that population increase and unemployment have equivalent effects on the GDP. The results also demonstrated that unemployment rates have an inverse relationship with gross domestic product in accordance with Okun's law, with the amount of unemployed contributing more to the national GDP during this period than the amount of work already done (1962). In other words, the study demonstrates that the unemployment rate contributes to a roughly 12.9% decline in the country's GDP (Nwosu, Dike & Okwara, 2014).

Similar to this, Azuh et al. (2015) looked at population and its effect on the unemployment rate in least developed nations. The study used ordinary least square, and the outcome made it obvious that employment issues can only arise if the government fails to put in place sufficient mechanisms to manage

population growth and allocate resources in a way that gives all citizens a sense of belonging. Therefore, there is a necessity to effectively deploy resources and launch projects toward employment generation in order to give the teeming regulated population with the necessary employment prospects. The Next Generation Team predicted the following worst-case scenario: In worst case, Nigeria will see growing numbers of restless young people frustrated by lack of opportunity, increased competition for jobs, land, natural resources, and political patronage, cities that are increasingly unable to cope with the pressures placed on them, ethnic and religious conflict and radicalization, and a political system discredited by its failure to improve lives.

Investigation of the Malthusian population theory in Nigeria by Okwori, Ajegi, Ochinyabo, and Abu (2015); the results of the study demonstrate that the variables are co-integrated, and the vector error correction model (VECM) illustrates the speed of adjustment toward the long run equilibrium from the deviation in the short run. The study also used the Granger Causality Test and the Johansen Co-integration Test. A Wald test was used to examine the short-term effects of the independent variables (population, rate of urbanization, and employment) on the dependent variable (GDP), and the results showed that each independent variable had an effect on the dependent variable. The study also found a bidirectional causality or feedback influence between GDP and rate of urbanization, bidirectional causality between urbanization and employment, and finally bidirectional causality between population and rate of urbanization. The study also found a unidirectional causality running from GDP to Population growth, a unidirectional causality running from GDP to employment, a unidirectional causality running from Population to employment, and a bidirectional causality running from GDP to Population. In conclusion, this analysis finds a favorable association between population expansion and economic growth. In other words, it is discovered that the variables are in an equilibrium or long-term positive connection.

Olabiyi (2014) was inspired by the aforementioned quotation to investigate the implications of cointegration on poverty and population increase in Nigeria. The study used a regression analysis and ordinary least squares model, and the results showed that an increase in population can lead to poverty and that an increase in a country's GDP can lessen poverty, especially when coupled with improvements in other factors that would enhance peoples' quality of life. Consequently, this paper argues that even though poverty has many dimensions and a variety of root causes, it is clear that when a nation's population keeps growing without effective investment in the development of its human capital and adequate development in economic sectors like agriculture that would improve the lives of its citizens, any population growth could lead to an increase in poverty in the economy. In order to improve food sufficiency, higher income, and employment, there is a need for significant investment in technology and agriculture in developing nations like Nigeria.

Using time series data ranging from 1970 to 2014, Aidi et al. (2016) looked into the connection between population dynamics and economic growth in Nigeria. The ordinary least squares estimation approach was used to analyze the data. The outcome showed, among other things, that all of the study's key variables—

fertility, mortality, and net migration—were negatively correlated with economic growth over the time period under review. The study also showed that savings and gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) are significant forces behind economic expansion in Nigeria. In light of the findings, the Nigerian government is urged to take immediate action to reduce the alarming fertility rate in the country. In order to increase productivity in Nigeria, efforts should be made to raise the quality of the labor force by making more significant investments in programs for skill development and education.

Addressing Nigeria's Demographic Changes and Economic Performance: Empirical Research by Borji, Cheng, Hou, Jiang, and Li (2019). In this study, the effects of Nigeria's demographic makeup on economic growth from 1981 to 2016 were assessed. This study used dependent and independent variables, the autoregressive distribution lag (ARDL) framework, and the Granger causality test. The findings also corroborate the presence of the demographic dividend concept, showing that while the elderly population hinders economic growth, the kid population and the workforce encourage growth in the Nigerian economy both in the short and long terms. However, economic growth is total fixed capital formation, and there is a two-way causative relationship between the aging population of Nigeria and economic growth, as well as a one-way causal relationship between the child population and the labor force and real GDP (equipment). Spend money to increase enrolment. The study comes to the conclusion that key factors influencing Nigeria's economic growth include its aging population, child labor force, total fixed capital formation, and secondary school enrollment. In order to encourage elderly people to engage in productive activities and continuously build human capital for children and the workforce, the study advises the Nigerian government to offer incentives and platforms. This is due to the fact that it boosts labor productivity and helps the Nigerian economy expand.

It is crucial that the right regulations are put in place to restrict family size and slow the country's population increase, especially in rural areas where impoverished people tend to have several children. To address the needs of the nation for employment and increased productivity, the populace should be encouraged to gain practical skills in science and technology. In order to increase the wellbeing of the populace, particularly those living in rural regions, it is more important than ever to strengthen the industrial sector and support rural development with a functioning electricity sector. Policies should be created that specify the average family size, notably the number of children, and they should do so with the cooperation and support of the nation's political, cultural, and religious institutions. Additionally, Nigeria has enormous development potential, but to maximize poverty reduction and economic recovery, there needs to be a coordinated effort to address corruption, income inequality, and bad resource management in the nation (Iweijingi, 2022).

Numerous research on the impact of population expansion on social indicators have been conducted in light of the potential indirect impacts of population growth on economic growth. In this vein, Edet, Samuel, Etim, and Titus (2014) examined the impact of overpopulation on the conservation of biological diversity in the Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria, and used an ex-

post facto research design. The findings show that overpopulation has a significant impact on the conservation of biological diversity. The study's findings corroborate Simona's (2021) claim that population growth exacerbates a number of environmental issues, including the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, the loss of biological variety, global warming, and pollution. The rising demand for resources like food and fresh water, poverty and malnutrition, the use of natural resources (such fossil fuels) at a rate quicker than their regeneration, and a decline in living circumstances are all issues connected to overpopulation and UN Habitat claims in its publications that urbanization may be the greatest compromise in the face of global population expansion notwithstanding the rise in population density inside cities (and the formation of megacities). Cities condense human activity into smaller geographic areas, reducing the extent of environmental harm. However, this moderating effect cannot be attained unless both urban planning and city services are adequately maintained.

Factors Undermining Nigeria's Effective Population Control

It is impossible to overstate the necessity of a workable population policy for the control of a population that is allegedly growing exponentially. However, there are several climate-related issues in Nigeria that, if not addressed, might continue to affect the country's population growth. Factors including religion, illiteracy, the preference for male children, social protection for the elderly, high infant mortality, multiculturalism, and a lack of political will. These and a number of other elements all influence Nigeria's population growth. Below are explanations of a few of these elements:

Lack of Political Will: The success of any national policy is hampered by a lack of political will. In actuality, the government has failed to implement a workable population policy in Nigeria, and the government's casual approach toward population concerns is now cause for concern given the country's rising population and declining natural resource base. The failure to conduct the population census that was scheduled for 2016 is a matter that requires national attention. The significance of population censuses should not be understated given the country's declining basic facilities and ever-growing population. Planning, progress, and development frequently use population censuses. The population census was unfortunately unable to be completed in 2016 due in large part to a lack of funding. As a result, the exercise was postponed to 2017, when it experienced the same financial difficulties. It was then rescheduled for 2018 for the same reason. Since 2006, the population census has not yet been completed.

Lack of Education: Illiteracy as a result of a lack of education is closely related. Uneducated people (citizens) typically have more children than their educated counterparts, according to common understanding. The anticipated population of the nation is 75 million, making it impossible for them to use any type of birth control or family planning methods.

Religion: Islam and Christianity make up the majority of the religious landscape in Nigeria, with a few other religions making up small portions. However, it is well known that Islam prefers to have big, extended families because it allows a man to marry more than one wife. Contraception and birth control of any kind are

prohibited by Christianity. Some Christian organizations claim that reproduction is at the heart of the human condition. Therefore, any method of contraception or family planning will go against the will of the all-powerful God. It is clear that any population reduction plan in Nigeria may be challenging to implement given the attitudes of the two main religions.

Male-Child Preference: As a major factor in population that affects how the demographic, socioeconomic, and political structures of a country change, fertility plays an important part in population dynamics. Once married, a couple wants to start a family. This is to be expected given the requirement for increasing the demographic power of the lineages. High fertility is primarily a result of a variety of economic, social, and cultural factors, such as early marriage age, a declining trend in prolonged breastfeeding, limited use of modern contraceptives, the generally low status of women, and the relative absence of a well-defined population policy in many nations. The rural population's attitude regarding fertility hasn't altered due to the influences of culture, tradition, and low socioeconomic standards. One of the factors that have been identified as directly influencing the continued high fertility in developing nations of Africa like Nigeria is the desire of couples to have at least one child of either sex as well as the continued support given by socio-cultural factors like patriarchy, support for parents in old age, title inheritance, and morbidity issues.

Diversity: There are many different ethnic groups in Nigeria, with the Igbo, Hausa, and Yoruba constituting the majority. There are a total of 371 tribes within these ethnic groups. This is followed by the ensuing cultural complexity and differences, which have an impact on reproductive and fertility behaviors. To this aim, there is a complex link between culture and sexual behavior. The fertility rate in the north looks to be rather high when compared to the south, according to data from the 2013 Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS). According to the research, people's reproduction patterns are significantly influenced by multiculturalism inside and across geopolitical zones.

Theoretical Framework

One of the most influential population theories is used in this study to illustrate demographic change and its socioeconomic effects. Robert Malthus (1798) is credited with developing the Malthusian theory of population. According to Malthus, population expansion has a detrimental impact on development since the rate of population growth differs from the rate of economic growth. The hypothesis was the first to recognize that the earth's capacity to produce food was outpacing the tendency of the population to rise. This theory explained the disparity between the geometric growth of the population and the arithmetic growth of the food supply. The advocate continued by predicting that there would come a time when the population will completely outnumber resources, which will result in risks to physical safety, social stability, the environment, and human health. This article is based on the idea that as the population grows and its many characteristics guide resources toward meeting only the most basic needs, such as food, there would be little to no money left over to make the capital investments necessary for economic growth.

The industrial revolution, which began in Europe and North America and more recently spread to the rest of the world, resulted in a drop in the death rate, which can be linked to the acceleration of population growth on a global scale (Weeks, 2012). More quickly than the birth rate, the death rate fell. The birth rate fell more slowly than the death rate. Births outnumbered deaths, creating a surplus that stimulated expansion. Preston & Haines (1991) claim that some advancements in the human condition contributed to a decline in mortality and an increase in the proportion of people living into adulthood; improvements in public health and medical technology, particularly in the area of infectious disease vaccination, are among these developments (Haines, Kovats, Campbell-Lendrum Corvalán, 2006; Leigh-Hunt, Bagguley, Bash, Turner, Turnbull, Valtorta & Caan, 2017). The chance of dying has drastically decreased in emerging nations, yet the population has continued to grow because of relatively high birth rates. Therefore, it is safe to assume that a bigger share of the population growth originates in developing countries but somehow leaks into the developed country via migration (Ekowusi, 2012).

In Nigeria, as in every other growing nation, a number of factors interact to cause the observed population rise. Initially, as a result of the advancements in medical technology that first materialized in Europe and North America as well as advances in agriculture, better nutrition, and general hygienic conditions, the death rate has decreased (Graham & White, 2016; De-Pierro, Lowe & Katz, 2020). Currently, there are 13 deaths for every 1000 individuals, compared to a consistently high 37 births for every 1000 people. A significant natural increase results from the combination of these important rates. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) per woman and other growth-regulating factors have remained consistently high. Nigeria's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 5.3 has been attributed to the prevalence of young marriages, the view that children provide security for the elderly and are a helpful hand in family businesses, and population momentum brought on by the country's predominance of a youthful demographic structure (Simona, 2021). Therefore, in the context of the current study, Nigeria's government policies on population growth, which restrict population growth through birth rates and death rates, will have an impact on the country's ability to attain meaningful levels of economic growth. The Malthusian idea is thus a suitable foundation for the current research.

Economic Consequences of Nigeria's Rapid Population Growth

Population management cannot solve all of Nigeria's socioeconomic issues on its own; it is undeniable that population is merely one of a myriad of elements that can promote or impede progress. The fact that there is widespread agreement that unregulated population increase exacerbates and highlights social and economic issues is noteworthy. Uneven resource distribution, frequent crimes, a high unemployment rate, poverty, a declining economy, environmental degradation, a lack of access to clean water, and malnutrition are all indicators of unchecked population increase in Nigeria. Although it may seem clear, recent government initiatives in Nigeria have not taken into account the connection between population density and resource needs. In actuality, Nigeria last had a population policy in 2004. A census was held in 2006 to determine the country's population. These statistics clearly demonstrate how the government feels about population

growth and development challenges (Ekowusi, 2012). A population's characteristics and absolute size will alter as a result of demographic transition. Whether a shift is favorable or negative, it typically has some sort of impact, which may be demographic, socioeconomic, or environmental in nature, depending on the country's demographic context (Prokhorets, Sysa & Rudneva, 2015). The current demographic experience is one of negative growth, or a scenario where the mortality rate is larger than the birth rate, for the industrialized nations of Europe and North America, whose populations have passed through all the stages of the Demographic Transition Model. The result is a distortion in their age structure that favors the elderly, with associated increases in spending on their needs and a consequent lack of labor, which is why the ageing population narrative is present throughout Europe. However, demographic changes, particularly in the direction of growth in the absolute size and composition, present evident social, economic, and environmental challenges that are harmful to the wellbeing of nations for the less developing countries, where about 90% of growth is taking place, and which are still in the early stage of the Demographic Transition Model, which is characterized by high birth rate and declining death rate. In general, demographic shift can affect the following: employment rates, savings rates, living standards, current account balances, and exchange rates (Mester, 2017)

Nigeria has a great deal of potential for rapid economic expansion, but the country's current efforts to take advantage of that potential are being hampered by the country's rapid population growth. Over instance, deliberate action to curb population increase has been glaringly absent from current government programs for the past 20 years. This viewpoint is mirrored in the Third National Development Plan (1975–1985), which expressly states that domestic economic progress in Nigeria does not seem to be significantly or seriously hampered by the country's demographic issues. Furthermore, it is believed that because the nation is endowed with natural resources, careful exploitation will provide the necessary framework for establishing a strong economy to guarantee the population's living standards in the near future, particularly during the current stage of the nation's demographic transition. The primary focus of government policies is on accelerating the rate of economic growth through more focused investment initiatives in all economic sectors that produce goods and services, and it is generally accepted that the rapid pace of Nigeria's social and economic development will accentuate those forces that will tend to lower fertility over the long term (Tartiyus, Mohammed & Amade, 2015). Despite the government's stance on population, the widespread consensus is that the population needs to be slowed to allow, at the very least, sustained development because the country's vast and fast rising population seriously impedes the fulfillment of the planned economic goals. Therefore, it is imperative that policymakers in Nigeria address the problem of the population explosion and implement measures to slow down the country's increasing fertility rates in order to open up opportunities for future development.

Many of the most famous intellectuals in the world have become interested in the nature of the relationship between population census and economic growth, and the majority of them have begun to propose hypotheses to explain the relationship. The origins, effects, and reactions of people to population growth

have generally been the main topics of the numerous theories of the relationship between population census and society. The necessity to strike a balance between population expansion and resource availability preoccupied the majority of the early population growth writers. Iweijingi (2022) asserts that every civilized society's development goals must take into account the population. An accurate population count is important in order to prepare for the development of developing nations. Government will then be able to choose how many individuals should receive utilities and social services. According to Musa and Habibu (2020), a major issue with economic development is that per capita income will not rise if a country's population grows at the same rate as its national GDP. Population increase is largely to blame for the issues facing developing countries like Nigeria. Like Nigeria, which exports crude, most emerging countries have seen significant increases in income, but most of these gains have been offset by population growth. The early Roman Christians and Islamic writers, on the other hand, were primarily in favor of population growth and showed little concern for the need to strike a balance between the number of people and the resources that could be made available. Evidently, the period's high mortality rate had an impact on this mindset.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study, which aims to investigate the economic effects of Nigeria's rapid population rise, is motivated by the fact that it is the seventh most populous nation in the world. Economic analysis frequently discusses the connection between population expansion and economic development. High population growth puts strain on the earth's finite natural resources, slows the creation of new private and public capital, and directs resources toward preserving rather than expanding the stock of capital per worker. The potential for economic growth that will increase income levels in these countries is a major driver of human capital policy in developing nations. The recognition that merely redistributing incomes and resources won't result in long-term solutions to poverty has led to an emphasis on reducing poverty in emerging countries that is closely related to economic growth.

In conclusion, the majority of Nigeria's development issues can be directly or indirectly linked to the nation's explosive population expansion, which appears to have no end in sight. The country's development issues are made more difficult by poor governance and widespread corruption. Most of the signs stated above are weak (such as education health, employment, food production, etc.) The relevance of population indicators on the overall development agenda is a major topic of discussion when considering the overall overview of Nigeria's demographic structure and dynamics, as leakages in project implementation and funding allocation obstruct the achievement of projected development goals in addition to the large numbers to be served. The quality and depth of leadership on population development issues will become even more crucial given Nigeria's population's immense possibilities over the next twenty to fifty years. The following suggestions are crucial in order to address Nigeria's population and development issues:

1. The undiluted conservative ideology that views population growth especially in Nigeria as the key to controlling political power and resources should be abandoned in favor of a more effective and practical concept

- that will address issues with conflict/insecurity, migration and displacement, access to education for girls, and proper regulation of infrastructure development.
2. The introduction of legislation by legislators to monitor and control the nation's fertility rate with increased education and awareness of population dynamics and the eradication of corruption that has eaten deeply among population study stakeholders who have, in one way or another, misappropriated funds intended for population policy implementation.
 3. Education is not only a human right, but it is also an important demographic variable influencing global population, development, and growth trajectories. Investment in education will provide information on reproductive health and the use of contraception to help control population growth and promote development. Through, extensive education and awareness programs, particularly on women's empowerment and girl-child education, and by spreading these across the nation change people's perspectives on population policy. Finally, the Nigerian government should make investments in essential infrastructure, including health and education, as the population expands and supports economic growth, including health and education.

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