POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION

BY

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JUNE, 2021
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis proposal titled “POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION” is the product of my effort and has not been presented for another degree or certificate elsewhere. All references have been duly acknowledged.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis proposal to my beloved family and to God Almighty for seen me through all this years.
CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this thesis proposal was carried out by Samson Erite Kulu with PG/17/020125/ASS of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Igbinedion University Okada, Edo State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

This research is geared towards assessing the role of National Population Commission in economic development as well as to investigate the effect of population growth on Nigeria’s development. Specifically, it examined the indices of economic development in Nigeria, interrogated the relationship between population growth and economic development as well as investigated the role of NPC in promoting economic development in Nigeria. The theoretical framework that is used in the course of this study is the Endogenous Growth Theory and the Malthusian Theory. The study adopted the primary and secondary method of data collection which was used to test the following research hypothesis: There are no identifiable indices of economic development in Nigeria. There is no significant relationship between population growth and economic development in Nigeria. After a careful investigation into the study, recommendations were therefore made based on the results obtained. Some of the recommendations include the need for an undiluted conservative ideology where population increase is seen by many especially in Nigeria as the key to control of political power and resources should be thrown away and a more efficient and functional idea adopted. Also, there is need for the introduction of legislation by the law makers to monitor and control fertility rate in the country with an increased education and awareness as to population dynamics.
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

It is the consensus of economists, political scientists, policy makers and even environmentalists that human population is central to sustainable development (Nanda, 2009). The impact of humans on their immediate environment is related to population size, per capita consumption and the impact of the technology used to produce what is consumed (Spiedel, 2019). Thus, population may increase or decrease based on the number of births and death, likewise the inflow and outflow of migrants. For example, in Europe, North America and Oceania, the ratio of inflow of migrants has contributed to its population growth overtime (ibid). Despite the inflow of migrants to these developed countries, the surplus of deaths over births is projected to dominate population change. This basically might not be the case in Africa and the sub-Saharan region, the rate of births over deaths have increased the population number in these regions. The difference between births and deaths counter reacted to the outflow ratio of migrants in Europe and Africa (Odey and Akpanke, 2020).

Contextually, much of contemporary economics on population problems has centered on what could be the optimum size and its impact on economic growth and development (for example, National Research Council (1993); Bloom and Williamson (1998); United Nations (1999); FAO (2000), UNDP (2001) and Onwuka (2003). This economics originated from the question posed by Malthus (1803) as to whether food production could keep pace with the demand of a growing population and his answer that the power of population is indefinitely greater than the resources on earth to provide the needed subsistence for mankind.
Discernible from the above, agriculture seemed to be the major source of livelihood and as a result population growth was positively linked to production in several decades ago. It was believed that more people imply greater productivity and security since more workers or laborers working efficiently would be expected to immensely improve productivity and the overall output of the nation (Tartiyus, Dauda and Peter, 2015). Thus, when societies and economies began to flourish, success was dependent upon a productive agricultural sector and attributed to large population. In this regard, the economy inevitably expanded and the society reaped the financial benefits with more efficient labor. The resultant effect is that the high fertility rates allowed for increased laborers, enhanced productivity, facilitated economic activities and helped overcome the previously recorded exorbitant death rates as a result of combined effects of famine, disease, malnutrition, plague and war (Latimer and Kulkarni, 2008).

As a corollary from the above, the modernization and technological expansion recorded in today’s world allowed societies to gain control of the ailments which was rampant and previously killed large percentages of the population. Societies have now become equipped to overcome famine, malnutrition, and other life threatening diseases. Rapid technological advances in modern medicine and sanitation drastically reduced global mortality rates. Increased technology also improved labor productivity. This combination of both technological and medical improvements set the conditions for unprecedented booms in world population growth, despite conclusions that population growth accounts for long term economic development; there are other contradictory views in theories and literatures. For instance, scholars like Tartiyus, Dauda and Peter (2015) for stated that as the global fertility rates continue to outweigh mortality rate, and currently with almost 7 billion people, the world’s natural resources are being placed under a huge strain. This in turn,
gives rise to negative consequences through the different aspects of human lives which are being hampered, especially in developing nations.

Available reports has shown that Nigeria is one of the fastest growing countries in the world with a population growth rate of about 2.44 % as at 2016 according to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), is the most populous country in Africa endowed with wide range of natural resources, and accounts for one in five of Sub-Saharan Africa’s people (CBN, 2016). This is one of the main reasons why Nigeria established the National Population Commission as well as the National Population Policy in 1998 with a mandate to achieve sustainable economic growth, protection and preservation of the environment, poverty eradication, and provision of quality social services, achieving a balance among the rate of population growth, available resources, and the social and economic development of the country (National Population Commission, 2020).

Nigeria’s population according to the National Population commission as at 2016 was 182.2 Million. Further given Nigeria’s high population growth rate which is not peculiar to Nigeria but is a significant feature of a developing country, Nigeria’s population is set to increase even more in the future. This is likely to have implications for Nigeria’s economic growth as it affects a whole range of socio-economic variables. This present study will therefore examine the effect of the population growth on economic development of Nigeria with a particular reference to assessing the role of the National Population Commission.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

In the world’s economic history, Nigeria became significant as a result of abundant natural resources, ranging from crude petroleum (oil and gas), to rich water resources, massive fertile arable land and rich forest resources (Ekpebu and Ukpong, 2012). For a developing country,
Nigeria has achieved significant growth rates in terms of her economic growth rates with the highest being 9.19% in the third quarter of 2015, although it may be argued that Nigeria’s GDP rebasing in August 2014 may have contributed to that but Nigeria’s large and fast growing population suggests that it may have played a role and needs to be continuously explored in research if Nigeria is to achieve higher growth rates in light of its vast resources.

Existing theories have not provided a clear cut generalization as to the effect of population growth on economic growth of developing nations such as Nigeria and therefore it is difficult to make a pronouncement on Nigeria’s future economic growth prospects on account of its rising population. However, some theories started with the Malthusian Population trap in their statements showing that high population growth exerts pressure on the natural resources available, reduces private and public capital formation and diverts additions to capital resources to maintaining rather than increasing the stock of capital per worker thereby inhibiting economic development. Thus, there is divergence of opinion regarding the desirability of population growth such as the National Population Commission which viewed the above narrative that rapid population growth without proper economic blueprint for development is a real problem for the Nigerian state.

Similarly, a significant number of studies such as Adewole (2012); Dauda and Peter (2015) find population growth to have a positive effect on economic development. However, the adverse implications of rising population for economic development on account of poverty, pollution and unemployment amongst a number of challenges and social ills resulting from increasing populations in developing countries as Nigeria are popularly acknowledged, and from that perspective population growth may negatively affect economic development. Comparatively, studies such as Dao (2012) and Abu (2015) however have argued that population growth has no
significant effect on economic development. Given the contrasting findings regarding population growth and economic development therefore, the reality of high poverty and unemployment in Nigeria which as at 2015 were 7.2% and 7.8% respectively as highlighted by Central Bank of Nigeria (2015) and the National Population Commission (2015), and inspite of this, the announcement of Nigeria as the largest economy in Africa in 2014 on account of Nigeria’s GDP rebasing in 2014, suggests that clearly there is need for more research on the trends and effect of population growth on economic development of Nigeria. This is more so as Nigeria continues to experience high population growth rate with no proper evident sign of a rise in economic growth rates in sight. This study therefore poses some research questions.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of this present research study is to assess the role of National Population Commission in economic development as well as to investigate the effect of population growth on Nigeria’s development. Specifically, it seeks to:

i. Examine the indices of economic development in Nigeria.

ii. Investigate the relationship between population growth and economic development in Nigeria.

iii. Investigate the role of NPC in promoting economic development in Nigeria

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is anchored on the major findings of the study.

The study revealed that.
It is hope that this study would assist the Federal Government, the National Population Commission, organizations and other critical stakeholders to know the critical issues facing the people in terms of economic development and population growth.

It would also serve as a guide to those that are engaged in monetary policy, urban planning, statistics, as well as business administration, banking, finance and insurance. This research study will also serve as a guide to other researcher.

1.5 Scope of the Study and Limitations to the Study

The scope of this study is geared towards examining and analyzing Population growth and economic development in Nigeria with a view in assessing the role of National Population Commission. The dimension or period used in the study is 2011-2019.

In terms of limitations, the researcher had financial difficulties in carrying out this research work. Despite the limitations that are inherent in this research endeavor, the researcher is of the opinion that a good research has been carried out and it shall be contributory to knowledge.

This research work is also limited by time. This is because, we had to do course work along with research at the same time coupled with the fact that the semester is very short. A reasonable amount of time was spent in the collection of materials especially for the review of related literature. Closely related to this was lack of finance to accelerate the researcher’s movement.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THOERETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Literature Review

A review of literature on population and economic growth suggests that a number of studies have been performed in Nigeria and other countries of the world. For example, Tariyus, Dauda and Peter (2015) evaluated the impact of population growth on economic growth in Nigeria from 1980 to 2010 given that the impact of population growth on economic growth has always been a subject of disagreement among economists and given Nigeria’s high rate of population growth. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics as well as regression analysis. The result revealed that there is a positive relationship between economic growth (proxy by GDP growth) and population, fertility and export growth while negative relationships were found between economic growth (proxy by GDP growth) and life expectancy, and crude death rate.

Similarly, it was recommended among others that the average population growth rate of Nigeria should be maintained since it is found to impact positively on economic growth in Nigeria within the period of study and that measures should be adopted to check the crude death rate of Nigeria as it affects economic growth negatively. Considering the case of Mexico, Garza-Rodriguez, Andrade-Velasco, Martinez-Silva, Renteria-Rodriguez & Vallejo-Castillo (2016) analyze the dynamic relationship between population growth and economic development, through a structural break cointegration analysis for the period 1960-2014. The Gregory-Hansen cointegration test confirmed the existence of a long run equilibrium. Based on the results of this test, using 1985 as the year in which the structural break occurs in the cointegrating equation and therefore the inclusion of a dummy variable for this year in the VECM developed in the paper,
results obtained suggested that in the short run, economic growth has a negative effect on population growth, while in the long run, population has a positive effect on per capita GDP and per capita GDP also positively affects population.

Contextually, Dao (2012) examines the economic effects of the demographic transition in developing countries. Based on data from the World Bank and using a sample of forty-three developing countries, the least-squares estimation technique in a multivariate linear regression was applied. The findings suggest that the growth rate of per capita GDP is linearly dependent upon population growth, both the young and old dependency ratios, the mortality rate, and whether or not the rate of population growth is less than 1.2 percent per year. Using interaction variables in light of the severe degree of multicollinearity among explanatory variables, it was found that per capita GDP growth linearly depends on population growth, the old dependency ratio, the mortality rate, and the interactions between population growth and both the young and old dependency ratios, between population growth and whether or not the rate of population growth is less than 1.2 percent per year, and the interaction term between the young dependency ratio and whether or not the rate of population growth is less than 1.2 percent per year.

Shaari, Rahim and Rashid (2013) examined relationship among population, energy consumption and economic growth in Malaysia from 1991 to 2011. The study applied Unit Root Test, Co-integration Test, Granger Causality Test and the results indicated that one co-integrating equation exists, suggesting the long-term relationship among population, energy consumption and economic growth in Malaysia. Results of Granger causality performed suggested that population has an effect on energy consumption and energy consumption contributes to economic growth in Malaysia. A reduction in energy consumption can harm the economic growth. Therefore any policy to reduce energy consumption should be revised.
Ewugi and Yakubu (2012) examined Malthusian Population theory and the Nigerian Economy: A Political Economy Approach from 1766 -1834 and the study applied Regression analysis and The Malthusian population theory was proved to be far from empirical reality, especially in the developed world. But more than two hundred years after his work, indices show that the theory’s predictions in some ways apply to Nigeria. Nigeria is currently experiencing rapid population growth, has experienced civil war and its people are yet to adopt modern and advanced technology in the area of agriculture.

Available evidence has shown that there is poverty, malnutrition and food crises, Nigeria is a home to a variety of social ills, the likes of ethnic and religious crises, unwanted babies experiences, etc. All these can be summed up as the characteristics that Malthus referred to as “misery” or “vice” that would claim the lives of many. These „miseries‟ and „vices‟ are actually claiming lives directly and indirectly in Nigeria. The work therefore, recommend that Nigeria government should be committed to the pledge of the twenty-seven per cent (27%) education budgetary allocation standard of the United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This would go a long way in improving the standard of living of the people in Nigeria.

The above argument was the position of Okwori, Ajegi, Ochinyabo, and Abu (2015), where they empirically examined the Malthusian Population Theory in Nigeria from 1982 -2012. The study applied vector error correction model and the result shows that Population Growth has no significant impact on Economic Development in Nigeria. This is in line with the works of Dao (2012) and Thirwal (1973). In other words, the Malthusian population theory is relevant when applied to the Nigeria economy. Therefore, if we posit that population growth is detrimental to economic development it is tantamount to averring that overpopulation and poverty are correlated which portends danger. This combination is associated with increased vices, disease
and death. This could be attributed to so many reasons chief amongst which is economic backwardness that basically depicts the inadequacy of social welfare programmes, infrastructure or the wherewithal to support the existing population. Also communal and religious laws further influences population growth contradicting the axiom of moral restraint as enunciated by Malthus.

From the above, we could deduce that the effect of population on the economy in Nigeria is much more than the food problems enunciated by Malthus. Some of these consequences are congestion, high dependency ratio and mounting social problems, emigration, higher unemployment and/or underemployment, inequality including the current acts of insurgency and terrorism. Thus appropriate measures should be taken to curb this growing menace which may become endemic in the Nigerian economy resulting in pervasive poverty, and portends danger to sustainable development.

It is in line with the above assertions that Ali, and Amin (2013) empirically test the impact of Population growth on Economic Development of Pakistan for period of 1975-2008 using the ARDL technique. The result of the model shows that the impact of population is positive and significant but the problem associated with huge population growth is the flood of newly produce work force, its management and providing different facilities even basic needs become a challenge for government and policy makers. To tackle the issue this study incorporated unemployment rate and expenditure made on health and education to the model in-order to investigate the impact of population growth directly and indirectly on economic growth in Pakistan. The results of the study indicate that Population growth has positively and significantly contributed to economic development but negatively affected by unemployment rate. HRD is although positive but insignificant. What can be concluded is that the direct impacts of population
growth is positive on development of the economy but reverse is the case when indirect analysis is made and that leads to unemployment. Although on one hand; population growth increases economic growth but on the other hand it creates a problem of unemployment and leads to lacking of educational and health facilities. Thus, the government is advised to utilize this additional workforce efficiently as a policy tool to achieve high and desired level of growth.

In Uganda for instance, Klasen and Lawson (2007) examined the link between population and per capita economic growth, and poverty by combining both a macro and micro-econometric approach, using panel data. Uganda is argued to have one of the highest population growth rates in the world. The findings of the study suggest that both theoretical considerations and strong empirical evidence suggest that the currently high population growth puts a considerable break on per capita growth prospects in Uganda. Moreover, it contributes significantly to low achievement in poverty reduction and is associated with households being persistently poor and moving into poverty. This is therefore likely to make substantial improvements in poverty reduction, and per capita growth, very difficult.

As a corollary from the above, Aidi, Emecheta, and Ngwudiobu (2016) investigated the relationship between population dynamics and economic growth in Nigeria using time series data spanning from 1970 to 2014. The data were analyzed using ordinary least square estimation technique. The result revealed among other that all the core variables (i.e. fertility, mortality and net-migration) of the study are inversely related to economic growth during the investigated period. The study further revealed that gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) and savings are strong drivers of economic growth in Nigeria. Sequel to the findings, the Nigerian government is advised to make direct efforts toward checking the alarming fertility rate in Nigeria. Also efforts should be made to improve the quality of Nigerian labour force through more substantial
investment in education and skills acquisition programmes so as to improve productivity in Nigeria.

Consequently, Mohsen and Chua (2015) examined Effects of Trade Openness, Investment and Population on the Economic Growth: A Case Study of Syria from 1980-2010. The study applied cointegration test and The Granger causality test and the result indicates bidirectional short-run causality relationships between trade openness, investment, population and GDP. There are also bidirectional long-run causality relationships between investment, population and GDP, and unidirectional long-run causality relationship running from trade openness to GDP. The study result indicates that population has the biggest effect on the GDP, thus it was suggested improving the quality of the human capital in the country. It is essential for the Syrian Government to upgrade the quality of human capital in the country by improving the quality of the education system, health services, the standard of living, and the quality of life.

In the same vein, Guga, Alikaj and Zeneli (2015) examined Population, Economic Growth and Development in The Emerging Economies from 1994-2010 the study applied regression analysis model and the result shows that Economic development is the primary objective of the majority of nations in the world, one of the key factors to be taken into consideration when analyzing the dynamics of population growth. Human capital development and economic growth are related to each other. Economic growth provides the conditions for human development and human development provides opportunities for economic growth. Developing countries are unable to afford an increase of such rapid population (as is currently happening and is expected to happen in the coming years). This will negatively affect quality of life and slow economic growth.
Shah, Sargani, Ali and Siraj (2015) examined The Effect of Increase in Population on the Economic Growth of Bangladesh from 1980 and 2005. The study adopted multiple linear regression model. The result of the study confirmed that population growth has negative consequences on the process of economic growth as far as Bangladesh is concerned. Two different equations have been employed one for the relationship between GDP growth and population also including FDI and exports, the other equation used GNI per capita as a function of population. Both the models were found significant, the relationship between economic growth and GNI per capita with population were significantly different from zero.

According to Shah, Sargani, Ali and Siraj (2015) it can be concluded from the literature that large size of population and its fast rate of growth increases the consumption needs of people and so consumption expenditure will increase. There is lesser money left for saving and so capital formation and investment remains low. The part of scarce resources which is mobilized by such developing economies is eaten away by the fast growing population. It is found that increase in population makes it difficult to absorb the high number of people entering into the labor market every year. There are fewer job opportunities at home, about 70% expatriate workers are working in Middle East and oil rich countries, if the population increases at higher rate it will be a problem for the government so large increase in population is more a liability than an asset in the developing country like Bangladesh.

Again, Mahmud (2015) examined Econometric Model on Population Growth and Economic Development in India from 1980 to 2013. The study employed Johansen Cointegration Test and Vector Error Correction Model and Granger Causality Test and The result of the study shows that the variables are cointegrated and the VECM shows the speed of adjustment toward the long run equilibrium from the deviation in the short run. The short run influence on the dependent
variable (GDP) by the independent variables (population, rate of Urbanization and employment) were tested using a Wald Test which indicated that each independent variable influence the dependent variable in the short run. The study also discovered a unidirectional causality running from GDP to Population growth; a unidirectional causality running from GDP to employment; a unidirectional causality running Population to employment; 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. Conclusively, the relationship between population growth and economic growth is found to be positive in this study. In other words, the variables are found to have long run positive relationship or equilibrium.

Lachisa and Yirdaw (2012) examined population and economic development in Ethiopia from 1981 to 2012. The study employed vector error correction model and Granger causality and the result shows existence of high population growth in Ethiopia. This is evidenced by persistent and large gap between birth rate and death rate where the birth rate is on average was greater by around 27 per 1,000 Population. In addition, the doubling time of the population is declining. Based on the trend of population and economic growth while there exists a persistence increment in population size and real GDP, there is slight fluctuation in the real GDP overtime.

### 2.2 Population Growth and Economic Development in Nigeria

Therefore, considering the significant and negative impact of population on economic development, the concerned body which is in this instant case the National Population Commission has to device sound population policy that reduces the growth of population so as to reap the fruit of blossom economy. This position corroborates the findings of Orumie, and Cynthia (2016) who
examined the effect of unemployment rate and population growth rate on gross domestic product in Nigeria from 1970-2005. The result applied multiple regression model and the study revealed that since 1970, the rate of unemployment and population has been on the increase amidst declining gross domestic product. The result also reveal that unemployment and population growth contribute commensurably to gross domestic product. Furthermore, the result showed that unemployment contributes more to the national gross domestic product during this period in line with existing work and the result further shows that unemployment rate has an inverse relationship on gross domestic product in tandem with Okun’s law (1962). That is, the study shows that unemployment rate account for about 12.9 percent decrease of the national gross domestic product.

In the same vein, Ilegbinosa, Moses and Praise (2013) examined population and its impact on level of unemployment in least developed countries. The study applied ordinary least square and the result found Clearly, employment problems can be created only if the government does not set up adequate measures to control population and to distribute resources equitably giving a sense of belonging to all citizens. Therefore, to provide the teeming controlled population the needed employment opportunities, there is need to efficiently allocate resources and initiate projects towards employment generation. This is needed to avoid a “worst case scenario” as postulated by The Next Generation Team,

“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.”
The above quote is what propelled Ukpong, Ekpebu and Ofem (2013) to examine Cointegration inferences on issues of poverty and population growth in Nigeria. The study applied ordinary least squares and regression analysis model and the result found that an increase in population can result to poverty and that increase in GDP of a country can reduce poverty especially when accompanied with improvement in other factors that would improve the wellbeing of the people. Hence, this paper supports the fact that, although poverty has a multi-dimensional measure, and could be attributed to a number of causes, it is obvious that where a country’s population continues to increase without efficient investment in human capital development, and adequate development in economic sectors, such as agriculture that would improve the livelihoods of the people, then, any increase in population could result to increase in poverty in the economy. Hence, in the quest for poverty reduction in the developing countries, including Nigeria, there is a need for substantial investment in technology and agriculture to promote food sufficiency; increased income and employment.

It is important that suitable policies are made to reduce the country’s population growth by controlling family size, especially in the rural areas where poor families raise large number of children. The population should be encouraged to developed useful skills in science and technology to meet the country’s need for employment and greater productivity. More so, there is need to develop the industrial sector and promote rural development supported with a functional power sector; while targeting industrial growth and agricultural development to enhance improved wellbeing for the people, especially those of the rural areas. Particularly, policies should be made to stipulate an average family size; especially number of children, and such policies should be made to gain support and collaboration of religious groups, cultural organizations and political institutions in the country.
Moreover, Nigeria has great potentials for development, but there is need for concerted effort to tackle corruption, income inequality and poor resource management in the country to enhance poverty reduction and economic recovery. Heady and Hodge (2009) analyzes 471 statistical regressions from 29 prominent economic growth studies using meta-regression analysis to identify the effect of alternative methodologies on key population growth results. This study finds that a broad set of methodological factors explains more than half of the variation in the population growth effects observed from this literature, including the types of variables used to measure population growth, the countries selected, the time frame of the analysis, and the nature of the control variables specified. The study also yields results that have implications for policymakers, especially insofar as several policy factors seem to influence the population change–economic growth nexus. Particularly strong is the evidence in support of the increasingly adverse effects of population growth in the post-1980 period, suggesting that demographic issues should warrant greater attention than they currently receive from the policymaking community.

Adewole (2012) examined effect of population on economic development in Nigeria from 1981 to 2007 using ordinary least square method of analysis. The result reveals that population growth exert positive and significant effect on economic growth measured as Per Capita Income (PCI) and Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) in Nigeria between 1981 and 2007. Afzal (2009) examined Population Growth and Economic Development in Pakistan from 1981 to 2005 using ordinary least squares regression analysis. They examined the relationship between population growth and economic development. The result shows a highly significant and negative coefficient of population growth demonstrating that population growth is a real problem in Pakistan because it adversely affects the economic growth. Resources instead of being directed to
productive channels are consumed by the exploding population. Positive and highly significant investment coefficient implies that investment growth will considerably contribute to economic growth which in turn depends on high saving rate. Pakistan has the highest dependent population that hinders economic growth because this population encompasses non-productive members of the society.

Given the potential indirect effects of population growth on economic growth a number of studies relating to population growth on social indicators were performed. In that vein, Edet, Samuel, Etim, and Titus (2014) examined impact of Overpopulation on the biological diversity Conservation in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria and the Ex-post facto research design was adopted and the result of the findings reveals that overpopulation significantly influences biological diversity conservation. The result of the study support the assertion of Coleman (2011) which states that many environmental problems, such as rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, biological diversity loss, global warming, and pollution, are aggravated by the population expansion. Other problems associated with overpopulation include the increased demand for resources such as fresh water and food, starvation and malnutrition, consumption of natural resources (such as fossil fuels) faster than the rate of regeneration, and deterioration in living conditions and Despite the increase in population density within cities (and the emergence of megacities), UN Habitat states in its reports that urbanization may be the best compromise in the face of global population growth. Cities concentrate human activity within limited areas, limiting the breadth of environmental damage. But this mitigating influence can only be achieved if urban planning is significantly improved and city services are properly maintained.

Michael, Usang, Nelson, Etim, Onah and Chukwudi (2014) examined the effect of population explosion on family standard of living in Calabar, Nigeria, and the study applied descriptive
statistics and the study is able to discover that the following factors – poor family planning, illiteracy, poverty, ignorance, culture, religion, migration, and urbanization – causes population explosion and this is influenced by factors like: war, disaster, search for jobs and education, polygamy and early marriage, climate change, and inflation. There is need for mass education on population issues at least annually to serve as a reminder to the public on the effects of large families above the family resources. Better awareness on efficient and effective family planning methods, making them accessible, affordable and feasible in order to encourage its practice. There is need to encourage monogamy as against polygamy and a check on early marriage, equity in resources distribution to both the rural/urban areas including man power, creation of more jobs in the rural settings as this will mean rural development and encouraging agricultural practice as part of entrepreneurship to empower the people. Abdulrahaman (2013) examined population growth and food security in Nigeria from 2010-2012. the study applied linear regression model and from the analysis using relevant data, the study noted that, Nigeria is witnessing population expulsion, where population moves substantially. Some of the factors identified includes; early marriage, poverty and illiteracy, religious beliefs, improved sanitary condition, availability of medical facilities and low mortality rate. The study also learnt that food production within the period of study increased at marginal level, this is why people are vulnerable to hunger as well as hunger related diseases. The study concludes that population expulsion due to in efficiencies in agricultural sector out run food supply, Nigeria therefore is in full spank of food insecurity.

The empirical literature reviewed has thrown up a number of interesting findings in the literature on population growth and economic development. In general, population growth has popularly been found to have a positive effect on economic growth. This may on face value indicate positive prospects for Nigeria economic growth on account of Nigeria’s large population and with a
significant number of studies on Nigeria finding positive effect of population growth on economic development. However, the argument by few studies as Shah, Sargani, Ali and Siraj (2015) and Guga, Alikaj and Zeneli (2015) that population growth may have a negative effect on economic development should be taken seriously. This is so as population growth is argued to contribute to unemployment, poverty, environmental problems (such as rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, biological diversity loss, global warming, and pollution) and other social ills, and through these economic growths will suffer a decline.

2.2.1 Factors of Population Growth and Development in Nigeria

There exist multifarious factors that determine population change and development in any society. These include but not restricted to the following; birth, death, migration and technology

a. Birth and Death

These are important factors of population change. Birth increases the population while death decreases the population. Birth and death are natural causes of population change. Birth has been described as a chief natural factor affecting the population change. The higher the birth rate the quicker the population growth. Similarly death is a pivotal natural cause of population change. It has the effect of decreasing the population of a country. Illiteracy, climate change, poverty, natural calamities, communal clashes/wars, has been identified as the factors responsible for death.

b. Migration

Migration connotes the movement of people from place to place. It causes change of population. This factor of population change has been christened as “unnatural element of population change”.
Migration is a germane determinant factor of population and development in any geographical area.

c. Technology

The world has been described as a global village. Technology is the order of the day and it plays an important function in determining population and development. Due to technology, there is an increased in food production. Proper health care facilities and services have helped to cure and control different diseases. There are more births than deaths, thus leading to population increase.

2.2.2 Why Nigeria Population is increasing 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 (see Table 2). This shows that Nigerian population will double in less than 22 years.

Another factor is early marriage most especially in the northern part of Nigeria. Early marriage tend to lead to high birth rate because women will have opportunity of having many children due to long child bearing/reproductive years while postponement of marriage because of educational aspirations will reduce birth rate.

Another factor though not significant 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. Moreover, 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 and cannot engage
in productive activities again. They believe the more the children the more the guarantee of better life at old ages. They strife and try to have more and more children.

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 polygamy. For instance, Islam favours polygamy 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.

2.2.3 Past Efforts to Reduce Rapid Population Increase

Nigeria government made the first serious efforts to influence the population variables in 1988 during the Buhari administration. 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.

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 polygamy 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. Moreover, 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).
2.2.4 Impacts of Population Growth on Economic Development

Land and water are essential resources for the production of food and thus constitute two of the most fundamental resources for mankind. These resources are under pressure by population growth, economic development. Essentially, tomorrow’s farmers need to produce more food with fewer resources. Beyond meeting market demands, global food production has important links to several fundamental objectives of societies including the reflection of malnutrition and poverty, improved access to a healthy diet, better management and allocation of fresh water resources, increased use of renewable energy, and the protection of climate, ecosystems, and biological diversity. Thus, insights into the future development of the agricultural sector are of great concern to society and policymakers. To adequately capture the complex links between food production and overall development, integrated scientific model based assessments are needed. A variety of past studies have examined the impacts of global development on food production. These studies involve a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines, methods, models, and data. Geographic and biological assessments often focus on the heterogeneity of production conditions and their consequences. Engineering assessments in the land use sector deal primarily with technological development and associated opportunities. Economic assessments attend to farm level and/or commodity market implications of development. In addition, there are policy oriented assessments which examine legal instruments and challenges for the regulation of land use and land externalities. Studies which combine the economic, technical, biophysical, and legal aspects of agricultural development fall within the realm of integrated assessment studies (e.g., Bouwman et al., 2006, Rosegrant et al., 2002b, Rosenzweig et al., 2004). These relatively comprehensive studies are able to quantify the net impacts of development over a diverse set of individual drivers and are a clear advancement over single factor based studies. Different studies which lead to the same
aggregated results but differ greatly in individual components do not promote confidence in scientific assessments and modeling.

Over the years, it has become established that the existence of an efficient and effective human capital is the key to economic growth and development in any nation. This stems from the fact that every other facility and resource required for economic growth is driven by the availability of human capital. More so, in the absence of effective human capital development, an increasing population can have adverse negative effect on the economic growth of a nation. This is because a lot more resources are taken out to manage and cater for the teeming population that the same can generate Brand (2009). It is therefore correct to state that the economic growth of a nation is significantly dependent on the growth of its population. The effect or impact can be either negative or positive dependent on the existence of certain factors and conditions, when studied and understood can be managed or controlled to ensure continuous and sustainable economic growth and development. Dennis (2004), Nigeria is one of the fastest growing countries in the world. With an estimated population of 140 million and an annual population growth rate of 2.9% (NPC 2006), Nigeria is the most populous nation in sub-sahara Africa and the tenth most populous in the world. However, the composition of this population is mainly in the youthful category with 49% being youths below the age of 21 and a dependency ratio estimated at 89%. A large proportion of this population favours and is living in the rapidly expanding urban area, presently estimated at over 45.2% and will likely hit 55.4% mark by the year 2015 (UNDP, 2007).

With this statistics however, the population growth shows profound inequities and disproportions when analyzed with development indicators such as: 21 doctors per 100,000 people, infant mortality rate of 112 per 1000 live births, maternal mortality of over 980 per 100,000 live births, life expectancy at birth projected at 50 years. We can now define population growth as the increase
in the number of human inhabitants of a given place. The total population of any area of the earth’s
surface represents a balance between two forces. One is natural change caused by the difference
between the number of births and deaths. If births are more numerous than deaths in any period,
the total population will increase. However, if they are less numerous it will decrease. This simple
relationship is modified by a second force; migration. When immigrants are more numerous than
emigrants, there will be a population increase. (We assume, of course, that we are ignoring natural
change for the moment). When emigrants are more numerous, there will be a population decline.
Ben, (2005).Net changes in population totals are caused by the interaction of four elements: Births
and immigrants tend to push the total up: Deaths and emigrants tend to bring the total down.
Although migration may be the most important factor in small areas (for example, in a small village
or a city block), it is less significant on the national level.

For the world as a whole, migration is irrelevant because all movements take place within the
limits of the recording area. However, overpopulation is described as a condition where people's
numbers exceed the carrying capacity of its habitat. In common parlance, the term usually refers
to the relationship between the human population and its environment, the earth. Overpopulation
does not depend only on the size or density of the population, but on the ratio of population of
available sustainable resources. It also depends on the way resources are used and distributed
throughout the population. Andrew, (2001).Matching population growth with development is the
real object of global and country action towards improved welfare, human development and
economic growth. The changing patterns in the size, structure and distribution of population
provide useful leads into the persistent shifts in the choice of approaches for managing
The nature of the relationship between population census 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 census 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.

Udahab (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.

2.2.5 Nigeria Census-taking and Population History

National Population Commission (NPopC) is a principal commission of Nigeria, responsible for producing data about the Nigerian people (its population) and economy. The commission is part of the Nigerian Ministry of Interior and its head is appointed by the President of Nigeria. In addition, it was established by the Federal Government in 1988. It has the statutory powers to collect, analyze and disseminate demographic data in the country. Nigeria Census History. Although numerous estimates of the Nigerian population were made during the colonial period, the first attempt at a nationwide census was during 1952-53. This attempt yielded a total population figure of 31.6 million within the current boundaries of the country. This census has usually been considered an undercount for a number of reasons, apprehension that the census was related to tax collection, political tension at the time eastern Nigeria, logistical difficulties in reaching many remote areas, and inadequate training of enumerators in some areas. The extent of
undercounting has been estimated at 10 percent or less, although accuracy probably varied among the regions. Despite its difficulties, the 1952-53 census has generally been seen as less problematic than any of its successors. Subsequent attempts to conduct a reliable post-independence census have been mired in controversy, and only one was officially accepted. The first attempt in mid-1962, was canceled after much controversy and allegations of overcounting in many areas. A second attempt in 1963, which was officially accepted, also was encumbered with charges of inaccuracy and manipulation for regional and local political purposes. Indeed, the official 1963 figure of 55.6 million as total national population is inconsistent with the census of a decade earlier because it implies a virtually impossible annual growth rate of 5.8 percent. In addition to likely inflation of the aggregate figure, significant intraregional anomalies emerge from a close comparison of the 1953 and 1963 figures. In portions of the southeast, for example, the two sets of data imply that some nonurban local government areas (LGAs) had increased at a rate of almost 13 percent per year, while other neighboring areas experienced a minute growth rate of 0.5 percent per year. Despite the controversy, the results of the 1963 census were eventually accepted. After the civil war of 1967-70 an attempt was made to hold a census in 1973, but the results were canceled in the face of repeated controversy. No subsequent nationwide census had been held as of 1990, although there have been various attempts to derive population estimates at a state or local level. Most official national population estimates are based on projections from the 1963 census.

The great improvements in transport and accessibility of most areas, in technological capability, and in the level of education throughout the country, as well as the generalized acceptance of national coherence and legitimacy, favored the success of the fail 1991 census. It was to be conducted in about 2500,000 enumeration areas by the National Population Commission with offices in each of the country’s LGAs. To reduce possible controversy, religious and ethnic
identification would be excluded from the census forms, and verification of state results would be handled by supervisors from outside the state. Some analysts believe that the effort to carry out a reliable census with perceived legitimacy might become an unexpected positive exercise, reinforcing a sense of shared nationhood and providing a model for the attempt to overcome regional and ethnic differences.

Nigeria has engaged in many censuses in its forty nine years of existence. Among many others, censuses were taken and restricted to only Lagos Island and part of the Mainland in 1866, 1871 and 1896. Many urban towns were included in the censuses of 1911 and 1921. There were variations in the Northern and Southern Protectorate as regards the census conducted in 1931. Though, the two were based mostly on estimates (NPC, 1998).

No effort was made to conduct census in 1941 due to Second World War. This was conducted in 1952/53. It was elaborate but probably under-enumerated the population of Nigeria. After the independence of Nigeria on first of October, 1960 census was carried out in 1962 (Iro, 1987). The result of the 1962 census was nullified and another one was conducted in 1963 (Ekanem, 1972). The result of this census was nullified by the Supreme Court. In addition, the result of 1973 census was unacceptable (NPC, 1998).

1991 witnessed another census-taking and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) in Nigeria. It was a successful attempt and it provided a robust set of socio-economic and demographic data for social and economic planning. The total population as at 1991 was 88,992,220. Sixteen years later, that was, in 2006, another headcount was conducted. The headcount revealed a total population was more than 140 million. Table 1 presents the population of Nigeria from 1911-2006.
### Table 1: The Population of Nigeria 1911-2006 Censuses

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>8.12</td>
<td>10.56</td>
<td>11.44</td>
<td>16.84</td>
<td>22.01</td>
<td>29.78</td>
<td>32.00</td>
<td>51.38</td>
<td>47.26</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>56.41%</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td>12.33</td>
<td>12.39</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>13.75</td>
<td>18.92</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>37.95%</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>4.60</td>
<td>8.10</td>
<td>10.28</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>11.91</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Western</td>
<td>43.39%</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>4.73</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>5.34%</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>9013534</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Southern</td>
<td>42.16%</td>
<td>7.93</td>
<td>8.62</td>
<td>8.62</td>
<td>13.58</td>
<td>23.28</td>
<td>25.88</td>
<td>33.50</td>
<td>28.38</td>
<td>41.25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Northern</td>
<td>49.45%</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>18.72</td>
<td>20.06</td>
<td>30.42</td>
<td>45.29</td>
<td>55.66</td>
<td>65.50</td>
<td>79.76</td>
<td>88.51</td>
<td>140.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: S.A. Ahuko (1974): Nigeria Crucial Count

*Africa: An International Business, Economic and Political Monthly No. 29 pp 12-15, 1995 (based on the preliminary population figures of 88.5m)

NPC, 1998

### Table 2: Recorded Census Population and Intercensal Growth Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Population (Million)</th>
<th>Period of Years</th>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intercensal</td>
<td>From 1953</td>
<td>Intercensal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>16.05</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>18.72</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>20.06</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952/53</td>
<td>30.42</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>55.66</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>79.76</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>88.99</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>140.00</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: NPC, 1998

National Bureau of Statistics, 2009

The Guardian, January 10, 2007
The Largest States in Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>km²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Niger State</td>
<td>76,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Borno State</td>
<td>70,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Taraba State</td>
<td>54,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kaduna State</td>
<td>46,053</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.6 The National Agency for Population Programmed and Development Act, 1993

This Act which is made up of VII Parts and 26 Sections establishes the National Agency for Population Programs and Development. The agency is saddled with the mandate to ensure a successful implementation of the National Policy on Population at all levels in accordance with set goals and objective 53. Part I, Sections 1 and 2 of the Act Establishment of the National Agency for Population Programs and Development and its Governing Board.

2.2.7 Economic development: the perspective of human development index (HDI)

According to the United Nations Development Programm (UNDP, 1992.1) development should focus on human development. The UNDP argument stresses that economic growth must be managed and wealth distributed for the benefit of the majority of the country’s people central to this process of human development is the enlargement of people’s choices, most crucially in the area of being have access to education and to the decent standard of living.

Progress in human development can also be measured by the degree of political freedom, guaranteed human rights and personnel self-respect the citizens of the country enjoy. On the basis of this reasoning, the NUDP (1992.1) evolved the HDL, including component variable such as the
standard of living (purchasing power based on real GDP, knowledge (adult literacy and more years of schooling and longevity (life expectancy).

Essentially, development is the increasing ability of a given society to productivity manipulate her environment. This entails rising level of social scientific consciousness, and advancement in science and technology for the society in question (Adenuga, 2003: 46) Kayade and Odusola (2001:17) see development as a process that results in improved economic status for a country. They say it is often measured by increased real per capital income and if possible should be sustained over a long period of time. Moreover, they note that development is a process involving elements of modernization such as enhancement productivity, social and economic equalization; improved knowledge, attitudes and institutions; and rationally coordinated policy measures that are capable of reviewing all obstacles to social economic transformation.

Intuitively, economic development goes far beyond just real per capita GNP or national income. Its sustenance over time through the continuous increase in per capita and productivity. It is about who benefits from the fruits of economic growth, the vast majority of the populace or just a fraction of it (the high-middle-income population). Economic development could include changes in social, political and institutional structures in the economy, reflected in the character of the people and the attainment of better life for the majority of the population in a society. Economic development could also involve development in different sectors of the economy. It involves efficient economic management, good governance, sustainable development and poverty reduction; all of these are goals to which development stakeholders have to contribute (Sako, 2002.75) Ruttan (1997.225) explains that the basic needs approach represents a radical departure from conventional development strategy.
In the basic human needs approach, poverty is defined not in terms of income, but rather as a lack of good nutrition, good health, educational opportunities and similar dimensions of welfare (see Allen & Thomas, 2000: 11; Lewis, 2003; 252; Nelson, 2002: 101; Wade, 2003: 37-38).

According to this view, usually referred to as the basic (human) need approach, economic development is defined in terms of progress towards reducing the incidence of poverty, unemployment and income inequalities. Beneria (2003:21) advocates a vision of development based on an intuitive idea of life that is worthy of the dignity of human beings for each and every person, a view that is in tune with the basic objectives of feminist economics meeting the basic needs of a country is at the centre of this view.

Literature suggests that Nigeria has not been able to make rapid economic development given its large potentials of renewable and non-renewable resources. The development impediments of Nigeria were blamed on its undiversified economic base. The country was practically a monocultural economy with heavy reliance on crude oil exports to the utter neglect of other important real sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining and quarrying. The external debt overhang and the debt service ratio over the exports rose to 23.9 percent in 1990, but had decreased to 7.2 percent in 2004 (CBN Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, 2005: 76). Weak manufacturing and increasing rate of incidence of poverty further impeded economic progress in the country. Evidence of corruption in the economy dealt a major blow to economic development in Nigeria. apart from corrupt leaders taking large sum of hard currency overseas; depleting resources to run the country, foreign investment into the country standard due to macroeconomic instability and the corruption in the country.
The economic review also should prospects of Nigeria’s economic recovery especially with the enthronement of a democratic government in the country since 1998. Economic prospects were sited from economic reforms of liberalization of the economy, restructuring and privatization programmes to encourage organised private sector participation in the economy that was hitherto dominated by the public sector as at 1998. These reforms were aimed at attracting domestic and foreign investment into the economy. Financial sector liberalization and policy reforms were pursed to reduce the fragmented banking institutions from a total number of about 89 to 25 in 2005 (CBN Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, 2005: 46). The banking consolidation was targeted at making the sector participate actively in financing the agricultural, manufacturing, mining and quarrying sectors productions for economic development and growth. The review revealed that industrialization policy and incentives for small, media and large scale enterprises, social and environmental services were included in the reform policy package. The policy stances of these reforms are part and parcel of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) to grow the economy and attain the MDGs by 2015 (see the National Planning Commission, 2004: 74 – 89).

2.2.8 Human Resources Development

For meaningful economic growth and development to be achieved in Nigeria, the economic development model should help every citizen to realize his/her full potential for well-being fulfilment and accomplishment of happiness, love and contentment. Nidhiprabba (2003: 305) notes that countries like Malaysia and Singapore that have higher budget allocations to education that defence, achieve higher standard that other countries in the region. Since they enjoy a comparative advantage in producing value added products and labour intensive products for export. Past human resources development and anti-poverty strategies implemented in Nigeria were not sustainable.
They appeared in the form of an ad-hoc, uncoordinated and more or such as the Directorate for Food Road, and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRRI), the National Directorate for Employment (NDE) the peoples Bank, the Community Bank, the Better Life for Rural Women, the Family Support programmes and the Family Advancement and Economic Empowerment strategy could not add value not produce any sustainable positive effect on the citizens. These public projects suffered severe problems such as poor coordination, the absence of a comprehensive policy Framework, Undue political interference, Failure to target the poor, High levels of corruption and leakage in the economy (National Planning Commission, 2004:100).

2.2.9 Review Of Economic Development Contemporary Issues And Their Releyance To Nigeria’s Economy

The origin of science of economic can arguably be located in the need to study the assessment and casual influences on the opportunities that people have for living well (Sen. 1991:24). Indeed, the ultimate objective of “economic development” and state action in all countries, more especially in developing countries, is the enhancement of human capabilities of avoiding ignorance, under-nutrition, disease and early mortality, leading a fuller, longer life, and being able to participate in decision-making in the community (Sen, 1999; Dreze & Sen, 1989).

2.2.10 An Overview of Economic development

Economic development encompasses progress in providing livelihood on a sustainable basis, access to education and basic healthcare for the majority of the population (Belshaw & Living Stone, 2002:3). The meaning of the term “development” becomes clearer with the understanding of the term “economic growth.” By economic growth, economists generally mean the increase over time in a country’s real output per capita. Though other measures can be used, output is most
conveniently measured by the gross national produce (GNP). This implies that economic growth is measured by the increase in a country per capita GNP. Economic growth is thus sustained expansion of production possibilities measured as an increase in the real GDP over a given period. Rapid economic growth maintained over a number of years can transform a poor nation into a rich one, as has been the experiences of Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian economies (Bade & Parkin 2002:20). According to Malizia and Feser (2000:20), growth and development is complementary, because one makes the other possible. They also are alternating processes that occur sequentially. Growth in an increase in output, development is a structural change, for example technological or legal. Growth expands. To more equal distribution of income and wealth. Overall growth and development lead to a greater range of economic choice.

2.2.11 Undiversified Economic Base of Nigeria

Arnold (1997: 126) says that the main problem facing development in Nigeria appears to be political rather than economic, particularly the habit developed since the oil boom of the mid 1970s over-dependence upon oil to solve all the nation’s problem. He stresses the urgent need to translate oil wealth into other forms of economic growth, because Nigeria’s population is expected to double in years to come.

2.2.12 Weak Manufacturing Sector (Industry)

A general believe is that a country is to develop rapidly, it must industrialise, since industrialised countries appear to be the most developed. However to industrialise a country requires substantial capital investment, which is possible through either earnings from foreign exchange and export; borrowing in the international financial markets; or allowing foreign businessmen to invest in the
economy. Since the beginning of the oil glut, earnings in Nigeria from exports have fluctuated downward with a consequent debt crisis pushing the economy into depression to the extent that the international community is reluctant to grant further credit facilities until the country shows a practical demonstration of improved ability to pay (Aremu 1997:1-2).

The problem of a weak manufacturing sector is also linked to a hostile business environment, and to perceptions of risk and high costs of doing business. These factors have rendered some foreign companies in Nigeria to keep the bulk of their assets abroad. Analysis of panel data from 23 developing countries confirms that economic growth, predictable behavior.

Trust wordiness and commitment from government institutions, infrastructurally developed cities and low tax rates are important factors in attracting foreign investment (Hsiao, 2003; 893). Infrastructure is central to development and the state of infrastructural development in Nigeria is far from meeting the expectations of the average potential investor in the county.

2.13 Conceptual Review

Population

This denotes the ‘whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region; the total of individuals occupying an area or making up a whole’” (Merriam Webster, 2020). Within the context of Environmental Law, the study of human population tends to focus on their composition, growth, distribution and migratory movements. It is also concerned with the study of demographic processes which affect the environment (Susan, 2019). By Population in this study, we mean the population of human beings.

National Population Commission
National Population Commission (NPopC) is a principal commission of Nigeria, responsible for producing data about the Nigerian people (its population) and economy. The commission is part of the Nigerian Ministry of Interior and its head is appointed by the President of Nigeria. In addition, it was established by the Federal Government in 1988. It has the statutory powers to collect, analyze and disseminate demographic data in the country.

**The National Agency for Population Programmes and Development Act, 1993**

This Act which is made up of VII Parts and 26 Sections establishes the National Agency for Population Programmes and Development. The agency is saddled with the mandate to ensure a successful implementation of the National Policy on Population at all levels in accordance with set goals and objectives. Part I, Sections 1 and 2 of the Act Establishment of the National Agency for Population Programmes and Development and its Governing Board.

**Nigeria’s National Population Policy**

The National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development was approved on the 4th of February 1988 in response to the pattern of population growth rate and its adverse effects on national development. With emerging issues such as HIV/AIDS, poverty, and gender inequality gaining wider recognition, it became necessary to review the 1988 National Population Policy, giving way to the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development, which was signed in January 2004 by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, then president and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The policy recognizes that population factors, social and economic development, and environmental issues are irrevocably interrelated and are therefore critical to the achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria.
The overall goal of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development is to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the Nigerian population (NPC, 2004). This is to be achieved through the attainment of a number of specific goals that include:

i. Achievement of sustainable economic growth, protection and preservation of the environment, poverty eradication, and provision of quality social services.

ii. Achievement of a balance among the rate of population growth, available resources, and the social and economic development of the country.

iii. Progress toward a complete demographic transition to a reasonable growth in birth rates and a low death rate.

iv. Improvement in the reproductive health of all Nigerians at every stage of the life circle.

v. Acceleration of a strong and immediate response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other related infectious diseases.

vi. Progress in achieving balance and integrated urban and rural development.

**Population Growth**

Population growth is the increase in the number of individuals in a population. Global human population growth amounts to around 83 million annually (World Population Prospects, 2017) or 1.1% per year. The global population has grown from 1 billion in 1800 to 7.8 billion (World Population, 2017) in 2020. It is expected to keep growing, and estimates have put the total population at 8.6 billion by mid-2030, 9.8 billion by mid-2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100 (World Population Prospects, 2017). Many nations with rapid population growth have low standards of living, whereas many nations with low rates of population growth have high standards of living (Population Reference Bureau, 2017).
**Population Growth Rate**

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. This can be written as the formula, valid for a sufficiently small time interval:

\[
\text{Population growth} = \frac{P(t_2) - P(t_1)}{P(t_1) (t_2-t_1)}
\]

A positive growth rate indicates that the population is increasing, while a negative growth rate indicates that the population is decreasing. A growth ratio of zero indicates that there were the same number of individuals at the beginning and end of the period—a growth rate may be zero even when there are significant changes in the birth rates, death rates, immigration rates, and age distribution between the two times (Association of Public Health Epidemiologists, 2008).

Below is a careful review of Nigeria’s population growth rate:

a) The current population of Nigeria in 2020 is 206,139,589, a 2.58% increase from 2019.

b) The population of Nigeria in 2019 was 200,963,599, a 2.6% increase from 2018.

c) The population of Nigeria in 2018 was 195,874,683, a 2.62% increase from 2017.

d) The population of Nigeria in 2017 was 190,873,244, a 2.64% increase from 2016 (Macro trends, 2020).

**Development**

The term 'development' can be defined or viewed as 'the use of resources to relieve poverty and raise living standards; the means by a traditional, low-technology society is changed into a modern high technology, with corresponding increase in incomes. This can be done through
mechanization, improvement in infrastructure and financial systems, and the intensification of agriculture.

**Economic Development**

In the economic study of the public sector, economic and social development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region, local community, or an individual are improved according to targeted goals and objectives.

Whereas economic development is a policy intervention aiming to improve the well-being of people, economic growth is a phenomenon of market productivity and increases in GDP; economist Amartya Sen describes economic growth as but "one aspect of the process of economic development". Economists primarily focus on the growth aspect and the economy at large, whereas researchers of community economic development concern themselves with socioeconomic development as well.

**Sustainable Development**

The concept of sustainable development as defined by the Brundtland Report (1987) is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs of development (WCED, 1987).

**National Population Census**

The term census originated from the Latin word "censere" which literally means to tax, assess value. Population census as defined by the United Nations is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well delimited part of a country (South Africa Statistics, 2011). National population census can also be
seen as a country’s statistical operation designed for a head count of the entire human population of a country and to collect information on its main demographic, social and economic characteristics (Population and Societies, 2010). Osinaike, et al, (2006) explains that census is a method used for accumulating statistical data about a population, which is acclaimed to be vital to democracy and development.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Many studies have examined the relationship between population growth and economic development such as Klasen and Lawson (2007); Mohsen and Chua (2015); Guga, Alikaj and Zeneli (2015); Shah, Sargani, Ali and Siraj (2015) and Aidi, Emecheta and Ngwudiobu (2016) have identified various theories that explain the relationship between population growth and economic growth. These include the liberal theory, the Marxist theory, the Malthusian theory, the Harrod-Domar model, Rostow’s stages of Growth model, Endogenous Growth theory and the Romer model. However, the endogenous growth theory and the Malthusian theory was used for the purpose of this study.

2.3.1 Endogenous Growth Theory

The endogenous growth theory argues that economic growth is generated by forces within a system rather than external forces. It specifically argues that economic growth is a result of policies, internal processes and investment in human capital. Economic growth of a country therefore on the basis of endogenous growth is on account of government policies promoting innovation, investment in human capital and acquisition of knowledge which constitutes internal technology driving economic growth.
In the context of the present study therefore, Nigeria government policies on population growth controlling population growth through birth rates and death rates, will affect achievement of significant levels of economic growth of Nigeria. Hence, the endogenous growth theory is appropriate as the framework of the present study.

The central tenets to endogenous growth theory include:

a) Government policy's ability to raise a country’s growth rate if they lead to more intense competition in markets and help to stimulate product and process innovation.

b) There are increasing returns to scale from capital investment, especially in infrastructure and investment in education, health, and telecommunications.

c) Private sector investment in R&D is a crucial source of technological progress.

d) The protection of property rights and patents is essential to providing incentives for businesses and entrepreneurs to engage in Research and Development (R&D).

e) Investment in human capital is a vital component of growth.

f) Government policy should encourage entrepreneurship as a means of creating new businesses and ultimately as an important source of new jobs, investment, and further innovation

2.3.2 The Malthusian Theory of Population

Thomas Robert Malthus enunciated his views about population in his famous book, Essay on the principle of population as it affects the future improvement of society, published in 1798. Malthus revolted against the prevailing optimism shared by his father and Godwin that a perfect state could be attained if human restraints could be removed.
Malthus objection was that the pressure of increasing population on the food supply would destroy perfection and there would be misery in the world. Malthus was severely criticized for his pessimistic views which led him to travel on the continent of Europe to gather data in support of his thesis. He incorporated his researches in the second edition of his Essay published in 1803. The Malthusian theory explains the relationship between the growth in food supply and in population. It states that population increases faster than food supply and if unchecked leads to vice or misery. The Malthusian doctrine is stated as follows: There is a natural sex instinct in human beings to increase at a fast rate. As a result population increases in geometrical progression and if unchecked double itself every 25 years. Thus starting from 1 population in successive periods of 25 years will be 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256 (after 200 years).

2.3.3 Demographic Theories/Caldwell and Caldwell 2006

Suggests that future population growth will develop along a predictable four stage model in stage 1, birth, death and infant mortality rates are all high, while life expectancy is short. An example of this stage is the 1800s in the United States. Stage 2, where birth rates are higher while infant mortality and the death rates drops. Life expectancy also increases.

2.3.4 The Optimum Theory of Population

The optimum theory of population was propounded by Edwin Cannon in his book wealth published in 1924 and popularized by Robbins Dalton in 1924 and Carr-Sounders. Unlike the Malthusian theory, the optimum theory does not establish relationship between population growth and food supply. Rather, it is concerned with the relation between the size of population and production of wealth. The Malthusian theory is a general theory which studies the population
problem of a country in keeping with its economic conditions. Thus the optimum theory is more realistic than the Malthusian theory of population.

CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design/Research Setting

This study by its design is survey research. It is a quantitative data gathering and analytic procedure (Obioma, 2005) that involves the gathering of information from a number of individuals usually referred to as sample.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of study is limited to the entire employees of National Population Commission in Bayelsa State

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique
The method that will be used in selecting respondents for this study is a combination of simple random sampling techniques. Simple random sampling technique shall be used to select respondents for the administration of the questionnaire. This sampling technique will be complemented with purposive sampling technique to select participants for interview. The choice of the purposive sampling technique in this research is predicated upon the fact that the primary data required for this study can only be provided by actors that are well informed and possess adequate knowledge of the subject matter of this study. This necessitates a conscious identification of the individuals with such unique characteristics (Yates et al, 2008).

Sample Size

The sample size of the population will be limited to only 100 participants.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

The primary method which includes visiting the Branch Office of the National Population Commission in Bayelsa State for the collection of any available data/statistics on the level of population growth and economic development. In the process, interviews will be conducted and questionnaires will be administered where necessary.

For secondary source of data collection, the researcher will explore the act of gathering information or data from sources such as magazines, newspapers, journals, text books, official documents and
so forth and thereafter, the researcher shall extract all needed and relevant data for use from these sources. The researcher employs this method because it is less expensive and less time consuming.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

The organization, analysis and interpretation of data take several statistical forms or techniques. For the data analysis, the researcher will explore the use of tables and simple percentage (%) as our method of data analysis. Thus:

\[
\frac{f \times 100}{n} = \frac{l}{1}
\]

Where

- \( f \) = frequency of response
- \( n \) = number of respondents

Decision Rule

All positive respondents to any item are recognized as factors. Furthermore, descriptive and inferential statistics will be used in analyzing the data collected with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive analysis assists to calculate the frequency distribution of the variables and their respective percentages. Simple regression analysis, on the other hand, was used to test the hypothesis.

3.6 Research Questions

i. What are the identifiable indices of economic development in Nigeria?

ii. Is there a significant relationship between population growth and economic development in Nigeria?

iii. Does population growth affect economic development in Nigeria?

3.7 Hypothesis
i) There are no identifiable indices of economic development in Nigeria.

ii) There is no significant relationship between population growth and economic development in Nigeria.

CHAPTER FOUR
PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 Introduction
This chapter presents the data collected from the field of the study. It also presents the findings and their implications for the study. A total of 100 questionnaires were administered to the employees/staff of the National Population Commission in Bayelsa State. Data obtained from the questionnaires was first cleaned and edited before being coded and subjected to further analysis. The Likert scales in closed ended questions in the questionnaires were converted to numerical codes and be scored on 1-5 point scale in order of magnitude of the construct being measured. Equal numbers of 20 questionnaires were distributed to the five major departments in the Commission.
Response was received from 76 respondents under usable conditions. This represent 64% response rate while 24 questionnaires were not returned which represent a 36% non-response rate as tabulated below.

**TABLE 4.1: RESPONDENTS AND NON-RESPONDENTS RATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENTS</th>
<th>RESPONDENT RATE</th>
<th>NON-RESPONDENT RATE</th>
<th>NO. OF QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Services &amp; Census</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Account</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT &amp; Cartography</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement &amp; Corporate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resource &amp; Administration</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>76(64%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>24(36%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Work, 2021

The table above shows average response rate. The researcher used tabular form and simple percentage to present the data as contained in the questionnaire. From the table above, the number of the respondents are 76 (64%) while the of non-respondents are 24(36%).

**TABLE 4.2: SEX DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENTS</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>NO. OF MALE</th>
<th>NO. OF FEMALE</th>
<th>% OF MALE</th>
<th>% OF FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Services &amp; Census</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14.47</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Account</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.52</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT &amp; Cartography</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9.21</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement &amp; Corporate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.84</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resource &amp; Administration</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.57</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>65.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>34.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fieldwork, 2021
The above table indicates that 65.8% of the respondents represent the male respondents while 34.2% represent female respondents.

**TABLE 4.3. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE (YRS)</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-38</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39-48</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49-ABOVE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Work, 2021

The above table shows that the respondents between ages 18-28 which is 5 and ages 49 and above is equally 5 meaning that 5 or 6.6% respectively recorded the least while the respondent ages between 29-38 and 39-48 which is 36 or 39.4% and 47.4% respectively recorded the highest.

**TABLE 4.4: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARITAL STATUS</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Work, 2021

The table indicates that married respondents recorded 46 which constitute 60.5% which is highest while respondents that recorded the least are the widowed which are 2 or 2.7% of the sample.

**TABLE 4.5: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIPLOMA (OND)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st DEGREE</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTER DEGREE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The information above shows that respondents with the 1st Degree recorded the highest with 50 which represents 65% of the response rate while 10 of the respondents has the doctorate degree.

Table 4.6: on the indices of economic development in Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPINION</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI Gross National Income (GNI)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation level</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the living standard</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of entrepreneurship</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch structure of the economy</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of the country in the international division of labor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Work, 2021

From the table above, 19 respondents of the sample suggests that the indices of economic development are the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Thus, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the most widely used tool for assessing a country's economic development. "Gross" means that all
production is evaluated regardless of its goals. It can be directed to immediate consumption, investment in new fixed assets or to replace impaired fixed assets. "Domestic" refers to the territory of the country.

There are many ways to measure GDP. Usually, the following formula is used for this:

\[
\text{GDP} = \text{consumer spending} + \text{gross investment} + \text{public expenditure} + (\text{export} - \text{import}).
\]

Most often, GDP is measured on a quarterly basis or per year. Based on the prevailing factors in the economy, central banks and other institutions lower or increase the forecasts of its growth. To assess the quality of life, the GDP per capita (per inhabitant of the country) is usually used.

From the table above, 8 respondents which represents 6.8% of the sample suggests that the indices of economic development are the GNI. Thus, the Gross National Income (GNI) is the aggregate market value of the total volume of final production of goods and services in the economy in one year. The final means are purchased for direct use and not for resale or further processing.

GNI is the best and most affordable indicator of the health of the economy and the quality of life of the population. In the calculation of GNI, non-productive transactions are excluded: financial (state and private transfer payments, operations with securities) and sale of second-hand goods. GNI is determined by summing up all the income received from the production in the given year.

**Methods of calculating GNI:**

a) GNI = consumer spending of households + investment costs of business + government purchases of goods and services + expenses of foreigners;

b) GNI = expenses and payments not related to the payment of income + wages + rental payments + interest + profit

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There are nominal and real GNI. Nominal GNI is expressed in current prices, in the currency of the respective country. Gross National Income adjusted for inflation (price increases) or deflation (price reduction) is the real GNI expressed in dollars at a constant rate.

Similarly 19 respondents which represent 14.44% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are improved standard of living. Thus, the standard of living is one of the most important economic indicators of development. Under the standard of living is the provision of the population with the necessary material goods and services, the adequate level of their consumption and the degree of satisfaction of reasonable (rational) needs. The well-being is also considered so. The monetary valuation of the goods and services actually consumed in the average household within a certain period of time and corresponding to a certain level of satisfaction of needs is the cost of living.

In a broad sense, the term "standard of living of the population" includes the conditions of life, labor conditions, everyday leisure, health, education, natural habitat, etc. In this case, the term "quality of life" is also often used.

Again, 16 respondents which represent 12.16% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are the different branches structure of the economy. Available research indicates that there are "primary", "secondary", and "tertiary" sectors of the economy. This indicator is determined by the structure of GNI or the structure of employment of economically active population. In the more developed countries, the service sector prevails, while in the less developed ones - agriculture or the mining industry. A high proportion of people employed in agriculture indicate that a significant part of the population produces food only for their own consumption.
On the contrary, the low share of citizens employed in agriculture area indicates its high efficiency - a small number of farmers satisfy the needs of the rest of society or the country does not produce food in general but buys it by selling oil or high-tech products. In more developed countries, there is a trend of job growth in the tertiary sector of the economy and a decline in industrial employment.

Also, 6 respondents which represent 4.56% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are inflation level. Among the causes that affect inflation, there are money emission, trade union activities aimed at increasing the wages of employees, imperfect competition in the market among manufacturers, and many others. Limitation of inflation in modern market conditions is necessary, not only to protect the economy from overheating but also to prevent the deterioration of the economic situation in the conditions of recession or crisis.

However, the risk of inflation at the peak of economic recovery is higher than in conditions of recession. One aspect of economic development is the increase in output, which is achieved by the growth of employment. This is beneficial for politicians. They encourage the central bank to pursue a monetary policy, stimulate economic growth involving the saturation of the market with money. This creates the prerequisites for the emergence of inflation.

As a corollary from the above, 20 respondents which represent 15.2% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are the Human Development Index. This is a combined indicator characterizing human development in countries and regions of the world that is drawn up by the United Nations Development Programme and is used in the special series of reports of the United Nations (UN).
It consists of three main components that characterize human development: life expectancy, education, and living standards. Education is measured by the literacy of adults and the average number of years of study. The standard of living is measured by real GDP per capita adjusted for the local cost of living (purchasing power parity).

From the table above, 12 respondents which represent 9.12% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are development of entrepreneurship. The social importance of small business is determined by the massiveness of a group of small proprietors - owners of enterprises and their employees whose total number is one of the most significant qualitative characteristics of the economy of Nigeria.

It is this group of the active population that serves the bulk of consumers, produces a complex level of products and services in accordance with rapidly changing market requirements. The development of small business in Nigeria contributes to the gradual creation of a broad stratum of small owners independently providing their own well-being and a decent standard of living. All this is the basis of socio-economic reforms.

Also, 14 respondents which represent 10.64% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are the place of the country in the international division of labor.

This refers to the specialization of economies of individual countries in the production of a certain type of goods and services that they exchange. This indicator serves as an objective basis for the internationalization of the economic area of the world community and the foundation for the peaceful coexistence of states.

Comparatively, 6 respondents which represent 4.56% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are population growth. Rapid population growth lowers the sums of
savings, increases labor force and makes it difficult to control it, aggravates the quality of labor resources by reducing the level of spending on education and health, weakens technical innovations, reduces the number of resources per person, and ultimately slows GDP growth per capita.

Finally, 12 respondents which represent 9.12% of the sample suggest that the indices of economic development are employment opportunities. One of the main goals of the national economy is to achieve a high level of employment. This does not contradict the laws of the country but it is aimed at satisfying personal or social needs, while bringing earnings to the people. The able-bodied population includes all those who may work by age and for health reasons.
CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 Discussion of Findings

In view of the above, the study unraveled some of the issues/challenges militating against National Population Commission and economic development in Nigeria. The following are some of the challenges militating population growth and economic development in Nigeria:

(a) Illiteracy: The study found out that illiteracy constitutes a major challenge towards the implementation of population and development policies in Nigeria. Ignorance makes the illiterate regard multiple children as economic assets that will either assist them in farm work in modern day economic activities. The lack of education especially as related to population education, sex education and the lowering of infant mortality and birth rates

(b) Religion: Islamic religion in Nigeria promotes large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system. The Christian religion in turn prohibits the most effective forms of contraception and most are anti-abortion. These religious practices have dismal consequences and often lead to population increase in Nigeria.
(c) Decrease in Fertility Rate: This is yet to be achieved by the National Population Policy of 2004 which appears to be somewhat difficult. In 2004 fertility rate was 5.2 and five years later it was expected to be in the 4.6 and possibly reduce further to 4.0 in 2015. Fertility rate were 5.7 and 5.5 in 2008 and 2013 respectively which confirms the increase in high fertility rates and so therefore the primary objective of reducing fertility rate is far from being achieved.

(d) Cultural Beliefs: Nigeria is a heterogeneous country. Multi-culture nature of individuals who see themselves as people who share common cultural traits and affiliations that separate them from others constitutes a clog to the proper implementation of population policies in Nigeria. These people develop their cultural behavioural pattern from their collective norms, beliefs and values. An appendage of this is the male-child preference syndrome. In many cultures in Nigeria, male offspring are more highly valued than females for a variety of reasons (like carrying on the family name, greater upper-body strength for physical labor), which leads to the common practice of continuous child birth in an attempt to have male children.

(e) Lack of Political Will: The lack of political will and knowhow most especially when a government lacks quality population growth control manifesto. Also the canker worm of corruption in governmental parastatals coupled with the inordinate bureaucratic nature of some government outfits among the policy implementers contributes to the delay in this population policies implementation.

(f) Poor Funding of Institutions: Lack of financial and material resources constitute a bane to the effective implementation of population policies and population related activities in Nigeria. The Federal and State budgetary allocations on population programmes does not meet it required needs
and outlined activities. For instance, the last population census was conducted about 20 years ago and this is not a disincentive to population and development management.

(g) Weak Institutional and Legal Framework and Corruption: The current legal framework is weak. For instance, the legal and constitutional approach towards abortion is on the negative. Abortion is governed by the Criminal Code in the south states and the penal code in the Northern States. Abortion in Nigeria is illegal and carries a heavy jail sentence—up to 14 years imprisonment—unless it is performed to save the life of the pregnant woman. Nevertheless, a large number of clandestine abortions continue to be carried out regularly, often with dire consequences for the lives and health of the women involved. Also, institutions such as the National Population Commission, Federal Ministry of Health are not properly funded.

5.2 Contribution to Knowledge

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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 widespread 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.

4. 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.
CHAPTER SIX
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Summary
The objective of this present research study is to access the role of National Population Commission in economic development as well as to investigate population growth on Nigeria’s development. Specifically, examined the indices of economic development in Nigeria and investigate the relationship between population growth and economic development as well as investigated the role of NPC in promoting economic development in Nigeria.

The study reveals that economic development is a multifaceted process embracing economic growth, structural changes in the economy, improving the conditions, and quality of life of the population. Various models of economic development are known. But for all their diversity and national characteristics, there are general patterns and parameters characterizing this process.

In every country, population is always checked to make sure that the rate of growth in population equates the infrastructural and material development of the nation in the quest to achieve a streamlined and well functional population policy for sustainable development as championed by
the National Population Commission, the problems that goes along with its formulation, implementation and evaluation should be solved. Well-designed population policies are broad in scope, socially desirable and ethically sound. They appeal to a variety of constituencies including those seeking to eliminate discrimination against women and improve the lives of children and those seeking to reduce fertility and population growth. Mutually reinforcing investments in family planning, reproductive health and range of socioeconomic measures operate beneficially at both the macro and micro levels. The same measures will slow population growth, increase productivity and improve individual health and welfare.

5.2 Conclusion

The relationship between population growth and economic development has been a recurrent theme in economic analysis. The high population growth creates pressures on limited natural resources, reduces private and public capital formation, and diverts additions to capital resources to maintaining rather than increasing the stock of capital per worker. The positive effects such as economies of scale and specialization, the possible spur to favorable motivation caused by increased dependency. Much of the motivation for human capital policies in developing countries is the possibility of providing economic growth that will raise the levels of incomes in these countries. The focus on alleviating poverty in developing countries relates directly to economic growth because of the realization that simply redistributing incomes and resources will not lead to long run solutions to poverty.

Most of the development problems faced by Nigeria are directly or in directly traced to rapid population growth in the country, which does not seem to have amend in sight. Lack of effective governance and rampant corruption complicate the development problems confronting
the country. Most indices-discussed above are poor (such as education health, employment, food production, etc.) because apart from large numbers to be served, leakages in project implementation and allocation of funds hinder the achievement of projected development goals in situating the general overview of Nigeria demographic structure and dynamics, a major thrust of discourse is on the relevance of population indicators on the overall development agenda. The quality and depth of leadership on population development issues will become even more important in Nigeria in the next twenty to fifty years, given the tremendous moment on the Nigerian population.

It is clear from the presentation above that where as child survival has improved in Nigeria, declines in fertility have been slow generally; in fact in many parts of the country fertility has not declined at all (Isiugo-Abanihe, 2010). To be sure, this has delayed the demographic transition in the country. Millions of Nigerian women are unable to choose the numbers timing and spacing of their children; consequently, they have more children than they desire, which results in rapid rate of population growth. In turn this state of affairs underscores Nigeria’s challenge in achieving a demographic dividend and the dire need for government action to achieve it.

As have been argued by many, the large numbers of young people can represent great economic potential but only if families and governments can adequately invest in their health, education, and stimulate new economic opportunities for them (GibbleandBremner, 2012). But given the current family size in Nigeria and the rapid growth of the population, families and governments lack the resources needed to invest adequately in each child. So it will take a long time before Nigeria could achieve the accelerated economic growth that may result from a
decline in mortality and fertility, and a subsequent change in the age structure of the population. A study by Olaniyan and his colleagues found that the highest benefit will accrue in years 2032 and 2033 when the dividend can account for more than 10% of the growth of GDP per capita. However, the authors noted that the demographic dividend is not automatic and Nigeria needs to embark on strategies that will develop her human capital (Olaniyan et al., 2012), which is difficult under the current burden of rapid growth in numbers. The political will and foresightedness will necessarily address Nigeria’s population problems which are currently lacking, hence Nigeria has continued to postpone its development and demographic dividend.

5.3 Recommendations

To solve the aforementioned problems associated with population and development in Nigeria, the following recommendations are important:

i) In every country, population is always checked to make sure that the rate of growth in population equates the infrastructural and material development of the nation in the quest to achieve a streamlined and well functional population policy for sustainable development, the problems that goes along with its formulation, implementation and evaluation should be solved.

ii) An encompassing mechanism that will address conflict/insecurity issues, migration and displacement, access to education for the girl child and proper regulation of infrastructure development.

iii). The undiluted conservative ideology where population increase is seen by many especially in Nigeria as the key to control of political power and resources should be thrown away and a more efficient and functional idea adopted.
iv). The introduction of a legislation by the law makers to monitor and control fertility rate in the country with an increased education and awareness as to population dynamics.

v. Eradicating corruption that has eaten deep among stakeholders in population studies who have in one way or the other miss-appointed funds meant for implementation of population policies.

vi). Education is not only a human right but it is an important demographic variable influencing global population and development as well as growth trajectories. Investment in education will provide information on reproductive health and use of contraceptives to check population growth and enhanced development. Redirecting people’s orientation on population policy vide a massive education and awareness of the populace more especially as it relates to women’s empowerment and girl-child education and promoting same across the country.