
ASSESSMENT OF POPULATION ISSUES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By

Bassey S. UDOM
Sociology and Anthropology
Social Sciences
University of Uyo
Akwa Ibom State

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between population issues and sustainable development in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. To achieve the aim of this study, two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Literature was reviewed accordingly. Survey research design was adopted for the study. A sample of two hundred respondents was used for the study. The selection was done through the simple random sampling techniques. The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The instrument was subjected to face validity by two experts in Research and Statistics. The reliability estimate of the instrument was established through split-half reliability method. Pearson product moment correlation analysis was adopted to test the study hypothesis. The hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance. The result of the analysis revealed that population explosion and migration significantly relate to sustainable development in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Based on the results and findings of the study, it was recommended that government should develop strategies to control population.

KEYWORDS: population explosion, migration and sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary society, population has become an important issue of concern. This is so because population in terms of its size and composition, has far-reaching implications for change, development and the quality of life in society (Ottong, 1986 and 1987). In fact, population is a major asset as resources for development. Ottong (1987) writes, that it is the prime beneficiary of development in the society. Ottong (2002) also asserts that, population constitute the bulk of the producers of goods and services as well as the major consumers of the goods and services. The population of the country is the major determinant of the size of the national and international market for investment. Nigeria seems to stand out in Africa in terms of market of goods and services because of the size of its population. International communities flourish the nation with their goods because they know that they would inturns be patronized.

In Nigeria for instance, the population keep increasing yearly, the more population are increased the more people will be looking to what to eat, and do to keep life going. As life goes, new frontier will be explored, then development manifest. Development cannot take place when population are not there, the more people in a particular place or community, the more development will be seen and observed. Population plays a vital role in the growth of any environment. Though it comes as a two-headed sword with attendance to social problems it also brings a social change.

Ottong (2006) asserts that social change and social problems are inherent in the society. This is to say that, population comes with social problems and social change. He went on to say that Nigeria problems have become issues of population and academic debate (Ottong, 2006). The myriads of social problems that are faced in Nigeria is as a result of population. These problems have landed Nigeria in youth restiveness, and poverty which also triggered kidnapping, herdsmen and cattle rustling, even brain drain, which aid part of the population to find succor and swagger in another countries of the world.

Migration aids part of population to move from one point to another also aided the other country's population to explode. This continuum also triggered questions of the population issues, and the needs to proffer solutions to curb its explosion. Population encourages sustainable development. This is so because where population are high, more goods and services will be needed, community will be expanded and facilities provided. Production of goods will be in a high demand. The production of goods and provision of services will be improved.

Offiong (2013) writes that in 1987, the Brund land commission defined sustainable development as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. For something to be sustained, it must stand the test of time. There will be an improvement in the services rendered. This will help the society to be developed and sustain whatever products, the society have. Of course, this will depends on the managers of the production of goods and services rendered.

Statement of the Problems

The population issues has been a point of concern as most countries population keep exploding with its attendance social problems. The explosion of population as a result of migration make the government to expend more above the budget. Facilities in the area are over-stretched due to over-crowded nature. Poverty increases as population explode. Lack of work and restiveness encourages kidnapping and burglary. A large number of people which suppose to bring sustainable development because of the large market, have rather turned to criminal setting. Crises now become the order of the day.

Scholars such as Asagwara (2009) and Gidden (2006) have attributed the over population to contributions to social vices and factors such as peer groups and how one has been brought up at home. Where people congregate in groups, in a particular place or community, something funny must happen. Nigeria for instance have more than 200, millions people (NPC 2016 Projection) Nigeria needs to find a way to control the population so that it will not explode to unbearable circumstances. In this case something urgent needs to be done for the safety of the future.

The purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to examine the population issue in the growing society and its attendance social consequences specifically the study tries:

- (1) To find out the relationship between population explosion and sustainable development.
- (2) To examine the relationship between migration and sustainable development.

Research questions

- (1) What is the relationship between population explosion and sustainable development?
- (2) To what extent does migration relate with sustainable development?

Hypotheses

There is no significant relationship between population explosion and sustainable development
There is no significant relationship between migration and sustainable development

LITERATURE REVIEW

Migration, over population and its Impact on Sustainable Development

Migration is the movement of people from one destination to another. It is often believed to better themselves elsewhere, especially where the economy is better than that of their home of origin. This comes to mind of brain drain, which is the movement of highly skilled and qualified people to a country where they can work in better economy, environment and condition and earn more money. When skilled labour moved from one country to another, it may affect the home country negatively. Especially, where professionals moved in large number. If it were to be unskilled labour, the home country may not have serious problems. Because, it is only the migrants themselves that will have problem. This is because they have to go and look for work and houses to lay their heads. This will bring restiveness. This is also the reasons migrants always regret once they did meet the good they were looking for.

Ottong (1983) writes that migration is an age long phenomenon which has taken different forms in different societies and at different times. This shows that migration has a long history. Those Europeans who discovered different African countries were as a result of migration. These migrants have led our societies to sustainable development. The kind of development we have now in Africa and indeed in Nigeria is as the result of those who brought, education, religion and industries to our societies.

Migration led to the cultural transfer. Those African who took part in the first and Second World War made us to know that, the Europeans were not better or stronger than the Africans. Those really encourage the Africans to take more active part and responsibilities in the world affairs like UN, AU and even World Bank activities Today we can travel all over the world without tears or apprehensions. Migrants in a form of missionaries have brought religion and education to Africa and indeed our societies in Nigeria.

Ebong (2006) writes that due to migration, we have rural urban drift and rural-rural shift. In rural-urban drift people are moving from rural to urban centres or cities in search of better living. The problem here is always over population of the cities and over-stretch of the amenities of the cities. They may have problems of housing, electricity, water and even the school enrolment of the children. The classroom that meant for twenty (20) students or pupils will now be extended to occupied about 40-50 pupils or students.

The impact these may create, is that, government will quickly come to their aids. Especially when it is in the state capital. The rural-rural migration is where people move to another rural area due to happenings like natural occurrences. For example, flood, or something like communal fight where people are forced to move to another village for protection. Sometimes government do come to their aid to organized IDP (Internal Displaced Persons) camp for them. This kind of rural-rural migration does not encourages sustainable development rather it will impede development.

The causes of migration is to make a better living in another country of choice. There, they are hope to be employed, and enjoy other amenities like constant electricity, pure and clean water, decent accommodation and an uninterrupted school system. People who move from one

place to another in search of work or shelter are called migrants. Faist Thomas (2006), stated that most of the times migrants, are not skilled or educated therefore usually employed as daily wage workers. He went on to say that daily paid workers do not always get enough money for their survival and that of their families. The problem of migrants are many, ranging from not having enough money to eat or taking adequate hygiene and securing a good accommodation to themselves. Gidden and Sutton (2013), writes that world-wide migration patterns can be seen as one reflection of the rapidly changing economic, political and cultural ties between countries. According to them that, one in every thirty-three people in the world today is a migrant. This confirms that migration increases population and brings about sustainable development.

Over population or population explosion is an undesirable condition where the number of existing human population exceeds the carrying capacity of the earth or an area. A country or a city with so many people living in it, is said to be over populated. Umo (2011), alleged, over population are caused by numbers of factors to include: reduction in the mortality rate, better medical facilities and depletion of precious resources. It should be added that growing advances in technology also helps population to keep increasing. Increase in life span due to many discoveries in medicine to cure many illnesses and reduces death rate also aids in population explosion. For instance, in Ebola prone countries like DR Congo (Demographic Republic of Congo), Guinea and Saria Leone. It is the discovery of medicine for that, that made those countries not to be quipped out. In Nigeria, when Ebola patient or visitor from Liberia was noticed at the Lagos Airport, it was medical team quick intervention that served Nigeria, otherwise, Nigeria would have been reduced in population like the other countries earlier mentioned. Ekong (2001), alleged that from the time of Bubonic plague in the 1400s, that, the growth of population has been on a constant increase. Charles (2010) asserted that between the time of the plague and 21st century, that there have been hundreds and thousands of wars, Natural calamities and even man-made hazards, that it is the discoveries different kinds of medicine that helped the population to maintain the status-quo. That is to say, medicine is the *sine-qua-non* for population exploration.

Upon the development of these medicine the developing countries population still keep exploring. The reasons are that the developing nations fail to adhere strictly to indices of the over-population tenet. Many things are responsible for over population of the area or city. They include the decline in the death rate, discovery of better medical facilities. Others includes the ability of a country to overcome poverty. Now, America is a preferred destination in the world (Anjosin, 2018), that is the reason everybody wants to go to America for good. American visa was once open to everybody in the world to come to America. Hence, the interest of everybody. He went on to state that America has what it takes to control her population, no matter how many people that goes to America.

Other things that causes population explosion includes technological advancement in fertility treatment and immigration policy. In America for instance, there was a policy where foreigners were allowed to go to America and work, school and to assist in any way possible to make America progress. Lack of family planning, is what is still affecting developing nations to be able to control population explosion. The developing nations still believes that children are gift from God and it is free. That, God gives it to whom He like, so cannot reject the gift that is from God. Hence, population explores. The same God does not distribute food to different families to take care of these children except you struggle to maintain your family. These

children are now becoming a problem to the parents who cannot feed them as they are freely collected.

These take us to the inherent problems or effect of over population. Population explosion help to deplete natural resources, ones degrade environment. There will always be conflict and war when people are looking for what to do or eat without seeing them. The solution to over population is better education. Nigerians that were returning from Libya came to testify that they travelled to those countries without necessary education on what was obtainable in those countries. When somebody is better informed, mistakes will be reduced. People should be informed of family planning, that, even when God gives one children, a number that one will be able to cater for should be accepted. Newspapers and mass media reports is that, rape is on the increase, people should be better informed on sex education in order to protect themselves. People (not only children) should be educated on how, when and the time they should be moving on the road. They should also be educated on the fashion they put on to avoid interest on them. This seems to introduce our girls to rape because of reckless dressing and their association to those whom they are not supposed to be associated with.

The impact of population on sustainable development is that where population is high government and the people should be able to tackle it for the good of the people in the society. Where population is too high, government will develop strategies to curb it. The facilities will be developed to take care of the population. In Uyo, Akwa Ibom state for instance, Governor Udom Emmanuel is building overhead bridge at Ikot Oku Ikono junction. This is to take care of the rising population. It will also improve the aesthetic of the state. This is a development that is sustainable for the good of the people.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Descriptive survey design was used for the study survey design involves the collection of data using interview, questionnaire and observation at one point and also using opinion survey (Akpabio and Ebong, 2009). In that order, Nworgu (2006) stated that descriptive survey research design is one in which a group of peoples are studied by collecting data from only few people as a representative of the group using questionnaire. To confirm the assertion, Anyakoha (2009) stated that descriptive survey design involves the use of questionnaire, interview and observation to determine the opinion of the people.

Isangedighi, Joshua, Asim and Ekuri (2004), also asserts that survey research is that which is directed towards determining the nature of a situation as it exists at the time of investigation. They further describes it as a type of research that studies large and small populations by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover the relative incidence, distribution, interrelations of sociological and psychological variable. The population of this study consists of all adults in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The sampling technique adopted for this study is the simple random sampling technique. The sample size of this study was one hundred and fifty-six (156) respondents.

The main instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire designed by the researcher. Each item requires the respondent to indicate the frequency of his/her various acts under strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. To determine the reliability of the research instrument (questionnaire) a trial test was done using twenty (20) respondents drawn

from the population area. Split-half method of reliability was used to determine the reliability estimate of the instrument. The scores derived from the two sets were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlations and corrected with Spearman Brown prophecy formular. The questionnaires were administered personally by the researcher with the help of some research assistants. At the end of the exercise, all questionnaires administered were successfully completed and retrieved from the sampled.

PRESENTATION OF RESULT

In this section, the hypothesis of the study was re-stated in the null form. The result of data analysis carried out to test it is presented. Each hypothesis was tested at .05 level of significance.

Hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between population explosion and sustainable development. The independent variable in this hypothesis is population explosion; while the dependent variable is sustainable development. To test this hypothesis, population explosion and sustainable development was correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the relationship between population explosion and Sustainable development (N=156)

Variables	\bar{X}	SD	r-value	Sig.
Population explosion	22.2194	1.89418	0.171*	.000
Sustainable development	21.5484	1.58808		

*** Significant at .05, critical $r=.062$, $df = 154$**

The result of the analysis as presented in Table 1 revealed that the calculated r-value of 0.171 is significant at .05 level of significance with 154 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between population explosion and sustainable development was rejected. This result implied that, population explosion has a significant positive relationship with sustainable development. The positive r implied that the higher population explosion, the higher the sustainable development tends to be. On the other hand the lower population explosion the lower the sustainable development tends to be.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant relationship between migration and sustainable development. The independent variable in this hypothesis is migration; while the dependent variable is sustainable development. To test this hypothesis, sustainable development was correlated with migration

using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the relationship between migration and Sustainable development (N=156)

Variables	\bar{X}	SD	r-value	Sig.
Migration	21.0516	1.90622	0.224*	.000
Sustainable development	21.5484	1.58808		

* Significant at .05, critical r = .062, df = 154

The result of the analysis as presented in Table 2 revealed that the calculated r-value of 0.224 is significant at .05 level of significance with 154 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between migration and sustainable development was rejected. This result indicated that, migration has a significant positive relationship with sustainable development. The positive r implied that the more positive migration is the higher sustainable development tends to be. On the other hand the lower migration the lower sustainable development tends to be.

Discussion of Findings

This section is primary concerned with the discussion of findings that emerged from the results of the analysis. The discussion is presented according to the variables of the study.

The result of the first hypothesis revealed that population explosion significantly relate to sustainable development. The findings of this hypothesis is in line with the views of Gidden (2006) who noted that over population to contributions to social vices and factors such as peer groups and how one has been brought up at home. Where people congregate in groups, in a particular place or community, something funny must happen. Nigeria needs to find a way to control the population so that it will not explode to unbearable circumstances. In this case something urgent needs to be done for the safety of the future.

The result of the second hypothesis revealed that and migration *significantly relate to* sustainable development. The findings of this hypothesis is in line with the views of Ottong (2006) who asserted that social change and social problems are inherent in the society. This is to say that population comes with social problems and social change. He went on to say that Nigeria problems have become issues of population and academic debate. The myriads of social problems that are faced in Nigeria is as a result of population. These problems have landed Nigeria in youth restiveness, and poverty which also triggered kidnapping, herdsmen and cattle rustling, even brain drain, which aid part of the population to find succor and swagger in another countries of the world. Migration aids part of population to move from one point to another also aided the other country's population to explode. This continuum also triggered questions of the population issues, and the needs to proffer solutions to curb its explosion. Population encourages

sustainable development. This is so because where population are high, more goods and services will be needed, community will be expanded and facilities provided. Production of goods will be in a high demand. The production of goods and provision of services will be improved.

Conclusion

Based on findings of the study it was concluded that population explosion and migration significantly relate to sustainable development in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. Government should develop strategies to control population.
2. People should be better informed on the causes of population explosion.
3. Migration should be open or allowed only to those who have something to contribute to the development of the area they are going to stay.

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