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Review Article

Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries and its Challenges for Economic Development

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Abstract - *The developing region accounts for 94% of the annual population growth. The study attempted to examine the challenges of rapid population growth on socio-economic development in developing countries. The research approach adopted in this study is the documentary research design. The research relied on secondary data drawn from various published and unpublished materials relevant to the study. In interpreting our data, the relationship between population and socio-economic development was established at theoretical and empirical levels. A high rate of population growth has manifested in the 35.9 percent of the population that have no formal education, 45% of the labor force in developing countries that were unemployed, the preponderance of the population lives in less than $1.25 per day as well as political instability. Diversification of the economic activities of developing countries increased investment in human development sectors, and re-orientation on the use of family planning and adoption of contraception were proffered*

Keywords - *Rapid Population, Challenges, Economic, Development*

I. INTRODUCTION

The trend of rapid population growth across the globe, especially in developing countries, has assumed the center of discourse among population analysts. Over seven decades, the world has been experiencing tremendous population growth that has propelled increasing concern on the implication of this scenario on the sustainable development efforts of developing countries. In 1950, the world population was approximately 2.6 billion people. Unexpectedly, it reached 5 billion in 1987 and increased to 6 billion in 1999. According to a new United Nations report being launched today, the current world population of 7.6 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100. With roughly 83 million people being added to the world's population every year, the upward trend in population size is expected to continue, even assuming that fertility levels will decline (United Nations, 2019). Therefore, by 2030 85% of the world's population will be in developing countries, with 15% in developed countries.

Fertility, emigration or immigration, and access to social services are the major determinants of the growth rate of the population. However,the fertility rate has been leading. At the current level of fertility, the average number of children each woman in the population is likely to have ranged from more than six children per woman in developing countries in Africa to around one child per woman in Eastern European and highly developed Asian countries. This indicates that the population in developing countries will continue to double as it is greater than the total fertility rate of 2.1. Specifically, if, on average, women give birth to 2.1 children and these children survive to the age of 15, any given woman will have replaced herself and her partner upon death. A TFR of 2.1 is known as the replacement rate (Smoak, 2018). Subsequently, the dependent segment of the population increases, which burdens the limited available resource.

Subsequently, there is a divergence of opinions concerning the implication of population growth on sustainable economic development. Three positions have emerged; one states that population growth helps a nation's economy by stimulating economic growth and development, and another bases its theory on Robert Malthus' findings. Malthus (1798) stated that population increase is detrimental to a nation's economy due to various problems caused by the growth. The third school of thought is that population growth does not impact economic growth. Consequently, many analysts have argued that the trend of the development of any country largely depends on its ability to harness its teeming population's demographic dividend. Ahlburg (1996) states that a larger population can lead to technological –pushed and demand pulled advantages. Rapid population growth and large population size can promote economic prosperity by furnishing abundant human and intellectual capital and increasing market size (Population Reference Bureau, 2004).

Similarly, a big population can increase a country's economic, political, and military power; Simon (1981) maintained that countries' population growth has positive long-run effects on economic development. Human capital is the determinant factor and drives sustainable economic development. The overall development revolves around the quantity and quality of manpower utilization (Ugwoke, 2011).

The correlation between rapid population growth and depressed economic performance is strongest among the poorest nations of the developing world. The increase in population growth is much concentrated in developing countries. Among the ten most populous countries in the world, one is in Africa (Nigeria), five are in Asia (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan), two are in Latin America (Brazil and Mexico), one is in Northern America (United States of America), and one is in Europe (Russian Federation) (Internet World Stats, 2019). China is the most populous country with nearly 1.4 billion residents, followed by India that is populated with 1.3 billion people (Ella. 2019). United state has the highest population density with nearly 329,093,110 million people, while Indonesia has 269,536,482 million people. Brazil is the 5th most populous country with 212 392,717 million people. In that order, the populations of Pakistan and Nigeria were approximately 204,596,442 and 200,962,417 million, respectively. Bangladesh is the 8th most populous country globally, with a population of 168,065,920 million. Russia and Mexico are populated with 143,895,551 and 132,328,035 million people, respectively .

Table 1.1. Top Ten Countries with the Highest Population

S/N	Country	2000 Population	2019 Population	Growth % Pop 2000 – 2019	2050 Expected Pop.
1	China	1,268,301,605	1,420,062,022	11.2 %	1,301,627,048
2	India	1,006,300,297	1,368,737,513	36.0 %	1,656,553,632
3	United States	282,162,411	329,093,110	16.6 %	398,328,349
4	Indonesia	214,090,575	269,536,482	25.9 %	300,183,166
5	Brazil	174,315,386	212,392,717	21.8 %	232,304,177
6	Pakistan	152,429,036	204,596,442	34.2 %	290,847,790
7	Nigeria	123,945,463	200,962,417	62.1 %	391,296,754
8	Bangladesh	128,734,672	168,065,920	30.5 %	193,092,763
9	Russia	147,053,966	143,895,551	- 2.2 %	129,908,086
10	Mexico	99,775,434	132,328,035	32.6 %	150,567,503
TOP TEN Countries		**3,597,108,845**	**4,449,670,209**	**23.7 %**	**4,950,140,178**
Rest of the World		**2,547,898,144**	**3,266,553,000**	**28.2 %**	**4,329,774,957**
TOTAL World Population		**6,145,006,989**	**7,716,223,209**	**25.6 %**	**9,374,484,225**

Source: Internet World Stats, 2019

In high-income countries, population growth is a veritable tool for promoting national development. In the United States, China, Japan, Mexico, and some other high–income countries, large populations were viewed as a significant asset for countries' sustainable development quest although they experience moderate population growth. The United States is the world's largest economy, notably due to a large population,human capital investment, moderate unemployment, a relatively young population, and technological innovation (Purdue Center for Regional Development, 2018). In 2019 world's largest economic ranking in terms of nominal Gross Domestic Product and purchasing power parity, the United States and China,the most populated counties in the world, are leading.

Table 1.2. List of the Top Ten Countries with the Highest GDP

S/N	COUNTRIES	GDP
1	United States	$21,410,23
2	China	$15,543,710
3	Japan	$5,362,220
4	Germany	$4,416,800
5	India	$3,155,230
6	France	$3,060,070
7	United Kingdom	$3,022,580
8	Italy	$2,261,460
9	Brazil	$2,256,850
10	Canada	$1,908,530

Source: International Monetary Fund, 2019

Based on the IMF Statistical Report (2019), the United States has the largest GDP globally at $21.4 trillion. The second-largest GDP is China's at $15.5 trillion; However, the US has a population of 329 million, while China's population is the highest in the world – a massive 1.42 billion; despite the significant difference, the US also has the third-highest population in the world, behind India in second place with 1.35 billion.

Unprecedentedly, the rapid population growth in developing countries raises anxiety about its national development challenges. Currently, half of the world's population resides on the continent of Asia. Another quarter of the population inhabits the continent of Africa, where the African nations of South Sudan and Niger experienced a growth rate of 4.09 and 4.00, respectively. Emphasizing the rapid population growth in Africa and Asia, United Nations Population Division, 2007:2 stated thus: "the rate of population growth, however, is still relatively high in Central America, and highest in Central and part of Western Africa. Africa experiences the most rapid growth in relative numbers, over 70% faster than in Asia with annual growth of 2.4% versus 1.4% in Asia, compared to the global average of 1.3% and only 0.3% in many industrialized countries". Scholars have hypothesized that rapid population growth has negative impacts in developing countries.

Given that Population growth has deleterious effects on saving and investment and, therefore, future growth.Labour is an important input in production. However, bottle-neck lies in activating mans' potential andstreamlining it in service. Based on this background, research undertook to examine the influence of this rapid population growth on developing countries' socio-economic development to unravel the veritable strategies to mainstream the rapid population growth into national development. The study is guided with the following research questions;

- What are the effects of the rapid population growth on the economic growth of developing countries?
- How low rapid population growth affects the human development index in developing countries?

A. The objective of the study

The study's broad objective was to examinethe influence of rapid population growth on the socio-economic development in developing counties. The specific objectives are to:

- Examine the effects of the rapid population growth on the socio-economic of the developing countries?
- Ascertain how rapid population growth affects the
- human development index in developing countries

B. Theoretical conceptualization

a) Population Growth and Economic Development

Recently, both developed and developing countries are experiencing an ever-expanding population, which has significant implications for economic development. In many countries globally, especially in developing the birth rate is very high with the decline death rate. Thus the rapid population growth abound. Consequently, the relationships between these ever-growing populations on economic development have become the crux of the matter.

Many analysts have described population growth as the hub that determines the pace of economic development. Simon (1996) highlighted the positive side of population growth when he noted that a human being is the vital essential element and "the ultimate resource" that contributes to economic growth. He stressed that the ultimate resource is people – skilled, spirited, and hopeful people who will exert their wills and imaginations for their benefit, and inevitably they will benefit not only themselves but the rest of us as well" Generally, growing economies require growing populations, increasing the supply of both workers and consumers, although the precise nature of this relationship is of course complex and variable (Gamble, 2014). Explicitly, Bucci and La Torre (2007) employed a two-sector endogenous growth model to examine the relationship between population growth and economic development. They pointed out that population growth may have a negative or an ambiguous effect on economic development.

On the one hand, when physical capital and human capital are substitutes, population growth negatively impacts economic performance. On the other hand, when physical capital and human capital are complementary, the effect of population growth on economic development becomes positive because the above investment in human capital enhances economic activities due to plentiful manpower supply, which in the long run stimulates economic development.

Conversely, Meier(1996) states that the decline in the real per-capital income of many countries across the globe over a long subject to the rapid population. He posits that Population pressures continue to tip the balance against proper land and water management in many developing countries, reducing private and public capital formation and diverting additions to capital resources to maintain rather than increasing the stock of capital per worker. More elaborately, a country's ability to feed itself very much depends on three factors: availability of arable land, accessible water, and population pressures (United Nations, 2017). The commensurate amount of the other resources about the population to a large extent result in appreciable economic development, but the reverse is the case if the population pressure surpasses the available resources in the society. Malthus (1978) claimed that population increase in the geometric progression while the means for satisfying the man's basic needs increase in arithmetical rate, hence fearing eventual global starvation.

Furthermore, many population analysts have posited that rapid population growth is detrimental to economic development as it brings pressure on limited resources.

Furuoka (2009) states that rapid population increases dependency burden the number of people considered to be economically unproductive, such as children and elder people). Every additional person in the universe needs food, water, and energy and produces more waste and pollution. The population is required for development and also can be detrimental depending on its management

B. Theoretical framework

The study adopted the endogenous growth theory for an in-depth understanding of the nexus between rapid population growth and economic development. Endogenous growth theory was developed in the 1980s, pioneered by Romer (1986) and later by Robert Lucas (1988). The endogenous growth theory posits that growth is accounted for by factors within. Romer's work contrasts with neoclassical growth theories that argue that factors affecting growth are exogenous – or, in other words, factors that occur outside of an economy. The country's development depends on the caliber of human resources in the countries. It emphasizes that human capital development is an important driver of economic growth. Education and investment in research and development bring innovation and economic development.

C. Application of the Theory

Endogenous growth theory unfolds the relationship between population and economic development of developing countries. The population is the key driver of sustainable development. The population is a coin of two faces. The population has efficacy to result in the development and can result in economic decline depending on its management. Adequate management of the population growth with considerable investment in manpower development can lead to sustainable economic development. The economic development of the United States and China cannot be explained outside its human capital accumulation. What the world countries require management of the rapid population growth so that it can be a moderate and effective investment in the human development sectors such as health and education, improved man's access to the social service delivery are the main strategies of unfolding and mainstreaming the human potential into productive sectors. Emphasis should be on improving the standard of living and managing the population to return to the global growth of 1 1% annually.

The human development Index of Sub-Saharan, South Asia, East Asian, and Pacific regions is very low, indirectly curtailing its development process. These countries can harness the demographic dividend of the teeming population if the budgetary allocation human development sector can be increased.

D. Methodology

The research approach to this study is the documentary research design. It mainly entails the study of documentary materials. The research relied on secondary data from various published and unpublished materials relevant to the study, such as books, journals, magazines, conferences and seminar papers, and newspapers. Other sources of secondary data were reports, white papers of investigation panels, and other quantitative publications related to the problem of the study were all systematically analyzed. The study revolves around the developing regions,including Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific region. Research selected three countries from each region for qualitative analysis of the study. Being non-experimental research, the use of qualitative descriptive analysis is employed for the analysis of the generated data. This was done by carefully analyzing the formulated research questions in line with the reviewed literature.

Thus, under the findings and discussions, each discourse is based on some background assumption presented in the research questions. In interpreting our data, the relationship between population growth and the economic well-being of the people was established. Empirically, we used a qualitative and historical method that was critical and analytical, providing descriptive and historical details. The qualitative and historical method provided us with a clear perspective into our research problem by allowing us to understand the historical details and accurate account of rapid population growth in the socio-economic development efforts of many countries.

E. Effect of Rapid Population Growth on Economic Growth of Developing Countries

Rapid population growth in Nigeria and many other developing states have constituted a barrier to economic development and sustainable development. The population growth rate in developing countries is higher than the global growth rate. In high-income countries, population growth is a veritable tool for promoting national development. In the United States, China and Japan, and some other high–income countries, the large population was viewed as a significant asset for countries' sustainable development quest although they experience moderate population growth. The United States is the world's largest economy, notably due to a large population,human capital investment, moderate unemployment, a relatively young population, and technological innovation. In 2019 world's largest economic ranking in terms of nominal Gross Domestic Product and purchasing power parity, the United States and China, the most populated counties in the world, are leading (World Economic Forum, 2019).

Table 3. List of the Top Ten Countries with the Highest GDP

Ranking	COUNTRIES	GDP	GDP per-capital
1	United States	$21,410,23	$65.064
2	China	$15,543,710	$10.841
3	Japan	$5,362,220	$42.269
4	Germany	$4,416,800	$52.885
5	India	$3,155,230	$2.309
6	France	$3,060,070	$46.984
7	United Kingdom	$3,022,580	$44.759
8	Italy	$2,261,460	$37.349
9	Brazil	$2,256,850	$10.693
10	Canada	$1,908,530	$51,015
16	Indonesia	$1,152,890	$4,260
28	Nigeria	$475,566	$2,366
39	Philippines	$355,744	$3,290
41	Bangladesh	$312,794	$1,918
46	Vietnam	$264,939	$2,747
66	Ethiopia	$89,727	$801
92	DRC	$43,663	$503
206	Pakistan	$282,506	$1,304

Source: International Monetary Fund, 2019

United States has the largest GDP globally at $21.4 trillion, followed by China, whose gross domestic product stood at $15.5 trillion. However, the US has a population of 329 million, while China's population is the highest in the world – a massive 1.42 billion, despite the significant difference; the US also has the third-highest population in the world, behind India in second place with 1.35 billion. India, one of the South Asian countries, was ranked 5th with a GDP of $3,155,230, which is just 14.4% of the gross domestic product of the United States. Despite the population strength of Indonesia and Nigeria, they are not included in the top ten countries with the largest economies. Indonesia and Nigeria are placed in 16th and 28th highest positions. Unfortunately, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Cong, and Pakistan were the worst hit.

A vivid picture of economic decline in developing countries is revealed using GDP per-capital and purchasing power parity in the developing countries. GDP percapita indicates that in many developing countries, the earning of individuals in a year is not more than $4.300 (three US Dollars in a year). In the lower middle, income developing countries; Indonesia boosted the highest per capita income with $4,260, followed by the Philippines $3,290, Vietnam$2,747, Nigeria $2,366, India $2.309, Pakistan $1,304, Ethiopian $801, and the Democratic Republic of Congo $503. A nation's GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) explicitly shows retardation and poverty in developing countries. In other words, it shows a high level of inequality and poverty in developing countries. Many are rich, while few are wallowing in abject poverty.

Table 4. Population Distribution in Developing Relative to Economic Development Using Gross National Income GNI per capita (US$)

Countries	Region	Population	Income group	GNI
Indonesia	East Asia and Pacific	269,536,482	**Lower middle income**	3,840
Philippines	East Asia and Pacific	105.72	**Lower middle income**	3,830
Vietnam	East Asia and Pacific	92.48	**Lower middle income**	2,400
Nigeria	Sub-Saharan Africa	200,962,417	**Lower middle income**	1,960
Ethiopian	Sub-Saharan Africa	112,078,730	Low income	790
DRC	Sub-Saharan Africa	71,246,355	Low income	490
India	South Asia	1,368,737,513	**Lower middle income**	2,020
Pakistan	South Asia	204,596,442	**Lower income**	1,580
Bangladesh	South Asia	168,065,920	Low Income	1,750

Source: World Bank, 2019

According to World Bank (2019), countries with less than $1,035 GNI per capita are classified as low-income countries, those with between $1,036 and $4,085 as lower-middle-income countries, those with between $4,086 and $12,615 as upper-middle-income countries, and those with incomes of more than $12,615 as high-income countries. Appraising economic development of the developing countries by per capita gross national income (GNI) using US Dollar indicates the influence of the rapid population in the economic development of Sub-Saharan Africa. For instance, the Ethiopian and Democratic Republic of Congo in sub-Saharan Africa is categorized among the low economies developing countries as their GNI per-capital $.490 and $.790 is less than $1,035. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest population, followed by East Asia. This has a detrimental effect on the economic development of developing countries. Similarly, all other countries are categorized among the lower-middle-income countries,indicating underdevelopment and poverty in developing countries. GNI per capita in dollar terms is estimated using the World Bank Atlas method.

Consequently, poverty and its antecedents are looming in developing counties of the world. The incidence of poverty varies considerably among continents, regions, and States. There are quiet variations in the level of poverty across the globe. Poverty is high in the sub-Sahara African region, followed by South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific region. The average income of the extremely poor in the developing world is $1.25per day.The overwhelming majority of people living on less than $1.25 a day belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. About World Bank (2019), 44.35% and 30.5% of the world's poor reside in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, respectively.

Table 5. Extreme Income Poverty

Region	**Millions of Poor %**	**% of World's Poor**	**Headcount Poverty Rate**
Sub-Saharan Africa	376	30.5	47.5
South Asia	546.5	44.3	36.0
East Asia	265.4	21.5	14.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	35.3	2.9	6.9
The Middle East and North Africa	8.5	0.7	2.7
World	1,233.8	100.0	22.8

Source: Andy, 2015

A side from those populous countries with large numbers of the extremely poor, high poverty rates are often found in small, fragile, and conflict-affected countries. Developing countries, many of the poverty-stricken, continue to shoulder the largest burden. They hosted 86 percent of refugees, compared to 70 percent a decade ago. Afghanistan (2.55 million), the Syrian Arab Republic (2.47 million), and Somalia (1.12 million) were the three main source countries of refugees, accounting for more than half of the total. Explicitly, these countries are still battling with poverty eradication programs which appear to be elusive despite their development efforts. The population of developing countries in the world is half the population of the whole world. Most of these countries are categorized under the low-income developing nations with the problem of low human development index and extreme poverty that appear to have defile solutions. Nevertheless, in most of these countries, such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and Nigeria, women are still giving birth to more than 6 children, but in countries that are developed and have great income per capita, women give birth to fewer than 2. Therefore, this shows that population has a great effect on the country's economy.

Conclusively, population increases higher in countries with lower income per capita. Hence poverty abound

F. Low savings and investment

High fertility and large family size place pressure on families. Many children make it difficult for families to provide adequate nutrition, education, healthcare and shelter, care, and support for all family members. High fertility among urban families contributes to overcrowding and poor living conditions, which generally defy the opportunity for saving and investment.

At the macro level, population increase in the face of an unprecedented level of poverty is the major factor that incubates poverty across the globe. Rapid population growth nullifies the country's investment efforts to raise the living standards of our people. In other words, a high rate of increase in population swallows up a large part of the increase in national income. Elucidating the implication on population growth on national income,Mesfin(2014:4) stated thus: "the rapid increase in population means that there will be an increase in the dependency ratio". This implies that the country concerned will have to allocate increasing resources to feed, clothe, house and educate the useful component of the population which consumes but does not produce goods and services."

G. Effect of population growth Human development index

Human beings are at the centerof economic, social, and political progress as they are the object and subject of development. The wealth of a nation is its people. The population is the essential resource for promoting socio-economic and political development. Economic growth alone cannot engender sustainable economic development. Human potentials: skill, knowledge, and experience are ultimate criteria determining development. Therefore the basic objective of development is to secure an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy, and creative lives (United Nations Development Programme, 1990)

Overview of the economic development of developing counties cannot be fully analyzed without reference to the Human development index. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living.

Table 6. United Nations specifications for measurement of human development index

Human development	HDX Value	Life Expectancy	Expected yrs of schooling	Mean Years of schooling	GO PPP$
Very high human development	0.894	79.5	16.4	12.2	40.041
high human development	0.757	76.0	14.1	8.2	14.999
Medium human development	0.645	69.1	12.0	6.7	6.849
Low human development	0.504	60.0	9.4	4.7	2.521

Source: UNDP, 2019

United National development program (2019) presents the basis for measuring countries' human development Index in numerical terms specified above. Human development index value unveils the development positions of different countries across the globe. The country could have a very high human development index with 0.894, 0.757 for the high human development index. Medium human development and low human development index consist of 0.645 and 0.504, respectively. Many regions, especially in Africa and Asia, have low human development in index despite the development efforts that have been made.

Table 7. High Populated Countries with low human development index

	HD	Life expectancy at birth (Years)	Expected years of schooling (Years)	Mean years of schooling(Years)	Purchasing power parity (GNI per-capital)
Developing Countries	70.7	12.2	7.3	10,055	—
Regions					
East Asia and the Pacific	0.733	74.7	13.3	7.9	13,688
South Asia	0.638	69.3	11.9	6.4	6,473
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.537	60.7	10.1	5.6	3,399

Source: UNDP, 2019

The low economic status of developing counties has negative implications in life expectancies. Considerable progress has been made over life expectancy at birth in developed countries; unfortunately, progress is much slower in developing countries and worst in the least developing countries. In 2019, life expectancy at birth in the least developed countries lagged 7.4 years behind the global average, due largely to persistently high levels of child and maternal mortality, as well as violence, conflict, and the continuing impact of the HIV epidemic. This emanated from the rapid population that surpasses the available resources such as health facilities and trained medical personnel. Over five decades, the life expectancy rate the past 50 years, average life expectancy at birth has increased globally by almost 20 years, from 46.5 years in 1950--1955 to 65.2 years in 2002. Life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa has been very low compared to other countries. Ethiopian has the highest life expectancy of 59.08, followed by Nigeria at 54.85. The Democratic Republic of Congo has the least at 54.44 years. The average life expectancy rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is 60.7; differently, the life expectancy rate in Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India comprises 74.17, 73.78, 73.49, 72.0, 69.4, and 68.71, respectively.

Consequently, all the countries are under low or medium human development. This has been anchored to health hazardless, malnutrition, an outbreak of disease coupled with lack of access to the health facility. Hence infant mortality rates abound.

H. Education Dimension of Human Development Index in Developing Countries

Education is another dimension of human development that has presented a great challenge to developing countries. Development cannot occur without effective utilization of the human potential, and This stock is usually measured in terms of the quantity of formal education (highest level of attainment or mean years of schooling) and the quality dimension (the general knowledge and cognitive skills people have). The quantitative and qualitative dimension of education is necessary for the country's development. The highest level of attainment in developing countries presents an alarming picture of underdevelopment currently and for the future generation. The majority of children in Sub-sahara, Africa, and South Asia hardly graduated from primary education. About 61 million children of primary school age do not have access to school. More than 32 million of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa and almost eleven million in South Asia (Global Education Monitoring Report, 2017). Bangladesh 1.7 million students were enrolled in secondary education level, but about 0.7 million students' dropped out without completing their secondary education and higher secondary education examination. At the university level dropout rate is not different from secondary and higher secondary levels. Developing countries have the lowest mean years of schooling of 4.7

Poverty has made child schooling a luxury affair in developing states as many parents prefer feeding, clothing, and housing as the most priorities to be addressed than their children's education (Ugwoke, 2018). In otherwords, spending their meager resource on children's education affects fulfilling other needs. Due to their inability to bear the cost of school for all children, girls from poor large households are being denied access to basic education. Parents preferred to use their meager resources in training their male children. Allocation of the children to productive activities has become a common surviving strategy for low-income families. Teacher effectiveness is the most important predictor of student learning. There is not enough universal primary or secondary education, and many of the currently working teachers are untrained. In Sub-Saharan Africa, there are 39 primary school pupils per teacher, followed by South Asia with 35 pupils per teacher. However, in OECD countries, Europe and Central Asia, there is an average of one teacher for every 16-18 primary school pupils (UNDP, 2018).

UNDP (2018) capture serious humanitarian and social challenges rapid population pose for economic well being in these words; human development index for the Sub Sahara African counties 0.537 in 2018 from 0.366 in 1980, which has been the worst since 1980 compared to other regions. It had the lowest life expectancy rate of 54.9, the lowest mean years of schooling of 4.7, the highest number of youths, and the highest number of youth unemployment of 50% in 2012 compared to other regions and the Sub-Sahara average youth unemployment 12%. It had the lowest life expectancy rate of 54.9, the lowest mean years of schooling of 4.7, and highest number of youths, and the highest number of youth unemployment of 50% in 2018 compared to other regions.

Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are the two centers of global poverty and the two regions demanding the most international support. Of these two regions, sub-Saharan Africa, with lower income than South Asia, faces greater challenges and needs. While the two regions account for approximately 45% of the population of the developing countries, they account for a much higher proportion of poverty in its various manifestations, generally well over 70% (Hans, 2009). Many other countries were put in the low human development category.

This situation raised the low education standard for the majority of the public, low life expectancy rate, malnutrition, poor health condition due to low access to health facilities, and high crime rates in the societies. The majority of the public in sub-Sahara Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Pacific regions of the world are still wallowing in absolute poverty. They lack the resources to exploit their potential. As a result, they cannot assess the opportunities that could aid them to live an independent life.

Development cannot be harnessed in situations human potentials remain dormant. Extreme poverty prevails as it gives rise to unemployment and inequality in our contemporary society.Seers (1969) posed the basic question about the meaning of development succinctly when he asserted, 'the questions to ask about a country's development are, therefore: What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt, this has been the period of development for the country. If one or two of these problems have been growing worse, especially if all three have, it would be strange to call the result 'development' even if per capita income doubled".

Overtly, many countries have launched and enforced considerable numbers of the development program; nevertheless, poverty, unemployment, and inequality remained high though per-capita income increases as incase of Nigeria. Impaired access to productive resources (agricultural land, physical capital, and financial assets) leads to absolute low income, unemployment, undernourishment, etc. Inadequate investment in human capital is also a major cause of poverty. Generally, impaired access to resources shifts the focus on poverty, and it curtails the capability of individuals to convert available productive resources to a higher quality of life (Sen, 1977 and Adeyeye, 1987)

I. Unemployment

The rapidly growing population has serious implications for the provision of productive employment. Since the rapid population growth is normally accompanied by a proportionate increase in the labor force supply. In Africa, the rate of labor force supply has outstripped that of job creation, implying that unemployment rates have been increasing rapidly. In other words, the number of people seeking employment increases more rapidly than the number of available jobs. Nigeria's annual growth-dependent population (annual growth rate of working-age and non-working-age) was the same as Sub-Saharan Africa's (2.6%). Pakistan 2.5% followed by Indonesia 0.9% and East Asia 0.5%, with limited opportunity to cater for them (Ilegbinosa, Olatunji and Itoro, 2014)

This scenario has given rise to a high crime rate and other social vices in third-world countries as means of survival. These regions' conflict-related cases occur, which disrupt all the developmental processes. Sub-Saharan African, East Africa region has experienced prolonged and severe terrorist activities. Secondly, unemployment contributes to lower education because either people cannot afford to send their children to college, or the children end up dropping out early to earn money and provide for themselves and their families. This lack of education is directly related to increased birth rates and rapid population growth. Thus, the enhancement of sustainable economic development becomes elusive in our contemporary society.

II. CONCLUSION

In this work, the economic development of developing countries was considered in the context of rapid population growth. This is because the population is an integral aspect of all aspects of national development. So the trend of population growth seriously influences social, economic, and political development. Developing countries are experiencing explosive populations, which is detrimental to national development. Explicitly, the population is a significant asset for national development, but it turns to a curse when it outpaced the needed resources required to care for a growing population. Currently, the population growth rate is greater in developing countries than in other developed countries, hence low life expectancy at birth, lack of access to education, and low standard of living engulf Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and East Asia and Pacific regions. The other antecedent such as poverty, unemployment, a high outbreak of diseases, and environmental degradation are looming in these regions. Consequently, the government should take drastic measures to address these challenges.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Diversification of the economic activities;

Developing countries are already over-populated, hence caring for the ever-growing population. People are the wealth of any country if cared for and supported. Consequently, a paradigm shift from the mono-cultural economy is inevitable. Mainly all these regions depend on agricultural activities to care for the ever-growing population, yet at subsistence level. Since 3 years ago, many developing countries are caught with economic recession that has destructive implications for development. Economic diversification provides a wide range of economic activities proficient in movingdeveloping countries from low-income to high-income economies. Improved productivity in the agricultural and industrial sectors could help diversify the wealth base of the developing counties.

Various sources of income allow resilience, stability, and sustainability (Shediac, 2011). China has overtaken the United States as the world's largest economy using purchasing power parity. At the outset of the reforms in 1978, China was poor. It had a GDP per capita level similar to Zambia – lower than half of the Asian average and lower than two-thirds of the African average (World Economic Forum, 2016). China is a highly populated country and has experienced an average GDP growth of close to 10% per year until 2014, raising per capita GDP almost 49-fold, from 155 current US Dollars (1978) to 7,590 US Dollars in 2014 finally to $15,543,710 in 2019. Developing countries can rise from extreme poverty to make diversification a better option.

B. Increasing investment in human capital development

Development is inevitable without man's involvement. If the potentials are not activated and streamlined into productive sectors, the population remains irrelevant to national development. The United States and China are currently more populous than Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, yet they are categorized among human developed countries. The difference lies in the investment in manpower and utilization. It has been observed that many schools lack facilities, qualified and adequate staff for effective teaching and learning. Budgetary allocation to the human development sectors such as education and health should be reviewed and addressed adequately. Increasing allocation to these sectors will, directly and indirectly, spur the country to a high-income economy.

C. Developing policies and programs on childbearing and reproductive health:

The government of the developing countries should adopt policies and programs on childbearing and reproductive health. These policies and programs will go a long way in addressing the issue of having many children in Africa countries. China and many other developed countries have decided on the number of children each woman can have in her reproductive age. This policy can be revisited whenever perceived to have a detrimental effect shortly. It has been ascertained that if constructive measures were not applied, developing counties will be habiting half of the worlds' population by the year 2050.

D. Re-orientation in family planning method:

Due to cultural and religious beliefs, many people have been too skeptical aboutusing family planning in several countries. The trend of fertility rate coupled with the early marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia required that masses be informed on the necessity of using intrauterine devices (IUDs) and oral contraceptives. The natural family method alone is inefficient in reducing high childbirth in our society due to its deficiencies. Some events, such as illness, lifestyle, stress, or travel, may make fertility indicators harder to interpret, and it is not suitable for women with irregular periods. There is a need to use mass media such as; radio and television to create awareness of the negative implication of adopting only natural family planning. Family planning is one of the leading strategies to improve family life and welfare, control unwanted population growth, and aid the nation's development. Family planning (FP), considered an encouraging trend for development, is thought to be positively correlated with family health and well-being and negatively correlated with poverty levels.

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