

## **Population Dynamics and Displacement in Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

*The rising wave of violence, insecurity, Boko haram attacks, insurgency, forced migration and internal displacement has become worrisome and a source concern to many economists, policy makers and the citizens at both national and global level. This study examines population dynamics and displacement in Nigeria using Autoregressive Distributed Lag approach on time series data sourced from Displacement Tracking Matrix, CBN and NPC Bulletins from 2006-2019. The findings revealed that population growth, displacement and the associated components exert negative impact on the overall economic conditions in Nigeria. The study recommends that the government should provide the enabling environment that will help curb violence, insecurity, insurgency, and internal displacement to entrench sustainable growth and development.*

**Keywords:** *Displacement, Insecurity, Population, Poverty, Unemployment.*

**JEL Classification:** *C22, C51, E27, H63, H81*

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### **I. Introduction**

Nigeria's current wave of violence, insecurity, Boko haram attacks, insurgency, forced migration and internal displacement seem to generate a new phenomenon on population dynamics distinct from theoretical evidence. This has become worrisome and a source concern to many economists, policy makers and the citizens at both national and global level. Reports from Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps tend to undermine and redefine the geographical distribution of population in Nigeria and similar countries facing this menace Kwenin, H. (2018). The present scenario is likely to have implications for macroeconomic variables like unemployment, poverty rate, economic growth etc.

Nigeria belongs to the league of the fastest growing countries in the world with a population of 185 million people as at 2016 and 201 million people in 2019, with a population growth rate of 2.61% (Worldometer, 2020). She is the most populous country in Africa endowed with wide range of natural resources (UNDP, 2017). Nigeria's high population is likely to have implications on the economy as it affects a whole range of socio-economic variables and displacement resulting from violence, insecurity and insurgency. Available theories seem contrasting in providing a clear cut generalization as to the effect of population and displacement on economic growth of evolving nations including Nigeria. It is difficult to generalize on Nigeria's future economic growth prospects on account of its rising population in the face of displacements. Thus, there is divergence of opinion regarding the desirability of population growth. Some researchers view rapid population growth as a real problem while others see it as desirable asset (Afzal, 2009).

Economic growth in Nigeria remains muted since 2015. Recovering from stagflation in 2016 economic growth averaged 1.9% in 2018 and remained stable at 2% in the first half of 2019 (World Bank, 2020). Domestic demand remains constrained by stagnating private consumption in the context of high inflation (11% in the first half of 2019). Economic Growth is too low to lift the bottom half of the population out of poverty. Despite expansion in some sectors, employment creation remains weak and insufficient to absorb the fast-growing labor force, resulting in high rate of unemployment (23.1% in 2019), with another 20% of the labor force underemployed (World Bank, 2020). Poverty remains widespread. The poverty rate in over half Nigeria's 36 states is above the national average of 69% (AFDB, 2020). High poverty reflects rising unemployment and this requires plausible solution. Given that the economy is expected to grow more slowly or regress occasioned by the current coronavirus pandemic than the population, living standards and economic performance are heading towards imminent challenges that would require urgent attention. This motivated the authors to delve into the subject matter for possible outcomes and policy recommendations that will be beneficial to the government, policy makers and researchers aimed at addressing the current challenges for sustainable economic growth and development.

The Nigerian population has been growing while the rate of economic growth has such little improvement. Studies have also shown that armed conflicts, violence and insurgency form major obstacles to development in several parts of the African continent including Nigeria (International Organization for Migration 2018). Apart from the associated costs in human displacements and material terms, these menaces impede production, damage infrastructure, prevent the reliable delivery of social services and disrupt societies. The question is now on how best to exploit the theoretical and empirical relationship between population growth, displacement, poverty and unemployment. What is the effect of population growth in the face of displacement on economic growth, poverty and unemployment? The main objective of this study is to ascertain the influence of population growth and displacement on economic growth, poverty and unemployment in Nigeria.

The following hypotheses are stated in null forms:

- $H_{01}$ : Population growth does not have any impact on economic growth
- $H_{02}$ : Population growth does not have any impact on Poverty.
- $H_{03}$ : Displacement does not have any relationship with unemployment.

The outcome of this research has policy implications for macroeconomic variables like unemployment, poverty rate, and economic growth amongst others. The research covers a time series data of the chosen variables in Nigeria between 2006- 2019 using autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) model.

## **II. Materials and Methods**

Until recently, internal displacement in Nigeria has been caused mostly by occurrences of intercommunal, ethno-religious cum political, and forced eviction. But the displacement occasioned by flooding experienced in 2012 changed the profile of the internally displaced persons in Nigeria and created a new trend in displacement matrix. Hence, there is need for a very robust and intensive humanitarian response strategy to address the challenge. The wave of internal displacement in Nigeria is now heightened by the current Boko Haram attacks, violence, conflicts and insurgency (Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2018); Mohammed (2017). The literature on conflicts revealed that, by January 2000, over half of the countries in Africa were affected by conflict. These conflicts have resulted in enormous loss of lives, massive displacements and huge costs to the African economy, seriously hindering the development of the continent.

Conflicts are a threat to sustainable peace and security in Africa and the primary root causes for conflicts in Africa have been identified as social, political and economic inequality, state collapse, economic decline, historical and battles for control of natural resources. In addition to the socio-political, cultural and historical drivers, environmental factors such as control of land and water have also become a threat to sustainable peace and stability in many parts of Africa. Climate change is already a reality affecting agriculture, food security, and the frequent clashes between farmers and herdsmen in many parts of Africa continue to hinder the achievement of sustainable peace and security. Furthermore, secondary causes that enable and sustain conflict in Africa also includes youth unemployment, lack of education, population pressure, ethnic hatred, easy availability of arms, inadequate mediation and inappropriate humanitarian assistance. Other sources of conflict posing threat to peace and security in Africa include the rapidly growing youth population, migration, growing inequalities, accelerated development of the extractives industry, trafficking and transnational crimes.

In addition, the wave of democratization and the conduct of regular elections have seen election violence becoming a threat to peace and security in the continent just like military coups before. There are serious security challenges in Africa that need urgent attention. These include activities of extremist groups in the Lake Chad region, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the situations in Libya, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, amongst others. The continent and the international community must solve these challenges to sustainable peace and development in Africa. Peace is the foundation stone of sustainable development and climate change is a threat to the planet and therefore a threat to international peace and security. Conflict caused by climate change induced disasters disrupt not just the natural balance, but also the social balance, causing mass migrations, including the millions of people who now have the unfortunate new tag of climate refugees. There are serious security challenges in Africa that need urgent attention. These include activities of extremist groups in the Lake Chad region, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the situations in Libya, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, amongst others. The continent and the international community must solve these challenges to sustainable peace and development in Africa.

Todaro and Smith (2011) asserted that fertility rate, crude death rate, birth rate, mortality rate, and life expectancy are the major determinants of rapid population growth rate. These factors show varying degrees of impact on the population. However, negative effects of overpopulation include; social vices like fraud, bribery and prostitution. It also brings about an increase in government spending, as they have more people in the country to cater for (Dao, 2012). Overpopulation tends to increase the issue of brain drain as trained and intelligent people migrate to other countries for livelihood and search for greener pastures; this has affected the

country as educated individuals who could have made a difference in developing the country are lost to other countries. Lastly, it leads to an increase in imports thereby causing balance of payment deficit (Anthony, 2013). The major reason for Nigeria's increasing population include: high birth rate, early marriages, increase in material welfare, customs, religions and superstitions, decreased death rate compared with birth rate. This problem is attributed to higher standard of living, higher literacy level, good hygiene and medical services and facilities. According to Jhingan (2016) population growth affects economic development in two ways: first, by promoting economic development and second by retarding economic development.

### **III. Review of Empirical Literature**

Arif and Chaudhry (2008) analyzed the impact of human capital on economic development for the economy of Pakistan for the period of 1990-2005. They found from their study that investment in human capital will lead to economic development in the urban area while dismal in the rural area particularly in female. Pakistan can benefit from investment in human capital and provide employment opportunity for the target to get economic development. Nwakeze and Omoju (2011) studied the correlation between economic growth and savings in Nigeria 1980 - 2007. The study relied on vector error correction regression model for its analysis. The empirical estimation results revealed that savings and rapid growing population have negative and positive influence on economic respectively in Nigeria.

Ashraf et al., (2012) employed simulation model to assess the quantitative effect of exogenous reduction in fertility on output per capita. The study found out that there was positive correlation and bi-causal effect between fertility and output per capita. Kotani and Kotani (2012) embarked on an empirical research to understand the effect of net migration on population-economic growth relationship in Indonesia between 1993 and 2005 using ordinary least square regression techniques on annual time series data obtained on variables listed in the model such as GDP, population growth, lagged value of fertility rate and net migration. The study revealed that lagged fertility does not affect the economic growth in the two-variable regression.

Bruckner et al (2014) examined the effects on population growth of shocks to national income that are plausibly exogenous and independent on technological change using a panel of more than 139 countries from 1960 to 2007. The study revealed that the growth in income induced by oil prices positively impacts on population growth. Michael et al (2014) examined the effect of population explosion on family standard of living in Calabar, Nigeria using descriptive statistics. The study revealed causes of population explosion to include: migration, poor family planning, religion, illiteracy, poverty, culture and urbanization. Okwori, Ajegi, Ochinyabo, and Abu (2015), empirically examined the Malthusian Population Theory in Nigeria from 1982 -2012 using ECM model. Their results show that Population Growth has no influence on Economic Development in Nigeria.

Lawanson (2016) studied the effect of population growth on economic development in Nigeria using the OLS technique. The study showed that population has a positive but insignificant effect on economic growth (at first difference) and a negative but significant effect on economic growth (at first difference lagged) in Nigeria}. One of the recommended suggestions is that the focus of the Federal Government of Nigeria should be expanded to include quality empowerment programmes aimed at promoting entrepreneurial development in the country. This would, in turn, boost the production of goods and services locally.

Peterson (2017) studied the relationship between population growth and growth of economic output generally for the period 2000 to 2015. The findings showed that Population growth slowed slightly during the periods in all regions except Sub-Saharan Africa, where population growth showed negative influence on economic growth. The study also showed that in low-income countries, rapid population growth is likely to be detrimental to economic growth in the short and medium term because it leads to large numbers of dependent children.

Ogunleye, Owola and Mubarak (2018) carried out an appraisal of Population Growth and Economic Growth in Nigeria over the period of 1981 to 2015 with Ordinary least squares regression. The study revealed that population growth exhibited positive influence on economic growth

#### **Gaps in Literature**

Several researches have been conducted on displacement, population growth and economic growth in various countries especially in Asian countries, the Middle East and Sub Saharan African countries, however such researches are not so much in the Nigerian case especially in recent years. The aim of this research is to fill the gap in literature on the impact of displacement, population growth on the Nigerian economy between the years 2006-2019, specifically looking at its impact of some social- economic indicators like displacement, conflict/violence, economic growth, poverty and unemployment.

#### IV. Research Methodology

##### Theoretical Framework

This study adopted the endogenous growth model. The rationale for using this model is because it looks deeply into the sources of growth and explains the long run growth rate of an economy based on endogenous technical progress in growth model. It maintains that economic growth is mainly as a result of internal factors rather than external factors. Romer(1994) model is applied which involves human capital along with the existing stock of knowledge to produce ideas or new technology. In the Romer’s model, to incorporate endogenous technological change, the production function is modified as:

$$Y_t = F(K_t, N_t, A_t) \tag{1}$$

From equation (1) it can be seen that the level of aggregate output depends on the quantities of capital ( $K_t$ ), labour ( $N_t$ ) and technology ( $A_t$ ), which is treated as endogenous factor. In this model, the production function of an individual firm represented by the subscript  $i$  is:

$$Y_{it} = F(K_{it}, N_{it}, A_t) \tag{2}$$

In the production function listed above, the technology input subscript  $t$  appears along with subscript  $i$  because this technology may not be exclusive input of a firm, but maybe copied from others. The technology is not assumed to progress exogenously but to grow endogenously when more investment by firms take place or may be the result of the efforts of labour. Romer opined that investment is a source of technological progress. He distinguishes between private returns to capital and social returns to capital. Investment or capital accumulation of a firm enables it to have access to new machines and also new ways to doing things. The model encourages the implementation of policies which advocates for increased investment.

##### Model Specification

The model specified in this section is based on theoretical framework of the study that considers growth as a function of labour capital and other efficiency factors. Moreover, economic growth in this study is considered as overall economic performance, hence growth is captured by three variables: GDP growth rate, poverty rate, and unemployment. These are the main indicators of economic performance for a developing country (Todaro and Smith, 2009). Taking cognisance of the demographic factors that affect population which in turn affects economic growth, three equations are specified in the study. The functional form of the first model that will be used in this study is stated as;

$$RGDPGR = f(PGR, DISPL, POV, UNEMP) \dots \dots (3)$$

Where RGDPGR = real GDP growth rate,  
PGR= population growth rate

DISPL = Displacement proxied by internal displacement

POV = poverty rate (measured as proportion of Nigerians living below 1.9 dollars per day)

UNEMP = Unemployment rate

The ARDL specification of the above model is constructed below;

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta RGDPGR_t = & \alpha_0 + \delta_1 PGR_t + \delta_2 DISP_t + \delta_3 POV_t + \delta_4 UNEMP_t \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \psi_i \Delta RGDPGR_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^{q_1-1} \varphi_1 \Delta PGR_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^{q_1-1} \varphi_2 \Delta DISP_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^{q_1-1} \varphi_3 \Delta POV_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^{q_1-1} \varphi_4 \Delta UNEMP_{t-i} + \theta ECM_{t-1} \xi_t \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Apriori expectation:  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, < 0$ ;  $\delta_4, > 0$ ; also,  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, < 0$   $\varphi_4, > 0$

Where  $\theta$  is the error correction term that is expected to lie between 0 and 1 (in absolute values) and negative in order to ensure co-integration among the variables (Pesaran et al 2001). The coefficients  $\delta_i$ s are the short run coefficients, while  $\varphi_i$ s are the long run coefficients.  $\alpha_0$  is the constant parameter (Bahmani-Oskooee. & Fariditavana 2016; Ohiomu & Oluyemi 2019).

The Secondary semi-annual data from 2006 to 2019 for this research was collected from the World Bank, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), National Population Commission and CBN Statistical bulletin.

#### V. Results and Analysis of the Findings

##### Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics for the data used are presented to highlight the pattern of distribution of the datasets. The annualized summary statistics of the data used are presented in Table 1. The Table shows the mean and other moment conditions for each of the variables. Average RGDP growth rate was 4.15 percent over the study period. Considering that maximum value was 14.6 percent for the period, there is clear indication that the economy has not performed too well over a longer period of time in Nigeria. The minimum RGDP growth rate

is -7.58. This indicates that there was a lot of variability in growth rates over the period, with certain periods having large declines and others having relatively high growth. The population dynamics in the study could have contributed to the unsteady growth path of the Nigerian economy. The skewness values for GDP growth is however very low, which suggests that the mean value is largely representative of the performance of the growth rate over the entire period of the study. The J-B value of 0.05 is not significant at the 5 percent level which shows that the variable is normally distributed.

**Table1: Descriptive statistics**

Variable	Mean	Max.	Min.	Std. Dev.	Skew.	Kurt.	J-B	Prob.
RGDPGR	4.15	14.60	-7.58	4.42	-0.06	3.14	0.05	0.97
UNEMPL	8.90	19.70	1.80	4.97	0.50	2.31	2.36	0.31
POV	55.47	63.50	52.90	2.81	1.62	4.93	22.55	0.00
PGR	2.58	2.71	2.49	0.07	0.09	1.71	2.70	0.26
DISP	89.08	92.76	86.62	2.02	0.53	1.87	3.83	0.15

Source: Author’s computation

The other economic performance variables in the study are unemployment rate and poverty rate. The average unemployment rate in the study for the period is 8.9, which is very high, with a low standard deviation value of 4.97, suggesting that unemployment in Nigeria has been relatively high over the years. Proportion of individuals in poverty (living on less than 1.9 dollars a day) is 55.47 percent over the period. This also indicates a high poverty rate in the economy. Thus, with all the economic indicators combined (i.e., low growth rate of GDP, high poverty and unemployment rates), the Nigerian economic environment appears to be quite unstable and relatively weak.

Population growth rate is 2.57 percent is high on average over the period, with a maximum value of 2.71 and minimum value of 2.49. This shows that population growth rate has remained high for all the years and this high rate can be devastating for the economy, especially in years when growth rate of GDP was either low or negative.

Table 2 shows the result of the Bounds test of long run effects for the ARDL specification for the specified equations (three) for this section of the analysis. The equations are separated based on the dependent variables used for the particular equation. The evaluation of the results is based on the critical F-statistic values for the lower and upper bounds as also reported in the results. If at any significance level, the estimated F-value is lower than both the lower test (I0 Bounds) and the upper test (I1 Bounds) values, then there is no cointegration among the variables. The test becomes inconclusive, if the F-statistic falls into the bounds. However, there is cointegration among the variables, if the estimated value falls above both Bounds test values.

**Table 2: Testing the Existence of a Long-Run Relationship (Bounds Cointegration Test Result)**

Null Hypothesis: No long-run relationships exist		
Test Statistic	Value	K
F-statistic	5.51	4
Critical Value Bounds		
Significance	I0 Bound	I1 Bound
10%	2.26	3.35
5%	2.62	3.79
2.5%	2.96	4.18
1%	3.41	4.68

Source: Author’s computation

From the Table 2, it is seen that the computed F-value falls above both the lower and upper bounds. These results show that there is cointegration among the variables. This is because the critical F-value is greater than the I0 Bounds and I1 bounds values. Thus, a long run relationship can be estimated between the economic growth variables and other variables.

## The ARDL Results

Table 3: ARDL estimation for economic growth

<i>Short run cointegrating coefficients</i>			
Variable	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
D(PGR)	7.103**	2.597	0.021
D(PGR(-1))	5.656**	1.671	0.017
D(PGR(-2))	-4.924*	-3.789	0.002
D(PGR(-3))	-2.529*	-3.981	0.007
D(LDISP)	-9.133**	-2.793	0.014
D(LDISP(-1))	-1.735*	-2.893	0.012
D(LDISP(-2))	-6.519**	-2.727	0.016
D(LPOV)	-2.326	-1.641	0.123
D(LUNEMP)	-0.034**	-2.629	0.020
ECM(-1)	-0.524**	-2.671	0.018
<i>Long Run Coefficients</i>			
Variable	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
PGR	-2.30*	-4.107	0.001
LDISP	-2.66*	-2.953	0.011
LPOV	3.557	1.611	0.030
LUNEMP	-0.254*	-3.435	0.004
C	94.164*	3.490	0.004

$$\text{Cointeq} = \text{LRGDP} - (2.3026*\text{PGR} - 2.6626*\text{LDISP} + 3.5568*\text{LPOV} - 0.2543*\text{LUNEMP} + 94.1643)$$

Note: \* indicates significance at the 1 percent level; \*\* indicates significance at the 5 percent level

Source: Author's computation

For the other population variables, results reveals that the coefficient of population growth is significant and positive in the current period and first lag period. However, the coefficient of lagged population growth after two periods ( $\text{PGR}_{t-2}$ ) is significant at the 1 percent level and negative as well as the third periods ( $\text{PGR}_{t-3}$ ). This result therefore shows that initially population may have positive impact on the economy, but after a while, if such growth in population is sustained, the effect becomes negative on economic growth in Nigeria. The coefficient of displacement (DISP) is significant and negative for each of the lags and the current period. This shows that rising displacement in the country tends to hinder the growth of the Nigerian economy at any time, both immediately or delayed. Displacement is therefore seen to weaken productivity and ensure that the contribution of labour to output growth is reduced. Displacement also reduces the capacity of government to spend on productive sectors of the economy that will spur growth. The coefficient of poverty rate is negative and insignificant at short run dynamics but it is insignificantly positive on the long run. This shows that poverty rate does not have strong impacts on economic growth in Nigeria. For the other variables, the result shows that unemployment has negative impacts on economic growth in Nigeria at both short run and long run.

The coefficient of the error correction term (ECM) is expected to be significant and possess a negative sign. In the estimated equation, the coefficient of the error correction term has the expected negative sign and is significant at the 1 percent level. The significant and negative coefficients indicate that there is capacity for restoring long run stability following any short run deviation of the economy from equilibrium. The coefficient of the ECM term is high relatively moderate at -0.524, which indicates that just 52.4 percent of the long run adjustment to equilibrium is completed within the first year.

### Granger Causality Test

There could be reverse effects of population growth on economic growth in Nigeria. Hence, the Granger causality test between population and economic growth is performed in this section. The results of the Granger causality tests are reported in Table 4. As is generally the case, the F-test is conducted on the null hypotheses in order to determine the direction of causality between each pair of variables. The test of each of the null hypothesis is based on the significance of the F-value for the particular relationship. It can be seen that PGR granger causes GDP growth, but GDP growth does not Granger cause PGR. Also, causality also runs from unemployment to poverty, which shows that it is poverty that mainly causes unemployment in Nigeria. Causality also runs from unemployment to population growth. There is no bidirectional causation in the result. Hence, the results of the estimates are reliable.

**Table 4: Causality test results**

Null Hypothesis:	Obs	F-Statistic	Prob.
LPGR does not Granger Cause LRGDGR	28	4.05	0.03
LRGDGR does not Granger Cause LPGR		0.61	0.55
LDISP does not Granger Cause LRGDGR	28	1.42	0.26
LRGDGR does not Granger Cause LDISP		1.62	0.21
LPOV1 does not Granger Cause LUNEMPL	28	0.86	0.43
LUNEMPL does not Granger Cause LPOV1		4.92	0.01
LPGR does not Granger Cause LUNEMPL	28	0.25	0.78
LUNEMPL does not Granger Cause LPGR		3.21	0.05
LDISP does not Granger Cause LUNEMPL	28	4.30	0.02
LUNEMPL does not Granger Cause LDISP		1.63	0.21
LPGR does not Granger Cause LPOV1	28	0.46	0.64
LPOV1 does not Granger Cause LPGR		15.21	0.00
LDISP does not Granger Cause LPOV1	28	6.37	0.00
LPOV1 does not Granger Cause LDISP		0.99	0.38

Source: Author's Result Using E-views

**Tests of Hypotheses**

**Hypothesis One**

The tests of the hypotheses are based on the outcome of the estimated equations in Tables 3. *Population growth does not have any significant impact on economic growth*

From the results in Table 3, the t-test for the coefficients of PGR (-2.30) and DISP(-2.66) are significant in the long run result at the 1 percent level. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected, and it can be shown that population growth actually has a significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria.

**Hypothesis Two**

*There is no significant relationship between population growth and Poverty*

The test of this hypothesis is based on the outcome of the estimated coefficients for POV in Table 3. From the result, the coefficients of the indicator failed the significance tests at the 5 percent level. This shows that the null hypothesis is upheld in this case. Therefore, no significant relationship is observed to exist between population growth and Poverty in Nigeria. The outcome of this hypothesis is contrary to the expectation in Nigeria. Perhaps, there are latent reasons beyond the scope of this study that accounted for such outcome due to the diverse nature and multiplicity of poverty (Absolute Poverty, Relative Poverty, Situational Poverty and Generational or Chronic Poverty; Ohiomu 2018) and population variables.

**Hypothesis Three**

*There is no significant relationship between Displacement and unemployment*

For this hypothesis, the coefficients of the variables in Table 3 is utilized. From the result, the coefficients of PGR, DISP and UNEMP passed the significance test at the 5 percent and 10 percent levels respectively. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected, and it is shown that a significant relationship actually exists between displacement and unemployment in Nigeria.

**VI. Discussion of Findings**

The main findings of the study highlight the negative role of rising population on economic growth in Nigeria on the long run while the short run dynamics exhibited positive effect on economic growth. Human population, human capital or people is the most important factor of production. Hence, one can expect that the more the growth of population, the more the growth of RGDP and this is what showed up in the short run. But where population grows without growth in human capital to match; or growth in per capita income; or without growth in productivity as it is in the case of Nigeria, then in the long run population growth will have inverse relationship with growth in RGDP. In this scenario, there is low income and there is poverty; low productivity and hence, population growth will impact negatively on RGDP in the long run. This is the case of Nigeria and many other sub Saharan countries where similar scenarios play out. This result supports the findings from a report by Dao, (2012 where it is shown that population growth and explosion in most African economies limits growth in the continent. Our study has shown that population growth which is supposed to be an asset to any nation turned out to be a liability and problem in this study, perhaps due to low productive capacity and poor

capacity utilization. This is the case in many developing countries with low productive capacity. The findings also showed that population growth intensifies the unemployment and poverty problems in the region including Nigeria. Indeed, population growth affects unemployment, household savings, investments and ultimately economic growth.

The study also highlights the negative role of displacement on economic performance and unemployment in Nigeria. The study has shown that displacement and population growth not only hinder economic growth (by reducing productivity), the variables also intensify the unemployment problem in the region. Also, the social dimensions of high population growth are also observed in this study. This result confirms the findings by Peterson (2017) who found that high population growth in low-income countries may slow their development. Planned population policy and income policy could help to regulate these imbalances.

## **VII. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations**

### **Summary**

In this study, the researchers made an attempt to establish the impact population dynamics and displacement have on economic performance, poverty and unemployment in Nigeria. Among what can be deduced from these findings are: (1) the negative role of rising population on economic growth in Nigeria on the long run while the short run dynamics exhibited positive effect on economic growth (2) Displacement exerts negative effect on economic growth. (3) Unemployment exerts negative effect on economic growth. (4) Poverty rate exhibits mixed effects on growth showing negative effect at current period and positive effect on Economic growth on the long run. Thus, the study demonstrated the effect of population changes and displacement on GDP growth rate, unemployment and poverty rates in Nigeria since these factors capture the essential aspects of economic performance and distributional effects in Nigeria. Based on the empirical analysis of the data in the study, following findings were made.

- From the study it is shown that rising population, and displacement combine to stifle economic performance in Nigeria.
- That Displacement also significantly increases unemployment rates in Nigeria. In this direction displacement, and population growth were the main factors shown to be stimulating unemployment in the country, especially in the long run.
- These factors will lead to fall in per capita income, living standards and output.

## **VIII. Conclusion**

In this study, the relationship between population dynamics and economic growth is examined within a broad consideration. Economic growth (performance) was taken as both GDP growth rate, poverty levels and unemployment in Nigeria.

It was established that for Nigeria, rising population has slowed down the growth process on the long run and escalated the worsening social and welfare conditions in the country. The threat posed by population growth in Nigeria is evident from two dimensions. Firstly, at the micro level of individuals and families, where high rates of population growth are associated with high dependency ratios and low investment in the human capital of children and young adults. Secondly, at the macro level where high rates of population growth hinder investment in both human and physical capital formation and exert pressure on the environment and often fragile resource base. This synergetic relationship is one of the main arguments for a population policy as an integral component of any poverty reduction strategy. In this section the key socio-economic variables through which the relationship between population growth, displacement and economic development becomes operationally relevant are reviewed, and an analytical framework that summarizes these relationships is proposed. Worthy to note is the fact population which is supposed to be an asset to any nation turned out to be a liability and problem in this study. This is the case in many developing countries with low productive capacity.

## **IX. Recommendations**

From the analysis of this study, certain policies recommendations can be made on the appropriate means of checking population growth and displacement to make it work better for economic improvements in Nigeria.

For effective conflict resolution in Africa, we should be pushing for a stronger UN, Africa-led and Africa-owned initiatives on African peace and security, push for linking the issues of security and development, more favourable trade and investment environment. We must also invest in local capacity-building for conflict prevention if we are to sustain peace and security in Africa. Our multilateral institutions at the global, continental and regional levels must invest in and deploy more capacity for conflict prevention, good offices and preventive diplomacy. Greater regional and cross-border cooperation are needed across Africa.

The youth must urgently be equipped with skills, talents and provided with opportunities that give meaning to their lives. That is the only way the youth bulge can become a dividend.

At the national, regional and continental levels policies must be adopted that will creatively address the phenomenon of youth unemployment.

- Population growth and all its components largely exert a negative impact on the overall economic conditions in Nigeria. Population interventions will have a great poverty-reducing effect if mainstreamed systematically in agriculture and social sector projects.
- Similarly, it has been established at the course of this study that displacement and high population growth lead to unemployment. The government should put measure to ensure that the economy grows at a higher rate than the population growth. Also, factors like conflicts, violence and insurgency which generate displacements should be tackled headlong by the government and security agencies.
- The government should formulate and adopt a clearly defined policy on population is the basic foundation for a meaningful intervention in the formulation of population-related projects and programmes for the federal, states and local governments in Nigeria. This can be achieved with the establishment of a database and the provision of socio-demographic indicators in all geographical areas in the country.
- The government, Policy makers and other population analysts enact strict population control policy to handle the nation's surging population and sensitize the public on these issues through specific training and programmes that highlight evidence-based policy crafting.

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