

IMPLICATIONS OF NON-UTILIZATION OF POPULATION DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The paper examines implications of non-utilization of population data for development planning in Nigeria. In developing countries, including Nigeria, population data are not adequately used for development planning. Whilst in developed countries of the world population data constitute an indispensable element of planning and development. Using Social development theory as a framework. This paper identified implications of non-utilization of population data and how this affect development planning in Nigeria. Data for the paper were obtained through the secondary sources like the Nation Bureau of Statistics, National Population Commission and academic journals. The findings show that the slow level of development in Nigeria is as a result of non-use of population data. The study also shows that planning in Nigeria is ineffective because population data are underutilized. Therefore, the paper recommends that there is need for effective utilization of population data by the government, development partners and private sectors for effective planning. This could facilitate greater pull of economic and social development of any nation. Interactions of population experts with government improves the integrity of systems and increase administrative efficiency of any nation of the world towards the use of population data that will stimulus development and economic planning.

Key words: Population, Data, Census, Development Planning, Vital Statistics.

INTRODUCTION

Population data involve a collection of socioeconomic, administrative, cultural and demographic information in a given country for the purpose of planning within a given period of time. The functionality of population data is ubiquitous and ancient in nature. This is because most countries like the Roman Empire, Ancient Greece, Athens, Italy, India, China among others have effectively utilized population data in planning for taxation, economic recovery and growth plan, international security and military strategy (Harald, 2016). The utilization of population data by most of these countries has been an impetus for their rapid development. Population statistics is an essential tool for development planning in every country of the world, whether developed or developing. Population is the human number that has remained the most fundamental strategy and framework for socio-economic development, planning and implementation. The functionality of data derived from human population is an instrument of employment generation and poverty reduction if effectively applied in developing countries (Osujih, 1999).

The functionality of population data has remained a benchmark for decisions by any nation, organization or family in the world. Population data contains various persuasive

facts such as birth, death, migration and other demographic information like age, sex, annual income, occupation, language, ethnic group, family size among others. Generally, socio-economic, political, cultural and development of a country is dependent on population data to a large extent based on its applicability. Demographically, population data can be classified into two categories: that is the primary population data and secondary population data. The primary source of population data can be derived from the researcher's field survey, census, simple demographic survey, housing and health demographic survey among others.

While the secondary population data is derived from annual research report, journal, newspaper etc. There are several government agencies vested with the responsibility of data collection. They include: National Population Commission (NPC), Bureau of Statistics, Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), National Information Management Commission (NIMC), voters Register of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Financial Institution: (Bank Verification Number (BVN) etc. The applicability of population data for planning and development has remained a mirage in Nigeria and some other African countries. The non-use of population data for

planning has been a bane to socio- economic development of Nigeria. This is because there is no policy implementation in population data usability by the government agencies and policy makers.

CONCEPTUALIZING POPULATION DATA

The concept of population can be viewed from two perspectives: biological and social perspectives. However, the paper focused on the social perspective of the population which is the human number. Therefore, Population is seen as the human number or a group of individuals of the same species living or occupying a definite geographical location (Tarsi & Tuff, 2012). From the demographic perspective, the concept of population is constricted, this is because demographers look at population from the conventional perspective and not biological perspective. For instance, demographers are interest in conventional population like rural population, urban population, population of the elderly, working population, dependent population among other forms of conventional population within the human social grouping. Population data provide the reliable source for efficient and accurate emergency response. On the other hand, data is a raw or unprocessed information. Therefore, population data are the

fundamental information obtained from the population. Population data covered birth, mortality, migration, occupation, income, family size, age, locality, sex, fecundity, reproductive behaviour, family planning, use of contraceptive, male child preference, human capital flight, stillbirth, abortion, marriage, fertility among others. Population data has been used by nations of the world for the overall development.

SOURCES OF POPULATION DATA IN NIGERIA

The following are the major sources of population data identified by demographers

Census record.

The regular head count of human number has remained a reliable source of population data. Census is seen as a total enumeration of the whole country by sub- groups that are relevant to the purposes of the actual enumeration (Osujih, 1999). The population data covered in census include; Sex, age, occupation, marital status, place of residence, educational status, income level, religion among others. According to the United Nation (1954), census is seen as “the simultaneous recording of demographic data by the government at a particular time pertaining to all persons who live in a particular country”. The demographic relevance of population data through census is for economic, political

and administrative purposes. From the historical perspective, census data was used as a parameter of determining taxable adults who contribute to the economic growth of the nation in Rome and China. According to the United Nations; Department of Social and Economic Affairs (2010) Population Census is seen as “the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.

The census collects data from each individual and each set of living quarters for the whole country or area. It allows estimates to be produced for small geographic areas and for population subgroups. It also provides the base population figures needed to calculate vital rates from civil registration data, and it supplies the sampling frame for sample surveys”. During the medieval period, census data was also used to determine the availability of manpower for war. In Nigeria, the history of population census can be grouped into; the precolonial and post-colonial eras. In the pre-colonial era, the first organization similar to the present Nigeria bureau of statistics started in 1866 with the mandate of keeping population data. Census in Nigeria is conducted every

ten years at the beginning of a new decade: 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901 till 2006. In 1921, there was enumeration in “old Nigeria” under Sir Hugh Clifford as Governor General. During this period, the enumeration was divided into township census and provincial census. In township census, the urban residences were counted within one day and obtained a reliable census data. In provincial census, collection of population data was based on tax records of the people.

The process of this system sometimes account for more than a month. In this category, the census reports are inaccurate. The first modern census in Nigeria took place only in the 1950s, in more than 80 years after the first enumeration of the population to place (Osujih, 1999). It took about three years for Sir John Macpherson as Governor General to control the enumeration in four parts of the country: That is Lagos colony, Northern Region, Western and Mid-Western Region and Eastern region. In post-colonial era, the first attempt, in mid-1962, was canceled after much controversy and allegations of over counting in many areas (Wright, 1980). A second attempt in 1963, which was officially accepted, also was overloaded with charges of inaccuracy and manipulation for regional and local purposes. From these period, Nigerian

government has continued to obtain population data using the census report.

VITAL STATISTICS

From the demographic viewpoint, vital statistics is a life statistic that provides information on life and events of the individual. Vital statistics was coined by a demographer called Dr. William Farr at the Britain's General Register Office in 1837. During this period, vital statistics provide information that covered health, illness and mortality. For instance, in Nigeria, the core value of vital statistics was coopted into the Nigeria health sector which later provide periodic surveys of medical institutions and their patients. According to Osujih (1999), vital statistics is the expression in figures and facts the events that has taken place among the individuals from birth to death. Vital statistic is a source of population data whose demographic information covered natality (birth), nuptiality (marriage), mortality, morbidity (sickness), fertility, fecundity, migration, occupation, residential. Recording of events in human population has been with man since the historic period. Archeological data revealed that in history, stones, sticks were used as part of vital statistics in data keeping. The invention of Roman numeral and Arabic number has changed the counting system for vital statistics. This source of population

data has been used by different countries like the United States of America, Kenya, Japan, Egypt, Nigeria and others. This has been one of the reliable sources of population data.

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

In demographic survey, population data is obtained through interview. Demographic survey is different from census because demographic survey is simple and work based on representative population. This made the survey the cheapest sources of population data. Demographic survey is periodic in nature and provide dependable population data. In demographic survey, geographical residence is deemphasized. Demographic surveys seek basic socio-demographic information of the respondents (Elizabeth, 2015).

Demographic survey provides population data that aid in the classification of human population like the aged population, working population, dependent population etc. Therefore, demographic survey is a survey that is conducted to sample the views, opinions and attitude of the population towards a given demographic issues in the population, for instance the demographic health survey. The data collected are then used to estimate statistics for economic planning and social development (Kish, 2001). Demographic

survey is one of the methods of collecting data from the population so that interpretations about the entire population can be obtained from a sample of the survey. Demographic survey provides a valid scientific justification of generalization about the population (Marker, 2018). Demographic survey can be classified into single-round retrospective survey and multi-round survey. In single-round retrospective survey, the researcher only visits the selected respondent ones to obtain demographic data. The data covered the structure of the population, size, age, sex, occupation and marital status. While in multi-round survey, the collection of data is derived from the same sample through repeated visits for a period of one year. This form of survey promotes reliability of population data.

International Publications:

This is one of the sources of population data that is been used by international organizations like the United Nations, World bank and other international organizations publish the population of the world in a Demographic year Book. The international publication of population data provide the word Demographic information of the population to capture population size, area, density, urban population, population growth, age-sex composition, number of births and birth rate, number of

deaths and death rate, migration trend etc. (Srinivasan, 1998).

The population also extend to fertility, mortality, marriage, divorce, separation and population census statistics of a given country of the world. The United Nations equally published the Population and Vital Statistics Report quarterly which are made available by different countries of the world. Another International Organization the provide population data is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This Organization provides population data on social, economic and demographic aspects of the population. The UNDP population data is contained in her Annual Human Development Report. Other organizations that published population data include the International Labour Organization (ILO) published in the year Book of Statistics, World Health Organization (WHO) published in the Year Book of Health Statistics. Hence, International Publication has been employed as one of the accurate sources of population data for the world.

Population Register

Population register is demographic document that provide information with regards to the changes occurring in the population. This register for population data is designed with a card for each citizen which is updated from time to time.

Population register as a source of population data is used in most developed countries of the world. The register provides the civil status of the people like migration history, marital status, occupation etc. This register is updated on regular basis as the social status of the individual keep changing (Harald, 2016). Although, population census and vital statistic has remained the major sources of population data, however, population register has been widely used in providing population data.

Administrative Records

Besides census record and demographic survey, administrative record is one of the sources of population data. Administrative records are statistics gathered from various administrative processes of the country population. The record is not limited to the vital events recorded in a civil registration system but also extend its scope to the education statistics from school records; health statistics from hospital records; employment statistics, migration records etc. Administrative records are often obtained from the administrative processes and it supports as source of data for censuses and demographic surveys (Husmanns, Mehran and Verma 1990).

Most countries of the world have established an all-inclusive civil registration system. Civil registration is a

major framework for a legal system which establish the rights and privileges of individuals in a country of residence. Most countries of the world use administrative record as the main source of vital statistics and population data. The record is providing data on vital statistics; births, deaths, marriages, divorces and other events, including demographic and socio- economic characteristics of the individuals involved and residences in the country. Countries like Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have effectively utilized administrative records in providing population data since the 1960s.

The United Nations has long supported efforts to develop and improve civil registration and vital registration systems in developing countries. Using the administrative records. Most developing countries of the world have not fully adopted administrative record as source of population data because of the issues emanating from legal basis, administrative and organizational infrastructure, technical capacity, equipment, awareness, cooperation and adequate funding. Development of a population register requires that the registration of vital events be adequate and sufficient. Many countries have maintained administrative record because of its reliability in population data. Demographers and Statisticians has

employed the three sources of population data (Census, surveys and administrative records) in development planning, economic policy, research and administrative use.

Availability and Utilization of population data in Pre-and-Post Independence Nigeria

Availability of data is fundamental to socio-economic, political and demographic planning. In every country of the world, there are organized agencies that collate, collect and coordinate population data and made data available for research and development. In Nigeria for instance, they are: National Population Commission (NPC), National Bureau of Statistics, Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), National Information Management Commission (NIMC), voters Register of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Financial Institution: (Bank Verification Number (BVN).

National Population Commission

One of the leading bodies in charge of data management in Nigeria in Nigeria is the National Population Commission. It was established by the federal government of Nigeria in 1988. It has the constitutional

responsibility to collect, analyse and disseminate population/demographic data in the country. It is also authorized to undertake demographic sample surveys, compile, collate and publish migration and civil registration statistics as well as monitor the country's population policy. As a data management body, it undertakes periodic enumeration of the population through sample surveys, censuses or otherwise. The National Population Commission (NPC) also establish and maintain machinery for continuous and universal registration of births and deaths throughout the Federation. The commission also advise the President on population issues. The commission make available data on population for the purpose of expediting economic and development planning of the country (NPC, 2019).

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the main National Agency responsible for the development and management of official statistics, the authoritative source and custodian of official statistics in Nigeria. This has made the agency the reliable source of population data. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) came into being with the merger of the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) and the National Data Bank (NDB). The creation was part of the

implementation of the Statistical Master Plan (SMP), a programme document of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN). The merger was to give the agency a national outlook as the apex statistical agency for all the three tiers of Government. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is expected to coordinate Statistical Operations of the National Statistical System in the production of Official Statistics in all the Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), State Statistical Agencies (SSAs) and Local Government Councils (LGCs). The Internal Organization of the bureau is built on Statistics Act of 2007 which is the Legal Instrument established by the Acts of Parliament. The agency has a Board whose membership is drawn from all the ministries and agencies of the government from the statistics is derived (NBS, 2019).

NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) is the government agency that has been charged with the responsibility of managing migration data. The Nigeria Immigration Service emerged from the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in 1958. The Immigration Department, as it was known then, was entrusted with the core immigration duties under the headship of the Chief Federal Immigration Officer (CFIO). The

department in its emergent stages inherited the Immigration Ordinance of 1958 for its operation. At inception, the department had a narrow operational scope and maintained a simple approach in attaining the desired goals and objectives of government, which is to custody the migration information system in Nigeria. During this period, only the Visa and Business Sections were set up. The functions of the Nigeria Immigration Service are governed by the Immigration Act, 1963, CAP II Laws of the Federation 2004 which include the control of entry into and departure from Nigeria and Monitoring of Non-Nigerians residence in the country,

Implementation of Nigeria's extant visa regime, Execution of Deportation and repatriation orders, Manning all the nation's border posts (Land, Sea and Air), Issuance and control of all travel documents, Determination of Refugees and asylum seeker, Implementation of various treaties (bilateral, multilateral) entered into by Nigeria with other countries, Anti Human Trafficking activities, Border patrol and surveillance, Recommendation of Non Nigerians requiring citizenship or naturalization to the Minister of Interior. This are the sources from the Nigerian Immigration Service derived her data from (NIS, 2020).

THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) was established by the NIMC Act No. 23 of 2007, the population data management agency has the mandate to establish, own, operate, maintain and manage the National Identity Database in Nigeria, register persons covered by the Act, assign a Unique National Identification Number (NIN) and issue General Multi-Purpose Cards (GMPC) to those who are citizens of Nigeria as well as other legally residing within the country. The agency fosters the development of an identity sector in Nigeria and this become a reliable source of population data in Nigeria. The agency Issue a National Identity Smart Card to every registered person 16 years and above, provide a secure means to access the National Identity Database so that an individual can irrefutably assert his/her identity as a citizen or legal residence of Nigeria (NIMC, 2019). The importance of population data to a particular country cannot be overestimated. The population data is at the center of every planning, researching, and economic activities. Therefore, it implies that no meaningful development planning cannot be achieved without adequate population data obtained either from census record, demographic

survey, population register, and international document among others (Anderson and Fienberg, 2001). Hence, population data helps not only to estimate the changes in the number of the population in the country at a particular period of time but to appraise other fundamental changes occurring within the human demography. Population data has provided a reliable source and pull of data for the government for policy-making, planning and administration.

Therefore, the applicability of population data is for policy-making, research and administrative purposes. The availability of population is apt in knowing the size of the population at a given period of time. The population data is supportive to obtaining a number of citizen and legal residence in the country (Edmonston, 2001). The population structure arising from the population data is the working demographic document to the government to determining the taxable adults within the population. This will assist the government in economic planning.

Forecasting the possible economic needs. Statistics obtained from population data helps to estimate the country's economic needs, for example, health, education, housing, food and other social security needs. The date also assists in determining the number of unemployed or underemployed citizens, revealing the

man-power and the living conditions of the population. Population census helps to reveal the level of manpower. That implies that population data is applied in knowing the number of the working population, the dependent population, the level of income among the working population. The data is also used in determining the life expectancy within the population. This assist the government in making population growth projection. When the data show the geometric growth of the population, it attracts the attention of the international agencies through grants and other funding to avoid population explosion (Baumle, and Poston,2018). Population data is a tool for formulating economic policies, programme, development, growth and recovery plans.

The revenue estimating formula is derived from the population. Population figures estimating the number of emigrants and immigrants in the country. It can also be obtained, Population census is an essential document that provide detailed information on the region with a high or low density of population, this will determine the resource distribution. Therefore, it helps in resource sharing in the country. For example, it is the population data that has classified some states in Nigerian as densely, moderately or sparely population. Population census data gives an idea of what kind of social amenities should be provided to the

particular families, community and areas, for example, hospitals, road network, housing, water, and among others. Population data assists the government and international agencies in helping the country socio-economic development and allocation of political power.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Social development theory

The theory was propounded by Mackenzie, 1954. The basic assumption of the theory is that development of any society is made possible because of integrated efforts. The theory attempts to explain qualitative changes in the structure and framework of [society](#), that help the society to better realize aims and objectives especially in development planning. Development is a process of [social change](#), not merely a set of policies and programs instituted for some specific results. The basic mechanism driving social development is the increasing of planning indicators like data. Development is governed by many factors that influence the results of developmental efforts, some of the development efforts are the population data. The non-utilization of these planning indicators which is data have a serious implication on development planning. Based on the assumptions of the theory, non-Utilization of Population Data is

a bane for Development Planning. Therefore, the theory is appropriate to explaining Implications of Non-Utilization of Population Data for Development Planning.

METHODOLOGY

The study relied on secondary data. In drawing up conclusion for the study, the researcher sourced information from literature: Research reports, journals, gazette (Theoretical and empirical) amongst others. The study used content analysis method to analyzed the data obtained from the secondary sources. Therefore, the paper is a qualitative and descriptive research analyzing the Implications of Non-Utilization of Population Data for Development Planning in Nigeria. Data were obtained from secondary sources like Nation Bureau of Statistics, National Population Commission, academic journals and analyzed through qualitative approach.

CONCLUSION

The role played by population data in development of a country cannot be overemphasized. This is because, majority of the programmes and policies most governments implement are either directly or indirectly linked with population data. Population data covered gender, age,

ethnicity, income, employment status, home ownership, and even internet access and migration history of the people. Population data has been used by many countries of the world like; China, Roman, Italy, Germany, America and other developing countries of the world. However, it has been observed that most countries in the developing economic has underutilized the availability of population data and this has been a bane to the development of most of these countries including Nigeria. Effective utilization and applicability of population data is increasingly integral to the development planning of any society. Enhanced availability of reliable population data has a propensity of creating new economic opportunities and making projections of population growth and economic development of any nation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

However, the paper recommends that availability and applicability of population data should be encouraged by the governments of African Continent and Nigeria in particular to promote socio-economic development of the continent. Also, the paper recommends regular population census and demographic survey in Nigeria in other to capture the demographic changes that has occurred within the human setting over a period of time and also make population projection

development. Equally, there is a need for demographers to be co-opted into development and economic planning policy of the government to provide technical and expatriate advice of how to use population data in planning, resource allocation and development in general.

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