

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME:
DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS**

COURSE: DSS 420

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DSS 420
Population & Socio-Economic Development

Tutorial Questions

1. In simple terms, describe the relationship between population and socioeconomic development?

Answer: Evidence suggest that the relationship between population and development are; complex, and interrelated. There are many known and unknown variables in the equation. The relationship is recursive in nature, and may have rebounding effects on each side as well. Factors on both sides may have direct and indirect simultaneous relationships on the other, and some relationships are inconclusive. That is why we can safely surmise that the relationships between population and development on the parameters of interest, and the perspective of analysis.

2. Do you think population has more impact on socioeconomic development than vise-versa? Discuss?

3. What are the key pessimistic (orthodox) views about the relation between population and socioeconomic development?

Answer: Reverend Thomas Malthus was foremost in espousing the pessimistic positions about population and effects on the development of society. The arguments are that; natural land resources are not renewable, and capital is fixed. Supply of resources grows more slowly than the population. Population grows in geometric progression, while natural resource grows at arithmetic progression. Population growth can either be slowed down by preventive or positive checks. “Preventive checks” are actions that lower the birth rate through moral restraints (i.e. delayed marriage or non-marriage), while “positive checks” are man-made destructive tendencies/actions, wars, excesses of all kinds, unwholesome behaviors, misery, severe labor etc. The positive checks were predicted as the last resort considering the high sexual potency of population as perceived by the pessimistic school.

4. What are the limitations of the pessimistic school about the relationship between population and development?

5. What are the key stages of the demographic transition theory?

Answer: Demographic transition theory was brought to the forefront of the population vs. development debate by Frank W. Notestein (1952). The theory is a generalized explanation of the changing patterns of fertility, mortality, and growth leading to various scenarios of demographic regimes. It is a process theory that explains population situations of countries in four stages with a new addition of a fifth stage. The different stages of the demographic transition are presented in the table below.

State I	State II	State III	Stage IV	State V
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High birth rate • High death rate <p><i>Result:</i> Low population growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High birth rate • High death rate <p><i>Result:</i> High population growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling birth rate • Low death rate <p><i>Result:</i> Moderate population growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low birth rate • Low death rate <p><i>Result:</i> Low population growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth rate below replacement (on average women have fewer than 2 children) • Low death rate <p><i>Result:</i> Declining population</p>

6. What stage is Nigeria in the demographic transition theory? Provide evidence for your position?

7. What are the optimistic views about population and development?

The optimistic view about population dates back to the time of Plato and the Roman Empire when population was used as military strength and generating revenue through taxation. Contemporary optimistic school view population as a major resource that can spur development if well nurtured and cultivated. The power of technology and human ingenuity to transform human conditions is the bedrock of this school. Key arguments are; (1) Population growth has the capacity to exert positive influence on economic development because its serves as a beehive of economic activities. (2) Population would create human ingenuity to overcome any environmental constraints and challenges to development.

8. How relevant is the optimistic views about population in explaining Nigeria’s development situation?

9. List all the key world population conferences by dates, audience and their respective major direction or position?

Conference	Audience	Key positions/Perspective
Rome (1954)	Mainly Technocrats	Neo-Malthusian
Belgrade (1965)	Mainly Technocrats	Neo-Malthusian
Bucharest (1974)	Technocrats, Government of countries	(1) adopt family planning, (2) Neo-Malthusian
Mexico City (1984)	Government of country, & technocrats	(1) Neutral, (2) Abortion
ICPD, Cairo (1994)	Government of countries, technocrats, & civil society	(1) multi-sectorial, multidimensional, broadened focus
ICPD+10, Regional, & New York, 2004	Government of countries, technocrats, & civil society	MDGs as monitoring tools
ICPD+20, New York, 2014	Government of countries, technocrats, & civil society	Update & progress on MDGs

The population conferences in Rome 1954, and Belgrade 1965 were mainly attended by technocrats of Neo-Malthusian thinking who held similar views and perspectives. The first well representative population and development conference was in Bucharest, and the next was after 10 years in Mexico City, 1984. The Cairo, population and development conference is the most well attended and referenced of all conducted to date. Subsequent decennial conferences were updates of the Program of Action (PoA) in 1994. From the conference in Bucharest (1974), perspectives gradually shifted from Neo-Malthusian, to increased access to family planning, and individual and collective rights on several aspects of life including women and adolescent rights.

10. Explain if any, a key paradigm shift of the 1974 Bucharest conference?

11. Explain if any a key paradigm shift of the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)?

One of the major paradigm shifts of the ICPD in 1994 was the focus and investment in individual human rights, capabilities, and dignity. Rights issues were viewed as cutting across multiple sectors and effects on quality of life. This was viewed as the foundation of sustainable

development. The 1994 ICPD Program of Action (PoA) requires a holistic approach to sustainable development which takes into cognizance the inter-linkages between human rights, women's equality, sexual and reproductive health, population dynamics, on one side and development, and sustainability on the other side.

12. What are the usefulness of having reliable statistics for planning in Nigeria?

13. What are the merits or demerits, and implications of planning without facts in Nigeria?

There are no merits to planning without facts which is another way of saying planning to fail. Nigeria is still akin to planning without facts or using inadequate facts at various levels of governance. And there are variations between LGAs, States, and Federal institutions and agencies on how much fact are considered in formulating policies, programs, and activities. Professor Sam Aluko, a distinguished world class economist once published a popular book titled "Planning without Facts" in which he highlighted the demerits and implications of planning without facts which are common in Nigeria. It is still rampant to find actions taken based on fire brigade approach not based on verifiable data. Planning "without fact" subjects programs/activities to challenges, and constraints that would have been prevented or eliminated at early stages.

14. How are population figures relevant to the planning of the health sector in Nigeria?

15. Explain how population figures can be useful in planning functional educational system in Nigeria?

Census figures are most ideal for planning a functional educational system although survey data may be extrapolated for the same purpose but may need to contend with error issues. Census data are most ideal because it usually include information age, locality, residence, region, and education across population. Information on children, adolescents, and young adults between ages 0 to 25 are vital for planning on current and future education needs. Also, the census data provides population segmentation data right from Enumeration Area (EA), to community, LGA, and state levels by sex, and by urban-rural residence. Also important is the special distribution of the population (based on Geographic Information System—GIS) which captured housing density and during the 2006 Nigeria census. These information are useful for determining how many primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions are needed at any given period, and the amount of school infrastructures as well. The number of schools and the number of pupils per class will help to determine the number of teachers, or lectures needed, and the financial resources or adequate budget to run the educational system effectively and efficiently.

16. What are the linkages if any between population, labor force, and socioeconomic development?

17. How do we plan for the housing needs of a rapidly growing metropolitan area in a country like Nigeria?

The 2006 population census of and housing data will be useful for planning the housing needs of the rapidly growing metro area. A combination of both the population census and housing census will help to estimate average number per house, and per household. These information will then be used to estimate the number houses needed in the metropolis. Also important is information on the socioeconomic status of the population in the area to determine the types of houses and the numbers needed per socioeconomic category. Also important is current information on settlement patterns and spatial distribution of current residents of the metropolis. Lastly, it will be necessary to know the ethnic distribution of the metropolis, and especially the proportion between indigents, old, and most recent migrants. There may be need to specifically relocate and re-settle people around the metropolis, and this may be resisted more by the local indigents than other sub-groups.

18. How would information about population distribution in a state in Nigeria help to plan adequate food and nutrition need of the state?

19. What is a population policy, and what does it entail?

Population policy is a legal document of a country to guide citizens, and institutions on how to make informed decisions on populations and development situations in the country. It also serve as a compendium of immediate and long-term goals and objectives of a government on population growth with respect to three parameters; fertility, mortality, and migration. The overall goal of a population policy is usually to achieve better life for the citizenry. On fertility the policy presents government positions and recommendations (or dictates) on the number of children that household should have, reproductive rights, reproductive health, sexual rights, adolescent rights, family planning, and abortion to mention a few. On mortality is presents government position on safe motherhood, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, health care and prevention. And on migration, it provides guidelines and definitions of a migrant, and the process of assimilation. Most country specific population policy draws from international population and development conference plan of actions.

20. How relevant is population policy in the development process in Nigeria?