

## AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF POPULATION ON ENVIRONMENT\*

### Abstract

*This study shows an assessment of population over time in history till date, its impact on environment, society, global power politics and the economic community as well as roles of various sector ought to play in order to attain an abridged effect. The numerical strength of human inhabitants of a certain locale, who by their increasing numbers and corresponding increasing needs affect the global system, is termed population.*

**Keywords:** Population, Environment, Impact, Assessment

### 1. Introduction

The oxford<sup>1</sup> advanced learners dictionary defines population as the number of all the people who live in a particular area, city or country etc. it can also be described as the inhabitants of a given area, most importantly, the human inhabitants of the earth, who by their increasing numbers and parallel increasing needs can critically affect the universal system source. Population is speedily growing all over the world. Though in some areas it is dilapidating in other parts it is fast growing rapidly, especially in the developing countries, with Nigeria as-a major paradigm. It should be noted that the exact growth in population might be thorny to agree due to incomplete information on the population size of some countries, for example Nigeria. The brisk growth in population and improved socio-economic activities has continued to mount unbelievable pressure on the nation. Births and deaths are not recorded accurately and in some cases, where recorded, are done incompletely, for instance a census held in 1991 records Nigeria's population to be about 88million<sup>2</sup>. However, if one is to comply by the records made in the 2006 census the total amount of Nigerians would me estimated to about 140 million. Exploitation of land which if not satisfactorily checked could result in serious environmental peril<sup>3</sup>. This article is concerned with the effect of population on the Nigerian environment. In this direction, the paper shall consider how human factors has mounted anxiety and tension on the available natural resources and the consequences of such pressures on the Nations wellbeing. But the environment is constituted by the land structure, water systems and the atmosphere which contain all living things: plants, human and even animals<sup>4</sup>, both domesticated and wild. Resources that can be consumed and recovered after use are known as renewable, Renewable is however possible when certain techniques are not implemented in exploitation. On the other hand, Non-renewable resources such as fossils, mineral ores exist in innumerable amount are vulnerable to exhaustion.

Universal population enlarged across the globe was insignificant until the emergence of industries and these growth are in wider range spreading in less developed nations such as Nigeria, the world population grew from about a quarter of a billion to a half a billion. All through the Roman domain to the colonization of America people, however, it had grown to about a billion, and by 1930 it had risen to 2 billion, the estimates that the world population will peak at 10 billion<sup>5</sup> in 2200 as estimated by the United Nations. Population is rising at the rate of 1.2% every year globally, though the growth rate may look small but it also designates that 77 million people are added to the world's population. Advancements in sanitation, technology, sensitization and the means of food allocation as a result of the industrial Revolution made a drop in the death rate in a considerable amount that between the year 1650 and 1900 the population of Europe almost quadrupled (from about 100 million to about 400 million) in spite of considerable emigration. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, a major population difference arose in the comparative growth rates of the urban (0.6%) and developing (2.1%) nations. Africa's annual growth rate is about 3%, compared to 1.7% for Asia, 0.7% in Latin America, and 0.3% in Europe<sup>6</sup>. If current rates hold steady, many developing countries will double their populations in 25 years or less, compared to 50 years or more for industrialized nations. For instance Great Britain is having a present doubling rate of 140 years, while countries like Costa Rica has one of 19 years, As the rate of population growth increased, so it concerns the earth that it might not able to sustain future populations. Interestingly, we observe that, Great Britain has accomplished what is known as demographic transition, i.e, it has moved from a condition of elevated birthrate and high death rate, before the Revolution of industries to one of high birthrate and low death rate during industrialization, and finally to one of low birth rate and low death rate as a post industrial society. Most of the nations in the third world of which Nigeria is a case study are experiencing what is known as population explosion as high birthrate conditions/diminishing death rate are recorded.

---

\*By Moses OMOZUE, Lecturer, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Delta State University, Oleh Campus.

<sup>1</sup> Oxford advanced learners dictionary.

<sup>2</sup> The Guardian Newspaper march 27,2000, p. 14

<sup>3</sup> Oyibodoro U.G The Problems of Town Planning Laws and their Enforcement in Nigeria, LLM seminar paperon Environmental Law, Unpublished, Delsu, 2006 page 1

<sup>4</sup> Oguntoyinbo Omotosho and Ekuwen, 'Meterological Society. 1991 p. 21.

<sup>5</sup> William G Hollingsworth. ending the explosion. Carlifonia (seven Locks Press. 1996) at page 5

<sup>6</sup> Olomo R.O & Kadiri M.A . *Population Geography*. (Benin Anico Fyne. 1999) p. 74

## 2. Population expansion and Circulation in Africa

As recorded in the year 1650, the summation of the people in the African continent was estimated by specialists to be about 100 million. On the other hand, slave trade in the continent during the years of 1650-1750 must have influenced a reduction of the population size to 9 million as agreed by experts in 1750 the population of Africa started to rise again reaching a figure of 133 million in 1900<sup>7</sup>. Africa started to experience regular and rapid growth after 1900, this was recorded by the United Nation in 1980<sup>8</sup> the population of Africa was projected to have amounted to 460 million. Shortly before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, due to diseases, poverty and inter communal wars, population growth became slow and also as a result of the slave trade across the Atlantic Ocean by which a large number of indigenes were taken away from the continent. As was the case with Europe and North America during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the main cause of rapid growth In Africa since the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century is, firstly, the abrupt decline in mortality, especially child mortality which occurred after the Second World War. By a reason of increasing knowledge of improved standard of hygiene and health services influenced the decline. Secondly, the introduction of peace and order which brought recurrent inter and intra tribal and community wars to an end which had reduced the rate of mortality across the continent.

Another reason for the decline in mortality is the rising standards of living resulting from the intensification of agricultural production and the materialization of other sources of revenues. In addition, the issue of early marriage, especially in northern Nigeria and the universality of marriage also contributed to the high fertility rate in Africa. The fecundity rate is remarkably high which is still consistent in the African social setting and has influenced a fast population growth. Despite the observed pattern of population growth in Africa, the rates however vary among the various regions in the continent.

Between 1975 to 1980 the average population growth rates in other African regions stood at 2.6 percent a Annually. A large population of Africa has a population density of less than 10 persons per sq.km. The Central Africa has the lowest density of 8.9 persons per sq.km while South Africa has a density of 10.5 persons per sq.km and West Africa has the highest density with 24.6 persons per sq.km. clearly we see that Population distribution in Africa is not even.

## 3. Issues affecting the Dispersion of Population

We must at this point consider the following factors without isolation as the key influence on population distribution<sup>9</sup>. Numerous social, demographic, economic, political and historical factors, according to the *ex parte* in demography, is never stable and its effects differ in time and space<sup>10</sup>. Olomo and Kadiri identified ten negative and ten positive factors that influence the distribution of population<sup>11</sup>. The ten negative factors they gave as leading to sparse population are; few raw materials very cold areas, poor soils, steep slopes, dense forest, very hot areas, very dry areas, poor water supply, modest industry and low employment rate. The ten positive factors that lead to dense population are: food supply, raw materials, good soils, open grassland, communication networks low land, water supply, pleasant climate industry, jobs and good gentle slopes. The blueprint of distribution in any region of the world is influenced by- numerous factors ranging from environmental to manmade factors which are elaborated beneath:

### Ambience Occupation

The occupation of humans in an area over an elongated period of time is dependent on habitable temperature of the place alongside its rainfall and humidity. For instance a hot and sun scorching climate such as the Sahara is not suitable for the habitation of humans. Besides, cold and freezing, coupled with high and regular rainfall tend to reduce human habitability thus the Northern high latitudes have one-tenth of the total population formed here. The same applies to the deserts of the world that cover nearly 20% of the lithosphere (earth's surface). Ordinarily, population deliberation does not entirely conform to climatic conditions Although, extremes of climate conditions are liable to diminish the enhancing of population growth.<sup>12</sup>Hot temperatures alone do not prevent population concentration but, when accompanied by low and irregular rainfall, they drastically diminish possibility of tenancy, for example, parts of Northern Nigeria, Kenya, Mali and Botswana explain the very sparse population by the small amount of rainfall and the extremely unreliable character of the rainfall In contrast, large concentration of populations in Nigerian cities like Kana and Katsina are located in areas where less than the total rainfall of the sparsely settled forest areas of the Cross River and Bayelsa States of Nigeria which could be attributed to other factors<sup>12</sup>.

---

<sup>7</sup> See U.N Demographic yearbook. 1970

<sup>8</sup> See U.N Demographic yearbook. 1970.

<sup>9</sup> See Supplement to the official gazette Extraordinary No. 27 vol 1. 1993. Part A amended in 1995 to include certain provisions on irrigation

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Op. cit

### **Famine and Ill Health**

In Africa, the peril of trypanosomiasis, which is caused by its host the 'tsetse-fly', which spreads among livestock's causing sleeping illness among human, is one foremost physical factor that influences distribution of population. Its influence is in fact, next to that of rainfall in Nigeria. In Northern Nigeria where the tsetse fly is effectual in the elimination of human existence, it is expected that about 60 percent of the land area is infected. The population density in this area is less than two persons per Sq. Km, even in satisfactory farming rainfall is sufficient. Population distribution has also been affected by other diseases such as River blindness and malaria. How do they affect population adversely?

### **Earth**

Earth or Soil has influenced the distribution of population and it is difficult to isolate from those other physical factors such as rainfall and vegetation. The areas characterized by low soil productivity, soil degeneration and erosion are frequently abandoned. A striking feature is the large population concentration of people in such areas as central Ibo<sup>13</sup> land and parts of Ibibio land in Nigeria are known to have some of the poorest soils. There is incidence of famine in the Sahel region of Africa, especially in Sudan and Ethiopia, affecting the allotment of population in those countries. About two-third of humanity suffer from complete or fractional hunger affecting their bodies and not their reproductive capacity.

### **Finance Features**

In farming society, population distribution is nearly linked with the mode of agricultural practice and harvests. In high yield food crop localities, population density tends to be higher than in those localities distinguished by little yield. Regions where farming is intensive and mechanized are always designated by elevated population density while reduced density characterized areas where extensive bush fallowing systems are observed.

### **Political Factors**

Political factors affecting population distribution varies from district to district. Apartheid, as experienced by South Africa has influenced population rather than others. In South Africa with a population of about 21 million, of which 15 million are blacks, only 20% of land was allocated to the blacks while the white minority group claims 80% of the land<sup>14</sup>. Therefore, Africa was largely based on government policy as observed in the distribution of population in South. Resettlement is also a government policy. The resettlement of indigenes displaced by such huge man-made lakes eg; Kariba Lake, lake Kainiji and the Volta Lake and have affected the distribution or redistribution of population in some areas of the African continent. Show that there is discrimination and that seem political.

### **Machinery and Trade**

The advancement of technology as replicated in the industrialized development, enhanced transport systems, and commerce has led to concentration of population in definite portions of the world, which are privileged by such maturity. In Africa, technological development and social change have been reflected in urban development, and this has largely enhanced increased inhabitants in urban centers for example Kaduna, Abuja, Enugu Lagos, Port Harcourt etc. Other factors such as minerals as well as vegetation manipulate inhabitants' distribution, in addition to the other factors already discussed above collectively influence the distribution of persons on the surface of the earth.

### **Supposition of Zoning and Arrangement**

The escalating strain on the utilization of land is accumulated by the aggressive competition and sometimes resulting to conflicts is put, particularly in the urban socio-economic structure. If these pressures are not erected and restrained, it could result to pollution<sup>15</sup> in the surrounding and risk which are inbuilt in chaotic use of land. In detection of this peril, the Urban and Provincial Planning Laws have adopted the zoning advancement<sup>16</sup>.

### **Zoning**

The guideline and restriction of real property by a certain government is referred to as Zoning is, in other words, zoning is the essential prohibition of a vicinity for particular principle. Also, the most universal technique of land-use regulation, as municipalities rely on it to control the improvement of material goods within their boundaries, according to present and probable uses of the property. Zoning entails the separation of terrain based on the disposition of land and structures and their suitability in line with a certain use, deliberation is given to conserving

---

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Op Cit.

<sup>15</sup> Omotola J.A. *Essay on Nigeria Law*. Lagos. (Adoa Press. 1990) . P.16

<sup>16</sup> For example the Urban and Regional Planning Law. Laws of Delta state 2003

the worth of property and encouraging the most suitable use of land in a given region. We can derive from the state in an execution exercise of its police municipality's power to endorse zoning policy. The power to enforce zoning restrictions is conferred on an area by a state enabling statute. Police power is the inherent authority of the administration to take action for the wellbeing of those contained by its jurisdiction regulations made on zoning are proposed to encourage the wellbeing, land prosperity, safety, happiness, convenience, ethics of the community at large, and are meant to promote the general interests instead of promoting the financial benefit of any certain proprietor. They are intended to alleviate areas and safeguard the nature and quality of the population by regulating its development in time to come<sup>17</sup>. The sole aim of zoning is to separate residential, commercial, and industrialized structures from one another as conceived in the Abuja master plan. Within these three main types of districts there may be added limitations as to population density and structure elevation. The case of *Ademola v Rutili & Ors*<sup>18</sup> is very instructive at this juncture. The use of property within an exacting area is for the most part even. For instance, if a district is zoned for industrial use, no family buildings are usually acceptable there. e.g. the FCT, Abuja. On the other hand, if a residential building is built before the laws are made it is can be tolerable to stay. This immunity is referred to nonconforming use borough exercise wide discretion in fixing the boundaries of commercial and industrial districts. A number of regulations<sup>19</sup> have been authorized in order to protect residential neighborhood from intrusion by petrol stations, factories producing smoke commercial institution selling harsh alcoholic drinks while zonal regulations are being indicted, a metropolis takes many things into deliberation. Most majorly the density of the inhabitants, the location and material features and Natural characteristics of the environment involved, the permitted use on land in the surrounding area transportation, the suitability to allowed utility, the character of neighborhoods in the society; the open uses and zoning of other close houses, the effect of; any potential decrease in property values; the gain to the public at great weighed against economic hardships imposed on individual property owners, and the time span at which the property has remained undeveloped, reviewed in the perspective of land improvement in the region in full.

#### **The perception of most advantageous Population**

Experts have been able to analyze population and incomes by in the field leading to the discovery of numerous concepts like maximum population and minimum population, over population, under population, optimum population. Nevertheless, no steady meaning in time and space have been made on these concepts. Therefore, optimum in an area may either be under population or over population in another region's inhabitants with diverse financial and intellectual rankings. Changing societal and monetary circumstances signify that optimum population at a time may be of more than populace at another. Preferably, the idea of optimum population has been related with the whole residents, which is the perfect extent to live and work in a region. In such an area a higher total populace would produce an outcome of over population in the area and lower total in its being under populated. Thus, the measurement of the optimum population is in essence economic as the expression, more often than not, is defined in economic terms as the number of people that, in a given natural, *cultural and social environment, produces highest financial profits*. The indicators of its existence (optimum population) in any area includes, though not restricted to, high average living standards, full employment, national development of increasing resources and balanced demographic structures<sup>20</sup>.

#### **4. Under Population and Over Population**

##### **The conception of under population**

Under population may perhaps be considered where the natural resources present could support a larger population without lowering the standard of living or increasing unemployment or as the condition by which a population is observed too minute to make use of its full natural resources, or the fanner is although its occurrence is very rare except in the case of cut off inhabitants where numbers are capable of adequate economic production.

##### **Usual demographic substitution**

This concept may also occur at in the state of Zambia possessing low technological levels, as seen among the pastoral nomads regions. Under-population may occur within people with prominent standards of living who are involved in extensive agricultural practices. It is mainly common in the places like New Zealand<sup>21</sup>, the prairies of Canada and some parts of Australia.

##### **Over population and Upper Limit Population**

Upper limit population is situation whereby the population is above which the land can cater for with a larger

---

<sup>17</sup> See *Ipadeola & Anor vs. Abiodun* (1987) 3 NWLR (PT 59) 18

<sup>18</sup> Unreported Suit No.: LD/784/84 of 21/9/85

<sup>19</sup> See Section 8 DELSEPA Edict. 1997 see also section 21 FEPA ACT. Cap F 10 LFN.2004.

<sup>20</sup> Op. Cit at P.93.

<sup>21</sup> This may also be attributed to the pattern of settlement of virgin territories that is New Zealand

number of people having a decline in living standards and a high rate in mortality. Although this type of population is unachievable in a present economy system but may be attained especially where isolated in an ancient subsistence economy, when there is a balance in birth and death rates. Nevertheless, one should agree with it that there is no genuine estimation of a complete maximum world population because of the advancement of techniques by humans. Decline in resources, a decline in labor demand, or a combination of these factors can be a result of this population influence. Over population is an observable fact the available resources development does not correspond with population development that is in disparity with under population, which are present in areas where population is too minute to consume fully its resources or where the resources could sustain a bigger population without reducing already living standards or reducing employment rate. Provision of quality shelter, clothing, education, standard health care amenities, poverty and even corruption are primarily the world population problems

### **5. Harmful Impact of Population on Surroundings**

In an area, people tend to increase the extent to which the environment is polluted. However, the higher the population, the higher pollution is produced. Fast population growth in the urban parts of Africa is related to different structures of pollution in the environment. Land, water, and air in and about the urban areas tends to take in and also take away a large amount of the pollutants from the city. In line with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)<sup>22</sup>, Obasi the secretary of the body states that 25 million people die from water pollution in the developing countries every year and not only that but also it is obvious as a result of struggle for water for farming and other basic activities, which has caused many of the people to make use of unsafe water. As they are left with no other better choice specialist, has also proven that water tables around the world are falling. As a result of this fall in water tables, underground aquifers are wearing-out, lakes and swamps are shrinking, and according to the United Nations and the Stockholm, this is critical to the survival of vegetation and animals. Two thirds of population all over the globe will be affected by scarcity of water as recorded in 2007 by the Environmental Institute, and for this reason, it has also been foreseen those agitations over vacant supplies of fresh water such as rivers will be the cause of conflicts in time to come.

The rise in the use of automobiles is a main cause of air pollution in cities. These vehicles infuse contaminated fumes into the atmosphere whenever they are in use. Industries in cities e.g. Ibadan, Kano, Port Harcourt and Lagos, contaminants are released into the atmosphere by industries thereby cause acid rain when nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide are injected into the atmosphere. For instance, gaseous pollutant released into the air in Warri refinery during petrochemical activities. Air pollution can also result from uncontrolled solid wastes dumped by inhabitants<sup>23</sup>. Discharge made into rivers is main cause pollution in water especially in urban environment by private industries. An example of such areas is the industrial plants such as the scrap iron and steel mill and the asbestos factory at Emene who discharge effluents into the Eku River. These effluents are released at low temperature, which decrease the quantity of oxygen held in solution and increase the temperature of the water thereby amounting threats on aquatic creatures. The discharge of household sewages<sup>24</sup> into water bodies is yet another source of this pollution. Farming, production or mining activities among others tends to breakdown the soil as well as soil erosion. Oil spills and contributions petroleum activities are yet another cause of this pollution<sup>25</sup>. A further type of pollution is noise pollution. The growing pace of increased traffic volumes has increased noise levels in urban areas. Urban noise is created by a combination of some of the following, plants and machinery<sup>26</sup>, radio, television, loudspeakers from social activities such as parties. It should be prominent that some business and manufacturing hub, Intensity of noise-made is about 70 to 75 decibels, which is in close range to the human stress level. A tolerable noise level ought that which is not above 45 to 50 decibels. It is well known that relentless and loud noise is damaging to life as it adds to stress and strain in urban living, incessant noisy environments cause nervous disorders, ill temper and even road accidents. This issue of noise pollution is connected to inappropriate housing as a result of the rapid increase in population resulting poor housing quality as fifty people live in a house and a family of six occupying a single room, as seen in Agege, Ajegunle, Oshodi, Nyanyan and the areas of Lagos and Abuja slums respectively.

Other effects of rapid increase in population on the environment are discussed below, failure to keep bio-diversity. There should be an equilibrium between man, animal and plant. However, this balance has been lost, that is, the ecosystem has been destroyed by deforestation. The Amazon Forest, for example is at the brink of destruction. Natural habitats of some wild-lives have been devastated due to deforestation of lands for construction of houses,

---

<sup>22</sup> Impact of increase population: our continent Africa magazine. Ce-rase Lagos vol. No. 1. 1999 @ page .13

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Op . cit at p. 12

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> See *Tebite v. Nigeria Marine Trading Co. Ltd.* See also *Abiola v. Ijeoma* (1970) All NLR 268.

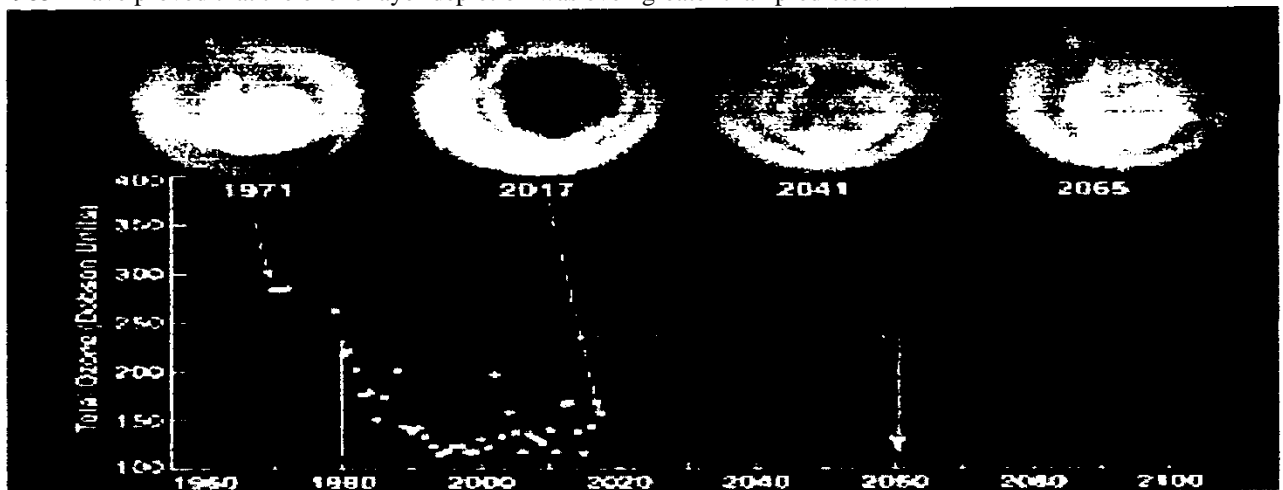
factories amusement parks etc purposes and for timber and for mechanized agriculture to yield enough crops to feed the heaving population. As a result of the destruction of natural habitats of some animals occasioned by deforestation, some of these animals, finding it impossible to continue to exist elsewhere, have gone extinct.

### Universal Balmy

Scientists say that there has been a steady rise in world temperature even in the last five decades. This rise is ascribed to the carbon dioxide released and if these trees are destroyed, the carbon dioxide releases heat into the atmosphere and causes a warm environment, which causes several other problems such as melting of the icebergs thereby causing pollution in the coast. Accordingly, global warming leads to rise in sea water level, thereby causing erosion, flooding and droughts. 39 global or universal warming is also a result of bush burning, and this accounts for about 20% of carbon dioxide in the air.<sup>27</sup>

### Ozone Lessening

There is a shield protecting the earth from direct rays of the sun known as the ozone layer. Farmers' finding in 1985<sup>28</sup> have proved that the ozone layer depletion was even greater than predicted.?



### The Ozone layer UCAR Center for<sup>29</sup>

The pollution of the atmosphere by gases from herbicides, insecticides and other chemicals which were meant for good is causing the depletion of the ozone layer, thereby leading to environmental dreadful conditions. Most skin diseases and low productivity in agriculture are attributed to the ultraviolet rays from the sun, The increase in ultra-violet radiation is also responsible for deterioration of synthetic materials such as paints and other materials used in the building industry, causing consequential deterioration of housing delivery to our ever-increasing human population.

### Terra Firma Dreadful Conditions

This is one of the worst environmental problems facing many people in not only Nigeria but also worldwide. More than 40 million people<sup>30</sup> are victims of food shortage in Nigeria resulting in land degradation and health problems. Below is a list of the causes of land degradation,<sup>31</sup> though not meticulous, includes:

- (a) destruction of wet land and marshes for development
- (b) flooding and wind erosion menace.
- (c) over grazing and over cropping of arable lands
- (d) destructive logging of our forest
- (e) land degradation with pesticides and fertilizer
- (f) improper resource management

Other indirect causes of degradation include population growth and population influx and the use of inappropriate technology for farming and even for producing manufactured goods.

### Decline in Forest Grassland and Crop Land

This decline results from our simple agricultural and industrial practices. Federal Ministry of Agriculture

<sup>27</sup> See *Newswatch Magazine*. Lagos. June 11. 1990 at p.29

<sup>28</sup> Uchegbu S.N..Op cit at p.11

<sup>29</sup> Wikipedia(ozone layer)

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

published some statistics not long ago which showed that Nigeria has lost a total of 285,000 sq. km to different forms of soil degradation, that is, almost 1/3 of its total land area of 924,000 sq.km<sup>32</sup> The statistics shows similar loss in the country's forest and woodland, losing over 3.7 million hectares of forest and woodland and between 1987 and 1994.

### **Spotlight on Nigeria**

Mr J. Bill Musoke, former United Nations Fund representative in Nigeria<sup>33</sup>, posited that the population of Nigeria has grown from about 88.5 million in 1991 to 111.5 million in the year 2000<sup>34</sup>. Thereby making Nigeria the most populous country in Africa as a whole; accounting for 20% of the population of Africa and is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest country in the globe, Nigeria is rated the 7<sup>th</sup> largest country as recorded the year 2010, coming after China, India, United States of America, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Japan and Bangladesh. At the current population growth of 3.8 percent From 1960 when Nigeria gained independence excluding, the current government, preceding governments have not paid meaningful consideration to the increasing development of the nation's population. The most awful part is that the nation's 3<sup>rd</sup> National Development Plan, which witness huge profits from crude oil a false sense of development in the minds of Nigerians and its government was thus satisfied that the nation's economy was satisfactorily capable of sustaining a speedily rising population whereas the available resources cant cater for the growing population nevertheless, the diminishing crude oil revenue and the depression of the Nigerian economy as a result of the world's economic recession and international oil glut prompted, the need for strategic changes by the administration. The federal government formulated the National Policy of Population<sup>35</sup> in 1988 for development, aimed at providing good standard of living for everyone in Nigeria. In Nigeria, the population policy was aimed also to encourage and enhance good health and welfare for all, especially in preventing untimely death and illness among high-risk groups of people achieve lower population growth rates through reduction of birth rate by voluntary regulations method and to achieve a more organized distribution of population between metropolitan and pastoral parts of the country.

On the other hand, since the emergence of the population policy slight advantageous changes have been achieved in terms of implementation due to the political unsteadiness of the nation and the lack of political will and dedication on the part of law makers. population increases by about eleven persons a minute in Nigeria as recorded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), which means 660 persons are added every hour. Given the present estimated growth rate, the population of Nigeria is expected 250 million by the year 2020 which is about double of what it used to be. This present rise in population rate has intense effect on the nation's environment<sup>36</sup>. Professor Felicia Oyekanmi of University of Lagos records the situation stating. The burden of population is creating enormous economic, social and political pressures leading to increase poverty, mass migration especially to the urban centres in search of apparently non existing jobs, brain drain of highly qualified professionals often out of the country because of frustration, civil unrest and further depletion of natural resource base.<sup>37</sup> Poverty rate in the rural area is twice that of the urban. Clearly avoid the poor people in Nigeria has risen to over 68 million with a greater portion of it in rural areas. The Federal Office of Statistics records indicate that 43% of the populations were living below the poverty line in 1985. This situation has not really changed much even with the present government policy on poverty alleviation.<sup>38</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> See *Daily Champion* Newspaper of April 19. 2001 at page13

<sup>34</sup> See united nations populations Fund Report on Nigeria for the year 2000

<sup>35</sup> The policy suggest that every couple should have four children

<sup>36</sup> See *Daily Champion* of April 19. 2001

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Wikipedia

Year	Population	Yearly % Change	Yearly Change	Migrants (net)	Median Age	Fertility Rate	Density (P/Km <sup>2</sup> )	Urban Pop %	Urban Population	Country's Share Of World Pop	World Population
2020	206,139,589	2.55%	5,175,990	-60,000	18.1	5.42	226	52.0%	107,112,526	2.64%	7,794,798,739
2019	200,963,599	2.60%	5,088,916	-60,000	17.9	5.67	221	51.2%	102,805,995	2.61%	7,713,468,100
2018	195,874,683	2.62%	5,001,439	-60,000	17.9	5.67	215	50.3%	98,610,801	2.57%	7,631,091,040
2017	190,873,244	2.64%	4,913,003	-60,000	17.9	5.67	210	49.5%	94,525,016	2.53%	7,547,858,925
2016	185,960,241	2.66%	4,822,793	-60,000	17.9	5.67	204	48.7%	90,546,177	2.49%	7,464,022,049
2015	181,137,448	2.71%	4,526,850	-60,000	17.9	5.74	199	47.8%	86,673,094	2.45%	7,379,797,139
2010	158,503,197	2.68%	3,927,636	-60,000	17.9	5.91	174	43.5%	68,949,828	2.28%	6,956,823,603
2005	138,865,016	2.58%	3,316,233	-34,000	18.0	6.05	152	39.1%	54,288,918	2.12%	6,541,907,027
2000	122,283,850	2.53%	2,867,103	-19,005	17.9	6.17	134	34.9%	42,627,440	1.99%	6,143,493,823
1995	107,94	2.54%	2,547,177	-19,154	17.7	6.37	119	32.2%	34,785,545	1.88%	5,744,212,979



	8,335										
1990	95,212,450	2.64%	2.64% 2,329,933	-18,281	17.4	6.60	105	29.7%	28,276,132	1.79%	5,327,231,061
1985	38,562,785	2.62%	2,027,830	-135,413	17.5	6.76	92	25.7%	21,434,266	1.72%	4,870,921,740
1980	73,423,633	2.99%	2,009,867	164,143	18.0	6.76	81	22.0%	16,139,321	1.65%	4,458,003,514
1975	63,374,298	2.51%	1,478,431	-7,705	18.3	6.61	70	19.8%	12,535,584	1.55%	4,079,480,606
1970	55,982,144	2.23%	1,170,845	-8,669	18.7	6.35	61	17.8%	9,942,297	1.51%	3,700,046
1965	50,127,921	2.12%	997,893	204	19.0	6.35	55	16.6%	8,296,771	1.50%	3,339,583,597
1960	45,138,458	1.90%	810,472	541	19.1	6.35	50	15.4%	6,955,737	1.49%	3,034,949,748
1955	41,086,100	1.65%	645,270	674	19.1	6.35	45	12.1%	4,952,844	1.48%	2,773,019,933

Per capital medical expenses in the country is less than that of some other countries in Africa. Improvements in Nigeria's medical services are occurring at a slow pace. Public health services are compromised by inadequate resources. Nigeria children have poor health just like in other African countries. Under five mortalities, that is, the probability of a new born dying before reaching the age of five, is 20% in Nigeria compared to 15% in Ghana and nine 9% in Kenya. Nigeria has one of the lowest life expectancies averaging about 52 years males and 53 years for females, compared with 64 years for males and 67 years for females in other Africa countries such as Egypt<sup>39</sup>. The management of the individual country's population should be done to improve the lives of her citizens, population growth through proper management will enable it not to exceed the countries financial income.

## 6. Recommendations

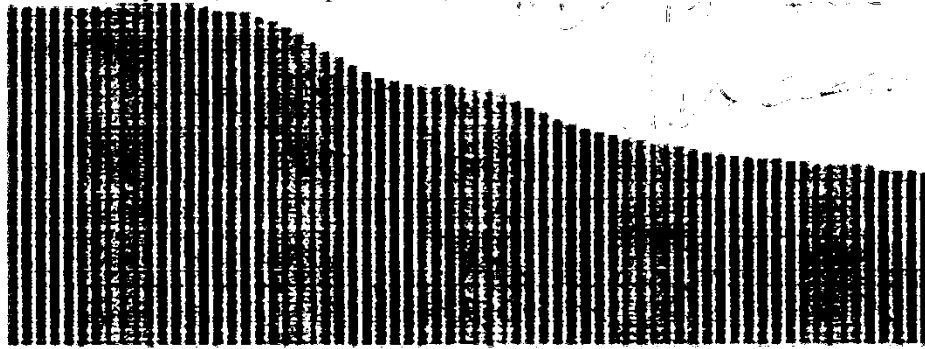
Humanity cannot ignore all the caution signs of both over population and resources misuse with its evil of global warming, to wholesale species annihilation, to desertification; to massive soil erosion; to ground water depletion; to carbon dioxide build-up; to depletion; to massive pollution; to high infant, child, and maternal mortality; to

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

prevalent malnutrition, and other tragic scarcities, without doing so to its own peril. It was reported<sup>40</sup> that Nigeria might lose 3.8 million people to global warming if concerted efforts to check the occurrence of major environmental problems ravaging the country are not put in place. A relevant question to be asked at this point in time is, how do we lower the fecundity rate of couples so as to trim down the rate of population?

*Fecundity rate could be reduced through improvement of women's education:* Emphasis should be placed on the enlightenment of women, in order to ensure a little family size.

Global fertility rate (livebirths per woman)



*Early marriage:* Government should try to see that early marriage is prohibited among its citizens

*Fear of being aged:* A scheme should be made such as standard pension systems to make sure that old people are entitled to some sensible income or care by the society. This will prevent couples from having plenty of children with the expectation of receiving financial support from their offspring.

*Encouragement:* certain couples that have accepted to practice birth control and adhered to the government policy regarding population control encouraged by giving rewards

*Establishment of family Planning health center:* management in villages, towns and even cities should establish such clinic at a very approachable manners and services to be sold at subsidized rates or even dispersed without monetary costs.

*Consequences for populated families:* Government can invent a means of penalizing couples that brings into being many children, such couples should be fined for example, An significant instance of mandatory populace control is China's one-child guiding rule, in which having more than one child is made extremely unappealing. And in order to promote this, the government has established several family planning clinics throughout the country. Failure to comply by families amounts to punishments especially if they are civil servant in form of monetary fines, community services etc. In like manner, in Singapore official policy is for every couple to have two children. they are to pay a fine and the amount of fine increase with the number of added children. The existing Laws on population should also be definite to ensure population control. For instance, sections 153 (J), 158 (2) and 213 of the constitution are vague and therefore ineffective in checking population explosion. It is therefore suggested that more stringent provisions should be made in the National Population Commission Act towards ensuring proper control of population growth in Nigeria although, through migration, Increasing food production and Sustainable development. The most fundamental problem facing the world population today is food.

---

<sup>40</sup> Vanguard. Tuesday. October 9. 2001 at p.25.