

**THE IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON THE SOCIO ECONOMIC
ACTIVITIES IN EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY

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**RESEARCH WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND
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REGIONAL PLANNING**

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that this study was carried out by **EZEOGARANYA JOHNPAUL CHIGOZIE**
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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my beloved parents and to God Almighty.

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I am very grateful to God almighty who has been awesomely faithful to me in all things for giving me the privilege of studying in this noble institution.

I also like to appreciate my Project Supervisor, Mr E. E. Oboh for his kind gesture towards me and making my work to be successful. I also want to appreciate the Head of Department, Prof. G. O. Atedhor, the Project Coordinator Mrs E. Otabor-Olubor and my course Adviser, Dr. (Mrs) V. S. Balogun for their great advice. I sincerely want to appreciate other lecturers in the department of geography and regional planning who in different ways have been a blessing to me.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state as a case study. It consisted of three (3) research questions, which were used to elicit data from the respondents. The study adopted the survey design. Three research questions were raised and one hypothesis was formulated and tested in the study. The population under study was 445,800, which comprised of the population in Egor LGA of Edo state as at the time of this research. 100 residents formed the research sample size using Taro Yamane sampling technique. The research instrument used was the structured questionnaire, which was administered to the respondents by the researcher. The data gathered was analyzed using the IBM SPSS statistics (version 19), where descriptive statistics (Frequency, simple percentage and count) was used to analyze the responses and t-test used to test the hypothesis formulated. Results from the analyzed data indicated that overpopulation is caused by various factors which over the years, has caused damages to the socio economic health of Egor LGA. The study recommends that there should be campaigns to sensitize families on the need to maintain a manageable family size will go a long way in reducing the population size. Secondly, Nigerian families especially the men need to be sensitized on the unbiased strengths of a female child. Lastly policies that check immigration should be taken seriously.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The world population is becoming progressively urban. To accommodate urban population inflow and to promote development, better planning and effective management is needed (United Nations, 2009). It has been clear throughout time that human capital plays a crucial role in promoting growth and development. This is because only in the existence of human capital can the productivity needed to promote economic growth be attained. In this sense, a growing population might be seen as a good thing, particularly if it includes young people who are engaged in economic activities. However, when population growth outperforms the growth of economic and social, the effects can be unfavorable; especially for per capita income (Galore 2005). Through three main mechanisms, a population boom can lower per capita incomes. First off, it puts more population pressure on natural resources, particularly land. Second, it may result in a shortage of goods and services, which frequently raises prices (consumption cost). Finally, it results in a fall in capital accumulation and savings because a family's tendency to save declines as its expenses increase (World Data Bank, 2020). Additionally, population expansion has a negative impact on food, migration, the environment, health, employment, education, poverty, and inequality. These elements are all involved in economic growth. Age, geographic, and social

mobility are other characteristics of the population besides numbers that affect economic outcomes for individuals and society as a whole.

Over population is a very big threat to the socio-economic development of any given country most especially when the available resources are unavailable to cater for the needs and yearnings of the people, coupled with bad leadership and governance or political instability as found in our country Nigeria. Slowly increasing throughout human history, there were only 1.6 billion people on the planet at the start of the 20th century. Today, after about 115 years, the world's population has surpassed 7.1 billion individuals (Maura & Jason, 2014). During this time, the world has witnessed tremendous development-including innovations in education, infrastructure, health care and technology-but more than 2 billion people still live in poverty and remain left out of this progress.

As many countries of the world may have different levels of population, our country Nigeria has been recognized worldwide as one of the most populated countries of the world to the extent of being popularly referred to as the “Giant of Africa” (World Health Organization, 2006). Youth made up a sizable chunk of Nigeria's population in 2012, accounting for about 42.54% of the country's total population. Nigeria, with an estimated 211 million inhabitants, makes up almost half of West Africa's population, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (2016). (World Bank,2021). Her population is increasing at a pace of 3.75% each year, which equals a

population doubling every 23 years (Lagos State Government, 2007). All societal objectives are grounded in the idea that population is important. All constructive actions that drive the transformation of the human environment and usher in sustainable development have it as their object and subject.

Reducing poverty and unfairness and improving people's lives while protecting the environment and the welfare of future generations is the government of Nigeria's biggest issue today. At the same time, the world's population is still increasing by more than 80 million people year, with the majority of this growth taking place in the least developed nations.. According to the United Nation's medium projection, the world's population will increase to 9.6 billion people by 2050, and will continue to grow through 2100 (United Nations, 2010). Strong ramifications for wellbeing, health, and economic growth result from this continuous expansion. Leaders of all nations must consider how population growth affects their countries' development and what needs to be done to address the problems associated with overpopulation. Over Population in any society creates highly unfavourable circumstances for economic development and puts pressure on available resources. Social type capital like housing, health services, educational facilities, water supply, transportation, electricity among others are not sufficient for the urban centres (Oduwaye, 2009).

In the current pace of national development, it is obvious to say that one of the biggest issues any government of the country faces is the issue of how to extend its developmental projects and activities to all areas and all citizens of the country. Their failure to do this, however, brings about negative influences and criticism to such a government or regime and also poses some constraints to the development of the country. However, the Nigerian populace is one of the biggest beneficiaries of such a government or regime. Because of these, Nigeria is known for having low standards of living, poor educational systems, few social welfare programs, and low per-capita income, among other things that are highly bad for the nation's socioeconomic development and its standing in the eyes of the world. The housing conditions, drainage and sewage system are in a deplorable state and therefore calls for an engineered effort to remedy the existing situation. In an effort to meet the housing needs and demands of the growing population, inhabitants end up settling in overcrowded areas or regions that are too small to support them. This in turn, affects their state of health and livelihood. Summarily, the rapid population growth in Nigeria has had severe consequences on the nation's development. The most severe ones include insecurity problems, endemic poverty, significant inequality, and unemployment.

This study therefore explores the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities of Nigeria, using Egor Local Government Area of Edo state as a case study. So, in this study, our focus is on Nigeria's population growth rate over the years, with an emphasis on the causes and consequences of a burgeoning population growth.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nigeria's current economic status is generally not optimistic (World Bank, 2020). Due to declining commodity prices, the 2014 economic recession period slowed economic growth and had a profoundly negative impact on living standards (world bank, 2008). Despite the fact that the Nigerian government has consistently implemented economic and social policies aimed at enhancing individual social welfare and acting as a catalyst for economic activity, all of their efforts have been ineffective due to the country's rapidly expanding population and scarce resources. The world bank (2008) reports rising unemployment rates, severe insecurity, particularly in the north, deteriorating infrastructure, declining disposable incomes, and unpredictable prices. Nigeria would have a serious issue if the current population trend continues in the upcoming years.

Over the years, Nigeria has sported a bleak expression as a result of its high population rate, which clearly has a negative impact on any nation's economy. Writers have previously emphasized the detrimental effects of high population on economic growth, which include: cancellation of the economy's average output due to high population; low and stagnant average income; pressure on the creation of jobs, urban housing, space, standard of living, access to quality education, health facilities, and other infrastructure; scarcities; economic hardship; malnutrition and a high death rate. The increased population caused by this high death rate will be balanced out by it. This demonstrates the existence of a long-term innate reverse mechanism.

Nowadays, a lot of families in developing nations have more children than they want or experience mistimed pregnancies. More than 220 million women in poor nations like Nigeria desire to space out their upcoming pregnancies or stop having children, but they are not using a contemporary technique of family planning. And in cases where their husbands are stubbornly recalcitrant, this does not lead to the intended results. These obviously have an impact on population increase. Unwanted pregnancies contribute to high fertility and population growth, which affect a country's population size, age distribution, need for social services, availability of natural resources, and labor force size. These elements have an impact on both the size of the labor force and the size of the development difficulties. These elements have an impact on the size of development difficulties as well as the methods and financial commitments needed to manage them. The majority of leaders are aware that development initiatives require ongoing investments in employment, education, health care, and natural resources. However, the risks associated with these investments, including the issues of poverty, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, gender discrimination, and job creation, are increased by the rapid population expansion in many emerging nations like Nigeria. Additionally, it strains the availability of fresh water, electricity, and agricultural land. It is in the light of the above that this study seeks to examine the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities of Egor L.G.A of Edo state.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the problems under investigation the following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the causes of overpopulation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state?
2. What are the effects of overpopulation on the socio-economic activities of Egor Local Government Area of Edo state?
3. What are the recommended solutions to the problem of overpopulation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state?

1.4 Aim and Objectives

The major aim of the study is to examine the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities of Egor Local Government Area of Edo state, Nigeria. Specifically the objectives of the study seeks to determine;

- i. the causes of overpopulation in Egor LGA of Edo State.
- ii. the effects of overpopulation on the socio-economic activities in Egor LGA of Edo State.
- iii. the recommended solutions to the problem of overpopulation in Egor LGA of Edo State

1.5 Research Hypothesis

- i. Overpopulation does not have any effect on the socio-economic activities in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state.

1.6 Significance of the Study

One of the key factors to the economic growth and development of any country is Population growth. There are diverse opinions on the consequences of population on the socio-economic growth of a society, so this study will contribute to the knowledge base and offer information about Egor L.G.A of Edo state.

In a bid to educate the society, this study is significant as it educates private as well as public sector in designing such programs and projects which can help bring a balance between population growth and economic growth. There are very few studies on the subject with respect to Egor L.G.A so it will provide information to the scholars and policy makers. This study will demonstrate how population expansion will impact economic development and growth, and it will offer useful information on a number of crucial aspects so that policy may be created in light of the findings and can promote economic growth.

This study will also provide information about the causes of overpopulation. It will help the researcher and general public to know whether socio-cultural practices and beliefs have led parents to support more children. The study will also help ascertain whether overpopulation has

any effect on the economy and to what extent it can affect the economy. Finally, this study will enlighten Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations on how to solve problems associated with overpopulation in Edo State.

1.7 Location and Size of Study Area

1.7.1 Location of Egor Local Government Area

In Nigeria, Edo State includes the Local Government Area of Egor. Uselu, where its headquarters are located. Egor is one of the LGAs that are part of the larger metropolitan area of [Benin City](#). Its located in latitude 6.3575° north and longitude 5.5755° east (see figure 1.1, figure 1.2 and figure 1.3).



Fig 1.1: Nigeria showing Edo State
Source: Nigeria location map.svg



Fig. 1.2. Edo state showing Egor Local Government Area
 Source: <https://nigerianinfopedia.com.ng>

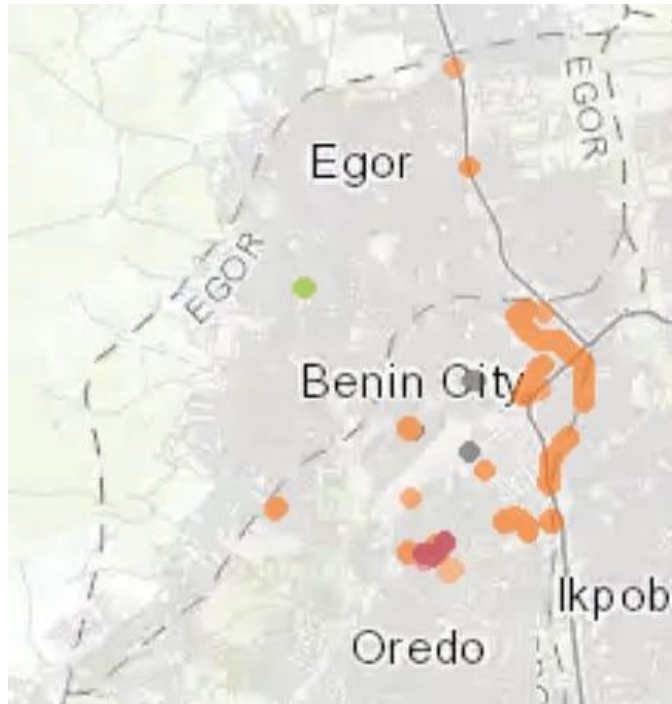


Fig. 1.3. Egor Local Government Area
Source: Wikidata.com

Table 1: The Population of Nigeria 1911-2006

Population (Million)										
Region	1911	1921	1931	1952/53	1962	1963	1973 (high)	1973	1991	2006
Northern	8.12 50.60%	10.56 56.41%	11.44 57.03%	16.84 55.36%	22.01 48.60%	29.78 53.50%	32.00 48.85%	51.38 64.42%	47.26 53.40%	-
Eastern	4.50	5.11	4.55	7.22	12.33	12.39	18.00	13.75	18.92	-
Western	2.15	2.17	2.95	4.60	8.10	10.28	11.00	8.92	11.91	-
Mid-western	1.21	0.78	0.99	1.49	2.40	2.53	3.00	3.24	4.73	-
Lagos	0.07	0.10	0.13	0.27	0.45	0.68	1.50	2.47	5.69	9013534
Total Southern	7.93 49.40%	8.62 42.64%	8.62 42.64%	13.58 44.64%	23.28 51.40%	25.88 46.50%	33.50 51.15%	28.38 35.58%	41.25 46.60%	-
Total Nigeria	16.05	18.72	20.06	30.42	45.29	55.66	65.50	79.76	88.51	140.0

Sources: S.A. Aluko (1974): Nigeria Crucial Count *Africa: An International Business, Economic and Political Monthly No. 29 pp 12-15, 1995 (based on the preliminary population figures of 88.5m) NPC, 1998

Table 2: Recorded Census Population and Intercensal Growth Rate

Census year	Population (million)	Period of years		Growth Rate (%)	
		A Intercensal	B From 1953	A Intercensal	B From 1953
1911	16.05	-	42	-	1.52
1921	18.72	10	32	1.54	1.52
1931	20.06	10	22	0.69	1.89
1952/53	30.42	22	0	1.89	-
1963	55.66	10	10	6.04	6.04
1973	79.76	10	20	3.60	4.82
1991	88.99	18	38	0.61	2.82
2006	140.0	15	53	3.02	2.88

Source: NPC, 1998 National Bureau of Statistics, 2009 The Guardian, January 10, 2007

Table 3: Population Size of Egor Local Government Area

<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Population</u> Census 1991-11-26	<u>Population</u> Census 2006-03-21	<u>Population</u> Projection 2016-03-21
Egor	Local Government Area	...	340,287	445,800
Nigeria	Federal Republic	88,992,220	140,431,790	193,392,500

Source: National Bureau of Statistics and the National Population Commission of Nigeria (web).

1.8 Economic activities of Egor local government area

The predominant occupation of this local government area used to be Farming, but its no longer common like in the past due to land unavailability. Some indigenes work with the federal or state government and private companies. Trading is the primary profession for both men and women. It was not possible to compute the average yearly income because of the non-availability of jobs. There are also few employment opportunities for the youths.

The only employment opportunities besides farming in the community are self employment and civil service for the men. The major type of job available for male youths in the LGA are daily paid labour jobs. Majority of the people in the community are self-employed. They are into trading, tailoring, hairdressing, motorcycle riding, etc.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

To fully understand the concept behind the impact of overpopulation on the socio-economic development of Egor LGA of Edo State, the review of literature was organized in the following ways; Firstly, we will talk about Population growth, then overpopulation and its effect on socio economic activities. The context of Nigeria's census, why Nigeria's population keeps increasing and the effects it has had over the years then theoretical review.

2.1. Literature Review

2.1.1. Population Growth

In the last two centuries, population growth has been an important subject for policy makers internationally, as the world witnessed a significant increase in the population. The human population is growing by about 83 million annually. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimates that the world's population will increase from one billion in 1800 to around 7.5 billion in 2018 and approximately 11 billion by the year 2100 ("World" 2018). Many countries with significant population growth have low living standards, while many countries with low population growth have high living standards. Intellectuals have discussed the following: Others contend that people will be able to deal with the issues while others issue dire warnings.

Thomas Malthus was a well-known early philosopher who warned against population expansion (1798). English academic Thomas Malthus had a significant impact on political economy and demography. Malthus stated that while food supply expand arithmetically, population grows geometrically in his influential work *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, which was published in 1798. At some point, the population's demand for food will exceed the available supply, causing huge famines that will claim millions of lives. Poverty persists despite the incredible progress that has been done so far. 925 million people experience daily hunger, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN ("925 Million" 2010).

One of the major challenges to the environment is population expansion. Fossil fuels are used by people to power their machinery, and as the population grows, so does the demand for gas, oil, and coal. Burning these fuels increases the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, which causes global warming. Additionally, a growing population means more non-renewable resource consumption, which will lead to conflict for future generations. Due to variables including the birth rate, death rate, fertility rate, and net migration, population growth varies every country. Social factors such as religion, race, education level, availability of abortion and contraceptives, child labor, immigration, social security for the elderly, the cost of raising children, and government initiatives to encourage or dissuade childbearing can have an impact on fertility rates and birth rates. Population expansion has significant repercussions for the economy, society, and politics. For instance, low-income nations cannot produce enough

food to feed their expanding populations, which forces them to rely more heavily on costly grain imports and add to their debt load. Additionally, rapid population increase causes delayed economic growth, which widens the wealth gap between rich and poor countries and people. For instance, the rise in the population of working age contributes to increased unemployment rates in less developed nations. Higher rates of alienation and crime are caused by unemployment, which results in more social issues. Finally, rapid population increase makes it challenging for governments to continue providing everyone with adequate public services. Conflict is more likely to occur and increase instability in nations where people are competing for jobs and public services. Population growth makes it more likely that there will be poverty, conflict, extremism, and ecological system degradation.

2.1.2. Overpopulation

The exponential increase in human population over the past few centuries has led to habitat loss and encroachment in the wild, potentially endangering biodiversity components (Vinod, 2012). Growth rate of world population was approximately 2% per annum from 1960-2000, which indicted potential population doubling every 35 years thus could cause ecological unsustainability (Bloom, 2011). The projected rise of the world's population for the major areas is shown in Table 1. A demographic shift with a higher fertility rate and a drop in death rate was brought on by improved agricultural methods, contemporary medical services, and illiteracy in rural areas. From 1980–81 until 1999–2000, agriculture showed a growth rate of 3.2% per

annum, which exceeds the population growth rate of 2.0% annually over the period, while annual growth rate of per capita income was 3.1% between 1980 and 1991 and 4.3% since there forms of 1991 (Lal, 2006). According to the Inter Academy Panel Statement on Population Growth, fast population growth has given birth to a number of environmental issues, including increased greenhouse gas levels, a threat to biodiversity, climate change, and environmental pollution (Coleman, 2011; Edet et al., 2014).

With a projected increase in population from 7.3 billion in 2015 to 9 to 12 billion by 2050, it is possible that the effects of overpopulation could hasten natural changes and put a pressure on biodiversity (Sala et al., 2000; UN, 2015). The 49 least developed nations have had yearly growth of 2.3%, which is over twice as fast as the developing world's annual growth rate of 1.2% in 2009. (UN, 2009). Growing human population has increased the likelihood of synergy between impacts, which has accelerated environmental degradation (Harte, 2007). The speeding up of agricultural production and technological advancement as a result of the growing population is detrimental to environmental health.

A major effect of overpopulation is on deforestation. In order to meet the infrastructure needs of an expanding population, rapid urbanization has sparked deforestation. People are still relocating from rural to urban areas, and deforestation is taking place in areas with a thick canopy of trees. According to the World Migration Report, net migration from rural to urban regions increased in India from 11 million between 1981 and 1991 to 19 million between 2001 and 2011. (2015).

Population growth exponentially accelerated the variety of land use patterns to suit economic needs in the form of agricultural goods, fuel wood, timber, etc. However, the Forest (Conservation) Act was passed in India in 1980 to regulate the conversion of forest land to agricultural, industrial, and residential areas. As a result, the yearly diversion rate of 16,000 hectares of forest land was lowered (Economic Survey of India, 1998-99; Nagdeve, 2002).

The quality of life is another influence. The quality of life has recently been significantly impacted by overpopulation. Individuals' quality of life (QOL) is measured using a variety of criteria, including their contentment with their financial situation, educational level, social life, family life, health, and employment. Ireland has the highest quality of life, according to the Quality-of-Life Index, 2005, despite having a relatively small population when compared to nations like China and India, who are ranked 60 and 73, respectively. Increasing population has imposed a burden on existing resources to fulfill the basic needs of such huge population, which resulted in elevated poverty percentage. According to Planning Commission, India, below poverty line population living in the rural area showed a sharp increase from 27.09% in 1999 to 41.79% in the year 2005. A large portion of the poor population's lack of education is thus accelerating due to this rise. In illiterate and underprivileged populations, which are less conscious of the deteriorating environmental quality brought on by population growth, it tends to boost fertility rates. Table 3 shows the general fertility rate of women in various Indian states according to their level of education. The lowest percentage of illiterate women was found in

Kerala (1.3%), while the greatest percentage was found in Bihar (51.1%). In all of India's states, literate women were shown to have lower overall fertility rates than illiterate women. States' overall fertility rates for the illiterate population, however, were lower than those for the literate population, which was explained by the fact that the sample size in the illiterate group was rather small because these states have a disproportionately high literacy level (Census of India, 2011). Additionally, the administration of medical facilities for such a large population is beyond the capacity of governments in developing nations like India.

Climate change has a significant impact as well. Recent climate change reports suggested increased frequent and disaster in weather extremes, resulting in expensive infrastructure damage and human life loss (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007). Since the middle of the 19th century, increased usage of fossil fuels in densely inhabited areas around the world resulted in the emission of more than 1100Gt CO₂ into the atmosphere (IPCC, 2001). In addition, agricultural practices were accelerated because of population growth, which raised greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, livestock and rice farming techniques both produce methane. For emission of greenhouse gases, agriculture sources in 2014 accounted for 24% of 2010 global emission (IPCC, 2014). Population reduction in high-income countries might act as a possible solution. Due to the higher per capita consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in high-income countries, any decrease in population growth there, even from zero or negative rates, will have a significantly greater impact on halting climate change than a similar decrease in low-income

countries (Rosnick, 2014). Additionally, switching to alternative energy sources like solar, tidal, wind, and improved agricultural methods could aid in the fight against the issue of climate change brought on by rising population.

Another effect is seen in urban sprawl. One of the many effects of high population increase is urban sprawl. Sprawl is a large-scale real estate development process that results in low density, dispersed, discontinuous building that depends on cars, typically on the outskirts of aging, failing suburbs and aging city centers (Hayden, 2004). The number of people living in rural areas is predicted to decline by around 28 million by 2030, while the global metropolitan population is projected to reach 4.9 billion (Bhatta, 2010). Approximately 19 million acres of cropland, environmentally sensitive areas, and other lands are anticipated to be used by urban expansion in the United States between 2000 and 2025. (Burchell et al., 2005). Urban sprawl may be brought on by either an increase in immigration or a rise in birthrate. The need for work and better living conditions were the main drivers of population migration from rural to urban areas. Governmental organizations are unable to support the vast urban population with all necessary services and a high level of living, and the consequent massive sprawl may significantly harm the environment.

In food security, the effect of overpopulation is also seen. Due to the combined effects of overpopulation and climate change, local and global food security has gotten worse. Emission from agriculture sources elevated from 4.7 billion ton to over 5.3 billion ton of carbon dioxide

equivalents (CO₂ eq) during 2001-2011 (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2014). The output of agricultural crops and biodiversity have both been negatively impacted by climate change brought on by increased greenhouse gas emissions, which poses a serious danger to global food security. Food accessibility, use, and availability are all related to food security. Growing urbanization has slowed the expansion of the agriculture sector by promoting industrial growth in rural areas. Together with the hurried increase in the number of people on the planet, food production is currently reaching a limit. Agriculture-related technological advancement is dependent on the availability of natural resources including water, land, and energy. For instance, producing 1 kcal of food requires approximately 10 kcal of fossil energy, which is scarce and hence hinders the advancement of agricultural production (Pimentel, 2011). Currently, 50% of the world's land is suitable for agriculture and irrigation. Due to soil erosion, nutrient depletion, soil acidity, and soil salinization, this land area is continuously decreasing (Horizon, 2009).

2.1.3. Population Growth and Economic Activities

Optimists like Keynes contend that difficulties will arise from development in a nation where there is no population growth. They anticipate that as the population grows, so will investments and savings. Population decline will have an impact on output, capital formation, employment, earnings, and savings, which could harm development. According to Keynes, population growth will result in a significant increase in the demand for goods, allowing for the creation of a healthy market and raising the need for capital. According to optimists like Arthur Lewis (1954)

and Jorgenson (1961), population expansion will hasten economic progress. According to Boserup (1981), utilizing more advanced technologies can boost output. Some demographers have determined that the relationship between population and development is contextual and that slower population increase would be advantageous for development in most emerging countries (The National Research Council, 1986). According to Kelly and Schmidt's 1995 study, population density and size have a transitory effect on economic growth. According to other studies, the change in the pattern of age distribution has had a substantial effect on economic growth via savings and investments (Mason, 1988; Bloom and Williamson, 1997). As to Bloom and Canning, "There is compelling evidence that population change has a significant impact on the rate of economic expansion. For instance, they claim that increasing life expectancy tends to boost savings and educational attainment, increasing the investment in physical and human capital" (Bloom and Canning, 1999). The views of Coale and Hoover on the connection between population expansion and economic growth have been made public. They contend that an economy focused on agriculture has high rates of mortality and fertility (Coale and Hoover, 1958). The mortality rate in this field is typically high as a result of natural disasters and flooding. The mortality rate will be high because of poor nutrition, unhealthy lifestyle choices, a lack of public health initiatives, and inadequate sanitary facilities. However, nations that go from producing agricultural goods to manufacturing and technical goods will enhance their production capacity, which will boost their economies (Coale and Hoover, 1958). Malthus and neo-

Malthusians hold that population expansion and economic growth are mutually exclusive, according to Livingston (2002). Julian Simon, however, contends that there is a positive association. According to Simon (1977), the younger generation of job seekers will have more education than the older generation of workers when they enter the workforce. As a result, the younger generation will be more productive than the older, resulting in greater economic development.

The relationship between savings, economic expansion, and demographic change has been studied by Mason (1988). He has researched the economic effects of population growth in developing nations. According to him, in order to maintain the labor-to-capital ratio, a rapidly expanding population necessitates increasing investment. As a result, labor productivity rises. In addition to this straightforward correlation between population growth, savings, and economic growth, problems with institutional reform and restructuring, as well as the growth of human capital, are crucial. Mason also looks into whether rapid population growth hinders efforts to raise the rate of savings as well as the significance of the role that high savings rates play in ensuring rapid economic growth. He claims that the main source of investment is domestic savings, which is supported by empirical data. When compared across countries, the gross domestic savings ratio and the gross domestic investment ratio have a correlation of 0.74, and the slope of the corresponding regression line is 0.63, meaning that for every 1% increase in savings, investment rises by 0.63 percentage points.

According to Kothare (1999), India has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, largely as a result of population growth having a positive impact on the country's long-term economic growth. In terms of GDP among developing nations, India is currently ranked as one of the top producers of agricultural goods. He claims that a number of elements have helped the Indian economy expand. These can be briefly described. A large labor force was produced as a result of the growing population. India spent money on education to teach children and adults in accordance with its fiscal policies, enabling them to contribute positively to India's economy. India was able to produce and utilize an employment force that was better trained because job seekers were given access to better education. The high rates of productive employment that resulted led to an increase in productivity across India's economic sectors, particularly in agriculture and industry. Graham and Beeler (2000) investigated the relationship between population growth and economic development as well as the reciprocal relationship between the two. They were looking to see how these effects evolved over time. Their research was based on Simon (1989), Graham (1993), and Barlow's writings (1994). Graham and Beeler laid out their cases and offered a testable model.

2.1.4. Nigeria Census-taking and Population History

Nigeria has engaged in many censuses in its sixty one years of existence. Among many other places, only Lagos Island and a portion of the Mainland were included in the 1866, 1871, and 1896 censuses. The 1911 and 1921 censuses both included a large number of urban towns.

Regarding the 1931 census, there were differences in the Northern and Southern Protectorates. However, the two were primarily based on estimates (NPC, 1998). No effort was made to conduct census in 1941 due to Second World War. This was conducted in 1952/53. Although elaborate, it certainly undercounted Nigeria's population. A census was conducted in 1962 following Nigeria's declaration of independence on October 1st, 1960. (Iro, 1987). The 1962 census results were thrown out, and a new one was taken in 1963. (Ekanem, 1972). The Supreme Court invalidated the census results. Additionally, the 1973 census results were unacceptable (NPC, 1998). Nigeria conducted a second census in 1991 as well as a Post Enumeration Survey (PES). It was an effective endeavour that gave planners of the social and economic spheres a substantial collection of socioeconomic and demographic data. The overall population as at 1991 was 88,992,220. Another headcount was taken in 2006, which was sixteen years later. There were more than 140 million people in the country, according to the census.

2.1.5. Why the population of Nigeria is rapidly increasing

The causes of population explosion in Nigeria are many. Below are some of the various causes of rapid population growth in Nigeria.

1. *The lack of birth control legislation put in place by the governments:* As was mentioned above, the federal, state, and local governments have failed in this area. In Nigeria, both married and single couples are free to choose how they want to have children. Nigeria is a country having a sizable population of orphanages. Typically, an orphanage is a residence for children whose

parents have passed away (Hornby, 2010). However, there are orphanages in Nigeria where kids who have living parents reside. This is a symptom of population growth. According to Campbell (2018), Eze Duruiheoma, a former chairman of the National Population Commission (NPC), was reported as saying that Nigerians were proud of the fact that their country was by far the most populous in Africa. According to the author, by the year 2050, the author predicted that Nigeria's population will displace the population of the United States as the third most populated country in the world after China and India. The former Chairman of the National Population Commission (NPC) as revealed by Campbell (2018) also noted that Nigeria has no population policy that would limit births, and the people of Nigeria have traditionally valued large families. However, due to a lack of birth control legislation implemented by the Federal, State, and Local Governments, Nigeria's population has outgrown its resource capacity. The challenge to the nation's development is very serious.

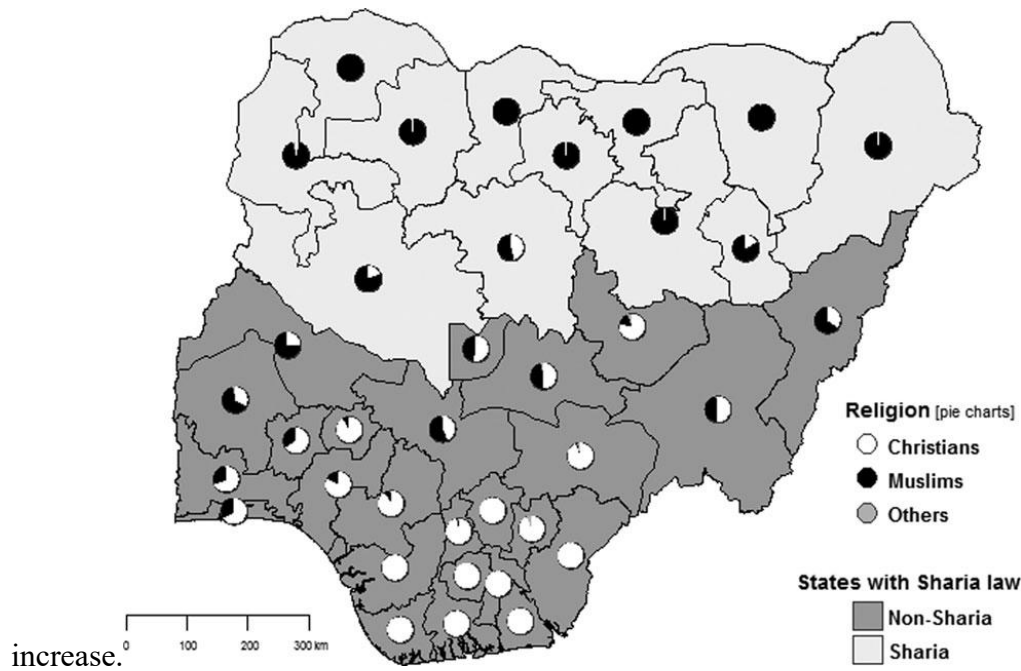
2. *Lack of family planning*: Since the Federal, State and Local Governments failed in their responsibilities to regulate the number of children per couple, each couple on his part equally failed in his duty to use responsible family planning According to Umana (2019), most couples failed to use contraceptives in the control of birth. Umana (2019) further added that inability to use contraceptive is a common practice among couples in the Northern part of Nigeria.

3. *Early marriages*: Couples married at the early ages had a very serious implication on the population growth. Such couples are not matured enough to control the number of children both

of them will give birth to. A man and a woman coming together and married is a very serious issue that it should not be taking for granted. In Nigeria, we had cases of couples who got married, few years later, they are not together again, leaving the children to take care of themselves. We equally had cases where new born babies were dumped by couples in the nearby refuge or abandoned houses. This is a sign that such couples are not ready for marriage. Furthermore, Nigeria as a country has experienced this kind of situation, hence, rapid population growth was the result.

4. *Male child preference syndrome*: In Nigeria, male children were more highly valued than female children (Oramah, 2006). The reasons for this behavior, according to Oramah (2006), include the male children passing on the family name, having stronger upper bodies for manual labor, among others. Unfortunately, such habit, in most cases, leads to the common practice of continuous child birth in an attempt to have male offspring. Also, in most cases, couples without male child or children will be receiving pressures from the husband's family against the man and his wife. In an attempt to satisfy his family's demand, the man will go ahead and marry another woman. The process may likely continue until at least a male child will be giving birth to. Osam (2019), who cited Nnadi (2013) and Ogege (2011), claimed that because male children have properties and other customary privileges associated to them, society values them more than female offspring.

5. *Religion beliefs*: There are three major religions in Nigeria, namely, Christianity, Islam and Local tradition. Men were permitted to have multiple wives in Islam, just as they were in the local traditional faith. Oramah (2006) asserts that the Islamic faith promotes large families and young marriages that are linked to polygamous family systems. Additionally, according to Osam (2019), these men had a polygamist nature and thought they could support such many families without realizing they were contributing to Nigeria's population



Source: world population review (2017)

Figure1. Religious composition by state in Nigeria in 2017. Shading on the map indicates presence of Sharia law in states; pie charts represent religious composition.

6. *High rate of illiteracy among Nigerians:* Illiteracy is a disease that in most cases is not noticeable by the person concerned. The person in question feels that he or she is doing the right thing, but in the actual sense, is not right. This is the exact behavior of some of the men who are polygamist in nature. The illiteracy as used in this paper means those people that lack the knowledge of population and sex educations.

7. *High sexual urges among some men and women:* Although, normal men and women have sexual urges. But in a case where the sexual urges of both parties are too high, it becomes a very serious problem to the society. A man with high sexual urge cannot be effectively remained with one wife. Such man ends up marrying many wives with giving birth to a large number of children. Also, there were some large number of women with high sexual urge, such women will equally ended up having children with different men that they cannot cater for.

8. *Old-age social security:* In Nigeria, several cultures believed that children were the only form of support for their parents during old age (Oramah, 2006). Because of this mind- set among some families, most men were ended up having many children. Some men and women believed that with this many offspring, one or more of the children would be able to care for them when they may have grown elderly. Some parents also believed that, in case when they eventually died,

the success of their burial ceremonies will depend on the large numbers of their children. In most cases, the reverse is the case. In view of this, Osam (2019) reported that the result of the existence of Almajari or street beggars had caused social problems such as poverty, illiteracy and violent crimes in the Northern part of Nigeria. All these are the result of having too many children by couples without proper management of the children.

9. *Perceived high infant mortality*: This perceived high infant mortality mind-set is very common among some couples. With this mentality, some men and women end up producing an excessive number of children that they are unable to manage and control. Oramah (2006) found that some people believed that having many children was necessary because some would survive and some would not. According to Oramah (2006), the children who survived would assist their parents on the farm, provide for them when they were elderly, and other things. Many Nigerians' brains have become deeply ingrained with this way of thinking. Today, Federal Government cannot even tell Nigerians the exact population figures.

10. *Immigration*: According to Renewable Resources Coalition (2016), the unchecked immigration into countries will lead to overpopulation to the point where those countries no longer have the needed resources to sustain such population. Nigeria as a country falls under the categories of such countries. Today, we have the issue of Boko Haram in the Northern part of Nigeria, where some its members are not Nigerians

11. *Better medical facilities*: Victor (2018) sees better medical facilities provided by the governments as one of the causes of population explosion. Victor (2018) stressed that illness that had claimed thousands of lives in the past and now were cured as a result of the intervention of vaccines developed by medical scientists. Victor (2018) claims that because Nigerians have access to better medical services, individuals are living longer. Technically speaking, this has aided in Nigeria's rapid population rise.

2.1.6. Effect of rapid population growth in Nigeria

1. *Environmental degradation/resource depletion*: In Nigeria, environmental issues are mostly caused by high population pressure, increased urban congestion, unplanned growth, and growing issues with the disposal of home and industrial wastes and pollutants. Since the 1980s, human-related activities, particularly in oil and gas sector development projects, have accelerated topsoil loss and deforestation, loss of habitat, species, and biodiversity, and degradation of wetlands (Nduka, 2014).

Nigeria's urban and rural environments have become less healthy as a result of environmental degradation. These environments are characterized by water shortages and floods, which are key factors in the spread of infectious illnesses. The poor's situation is made worse by them.

Additionally, drought and desertification pose a danger to the nation's natural integrity and food security and are factors in population exodus (Nwafor, 2016).

2. *Congestion of Humans*: Population is a key element in all environmental problems. The ecology is stressed out by overpopulation. Man's exploitation of environmental resources is what leads to environmental issues including overpopulation, deterioration, erosion, and desertification, among others (Abumere, 2012). Nigerians have historically resisted efforts to dramatically lower their "huge population number" because they see it as a sign of greatness, power, and prestige. It is only now becoming obvious that traditional civilizations must forsake centuries-old production methods and resource management strategies that allowed them to feed themselves while causing the least amount of environmental damage possible due to overpopulation. Evidence of the fast deterioration of the environment and the conditions in which people live can be found everywhere. It will be simple for individuals to become overly concerned with what they can extract out of the environment for their own immediate needs and uses, without giving much thought to the consequences, especially for future generations, under such a stressful scenario (Mabogunje,2015).

3. *High unemployment rate*: There were 140,431,790 people living in Nigeria as of the 2006 census, and future forecasts indicate that there will be over 180 million people living there by 2020, with an annual growth rate of 3.2%. Nigeria will thereafter rank among the nations with the highest population. Due to the country's large population, the labor force is expanding quickly and is now more than the number of available employment (Aiyedogbon, 2017).

2.1.7. Impact of Population Growth on Economic Development

In industrialized economies, population expansion influences economic development positively, while in poor nations like Nigeria, it has the opposite effect and slows down progress.

Economic impact: Growing population will create a large market for products and services. Large demand exists for goods and services because there are many people. There will be a lot of customers. The need for food, clothing, and housing will rise. Moreover, there will be a rise in the need for kid-friendly materials. A population that is expanding quickly always has a lot of kids. In Nigeria, 45% of the population is under the age of 14, according to the 1991 population census. As a result, there will be a rise in the demand for toys, children's clothing, etc. According to Jhingan (2005), population growth has a negative impact on per capita income. In three different ways, population expansion tends to reduce per capita income: It tends to lead to a rise in the cost of consumption goods due to the scarcity of the cooperating factors to increase their supplies; it tends to lead to a decline in the accumulation of capital because with an increase in family members, expenses rise. It tends to increase the pressure of population on land. If the proportion of children in the population is large, as it is in Nigeria, these negative effects of population expansion on per capita income are felt more keenly. Children come at a financial cost in the form of time and money spent raising them. Investment is necessary for economic progress.

Nigeria has few resources that are open to investment. Increased future consumption requires investments, but these are delayed by rapid population increase. Rapid population increase slows down saving and capital investment in the means of production, which in turn lowers the rate of growth of the gross domestic product, according to the SCOFNAS, (1972), as stated in Adediran (2012). As previously mentioned, an increasing population will increase demand and alter investment behavior. A big population of children means that more of the things the kids need are produced. Many manufacturers will switch to producing things for children when their production patterns alter. The government should build more schools for kids, especially nursery and elementary schools, and provide more recreational facilities as well as medical facilities that can treat them and administer vaccines.

The dependency ratio will rise as the population grows, and workers will have more mouths to feed. more youngsters or elderly folks to take care of. The working population will be more dependent on. The working population will be subject to social obligations and financial liabilities. There will be little to nothing left over from the income of the populous after they have taken care of their needs and those of their dependents. As a result, there will be less savings and less capital formation. The country's socioeconomic progress will be hampered as a result. This is one of the factors contributing to Nigeria's epileptic or very low socio-economic development and low capital formation. High cost of living will result from increased demand without an equal increase in production. As a result of the competition for a limited number of

goods, prices for goods and services will rise. Nigeria's population pressure and rising expense of living, especially in metropolitan areas, are driving up demand and price. In Nigeria, a huge portion of the population spends their income on goods, services, and the upkeep of their children. Abuja, Lagos, and Kano are common examples.

Low income per capita is a consequence of a population that is growing quickly. There will be less money or resources available per person. A reduced standard of life or general decline in the standard of living is the outcome of this. There will be low per-capita consumption of goods and services. This resulted in the consumption of inferior goods and commodities in Nigeria. Additionally, this may lead to a situation in which a large number of people reside in ghettos or depressed places. Such places are ideal for epidemics and communicable diseases. According to the fieldwork experiment, this is the situation throughout Nigeria, particularly in Lagos and many areas of Northern Nigeria. In addition to the previously listed issues, large and rapid population increase without concomitant social and economic progress would result in inadequate social services and abuse owing to strong strain on housing, educational facilities, roads, health facilities, water supply, etc. The government will spend more money on the provision of more amenities as well as on the repair and maintenance of existing ones in order to prevent the continual breakdown of these facilities and to satisfy the growing demand for them. Nigeria's population is expanding quickly, which has led to a growing demand for labor. 51.7% of the entire population, as determined by the 1991 Population Census, belongs to the 15–64 age

bracket. There are now a lot of people in Nigeria who are able, qualified, willing, and open to job. However, it is regrettable to mention here that there aren't enough employment to accommodate this sizable labor force. High levels of unemployment and poverty are the outcome. In emerging nations, population expansion typically coincides with an increase in population density. In 1991, the nation's average population density was 96 people per square kilometer. Population density in some areas of Nigeria can reach 1,000 people per square kilometer. For instance, Lagos (1,712), Anambra (534), Imo (438), and Akwa Ibwa Ibom are the states with the highest population densities (389). All of these states are located in the southern region of the nation. With 281 people per km², Kano State has the highest population density in the country's northern region (NPC, 1998).

2.2. Theoretic Framework

The population pessimistic, the population optimistic, and the population neutralist viewpoints are three (3) distinct perspectives to the population-economic growth nexus, according to Blanchet (2009). The Malthusian school of thought adherents maintained the pessimistic outlook on the population. Thomas Malthus, the theory's proponent, inspired the name of this school of thought. Thomas Malthus wrote in "An Essay on the Principle of Population" that continued population growth will stifle economic activity if immediate action is not taken. Ehrlich (1968) agreed that rapid population growth would have a detrimental effect on the economy because it would overwhelm any positive effects of capital accumulation and technological advancement.

Ester Boserup, a renowned economist from Denmark, presented the optimistic picture of the population in 1981. According to this economist, rapid population growth will have a positive effect on an economy because it will allow for scale economies and the promotion of technological and institutional innovations, in contrast to the Malthusian theorists' assertion that population growth and economic growth are mutually exclusive (Kuznets, 1967). This theory's proponents vehemently disagree with Malthusian predictions of impending food shortages due to population growth, arguing that technological advancements will increase productivity and hence mitigate any potential threat from rising population levels to the food supply. Simon (1981), who emphasized that humans are just weights on the earth without skill, science, and technology, supported these theorists' resistant faith in technology as a means of escape by noting that output/productive capacity may be increased utilizing one's own knowledge, forethought, and talents.

The two schools of thinking previously mentioned and the population neutralist theory's point of view are completely dissimilar. They clarified that the resources that are available are affected by population growth in a variety of ways. According to population neutralist theories, population increase has neither a positive nor a negative impact on economic growth when considered separately (without other factors), according to Bloom and Freeman (2015). According to Kelley (2011), population neutralism is a theory that holds that there is no meaningful connection between the rate of population expansion and the rate of economic growth. This assertion has

been empirically tested by researchers like Sachs and Warner (2016), who found that when other variables (such as country size, openness to trade, level of education attainment, among others) are excluded from the model, the supposedly negative correlation between population growth and economic growth disappears. For the past fifty years, the population neutralist viewpoint has dominated scholarly discussion on population rise.

The primary focus of Malthus and Boserup was on pre-modern agrarian communities, with a timeframe that lasted for many decades, if not centuries, respectively. This served to further support the aforementioned ideas. What significance do these points of view have for modern developing countries and for policymakers who are trying their best to take policies to slow population growth into consideration (like family planning programs that connect to other necessary investments in schools, health programs, and building roads)? In contrast to Malthus, who thought little could be done to reduce high reproduction, there are modern proponents of neo-Malthusian beliefs. Many of these individuals feel that public policies, including coercive ones, should be employed to reduce fertility as rapidly as feasible.

Neo-Malthusians come in a wide variety, starting with the essentially polemical (for example, Paul Ehrlich of *The Population Bomb*) and ending with demographers (Davis, 1967) who think the current world population is blatantly unsustainable.

Following Boserup's hypotheses, there are some academics and policy activists who believe that a large population will stimulate productivity and technological advancement. The prominent

proponent of this viewpoint is the late Simon Julian, whose book *The Ultimate Resource* (1981) made the case that each person has latent creativity and resourcefulness. Because there are more potential scientists, artists, and innovators in societies with large populations, these societies are more likely to progress. Although both the neo-Malthusian and the Boserian points of view have academic advantages, relatively little support is provided by campaigners on either side.

On the other hand, a small group of scholars, principally economists and economic demographers, have worked diligently to model how demographic issues affect economic development. There isn't a single point of agreement among policymakers or professionals regarding these conflicting results.

One of the oldest models simply depicted population increase and economic expansion as a race. In the post-World War II era, many developing nations experienced population growth of roughly 2 percent annually. If this assumption is made, per-capita income will not rise or may even decline unless the economy expands at a faster rate. The cross-sectional relationship between economic growth and population growth is almost zero, even though population growth may depend on rising living standards; many developing nations in East Asia were able to advance quickly over the past few decades by having economic growth rates of 6 to 8 percent annually (Kuznets 1967, Lee 1983, National Academy of Sciences 1986).

These periodic shifts in the accepted scientific understanding of how demographic considerations affect economic development highlight the complexity of the issues and the intense debate over

the root causes of economic growth. More people means more mouths to feed, but it also means that there are more labor available to create on a larger scale. When compared to fixed capital and resources, larger populations generally result in poorer per capita wellbeing, but they also generate greater demand and larger economies of scale. Both the favorable and unfavorable effects of population growth on the economy might cancel one another out. However, there are several feedback loops between demographic and economic development variables. In anticipation of demographic pressures (or an increase in economic demand), businesses and households may retaliate (York, 2014). Empirical research or cross-sectional research design may be insufficient to grasp historical processes in different contexts and times. It is noteworthy that there is agreement amongst researchers on the complex interactions between economic growth and demographic factors and development (Dublely, 2016).

2.3. Emperical Evidence

Numerous studies have reportedly been conducted in Nigeria and other nations throughout the world, according to a study of the literature on population growth and economic development.

[Ali and Amin, 1975] claim [The ARDL approach was empirically tested to determine the effect of population expansion on economic development in Pakistan from 1975 to 2008. The ARDL technique's findings show that while population expansion does positively and significantly enhance economic development, it also negatively impacts it due to a stable unemployment rate.

In his 2012 study, Dao looked at how the demographic shift in developing nations affected their economies. A multivariate linear regression was conducted using the least-squares estimate technique utilizing data from the World Bank and a sample of 43 developing nations. The results indicate that population growth, dependency ratios for both young and old people, the mortality rate, and whether or not the pace of population increase is less than 1.2 percent per year all have linear relationships with the growth rate of per capita GDP. Using interaction variables, it was discovered that per capita GDP growth linearly depends on population growth, the old dependency ratio, the mortality rate, and the interactions between population growth and both the young and old dependency ratios, between population growth and whether or not the rate of population growth is less than 1.2 percent per year, as well as the interaction term between the young dependency ratio and the old dependency ratio.

From 1991 through 2011, Shaari, Rahim, and Rashid (2013) looked at Malaysia's population, energy consumption, and economic growth. The results of the study's application of the Unit Root Test, Co-integration Test, and Granger Causality Test revealed the existence of one co-integrating equation, indicating a long-term relationship between Malaysia's population, energy consumption, and economic growth. According to Granger causality results, population has an impact on energy consumption, which in turn affects Malaysia's economic growth. Energy consumption reductions can hinder economic growth. Therefore, any policy to cut back on energy use needs to be updated. Malthusian Population Theory and the Nigerian Economy: A

Political Economy Approach from 1766 to 1834 was the subject of Ewugi and Yakubu's (2012) study. Analysis of regression and Particularly in the industrialized world, the Malthusian population hypothesis has been shown to be far from empirical reality. However, indicators reveal that, more than 200 years after the author of this theory published his work, Nigeria fits some of the theory's predictions. Nigeria is currently experiencing significant population expansion, has had civil war, and its people have not yet embraced modern and cutting-edge agriculture technologies. Nigeria is home to a range of social evils, such as ethnic and religious conflicts, unwelcome pregnancy experiences, and food shortages. All of these traits can be summed up as what Malthus called the "misery" or "vice" that would take many lives. In Nigeria, these "miseries" and "vices" are literally taking lives both directly and indirectly. Therefore, it is advised that Nigeria's government adhere to the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's norm of allocating 27% of its annual budget to education (UNESCO). The level of living for the people of Nigeria would be greatly raised by this.

Given that the relationship between population growth and economic growth has long been disputed among economists and Nigeria's rapid pace of population expansion, Tartiyus, Dauda, and Peter (2015) evaluated the influence of population growth on economic growth in Nigeria from 1980 to 2010. Both regression analysis and descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. The findings showed a positive correlation between economic growth (as measured by GDP growth) and population, fertility, and export growth, whereas negative correlations were

discovered between economic growth (as measured by GDP growth) and life expectancy and the crude mortality rate. It was suggested, among other things, that the average population growth rate of Nigeria should be maintained since it has been found to positively impact economic growth in Nigeria over the study period and that steps should be taken to reduce the country's crude death rate because it has a negative impact on economic growth.

Adewale (2012) used the conventional least squares method of analysis to assess the impact of population on economic development in Nigeria from 1981 to 2007. The findings show that between 1981 and 2007, population increase had a positive and significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria as assessed by per capita income (PCI) and real gross domestic product (RGDP).

According to Ester Boserup (1981), a rapidly growing population will have a positive impact on an economy because it will allow for scale economies and the promotion of technological and institutional innovations, in contrast to the Malthusian theorists' claim that there is a negative correlation between population growth and economic growth. He pointed out that a quickly rising population will have a positive impact on an economy as opposed to the negative association between population growth and Malthusian thinkers since, in the long term, it will allow for scale economies and technical advancements.

Using Johansen and Granger-causality approaches, Ukpolo (2002) experimentally quantifies the relationship between population growth and economic growth in Africa. The analysis is based on

annual time series data acquired from the two chosen nations (Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire) on the variables of concern. According to the estimation results, the variables are cointegrated, meaning that there was a long-term relationship between them in Nigeria but not in Coted'Ivoire. The findings also showed a negative long-term causal association between the two variables of concern in Nigeria (i.e., population expansion has a detrimental long-term impact on economic growth). The findings in Coted'ivoire demonstrated that population expansion drives economic growth.

Using annual time series data, Nwosu Dike and Okwara (2014) conducted empirical research on the relationship between population increase and economic growth in Nigeria between 1960 and 2008. The Granger causality test was combined with OLS techniques for the investigation. The GDP and population growth were the main factors accounted for in the model. In addition to finding a large short-term association between economic growth and population increase, the researchers also established a significant long-term relationship between economic growth and population growth.

According to Bloom, Canning, and Finlay (2009), population age distribution has a greater impact on economic growth than population number as a whole. A stronger labor force participation rate will have a favorable impact on economic growth. The relationship between population increase and economic growth depends on other economic factors including the number of resources, the continent, the territory, and the people's access to high-quality

education and training. Economic growth is positively impacted by technological advancements brought on by population expansion. In conclusion, whereas population expansion has a detrimental impact on economic growth in poor nations, it has a favorable impact in developed nations. Numerous other research have indicated that population growth hinders economic expansion. For instance, Hamza (2015) discovered a negative association between economic growth in emerging nations and demographic metrics like birth rates, death rates, and net migration, with only the death rate being statistically insignificant.

Akintunde Olomola and Oladeji (2013); Cist, Mora, and Engelman (2017) discovered a negative correlation between Sub-Saharan Africa's population growth rate and economic growth. However, they discovered that in Sub-Saharan Africa, life expectancy has a beneficial effect on economic development. These results support the pessimists' view of the population's influence on economic growth.

Through a structural break cointegration study for the years 1960–2014, Garza–Rodriguez, Andrade–Velasco, Martinez–Silva, Renteria–Rodriguez, and Vallejo–Castillo (2016) examine the dynamic relationship between population increase and economic growth in the context of Mexico. The long term equilibrium was established through the Gregory-Hansen cointegration test. Based on the results of this test, using 1985 as the year in which the structural break occurs in the cointegrating equation and consequently including a dummy variable for this year in the VECM developed in the paper, the results obtained suggested that in the short run, economic

growth has a negative impact on population growth, whereas in the long run, population has a positive impact on per capita GDP and per capita GDP also positively influences population.

From 1981 to 2005, Pakistan's population growth and economic development were evaluated by Afzal (2009). applying the common least squares regression analysis. They evaluated the connection between economic progress and population expansion. The findings indicate an extremely significant and adverse correlation between population growth and economic expansion. This experiment showed that population growth is a real issue in Pakistan since it hinders economic expansion. Resources are being quickly devoured by the populace rather than being distributed and directed to productive outlets inside the nation. Pakistan has the biggest percentage of people who are dependant, which slows down economic development because these people represent the unproductive elements of society.

Shah, Sargani, Ali, and Siraj (2015) investigated how Bangladesh's population growth affected the country's economic expansion between 1980 and 2005. The study used a multiple linear regression model, and the findings showed that Bangladesh's economic growth is significantly negatively correlated with population increase. In order to examine the relationship between GDP growth and population, two distinct equations were used. GNI per capita as a function of population was the other equation that was employed. The connection between economic growth and GNI per capita with population was found to be suggestively different from zero in both models. The literature led to the conclusion that a big population with continuing rapid growth

would result in higher consumption rates and expenditures. Less money available for saving results in a decline in investments and capital development, and resources allocated for economic growth will be depleted by the rapidly expanding population. It has been discovered that population growth makes it harder to accommodate the large number of people that enter the labor market each year. A huge rise in population will be more of a burden than an asset in a developing nation like Bangladesh because around 70% of people employed in the labor market in Bangladesh are expatriate workers who are employed in the Middle East and oil-rich countries. In Nigeria between 2010 and 2012, Abdulrahman (2013) looked at population growth and food security. The study used a linear regression model, and from the examination of the pertinent data, it concluded that Nigeria is experiencing population ejection, or significant population movements. Early marriage, poverty, illiteracy, religious views, better hygienic conditions, accessibility to medical facilities, and a low death rate are only a few of the variables mentioned. The study also discovered that food production grew just slightly during the study period, which explains why individuals are more susceptible to hunger and diseases associated with it. The study notes that Nigeria is experiencing severe food insecurity as a result of population emigration caused by inadequate agricultural productivity. In the literature on population expansion and economic growth, the empirical literature review has produced a number of intriguing discoveries. In most countries, it has been discovered that population expansion generally has a beneficial impact on economic growth. On the surface, this may suggest

optimistic predictions for Nigerian economic growth given the country's enormous and continuing population expansion, as well as the great number of research on Nigeria that have found a positive relationship between population growth and economic growth.

The Malthusian Population Theory in Nigeria from 1982 to 2012 was empirically explored by Okwori, Ajegi, Ochinabo, and Abu (2015). The study used a vector error correction model, and the outcome demonstrates that Nigeria's economic development is not much impacted by population growth. This is consistent with Dao's (2012) and Thirwal's works (1973). In other words, the Nigerian economy can benefit from the Malthusian population theory. Therefore, if we argue that population expansion is bad for economic progress, we are essentially saying that there is a link between overpopulation and poverty, which is dangerous. This combination is linked to an increase in vices, illness, and mortality. This could be ascribed to a number of factors, with economic backwardness being the main one. This essentially means that there aren't enough social welfare programs, resources, or infrastructure to maintain the current population. Additionally, communal and religious restrictions have a negative impact on population growth, going against Malthus's axiom of moral restraint. The impact of population growth on Nigeria's economy goes far beyond the food shortages predicted by Malthus. Congestion, a high dependence ratio, growing social issues, emigration, increased unemployment and/or underemployment, inequality, as well as recent acts of terrorism and insurrection, are only a few

of these effects. In order to stop this rising problem from becoming endemic in the Nigerian economy and threatening sustainable development, proper steps should be done.

Using time series data ranging from 1970 to 2014, Aidi, Emecheta, and Ngwudiobu (2016) explored the connection between population dynamics and economic growth in Nigeria. The ordinary least squares estimation approach was used to analyze the data. The outcome showed, among other things, that all of the study's key variables—fertility, mortality, and net migration—were negatively correlated with economic growth over the time period under review. The study also showed that savings and gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) are significant forces behind economic expansion in Nigeria. In light of the findings, the Nigerian government is urged to take immediate action to reduce the alarming fertility rate in the country. In order to increase productivity in Nigeria, efforts should be made to raise the quality of the labor force by making more significant investments in programs for skill development and education.

In Nigeria from 1970 to 2005, Orumie and Cynthia (2016) looked at the impact of the unemployment rate and the population growth rate on GDP. The study's results, which were obtained using a multiple regression model, showed that, since 1970, the population and unemployment rates have increased while the gross domestic product has decreased. The results also show that population increase and unemployment have equivalent effects on the GDP. The results also demonstrated that unemployment rates have an inverse relationship with gross domestic product in accordance with Okun's law, with the amount of unemployed contributing

more to the national GDP during this period than the amount of work already done. In other words, the study demonstrates that the unemployment rate is responsible for a decline in the national gross domestic product of around 12.9%. In the same vein, population growth has little to no impact on GDP and has no negative impact at all. Due to Nigeria's high unemployment rate and the estimate from the analysis on the target population, which indicates an inverse relationship between the dependent variable (GDP) and the independent variables, a significant portion of the labor force and non-labor force are not involved in the economic sector (UPR and PGR). In other words, a rise in GDP will result in a comparable fall in UPR and PGR. However, as it only contributed 3.4 percent to the Nigerian economy during this time, the demographic data demonstrates that the overall effects of population growth and the unemployment rate are insignificant.

In least developed countries, the relationship between population and unemployment was explored by Ilegbinosa, Moses, and Praise in 2013. Ordinary least square was used in the study, and the outcome revealed It is obvious that job issues may only arise if the government fails to put in place proper mechanisms to restrict population growth and allocate resources in a way that gives each citizen a sense of belonging. Therefore, there is a necessity to effectively deploy resources and launch projects toward employment generation in order to give the teeming regulated population with the necessary employment prospects. This is necessary to prevent the "worst case scenario," which The Next Generation Team described as "increasing numbers of

restless young people frustrated by lack of opportunity, increased competition for jobs, land, natural resources, and political patronage, cities that are increasingly unable to cope with the pressures placed on them, ethnic and religious conflict and radicalization, and a political system discredited by its failure to improve living conditions." Cointegration conclusions on concerns of poverty and population growth in Nigeria were examined by Ukpong, Ekpebu, and Ofem in 2013. The study employed a regression analysis and an ordinary least squares model, and the findings revealed that while a growth in a nation's GDP can alleviate poverty, it can also cause it, especially when combined with other variables that would improve peoples' quality of life. Consequently, this paper argues that even though poverty has many dimensions and a variety of root causes, it is clear that when a nation's population keeps growing without effective investment in the development of its human capital and adequate development in economic sectors like agriculture that would improve the lives of its citizens, any population growth could lead to an increase in poverty in the economy. In order to improve food sufficiency, higher income, and employment, there is a need for significant investment in technology and agriculture in developing nations like Nigeria. It is crucial that the right regulations are put in place to restrict family size and slow the country's population increase, especially in rural areas where impoverished people tend to have several children. To address the needs of the nation for employment and increased productivity, the populace should be encouraged to gain practical skills in science and technology. In order to increase the wellbeing of the populace, particularly

those living in rural regions, it is more important than ever to strengthen the industrial sector and support rural development with a functioning electricity sector. Policies should be created that specify the average family size, notably the number of children, and they should do so with the cooperation and support of the nation's political, cultural, and religious institutions. Additionally, Nigeria has enormous development potential, but in order to improve poverty reduction and economic recovery, a coordinated effort is needed to combat corruption, income disparity, and bad resource management in the nation.

The effects of population growth on economic growth in Nigeria from 1960 to 2008 were studied by Nwosu, Dike, and Okwara (2014). Granger Causality and Cointegration tests, as well as the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) stationarity test, were also used in the study. The study discovered a long-term equilibrium relationship between population expansion and economic growth. Additionally, there is proof that the relationship between population expansion and economic growth is one-way. Economic growth and population increase has a major relationship that has political ramifications. Adewole (2012) used the conventional least squares method of analysis to assess the impact of population on economic development in Nigeria from 1981 to 2007. The findings show that between 1981 and 2007, population increase had a positive and significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria as assessed by per capita income (PCI) and real gross domestic product (RGDP).

Numerous research on the impact of population expansion on social indicators have been conducted in light of the potential indirect impacts of population growth on economic growth. Accordingly, Edet, Samuel, Etim, and Titus (2014) examined the impact of overpopulation on the conservation of biological diversity in the Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria, and used an ex-post facto research design. The findings show that overpopulation has a significant impact on the preservation of biological diversity. The study's findings corroborate Coleman's (2011) claim that population growth exacerbates a number of environmental issues, including the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, the loss of biological variety, global warming, and pollution. The rising demand for resources like food and fresh water, poverty and malnutrition, the use of natural resources (such fossil fuels) at a rate quicker than their regeneration, and a decline in living circumstances are all issues connected to overpopulation. and Despite the rise of megacities and increased population density within cities, UN Habitat asserts in its publications that urbanization may be the best solution to the problem of population growth on a worldwide scale. Cities condense human activity into smaller geographic areas, reducing the extent of environmental harm. However, this moderating effect cannot be attained unless both urban planning and city services are adequately maintained.

Using descriptive statistics, Michael, Usang, Nelson, Etim, Onah, and Chukwudi (2014) examined how population growth affected family standard of living in Calabar, Nigeria. They found that poor family planning, illiteracy, poverty, ignorance, culture, religion, migration, and

urbanization cause population growth, which is then influenced by factors like war, disaster, the need for jobs and education, po, and migration. To serve as a reminder to the public about the effects of large families above the family resources, there is a need for mass education on population issues at least once a year. Improved knowledge of practical family planning techniques, making them available, inexpensive, and practicable to promote its use. In order to empower the populace, it is important to promote monogamy as opposed to polygamy, discourage early marriage, distribute resources equally between rural and urban areas, including human capital, and create more jobs in rural areas. Agriculture should also be encouraged as a form of entrepreneurship. In Nigeria between 2010 and 2012, Abdulrahaman (2013) looked at population growth and food security. The study used a linear regression model, and from the examination of the pertinent data, it concluded that Nigeria is experiencing population ejection, or significant population movements. Early marriage, poverty, illiteracy, religious views, better hygienic conditions, accessibility to medical facilities, and a low death rate are only a few of the variables mentioned. The study also discovered that food production grew just slightly during the study period, which explains why individuals are more susceptible to hunger and diseases associated with it. The study comes to the conclusion that Nigeria is experiencing extreme food insecurity as a result of population exodus caused by inadequate agricultural productivity.

In the literature on population expansion and economic growth, the empirical literature review has produced a number of intriguing discoveries. The widespread consensus is that population growth contributes to economic expansion. On the surface, this may suggest favorable prospects for Nigerian economic growth given the country's vast population and the great number of research on Nigeria that have found a positive relationship between population increase and economic growth. However, it is important to take seriously the claim made by a few studies, such as Shah, Sargani, Ali, and Siraj (2015) and Guga, Alikaj, and Zeneli (2015), that population expansion may have a detrimental impact on economic growth. This is because it is claimed that population growth causes poverty, unemployment, environmental issues (such as increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, the loss of biological diversity, global warming, and pollution), and other social ills, and that these issues will cause economic growth to stagnate. The further finding of long run relationship between population growth and economic growth as found by a number of studies performing cointegration tests further suggests the need for consideration of the implications of population growth for economic growth over the long term

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter represents the methods and procedures used in the study and it is organized in the following ways; Firstly, we highlighted the research design to be used, then the population of the study was stated, after which the research instrument used for the study will be stated. The next step involved validating the questionnaire, and then the method used for the reliability test of the questionnaire was stated. The last two steps focused on the method used in collecting data and the method used in analyzing the data.

3.1 Research Design

The survey research design was employed in this study. It involves assessing a population through the study of a sample which is considered to be the representative of the entire population.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study is 445,800 residents of Egor Local Government Area in Edo state. The data was obtained from the projected population census in Egor LGA in the year 2016.

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria.

3.3 Sample size and Sampling Technique

The sample size consists of 100 residents of Egor LGA. This will be randomly selected amongst the residents of the LGA. The sample size was gotten using Taro Yamane sampling technique. This method was developed by a statistician Tara Yamane in 1967 to determine the sample size of a large population as illustrated below

$$n=N/(1+N(e)^2)$$

where n= sample size, N= population of the study, e= margin error (0.1, 0.05, or 0.01).

Note: 0.1 was used as the margin error.

From the LGA, simple random technique was used to select the residents, giving a sample size of 99.9=100.

Table 4: Population distribution of eligible voters in each senatorial district showing their corresponding numbers.

Local Government Area	Total no. of residents (2016)	Sample size using Taro Yamane method
Egor	445,800	100

3.4 Research Instrument

The instrument used in this research study was the structured questionnaire. This was used because it is easy to understand and get information from any population group (large or small) within a short period of time. The questionnaire consists of two (2) sections, A and B. Section A addresses the demographic data of the respondents while section B contains items that address the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities of Egor Local Government Area of Edo state.

3.5 Validity of the Instrument

The research work was validated by the project supervisor and two other experts in the Department of Geography and Regional palnning, Faculty of Social sciences, University of Benin. The corrections of the supervisor will be fully effected before the final paper was produced.

3.6 Reliability of the Instrument

The researcher used the split-half method to test for the reliability of the instrument by splitting into half, the scores gotten from the test into odd and even numbers. The result gotten will be analyzed using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient (r).

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection used was the questionnaire method. This was gotten from a Primary data collection source used to elicit the data from respondents. The method of primary data collection involved the quantitative research method, via the administration of questionnaires. The survey technique was used, as the questionnaires via random sampling technique were administered face to face by the researcher to the respondents for data collection. A Sampling technique (simple random sampling) was used in selecting the respondents, as it allows each member of the population have an equal chance of being selected. The respondents were instructed on how to answer the questionnaire, after which the questionnaires were retrieved by the researcher immediately to avoid loss of questionnaire and to get at least, a 95% return rate. This was also to enable the respondents an opportunity to ask questions if they find any question difficult or for clarity sake.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics was used to answer the three research questions raised in chapter one. Frequency, simple percentage and count were used in the analysis. Likert scale was also employed in the questionnaire. Likert scale involves respondents choosing from a series of options, ranging from one extreme option to another, with a neutral or moderate option. Using this survey style, the questionnaire had 5 options for respondents to choose from, ranging from

Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (UD), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

The hypothesis raised in chapter one was tested using the sample T-test statistics.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals with presentation of data analysed and discussion of findings.

4.1.1 Demographic Analysis

4.1.1.1 Age Structure

The analysis from Table 4.2.1 reveals that out of the 100 respondents, 16% of the respondents were aged 25 and below, 28% of the respondents were aged between 26-33, 24% of the respondents were aged between 34-41 while 32% of the respondents were aged 42 and above.

This implies that out of the 100 respondents, most of them were aged 42 and above with a proportion of 32% followed by the ages between 26-33 with a proportion of 28%.

Table 4.2.1: Frequency and Percentage Showing the Age Analysis of Respondents.

Age	Frequency	Percentage(%)
25 and below	16	16%
26-33	28	28%
34-41	24	24%
42 and above	32	32%
Total	100	100%

. Source: Field Survey, 2022

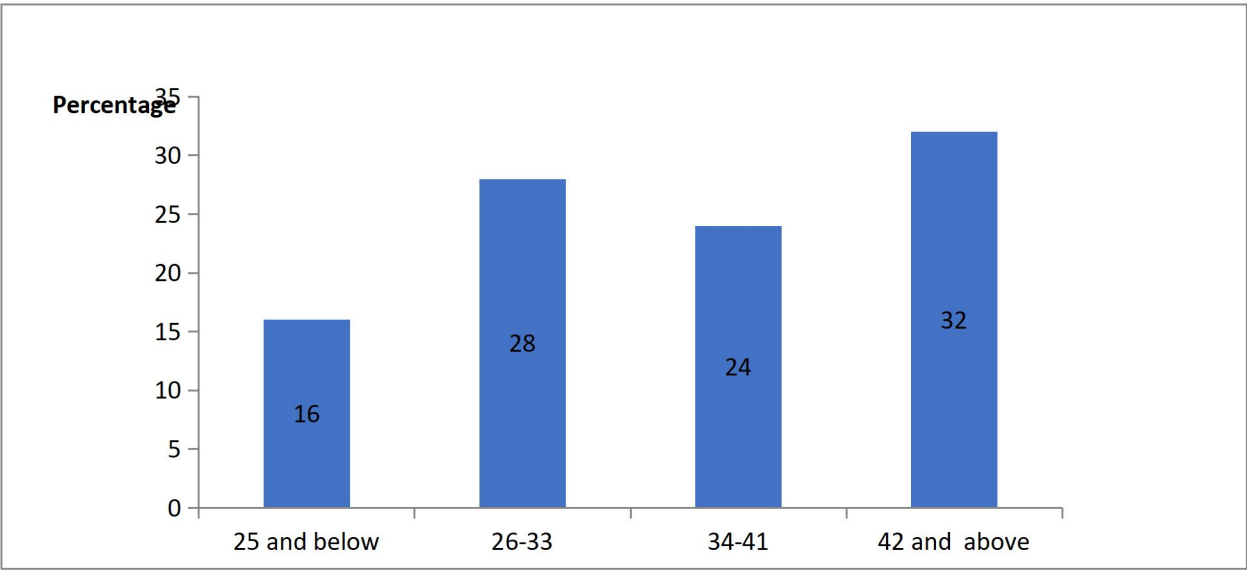


Figure 4.2.1: Age structure of Respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2022

4.1.2 Communities of Respondents

A total of 100 questionnaires were administered to respondents in the entire study area. 4 communities were chosen from the 12 communities in Egor LGA, and to each community, 25 questionnaires were administered. The analysis in Table 4.2.2 shows the frequency of the distribution of questionnaire across the study area.

Table 4.2.2: Frequency and Percentage Showing the Communities of Respondents.

Community	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Evbuotubu	25	25
Oghokhugbo	25	25
Ugbioko	25	25
Uwelu	25	25
Total	100	100%

. Source: Field Survey, 2022

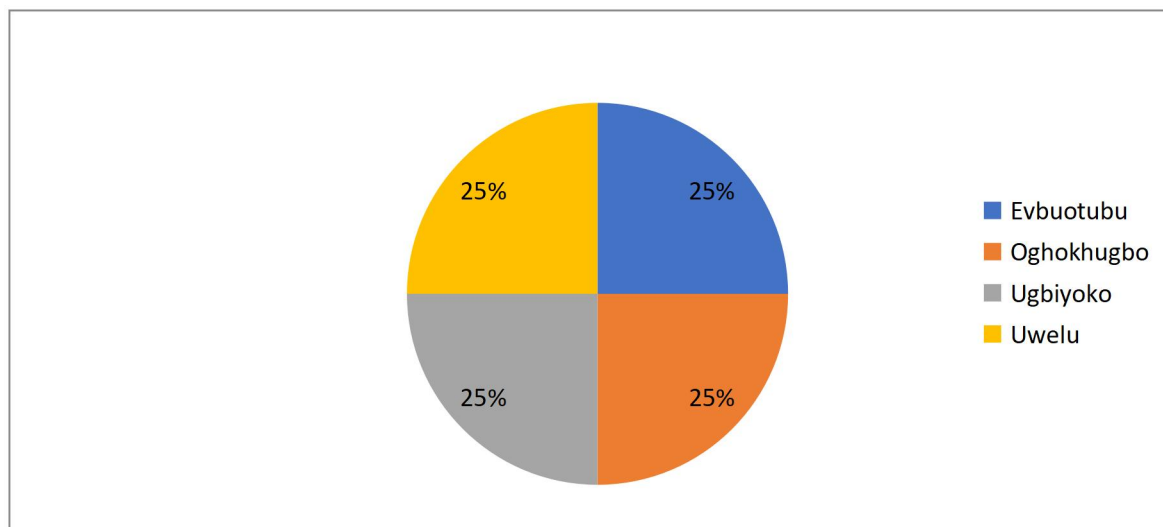


Figure 4.2.2: Communities of Respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2022

4.1.3 Gender of Respondents

From the analysis in Table 4.2.3, it was revealed that out of the 100 respondents, the proportion of respondents who are male is 40% while the proportion of respondents who are female is 60%.

This implies that most of the respondents from the selected study area are Female.

Table 4.2.3: Frequency and Percentage Showing the Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	40	40%
Female	60	60%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field study, 2022

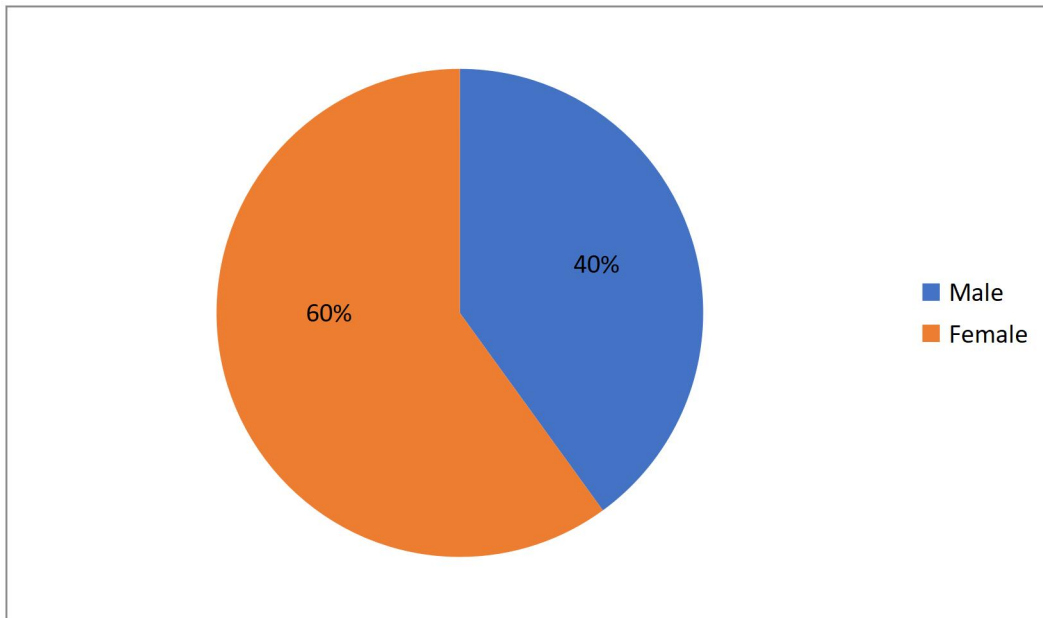


Figure 4.2.3: Gender of Respondents

Source: Field study, 2022

4.2 Marital Status of Respondents

The field observation as seen in Table 4.2.4 shows the marital status of all respondents in the study area. It was revealed that of all the respondents, 40% respondents were single, 52% were married, 4% were divorced and 4% were widowed.

From table 4.2.4, it can be deduced that the status with the most representation was the Married status with a proportion of 52%. This means that majority of the sampled population are married

while the minority of the sampled population were widowed or divorced with a proportion of 4% each.

Table 4.2.4: Frequency and Percentage Showing the Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	40	40%
Married	52	52%
Divorced	4	4%
Widowed	4	4%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field study, 2022

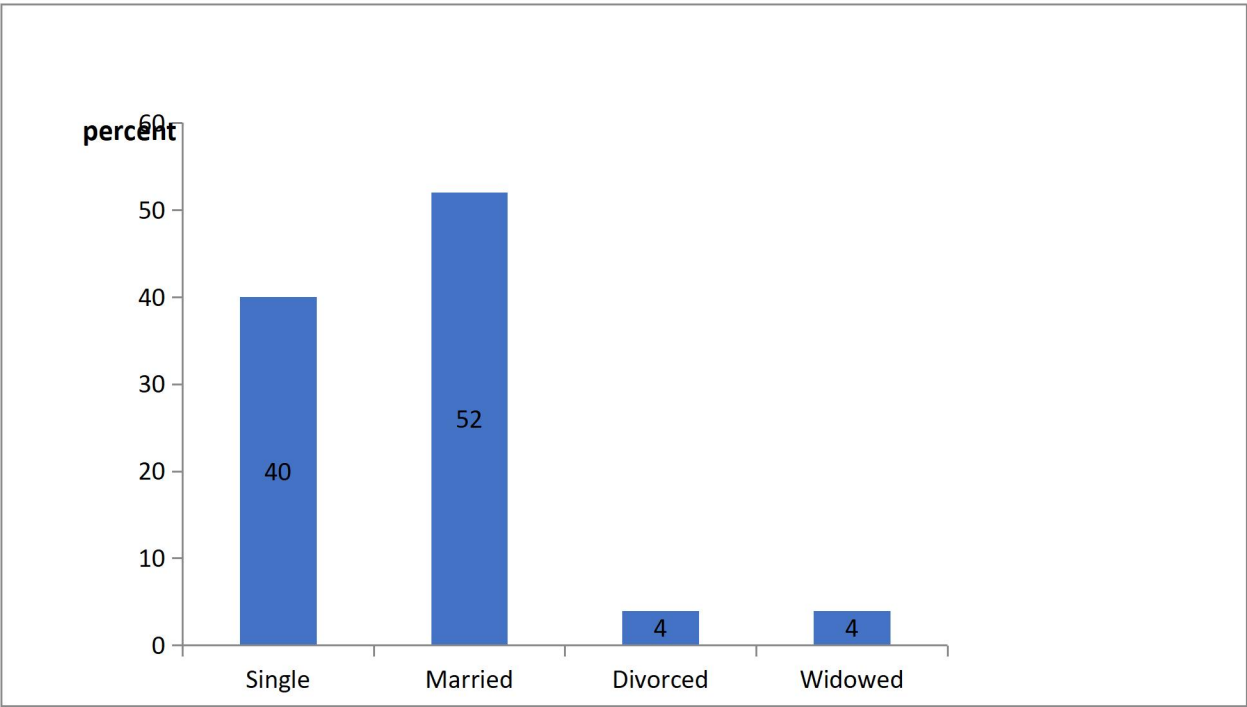


Figure 4.2.4: Marital status of respondents

Source: Field study, 2022

4.3 Household Size of Respondents

The analysis from table 4.2.5 reveals that out of the 100 respondents, 4% have a household size of 1-2, 20% have a household size of 3-4, 44% have a household size of 5-6, while 32% have a household size of 7 and above.

This implies that with a proportion of 44%, most of the respondents live in a household of 5-6 persons while the least of the respondents live in a household of 1-2 persons with a proportion of 4%

Table 4.2.5: Frequency and Percentage Showing the Household Size of Respondents

Household size	Frequency	Percentage
1-2	4	4%
3-4	20	20%
5-6	44	44%
7 and above	32	32%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Study, 2022

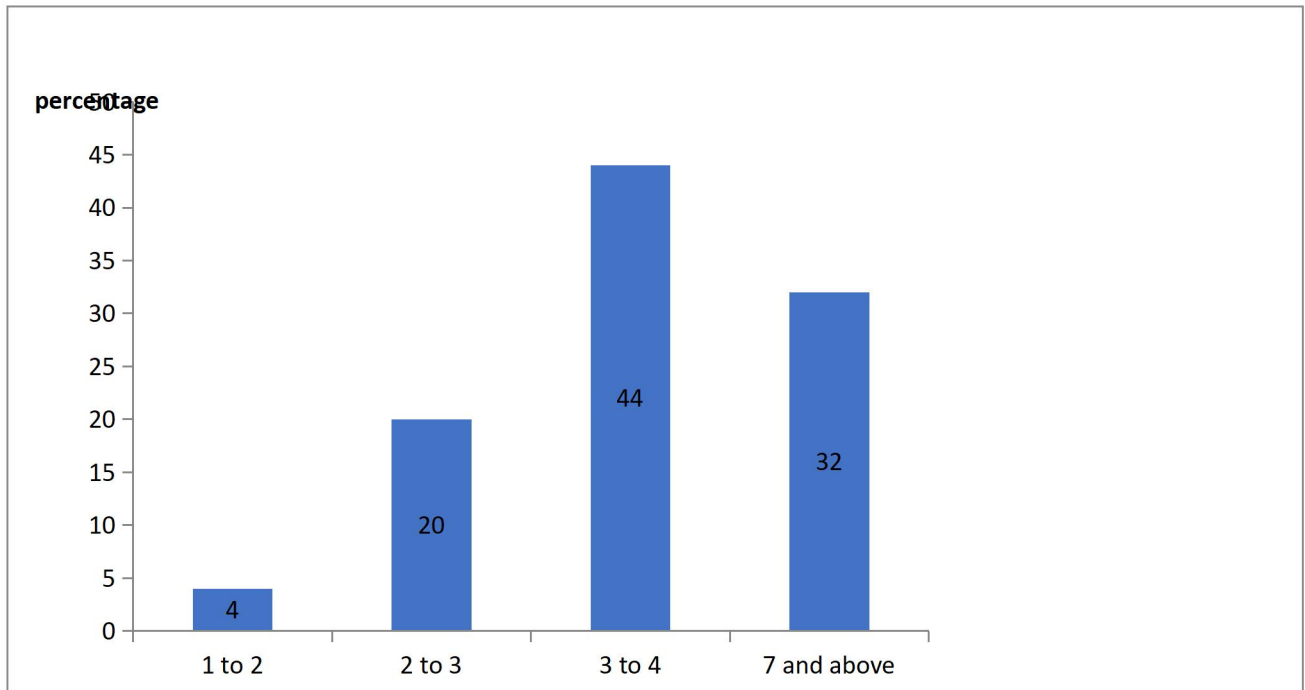


Figure 4.2.5: Household size of respondents

Source: Field study, 2022

4.4 Educational Background of Respondents

The educational background of all respondents as shown in Table 4.2.6, was deduced that all the respondents had a form of educational experience. However, they all had unequal educational background. It was revealed that 8% of the respondents had a primary education, 56% of the respondents had a secondary education, while 36% had a tertiary education.

From the analysis, the educational background with the highest representation is that of the secondary level with a proportion of 56%. This implies that most of the respondents in the study area have access to a secondary school. The educational background with the least representation is that of was that of non formal with a proportion of 0%. This implies that all respondents had at least a primary education.

Table 4.2.6: Frequency and Percentage showing the Educational Background of Respondents

Educational Background	Frequency	Percentage
None	0	0%
Primary	8	8%
Secondary	56	56%
Tertiary	36	36%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Study, 2022

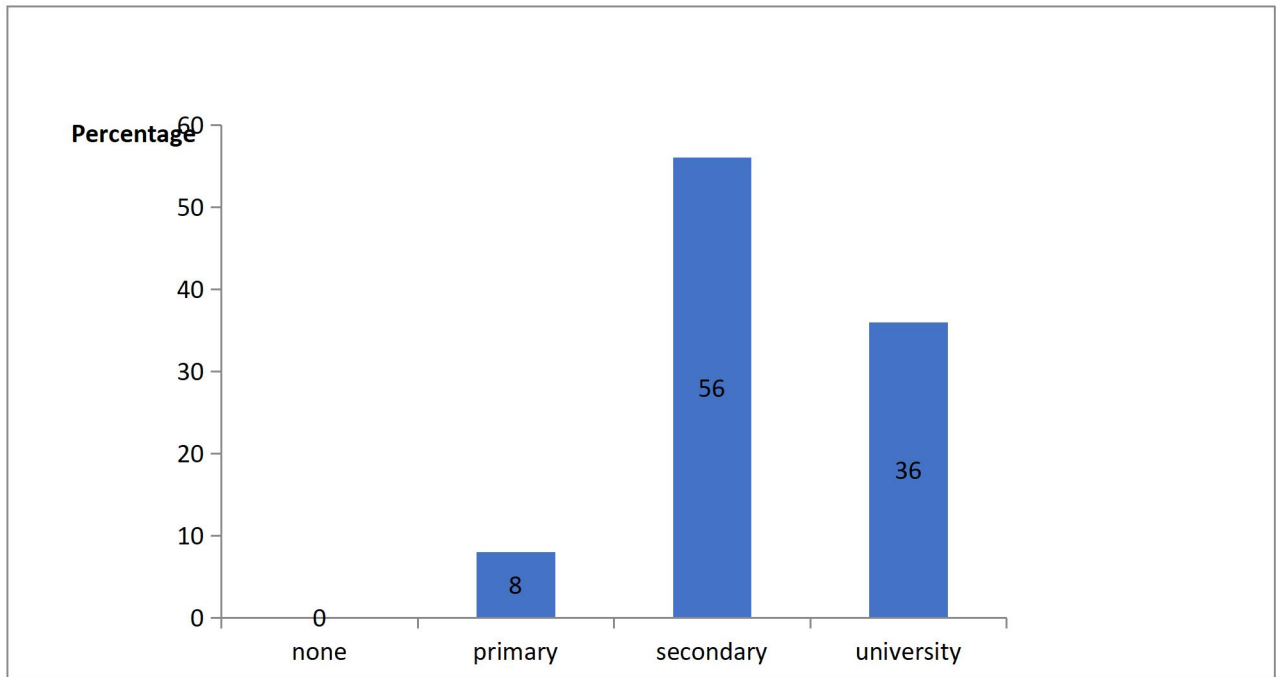


Figure 4.2.6: Educational background of respondents

Source: Field study, 2022

4.5 Overpopulation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State

4.5.1. Causes of Overpopulation in the Study Area

The analysis in figure 4.3.1 shows the various perceived causes of overpopulation in Egor LGA. The analysis reveals that out of the 100 respondents, 88% agreed that Uncontrolled migration is a factor responsible for overpopulation in a society. while 12% of the respondents were indecisive, none disagreed. In addition, out of the 100 respondents, 64% agreed that lowering of infant

mortality /low death rate and increase in birth rates can cause overpopulation in a Egor LGA, while 28% were of no opinion, and 8% did not agree to this factor as a cause of overpopulation in Egor LGA.

Furthermore, the figure also reveals that of the 100 respondents, 8% agreed that Egor's economic growth and development can cause overpopulation, while 12% were indecisive, and 80% did not agree to this factor. Also, out of the 100 respondents, 84% agreed that Illiteracy/Lack of education especially towards population education can cause overpopulation in Egor LGA, while 12% were indecisive, and 4% did not agree.

Also, out of the 100 respondents, a proportion of 76% agreed that Low mortality rate due to improved agriculture and enhanced food security can cause overpopulation in Egor LGA, while 12% were indecisive, and 12% did not agree to this causative factor. Also, a few proportion of 8% agreed that Better medical care and the scientific breakthrough in techniques for controlling diseases can cause overpopulation in Egor LGA, while 20% were indecisive, and 72% did not agree.

Additionally, a few proportion of 52% amongst the 100 respondents agreed that Some Religions in Nigeria promotes large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system can cause overpopulation in Egor LGA, while 36% were indecisive, and 8% did not agree. Lastly, out of the 100 respondents 48% respondents agreed that Male-child preference can cause overpopulation in Egor LGA, while 36% were indecisive, and 16 16% did not agree.

From the analysis below, the key factor responsible for overpopulation in Egor LGA is unchecked immigration with an overall proportion of 88%. However, others causes such as illiteracy, high birth rate, religion, male child preference etc need to be taken into serious consideration.

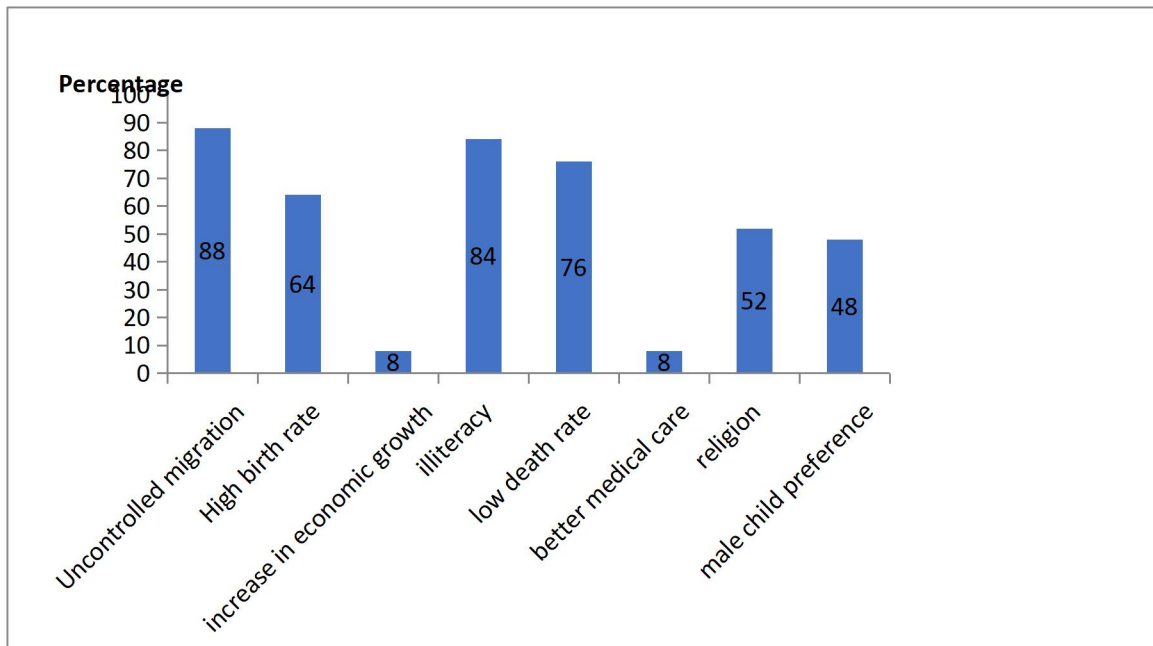


Figure 4.3.1: Causes of overpopulation in the Study Area

Source: Field study, 2022

The overall analysis reveals that out of the 100 respondents, 48.1% of the respondents agreed that Uncontrolled migration, lowering infants mortality and increase in birth rates, Improvement in a societys economic growth and development, Illiteracy/Lack of education especially towards

population education, Low mortality rate due to improved agriculture and enhanced food security, Better medical care and the scientific breakthrough in techniques for controlling diseases, Religious belief in Nigeria promoting large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system, and male-child preference are factors that cause overpopulation in Egor LGA, while 19.3% were of no opinion regarding any causative factor. The proportion of 32.6% did not agree to any of the listed causes of overpopulation in Egor LGA. Based on the responses of the respondents, it could be deduced that majority of the respondents agreed to the listed factors in the research question one as the causes of overpopulation in Egor LGA.

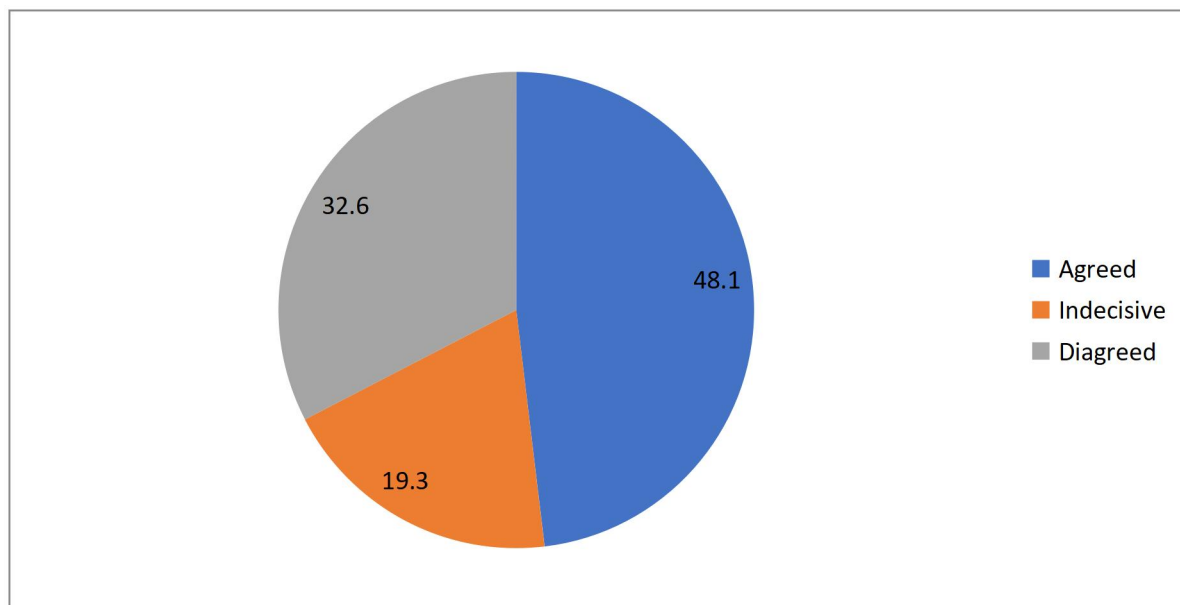


Figure 4.3.1: Respondents response to the listed causes of overpopulation in the Study Area

Source: Field study, 2022

4.5.2 Effects of Overpopulation on the Socio-Economic Activities of Egor Local

Government Area of Edo State

Analysis from the field observation as seen in figure 4.3.2 shows that 100% of the respondents agreed that Overpopulation can lead to high unemployment rate in Egor LGA. Also, of the 100 respondents, 96% of them agreed that Overpopulation can lead to an increase in human congestion/air pollution in Egor LGA, 4% did not respond, and no one disagreed to this effect of overpopulation on the socio economic activities of Egor LGA.

Furthermore, all 100 respondents agreed that Overpopulation can lead to stress on the limited available basic amenities in Egor LGA. This means no one was indecisive, and no one disagreed. In further analysis, it was also observed that 100% of the respondents agreed that Overpopulation can lead to food scarcity/unavailability in Egor LGA, no respondent was indecisive, and no one disagreed. In addition, 100% of the respondents agreed that Overpopulation can lead to an increase in crime rate in Egor LGA, no respondent was indecisive, and no one disagreed.

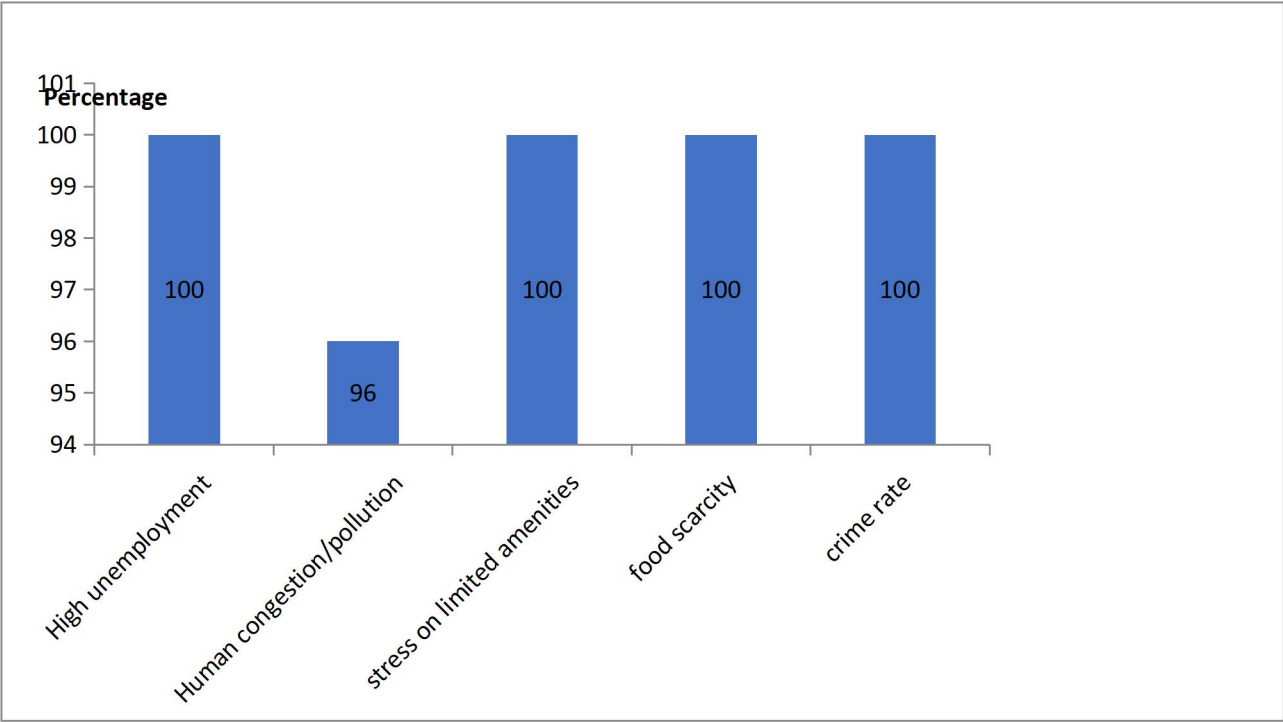


Figure 4.3.2: Socio Economic Effects of Overpopulation in the Study Area

Source: Field study, 2022

Summarily, the overall analysis reveals that out of the 100 respondents, 99.2% of them agreed that overpopulation has the above listed effects in Egor LGA. 0.8% of them were indecisive while no one disagreed to any listed effect above.

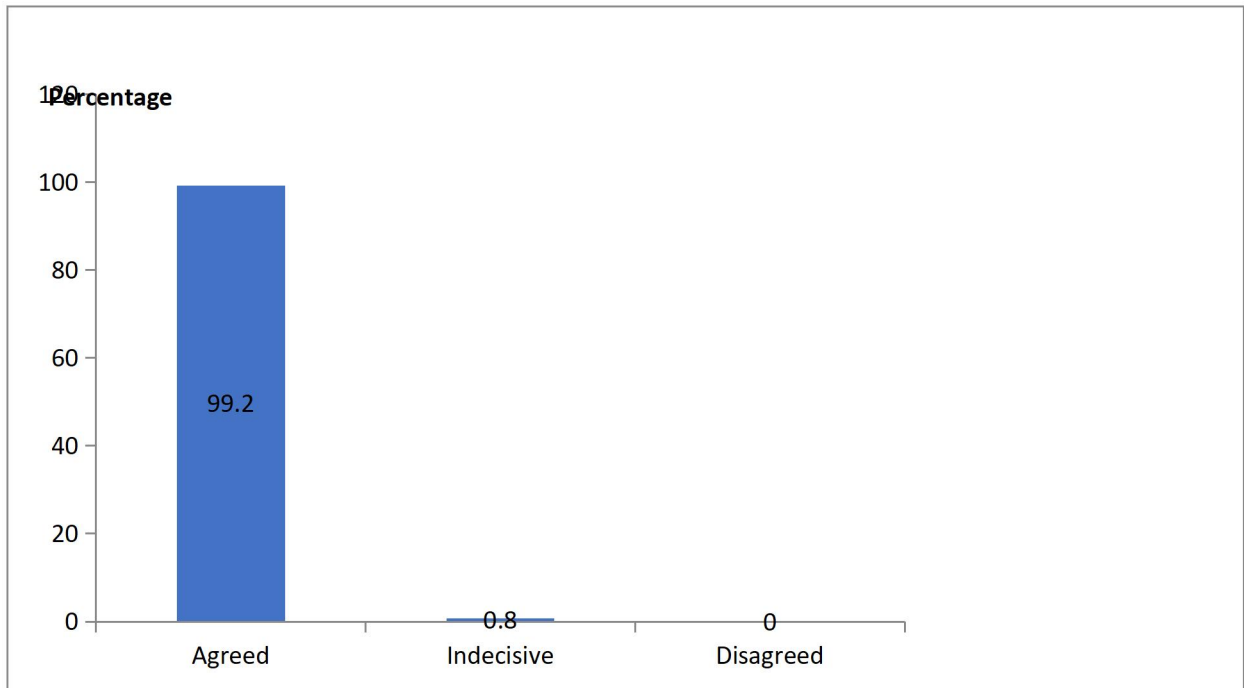


Figure 4.3.2: Respondents response to the Socio Economic Effects of Overpopulation in the Study Area

Source: Field study, 2022

4.5.3 Recommended Solutions to the Problem of Overpopulation in Egor Local

Government Area of Edo state

The Data from figure 4.3.3 indicates that 100% of the respondents agreed that Campaigns to sensitize families on the need to maintain a manageable family size should be taken seriously by appropriate government agencies in order to curb the problem of overpopulation in Egor LGA. This means that no respondent was indecisive, and no respondent disagreed. Also, 100% of the respondents agreed that the public needs to be sensitized on the programmes and policies that will actively improve the status of women and change attitudes towards female children.

In addition, all the respondents agreed that More governmental regions need to create favourable economic atmosphere and policies that will favour economic growth in all regions.

Lastly, all the respondents agreed Policies need to be set up that will help check the immigration of people to an already overpopulated society.

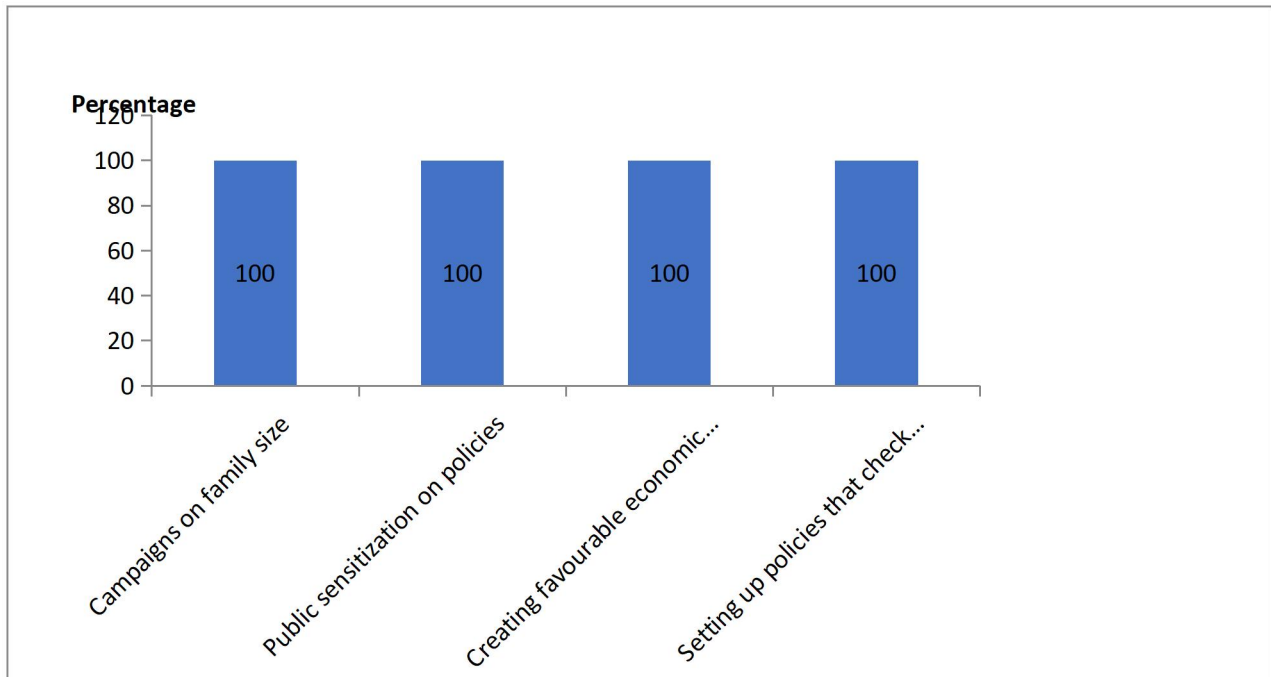


Figure 4.3.3: Recommended Solutions to the Problem of Overpopulation in the Study Area

Source: Field study, 2022

From the discussion, the grand total reveals that 100% respondents agreed with the above listed suggested ways to curb overpopulation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state..

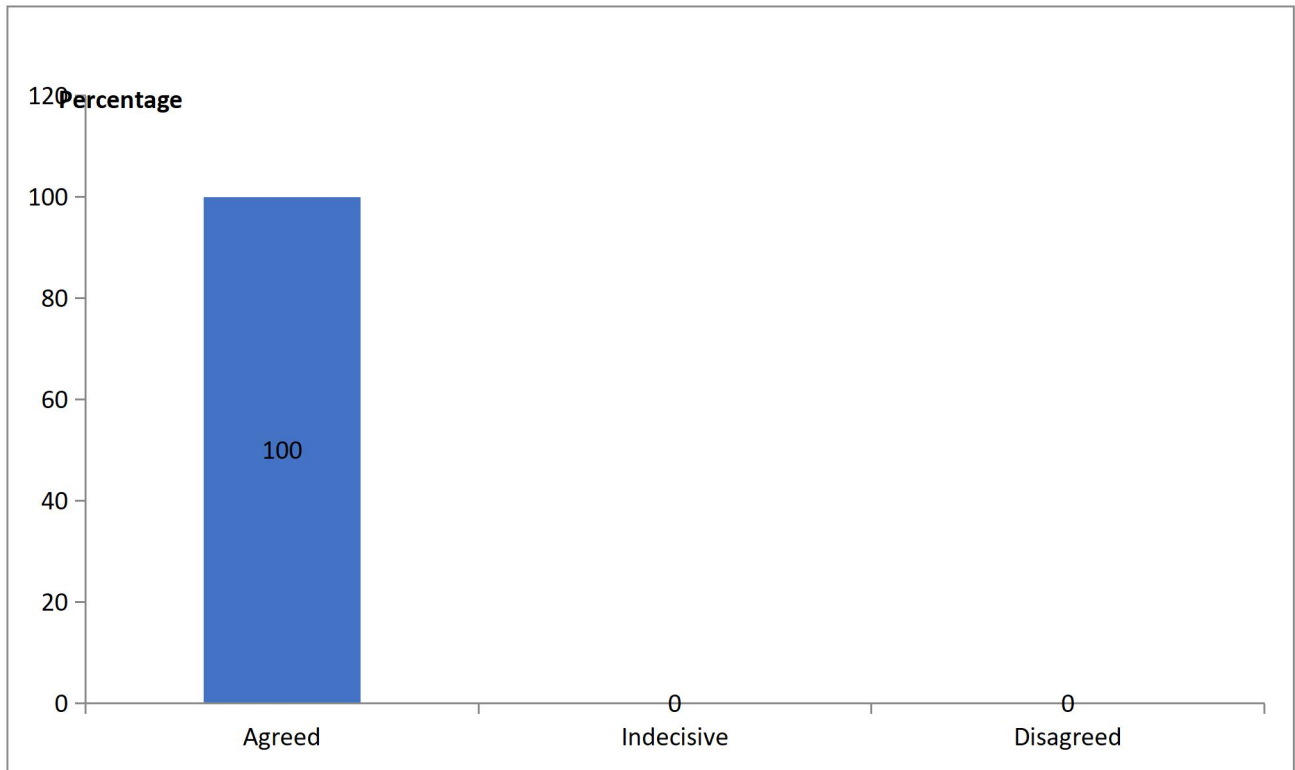


Figure 4.3.3: Respondents Response to the Solution of Overpopulation in the Study Area

Source: Field study, 2022

Hypothesis: Overpopulation does not have any effect on the socio-economic activities in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state.

Table 6: T-test analysis that overpopulation does not have an effect on the socio-economic activities of Egor Local Government Area.

	Mean	SD	Standard error mean	't'	Df	Sig
Pre	-	.77850	.22473	-	-	
Post	1.63333			7.268	34	.0102

Level of Significance= 0.05

Table 8 shows that the probability associated with the calculated value of t (-7.268) is 0.102. Since the value is greater than 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate hypothesis was accepted. Thus, Overpopulation has an effect on the socio-economic activities of Egor Local Government Area.

4.6 Summary of findings

From the analysis of research question 1, it was revealed that some of the factors responsible for overpopulation in the society include; lowering of infant mortality and increase in birth rates, Uncontrolled immigration, Illiteracy/Lack of education especially towards population education. This corresponds with the research study carried out by Campbell (2018), Renewable Resources Coalition (2016). Findings also revealed other factors such as; Better medical care and the scientific break through in techniques for controlling diseases, Religious activities that promote

large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system, male-child preference, lack of education, intimidation by opponents and inadequate security. This further corresponds with the research study carried out Umana (2019), Oramah (2006), Osam (2019) and Victor (2018).

Findings from research question 2 showed that the effects of overpopulation on the socio-economic activities of the society range from high unemployment rate, increase in human congestion/air pollution, stress on the limited available basic amenities in the society, increase in crime rate and food scarcity. This was in line with the research work of (Abumere, 2012), (Aiyedogbon, 2017), and Adediran (2012).

Findings from research question 3, showed that some of the recommended solutions to the problem of overpopulation in the society are; family sensitization on the need to maintain a manageable family size should be taken seriously, public sensitization on the programmes and policies that will actively improve the status of women and change attitudes towards female children, creating favourable economic atmosphere and policies that will favour economic growth in all regions, setting up Policies that will help check the immigration of people to an already overpopulated society. This was in line with the research study of Tartiyus, Dauda and Peter (2015).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1. Summary of findings

The study was carried out on the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state as a case study. This study was examined using the field survey design method. After the analysis of the data collected, the following summary was made;

It was found that in Egor Local Government Area, overpopulation doesn't occur on its own. It's caused by various factors which range from personal/individual problems (such as male child preference,, high birth rate) to societal problems (such as; lack of sensitization on family planning, etc). As a matter of fact, the respondents affirmed that unchecked immigration was the major cause of over population with a record of 88%. People migrate from the rural areas to urban areas in search for greener pastures, while others migrate from one urban area to another in search for better standards of living, security, jobs, businesses etc. Illiteracy (84%) and low death rate (76%) also poised a major cause to overpopulation in Egor LGA.

Further studies reveals that if the government and private organizations do not properly manage overpopulation well, it can and will lead to adverse socio-economic effects not only now, but also in the future. The highest socio economic effects according to the study will be in high

unemployment rate, where the employment opportunities would drastically drop. To this effect, people would be forced to take on the limited resources provided by the society. Food would also become scarce as there will be more mouths to feed than hands providing food. Due to the lack of jobs and a hungry stomach, crime rate will skyrocket as people will begin doing anything whatsoever to survive the harsh conditions. These 3 main effects were affirmed by 100% of the respondents as seen in the study.

Lastly, overpopulation may have become a serious threat to the socio-economic existence of the society, there are still ways to effectively curb them. No matter how bad it gets, proper sensitization of the public will go a long way in enlightening the public on the dangers of overpopulation. Governmental agencies also need to come up with proper policies to check immigration of people into their geographical region. Other ways as analyzed are proper wealth distribution in various regions, campaigns on family size/family planning.

5.2. Recommendations

With the results of the study as the base, the following recommendations were suggested by the researcher:

Campaigns to sensitize families on the need to maintain a manageable family size will go a long way in reducing the population size. Family planning, policies on birth control etc should be

preached by the government and other regulatory bodies to families to sensitize them on the need for a smaller family size. This can be done through campaigns, media and educational programs.

Secondly, Nigerian families especially the men need to be sensitized on the unbiased strengths of a female child. Most of them would rather not marry than have female children only. Little wonder why females are more than males in our society. Therefore there is the need to promote gender equality, which includes equal rights, opportunities and access to resources.

Thirdly, there is the need for proper distribution of favourable economic atmosphere among various governmental regions. The Nigerian government should also make investments in high-priority industries like manufacturing and agriculture and develop policies aimed at producing jobs. According to literature, high unemployment rates have a detrimental effect on people's lives, livelihoods, and overall economic progress. Therefore, in order to provide a competitive package for the employee, the government should also offer unique employment perks, which could take the shape of financial or non-financial aid. Additionally, the government must guarantee that jobs are available for recent graduates. They can do so by creating job vacancies and as well as creating public awareness for available jobs in the different parts of the country.

Lastly, policies that check immigration should be taken serious. The more persons come into an already overpopulated state, the worse it becomes. Therefore, such policies should be created without fear or favour, and upheld as a rule of law.

5.3. Conclusion

The conclusions drawn from this study project's findings are as follows. Firstly, we need to understand population and overpopulation as a whole because a society cannot survive without its people, so we need to know when a population is becoming too much. From this knowledge, we can identify the various factors that is causing overpopulation. It's also important to note that although some factors are not prone to cause overpopulation as much as others, they all should be taken as serious as possible.

Secondly, overpopulation can have an adverse effect on the socio economic development of a society. This occurs when it leads to high unemployment rate which can cause poverty, increase in human congestion, food scarcity amongst others. All these threaten the existence of the economy in such society.

Lastly, if overpopulation continues at this rate without being checked, the end result will be disastrous. Therefore there is the need to put measures in place that would help alleviate the situation.

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**APPENDIX
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE.

I am an undergraduate student of the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, University of Benin, Benin City, carrying out a research on the impact of population growth on the socio economic activities in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state as a case study.

You are kindly requested to tick (✓) the response option that best expresses your views and opinions. It will be highly appreciated if you respond to all question in the questionnaire. Absolute objectivity is required from you. Be rest assured that your response will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used only for the purpose of this study. Thanks.

Ezeogaranya John Paul Chigozie

SECTION A: Demographic data

Please tick (✓) the appropriate option that best represents your response.

1. AGE: (a) 25 and below () (b) 26-33() (c) 34-41() (d) 42 and above ()
2. Gender: Male () Female()
3. Marital status: (a) Single () (b) Married () (c) Divorced () (d) Widowed ()
4. Household size: (a) 1-2 () (b) 3-4 () (c) 5-6 () (d) 7 and above ()

5. Educational background: (a) None () (b) Primary () (c) Secondary () (d) Tertiary ()

SECTION B: Research Questions

This section contains statements on different sections. You are requested to tick (√) the column against each statement that best represents your feelings.

Note: SA= STRONGLY AGREE, A= AGREE, UD= UNDECIDED, D= DISAGREE, SD= STRONGLY DISAGREE.

S/N	Item statement/questions	SA	A	UD	D	SD
	Research Question 1: What are the causes of overpopulation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state?					
6	Uncontrolled mmigration causes overpopulation in a society					
7	lowering of infant mortality and increase in birth rates.					
8	Improvement in a societys economic growth and development					
9	Illiteracy/Lack of education especially towards population education					
10	Low mortality rate due to improved agriculture and					

	enhanced food security					
11	Better medical care and the scientific break through in techniques for controlling diseases.					
12	Some Religions in Nigeria promotes large families with the encouragement of early marriage and polygamous family system.					
13	Male-child preference					
	Research Question 2: What are the effects of overpopulation on the socio-economic activities of Egor Local Government Area of Edo state?	SA	A	UD	D	SD
14	Overpopulation can lead to high unemployment rate					
15	Overpopulation can lead to an increase in human congestion/air pollution					
16	Overpopulation can lead to stress on the limited available basic amenities in the society.					
17	Overpopulation can lead to food scarcity/unavailability					
18	Overpopulation can lead to an increase in crime rate					
	Research Question 3: What are the recommended	SA	A	UD	D	SD

	solutions to the problem of overpopulation in Egor Local Government Area of Edo state?					
19	Campaigns to sensitize families on the need to maintain a manageable family size should be taken seriously by appropriate government agencies.					
20	The public needs to be sensitized on the programmes and policies that will actively improve the status of women and change attitudes towards female children.					
21	More governmental regions need to create favourable economic atmosphere and policies that will favour economic growth in all regions					
22	Policies need to be set up that will help check the immigration of people to an already overpopulated society					