

## Analysis of Economic Development Challenges of Rapid Population Growth in Nigeria: Way Forward

**Authors :** Sabiu Abdullahi Yau

**Abstract :** Nigeria is a high fertility country that experiences eye-popping population growth, with no end in sight. However, there is evidence that its large population inhibits government's efforts in meeting the basic needs of the people. Moreover, past and present governments of Nigeria have been committing huge amount of financial resources to meet the basic infrastructural requirements capable of propelling growth and development. Despite the country's large population and abundant natural resources, poverty, unemployment, rural-urban migration, deforestation and inadequate infrastructural facilities have been persistently on the increase resulting in consistent failure of government policies to impact positively on the economy. This paper, however, identifies and critically analyses the major development challenges caused by population growth in Nigeria using secondary data. The paper concludes that for the Nigeria's economy to develop, all the identified challenges posed by rapid population growth must be promptly and squarely addressed.

**Keywords :** economic development, population, growth, Nigeria

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