

## **Population Growth And Poverty Nexus In Africa: Analytical Review**

A paper on the consequences of rapid population growth on Poverty in Africa.

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### **Abstract**

This paper examined the link between the population growth and poverty rates in the developing countries of Africa. Poverty in Africa is a growing menace to the standard of living and economic wellbeing of the people, and this is visible and concentrated in fewer countries than others. Five of the ten poorest countries in the world are in Africa, and of the top ten countries, three are African countries. The average per capita income of these countries is the least in the world, which is an indicator of the standard of living. While some African countries have made gains in population control, others have put in place strategies and institutions aimed at reducing it. There is evidence of a link between population growth and poverty in African countries, and it is suggested that governments should provide more resources and policy interventions aimed at population reduction. Poverty reduction programs will provide social assistance to the poor and most vulnerable, and every African country should incorporate these policies into their various cultural, ethnic, and demographic diversities. Governments can raise minimum wage, create more employment opportunities, invest in quality and universal education, expand health and medical care, and provide easy access to the political process.

**Keyword(s):** Population Growth; Poverty; GDP per capita

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Date of Submission: 18-02-2021

Date of Acceptance: 03-03-2021

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

In the last decade, the number of Africans have been rising as this has not been the case for a continent that has been experiencing slow growth in its population, particularly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The issues associated with increasing population is not just numbers but rather the serious consequences of the wellbeing of Africans and humanity in general. If economic development involves the improvement in living standards, particularly, incomes, health, education, freedom of choices, dignity and self respect, then how will population growth interact with the standard of living of the people. Population growth is the increase in the number of people living in a country or a location such as city, county or state. In biology, population growth is the increase in the number of species or individuals in a population.

World's population has been on the increase since the early 1960s. From 3 billion to 6 billion between 1960 and 1999, a doubling increase within 39 years. The previous time the world's population grew from 1.5 billion to 3 billion was in 70 years. Lam (2011) noted that the world population will reach 7 billion by 2011. World population has been rising faster than food production since the 1960s. It is estimated that the global population will increase from 7.7 billion in 2019 to 11.2 billion by the turn of the century. Cook (1960) observed that there is increase in the global population which threatens the wellbeing and living standards of millions of people. In many areas of the world, high population growth means increased pressure on the social-economic wellbeing of the people.

The main socio-economic challenges facing the world today is the problem of over-population. Over-population exerts pressure on food production, the environment, living standards, and consequently, poverty. Some of the main causes of a growing population are, reduced mortality rate, immigration, lack of adequate fertility treatments in developing countries, poor contraceptive use, and poverty. The United Nations (2010) have predicted that 48 poorest developing nations will experience population growth from 850 million to 1.7 billion by 2050. Of the 10 most populous countries in the world with a combined population of 4.5 billion, the developing countries account for a staggering 80%. World population is currently growing at an average of 1.05% per year down from 1.08% in 2019. It continues to grow but at a slower pace compared to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. UNFPA (2019) projects that global population will reach 10 billion humans by 2057.

According to the United Nations (2020) estimate, Africa currently has a population of 1.344 billion, this is 16.7% of the global population. Africa ranks second in terms of world's population by regions. The population density is estimated at 45 per square kilometers. 43.6% of this population is urban and the median

age in Africa is 19.65years. Africa is grouped into five sub-regions of Eastern, Western, Northern, Central and Southern. The population estimates for 2020 were, 445.4 million, 401.8 million, 246.2 million, 179.5 million and 67.5 million respectively. Africa annual population growth rate is 2.49% with a fertility rate of 4.4 and 17.2 as a percentage of global share of population.

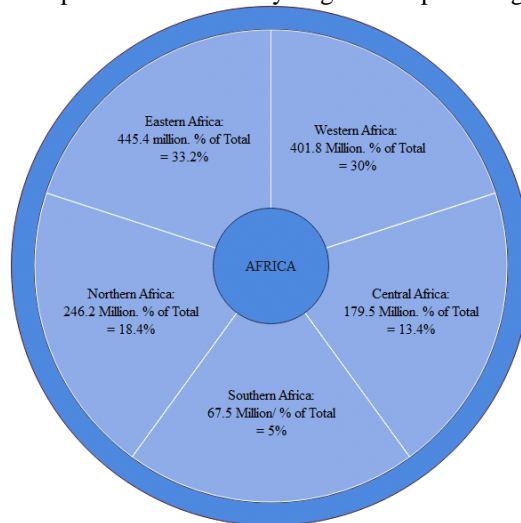
**Table 1.1 World Population by Geographical Region, 2020.**

S/N	Population	Yearly Change	Net Change (million)	Fertility rate	World Share
Asia	4,641,054,775	0.86%	39,683,577	2.2	59.5%
Africa	1,340,598,147	2.49%	32,533,952	4.4	17.2%
Europe	747,636,026	0.06%	453,275	1.6	9.6%
South America/ Carribean.	653,962,331	0.9%	5,841,374	2.0	8.4%
North America	368,869,647	0.62%	2,268,683	1.8	4.7%
Oceania	42,677,813	1.31%	549,778	2.4	0.5%

Source: Author’s Compilation. UN World Population Prospects. Worldometer 2019 Revision.

In Table 1.1, Africa has the fastest growing population with a 2.49% annual change, compared to 0.62 of North America and 0.86% of Asia. Africa has the highest fertility rate in the world with 4.4, compared to 1.6 and 1.8 of Europe and North America respectively. Mueni (2016) observed that on average, women in Africa have an average of five children when compared to the global average of 2.5 children. The Demographic Transition Theory of Population which refers to the shift from a high birth rate and high infant death rates, in a country with low technology, to low birth rate and low death rate in countries with advanced technology, has not had any impact on Africa compared to other regions of the world. Some of the factors that drives the fertility rates are, the natural and traditional tendencies to have a large family, early marriages, maternal and family support, fertility preference for women to have children earlier in life, illiteracy, and increasing need for farming in agriculture.

Figure 1.1. Population of Africa by Region and percentage of Total



**Table 1.2. Africa Regional Population (Million) 2019**

Region	Population (million)	% Share of Total	% of World Total	Population Density Per Km <sup>2</sup>
Eastern Africa	445.4	33.2	5.71	67
Western Africa	401.8	30.0	5.00	66
Northern Africa	246.2	18.4	3.21	32
Central Africa	179.5	13.4	0.06	8
Southern Africa	67.5	5.0	0.87	25

Source: Author’s Compilation. UN, UNFPA, Worldometer, 2019.

**Table 1.2**, shows the population of the various regions of Africa, percentage share of the total Africa population, and the percentage share of world's total. Eastern Africa is the most populous region in Africa with a density of 67 people per square kilometer and 5.71% of the world's population. Eastern Africa is the fastest growing region in Africa and FAO (2018) estimated that 132 million of the 445.4 million people in East Africa, 31% are poor and undernourished. This is as a result of some of the consequences of high population growth which exerts pressure on the economies and environment of countries in this region. Research has shown that population growth in Eastern Africa is raising poverty levels in the region.

The link between population growth and economic growth is contentious. Research has shown that low population growth in high income countries causes social and economic challenges, while high population growth in low-income countries tends to have a negative impact on development. Wesley and Peterson (2017) in the role that population plays in economic growth and development concluded that international migration also helps to make adjustments to the imbalances that a high population growth creates. A growing population means an increase in the number of working population which is vital in the economic development process. Secondly, the size of a country's market for its goods and services is a function of the population size which encourages investors to raise investment for further growth. However, the Malthusian Theory thinks on the contrary that based on the diminishing returns in agriculture output, population growth becomes a barrier to development since the rate of increase is higher than the rate of agricultural output. This is the case in most developing countries of the world that are still largely agrarian and subsistence economies.

UNFPA (2014) in its population and poverty report, observed that population trends can impact the prospects for poverty reduction and development as the growth in population, the age structure, and the ratio of rural and urban population tends to raise the welfare and living standards for the poor. Research has also shown that improvement in the living standards tend to lower birth rate which helps households to rise above the poverty threshold. Bish (2016) observed that while population growth is slowing in the developed countries of the world, it continues to pose a challenge in Africa which is growing at an average of 2.5%. The implication of this lower per capita income and rapid urban population growth.

**Table 1.3. Population, Growth Rate and Per Capita Income of Ten African Countries, 2019.**

Country	Population(million)	Population Growth Rate(%)	GDP Per Capita (USD)	HDI Value/ Ranking
Tanzania	59,734,588	3.0	1,050.68	0.538, 154/189
Ethiopia	114,963,588	2.6	772.31	0.470, 173/189
Nigeria	206,139,589	2.6	2,028.18	0.534, 158/189
Ghana	31,072,940	2.2	2,202.31	0.596, 142/189
Egypt	102,334,404	2.0	2,549.13	0.700, 116/189
Algeria	43,851,044	2.0	4,114.72	0.759, 82/189
Angola	32,866,272	3.3	3,432.39	0.581, 147/189
DRC Congo	89,561,403	3.2	561.78	0.459, 179/189
South Africa	59,308,690	1.4	6,374.03	0.705, 113/189
Namibia	2,540,905	1.9	5,931.45	0.645, 130/189

**Source:** Author's Compilation. UN, UNDP, World Bank, Worldometer data, 2019

Table 1.2 shows the population of the two most populous countries in the various sub-regions of Africa. This represents 55.5% of the total Africa population of 1.34 billion people. Southern Africa has the least population in Africa with 67.6 million representing 5% of the total population. This is 32.8%, 58% and 66% of the population of Nigeria, Ethiopia and Egypt respectively. However, this table shows that higher population growth affects the per capita income, coupled with other human development indices, negatively impacts the Human Development ranking of these countries.

**Table 1.4. Index of Population, GDP Per Capita, and Headcount Ratio as % of Population (2016-2018) for Ten African Countries.**

Country	Population	GDP Per Capita	Population Living in Poverty	Poverty Headcount Ratio (% of Population)
Tanzania	59,734,588	1,050.68	15,769,993	26.4
Ethiopia	114,963,588	772.31	27,591,261	24.0
Nigeria	206,139,589	2,028.18	82,455,835	40.1
Ghana	31,072,940	2,202.31	7,271,067	23.4
Egypt	102,334,404	2,549.13	28,448,964	27.8
Algeria	43,851,044	4,114.72	2,411,807	5.5

Angola	32,866,272	3,432.39	15,644,345	47.6
DRC Congo	89,561,403	561.78	64,484,210	72.0
South Africa	59,308,690	6,374.03	32,916,322	55.5
Namibia	2,540,905	5,931.45	442,117	17.4

**Source:** Author’s Compilation: UN, UNDP, UNFPA Data 2018

Table 1.3 shows the index of population, GDP per capita and poverty headcount ratio for ten most populous regional African countries for 2018 estimates. The poverty headcount ratio shows the percentage of the population of these countries living below the national poverty line, as a percentage of the total population. The ratio conveys useful information about poverty levels. Research has shown that the use of the ratio for evaluating policies often presents distorted facts as it ignores the extent and depth of poverty in these countries. Kristofel et al (2019) observed that the most significant challenges that hampers strategies for reducing poverty in Africa are clearly found in Nigeria and DRC Congo. The population of these two countries make up 22% of the total population in Africa and the number of poor people living in Nigeria is expected to increase due to the rapid population growth.

Sen (1981) in his concept of poverty, he identified the traditional setup as simply to count the number of poor and express this as a percentage of the number of poor to the total population in a community. This approach, although with some setbacks, was simply to express the total number of poor people in a society as a ratio of the total population. Increasing population growth exerts more pressure on the environment, degradation of the forest, climate and agricultural production, through human pollution and poor people are more susceptible to high population and environmental pollution. Many studies have confirmed a cause-and-effect relationship between pollution and poverty. Anees (2011) observed that countries with higher population have all witnessed increased pressure on their natural resources bases and this correlates their growth and natural resources to the population growth. Kelley ((1999) opined that demographic changes as a result of growth rate in population correlates with the ability for countries to provide food for its citizens, reduce the rate of poverty and sustainable environment.

According to the United Nations, extreme poverty results in hunger and 25% of those hungry globally live in Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, 59 million children resort to work instead of school to fight poverty for their families. The poverty situation in Africa is as a result of several factors and some are linked. However, the major cause of poverty in Africa, which results to suffering of millions, is the rapid growth in population. Poverty in Africa is highly concentrated in Nigeria and DRC Congo and it is estimated that over 40% of the world’s extreme poor will live in these two countries by 2050.

**Table 1.5: Index of World Population, Share and Proportion of the Poor Population.**

Region	Population	World Share (%)	Population of Poor (<US\$1.9)	Poverty Rate(%)
Asia	4,641,054,775	59.5	784,338,256	16.9
Africa	1,340,598,147	17.2	804,358,888	60.0
Europe	747,636,026	9.6	16,237,701	21.7
South America/ Caribbean.	653,962,331	8.4	66,704,157	10.2
North America	368,869,647	4.7	98,488,195	26.7
Oceania	42,677,813	0.5	4,566,259	10.7

**Source:** UN, UNDP Reports, Poverty and Social Exclusion Reports (2017-2019)

Table 1.4 shows the global population with the percentage of poor in the various regions. Africa with a population of 1.34 billion has the highest percentage of poor people and in absolute terms. Asia with the world population share of 59 percent and 784.3 million poor, has a lower poverty rate. Merrick (2002) noted that poverty and the rate of change vary by region in Sub-Saharan Africa, which has the highest growth rate in population, has made no progress in reducing poverty. Statistics shows that about 8.6 percent of the global population live in extreme poverty according to the World Bank (2018). In Africa, one in every three, live below the global poverty line. This represents 70 percent of the world’s poorest people.

Birdsall et al (2001) in a study on demographic change, economic growth and poverty in the developing world observed that rapid population growth had a negative impact on economic growth in the developing countries. Higher population growth rate affects per capita output growth and ultimately contributes to higher or lower economic growth, which is a function of the impact on the per capita GDP.

**Table 1.6 GDP, GDP and Population Growth Rates and GDP Per Capita, 2019**

Country	GDP \$bn Nominal	GDP Per Capita	Population Growth Rate (%)	GDP Growth Rate (%)
Tanzania	62.224	1,050.68	3.0	6.80
Ethiopia	91.166	772.31	2.6	8.97
Nigeria	446.543	2,028.18	2.6	2.27
Ghana	67.077	2,202.31	2.2	7.10
Egypt	355.600	2,549.13	2.0	5.60
Algeria	172.781	4,114.72	2.0	0.80
Angola	91.527	3,432.39	3.3	-1.50
DRC Congo	48.994	561.78	3.2	4.38
South Africa	358.839	6,374.03	1.4	0.15
Namibia	14.368	5,931.45	1.9	0.30

Note: GDP for the ten countries is nominal and per capita GDP is in US\$.

Table 1.5 shows a comparison between population growth and GDP growth rates of ten African countries. We observe that Nigeria, Algeria, Angola, South Africa, and Namibia have a population growth rate higher than the GDP growth rates. The implication of this is a lower per capita income and standard of living in these countries. Economic growth is the changes in a country's GDP. According to Wesley and Peterson (2017), GDP can be expressed by the population times the per capita GDP and expressed as a percentage change in which economic growth is equal to the growth in population and growth in per capita GDP.

**Figure 1.2 Chart of GDP and Population Growth Rates and Per Capita GDP growth rate, 2019.**

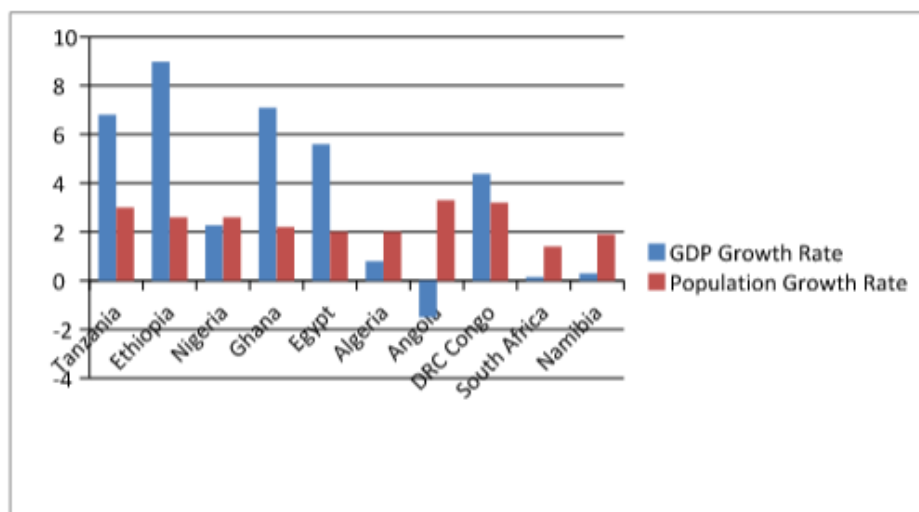


Figure 1.2 depicts GDP and Population growth rate of ten countries in five sub-regions of Africa in 2019. From the analysis, all the countries experienced a growth rate in their GDP, except Angola with a negative growth rate. Angola and the DRC have the highest growth in population.

**Population and Growth Interrelations**

The Malthusian Population Growth theorized that through a natural or positive economic intervention, population growth will be controlled to create a balance with the food supply. This was postulated through the arithmetic and geometric progression of food supply and population growth, respectively. In this theory, population will expand eliminate any surplus in food production. The Neo-Malthusian proponents (1958) observed the unprecedented growth in the population of developing countries. This theory concluded that the high population growth rate in the developing countries causes poor socio-economic development, and the policy implication is that the governments of the developing countries should intervene to control population through available means. The Revisionist Theory theorized that underdevelopment produces an increasing rate of growth in population. Adair Turner (2009) according to the Revisionists, there was little correlation between high population growth rate and low economic growth in developing countries, and this was based on certain propositions which were valid. In this case, population growth is a neutral phenomenon in the process of economic development, and the policy implication is that economic and policy reforms, stable political environment, and the existence of a free-market economy must take priority. The Optimistic Theories of

population theorizes that population growth maintains a positive correlation on economic development. Human innovation and technological progress would create the necessary environment to eliminate any constraints to development. Simon (1993).

The Pessimistic Theory theorized that the supply of natural resources is fixed, and supply would lag behind population growth. As population increase, the level of economic development will fall. The Pessimists were the contemporary supporters of Malthus idea. The current thinking of the impact of population growth on economic growth reveals that population growth is not the main cause of the socio-political and economic problems facing the developing countries, but a myriad of issues multiplied by the damage caused by other global problems. The thinking is that the activities of slowing population growth will not eliminate the problems but rather contribute to the solutions.

**Population and Poverty Linkage.**

The neo-Malthusian perspective relates the negative effects of a growing population to the economic development of any nation. Much of the statistical data and findings of the impact of population growth on the economic wellbeing of citizens of developing countries, are influenced by the Malthusian theory regarding population growth. The Classicalists laid the foundation linking population growth and poverty. Malthus in his theory predicted that the incidence of hunger and starvation will be the likely outcome of an unchecked population growth. Crook (1996) observed that Malthus was not specific about the actual rate of increase that could lead to this state of hunger and starvation, but that any exponential growth rate would be sufficient. There has been a long debate linking population growth with the rate of poverty. Growth in national incomes have a negative relationship with population growth. Improvement in living standards and economic wellbeing tends to slow fertility rates and the growth in population.

There is little evidence that population growth positively impacts poverty. A growth in GDP raises national incomes, living conditions and wellbeing, reduce fertility rate, and population growth. Ahlburg (1996) suggested that there is indirect evidence of a link between population growth and poverty. Population growth reduces per capita income and wellbeing, and this ultimately raise the level of poverty. Countries with population growth rate higher than the growth rate in GDP tends to have lower per capita income, lower levels of economic wellbeing, and increasing poverty levels.

**Table 1.7. Population and Poverty in Ten Most Populated Countries 2020**

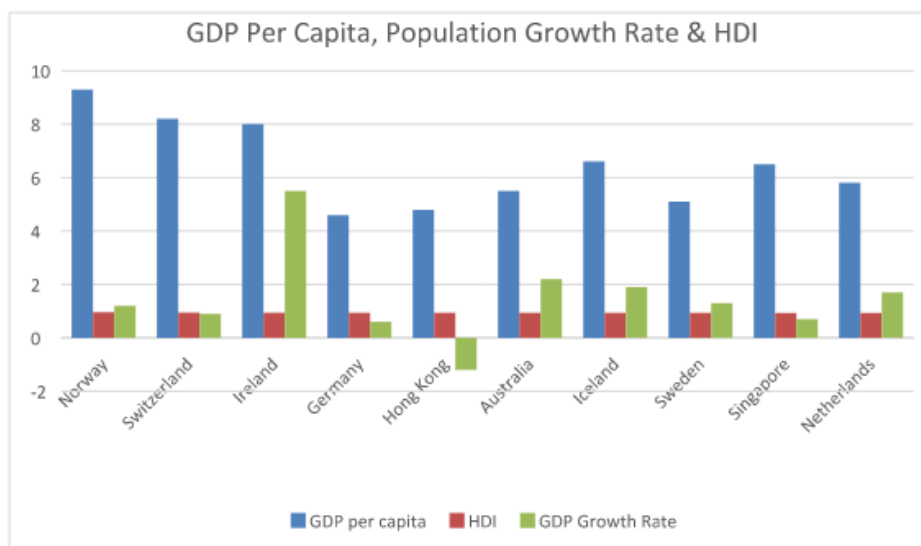
Country	Population (million)	GDP (Bn) 2019 Estimates	GDP Per Capita	% Below Poverty Line	Poverty Rate (%)
China	1,439	14,340.0	16,790	3.3	1.7
India	1,380	2,869.0	6,284	21.9	68.8
USA	331	21,430.0	53,240	15.1	10.5
Indonesia	274	1,119.0	4,200	10.9	9.4
Pakistan	221	278.2	1,130	29.5	24.3
Brazil	213	1,840.0	10,400	4.2	19.9
Nigeria	206	448.1	2,250	70.0	40.0
Bangladesh	165	302.6	1,250	24.3	20.5
Russia	146	1,700.0	10,500	13.3	14.3
Mexico	129	1,269.0	9,800	46.2	23.0

**Source:** Author’s Compilation. UNDP, World Bank, Worldometer, 2018-2019

Table 1.7 shows population of the ten most populous countries in the world, the GDP, GDP per capita, and the poverty rates. The countries with high GDP show a higher GDP per capita than countries with lower GDP. USA and China with the highest GDP has its more than the combined GDP of the eight countries in the top ten most populous nations. The GDP per capita of USA is more than the combined GDP per capita of other eight countries. China has grown faster than India, and in the last couple of years, India has shown a substantial rate of economic growth that will raise its GDP per capita. Population exerts enormous pressure on the GDP per capita, and higher growth rates results in lower per capita GDP. Economic performance can be appraised through various indices, such as the quality of life and wellbeing, human capital development, and access to the basic needs. However, the basic measure for standard of living is the GDP per capita. Rama (2019), noted that economic growth matters because this drives the level of wellbeing for the population, and poverty rate also measure wellbeing, as the level of GDP per capita. Most advanced countries are faced with a combination of lower population growth rate and high GDP per capita. Ten Countries in Africa, with an average of 2.4 percent population growth rate, have an average GDP per capita of \$2,900. In contrast, ten of the most developed countries have an average population of 17.9 million, and GDP per capita of \$64,215. The average Human

Development Index for the ten most developed country is 0.847 in comparison with 0.416 of the developing countries.

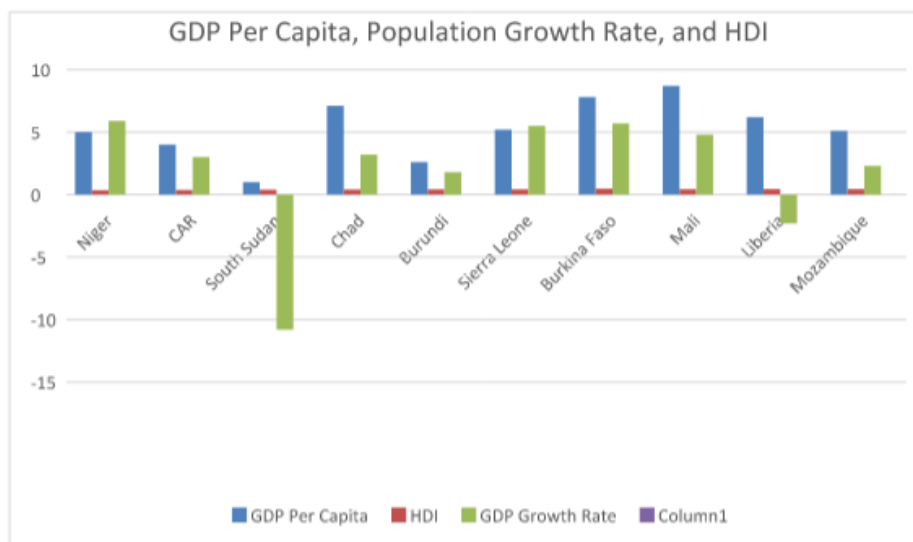
**Figure 1.3. Human Development Index of Ten Most development Countries, 2019**



**Source:** Author’s Computation. UNDP, World Bank Report 2019.

Figure 1.3 shows a strong relationship between high GDP per capita and Human Development Index. The top ten developed countries have a high GDP per capita and a higher level of Human Development Index.

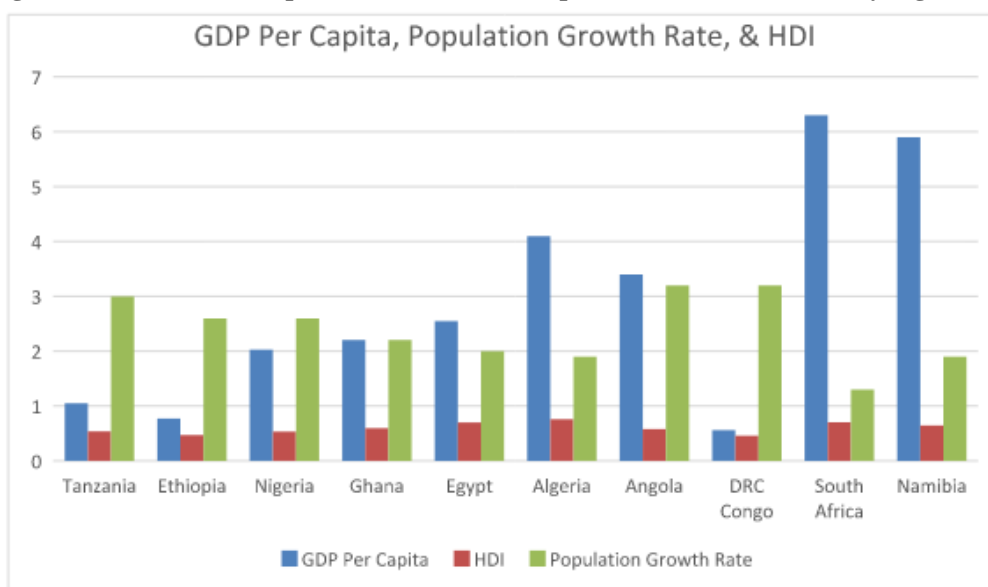
**Figure 1.4. Human Development Index of Ten Least Developed Countries, 2019.**



**Source:** Author’s Computation. UNDP, World Bank Report 2019.

Figure 1.4 shows a lower HDI levels in comparison with the most developed countries, but at a higher GDP growth rate. A sustained economic growth has an overall impact on people’s standard of living. Small changes in economic growth over a prolong period have a huge impact on the economic wellbeing of the citizens. The three major indicators of Life Expectancy, Education and GDP per capita is the summary measure, A high HDI measures the high standard of living of the people. The World Development Report and the Human Development Report promotes and encourage interventions that raises the living standards of the poor. Aturupane et al (1994) emphasized that on the basic social services and safety nets, of rights and interests of disadvantaged groups are important, both as ends and means of economic development, the World Development Report emphasize them more as means, and the Human Development Report as ends.

Figure 1.5. Human Development Index of Most Populous African Countries by region, 2019.



Source: Author’s Computation. UNDP, World Bank, 2019 Report

In figure 1.5, the average GDP per capita for the ten most populous countries by region is \$2,901, and the average HDI is 0.599. Ethiopia, DRC Congo, Tanzania, and Nigeria are classified as countries with low Human Development Index. The combined population of the four countries under review. Angola, Namibia, and Ghana are classified as medium in the Human Development Index. These three countries have a population of 8 percent of the total, while Egypt, Algeria, and South Africa, with a high Human Development Index, have 27 percent of the population. Zgheib, et al (2006) agreed that the problem of rapid population growth is not only of numbers, but it impacts the quality of life, and economic wellbeing of the people. Rapid population growth has a higher negative impact in poorer countries, than in rich countries, and this is likely to reduce the growth rate of GDP per capita and economic wellbeing which ultimately raise the level of poverty. The GDP per capita is a global measure for assessing the prosperity and economic wellbeing of a nation, based on growth in the economy. In our analysis, in figure 1.3, small, rich, and more advanced industrialized countries, with lower population growth tends to have the highest GDP per capita. Secondly, the GDP per capita is used to examine the macroeconomic relationship between economic and population growth. Nations may have a high GDP per capita with small population, and this implies that there is self-sufficient economy based on a well developed human capital and other factors. Most countries examined in Figure 1.4, have a higher population growth rate relative to GDP growth rate. These countries are also faced with shortages of human capital, and other factors necessary to drive a self-sufficient economy. World Bank (2019), global per capita GDP grew, and economies such as China and India, achieve a GDP per capita well above the global average, despite its huge population, and partly due to the economic reforms in China in the late 70s and India in the 1990s.

Today, one in three Africans, representing 446 million people, live below the poverty line. This number, represent 6 percent of the global population and a staggering 25 percent of the global poor. Since the start of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more and more Africans are escaping poverty due to the institutional reforms, although the pace of these reforms is small, and hence the pace of poverty reduction is also lagging other parts of the developing world. Wolfson (1985) observed that the result of a high population growth rate in Africa requires an expansion of its educational and health institutions. Education and Health are major determinants of the level of human development and wellbeing. In Africa, the most significant challenges for reducing the level of poverty, results from the population growth in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The population of these two countries represents 22 percent of Africa population, and 18 percent of total poor. The rapid population growth rate in Nigeria is expected to raise the number of poor people by over 20 million by 2030. It is projected that by 2030, Africa will share about 85 percent of the global poor if the institutional reforms and poverty reduction policies are not accelerated.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rapid population growth reduces per capita income growth. Low per capita income reduces the wellbeing, and this raises the level of poverty. Countries with a high population density exerts pressure on land, and rapid growth reduces the amount of land available for economic survival, and hence poverty. Orbeta (2002)



reviewing the links between population and poverty in the Philippines, cited the role of structural changes in economic development and poverty reduction. The study presented policy implications for the findings and emphasized that birth control management is a critical factor in any population control measure. McNicoll (1997) observed that economy-wide impact of changes in population on poverty can be traced through real changes in the distribution and the resultant effect in the rural and urban environmental alterations. In his analysis, he posited that policies that have effects on poverty and fertility, such as health and education policies, may have a more positive impact on poverty and population alleviation. Birdsall (1980) in reviewing the links between population growth and poverty reduction in the developing world, focused on the effects of poverty on fertility and the poor, and future expectations. The study concluded that increasing population growth have a negative impact on the budget of the country and individual household, with the increase in the number of people to cater for, and the number of jobs to be created, and that lack of progress in raising per capita incomes, reducing income inequality and poverty are probable outcomes.

The economic wellbeing of citizens of a country is a function of GDP per capita. Low levels of economic development results in many living in poverty, and a slight change in economic growth raises the per capita incomes, with population growth remaining constant, and an improvement in the quality of life of the citizens. Sinding (2009) examined the relationship between changes in population and economic outcomes. He concluded that there is a general agreement that improvements in economic conditions for citizens lead to reduced birth rate, and that countries in Sub-Saharan Africa should incorporate policies and programs that targets fertility reduction, as a national development strategy. Turner (2009) in examining the challenge of rapid population growth in least developed countries, compared the success or otherwise of the Chinese one-child policy to the need for containing the fertility rate in Africa and the Middle East, and the impact on economic performance and prospects. High fertility rates have a destabilizing effect on the economic growth of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and lack of institutional mechanism to curtail high rate of growth of population through birth control and other fertility-reducing methods. Most developing countries have muted the idea of the Chinese strategy to control fertility.

### **Poverty and Wellbeing**

Poverty is linked with lack of several basic needs such as, political participation, adequate housing, inadequate nutrition, access to proper healthcare, under-funded education system which results in high literacy rate, the development of slums and unsafe neighborhoods, and high crime rates. The impact of poverty on wellbeing is enormous and significant. The population of people who live in poverty lack the resources to meet basic needs and reducing the severity of poverty requires improving the means of accessing these basic needs. Wellbeing is multidimensional and lack of these resources necessary to reduce the impact of poverty affects the overall wellbeing of the people:

- Inadequate housing results in unhealthy living, and air pollution is most common in the environment where the deprived live.
- Lack of proper nutrition affects health and wellness of deprived people, and the psychological wellbeing of the poor.
- Adequate healthcare guarantees healthy living and increase life expectancy.
- Access to quality education raise the literacy rate and levels of human capital development. Increased funding and provision of adequate resources result in high education standards and access to universal education.
- Adequate environments affect living conditions and ultimately the wellbeing of the people. Air and water pollution, soil degradation, and the development of slums affects the environment and living conditions of the people.
- Political participation increases an individual's sense of well-being. The population of poor in developing countries do not have a "voice" in the political process, and hence denied access to political participation.

Carino (2011) compared poverty and well-being and examined the life of the indigenous people of Latin America and other parts of the world. He observed they suffer from discrimination in income and employment, and this affects their social and economic well-being. They ultimately live shorter lives, poorer health care and education. The indigenous people constitute a significant proportion of the total number of poor people in these countries. Gough and McGregor (2007) adopted a new strategy and methodology that examined how wellbeing influences policies. They observed that many of the world's population are experiencing high levels of economic wellbeing, a higher number of people are living in poverty in developing countries, and they adopted an approach that focuses on wellbeing as an approach to understanding how people become and stay in poverty. They examined the idea of human functioning, capabilities and needs and the analysis of livelihoods and resource usage.

The Sustainable Development Goals are urgent calls for all countries to act and promote economic policies and strategies to raise growth and address a wide range of social needs, in the area of education, health,

employment, social protection, climate change and environmental protection. The most important and foremost of these is the eradication of poverty in all its forms, globally. A sizeable number of the world's population still live in extreme poverty, and this is a function of lack of access to basic needs like health, education, sanitation, housing, and clean air and water. United Nations (2019) estimated that, as of 2018, 55 percent of the global population had no access to at least one of the social protection benefits like food stamps, housing subsidies, agricultural inputs subsidies, and water and electricity subsidies. Social Safety Nets which consist of non-contributory assistance provided by governments to assist the living standards and wellbeing of the most vulnerable and poor families and individuals are also lacking in these developing countries.

### **Population and Wellbeing**

Population growths have a significant impact on wellbeing of people in developing countries. The wellbeing is a function of the accessibility to and availability of basic needs like health care, education, food supply, housing and clean environment. Higher population growth positively impacts the availability of these basic needs in the developing countries. Population growths increase the demand for land for accommodation, housing, and urban infrastructure. Increase demand often led to higher cost and lower quality for the poor households and individuals. Population growth reduce per capita income growth and wellbeing, and raise the levels of poverty. Ahlburg et al (1996) on the impact of population growth on wellbeing in developing countries, examined the nature and impact of population and economic growth, education, health, housing, food supply and poverty. They concluded that the impact of population growth varies according to the presence of other factors that significantly affects its outcomes.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

This consequence of still significant population growth would follow inevitably if the 'mechanistic' logic were pursued and the extreme assumption that the current demographic structure must be preserved (or at least any increase minimized) and thus that it is essential to re-expand the base of the demographic pyramid. For the reasons set out in §1 of this paper, I believe the case for this expansion has been greatly overstated, and that many developed countries face a quite manageable challenge of pension reform rather than a demographic crisis, given present combinations of fertility rate and immigration and their likely medium-term evolution. Broad population stability in the developed world in general, consistent with combined replacement rate (CRR) at or slightly below 2.0, and thus with fertility rates significantly below 2.0 (e.g. 1.7), is not only manageable in economic terms but likely be preferable to a scenario of more rapid population growth. Some specific countries with very low fertility rates and little prospect of significant immigration may face serious problems if neither fertility nor immigration rises, but in general population stabilization in the developed world is surely to be welcomed rather than decried.

The study of the determinants of very low fertility rates is therefore important. The study of the determinants of low fertility can also provide important insights about individual fertility preferences and constraints, quite separate from the issue of optimal fertility rates at the overall society level (e.g. why do surveys reveal that preferred/intended fertility rates at the onset of adult life are often higher than actual completed family sizes). And policy measures to enable parents to more easily combine work and child-rearing can be justified in themselves rather than by reference to a supposed national need for higher fertility. The possible policy responses to very low fertility, for which today there is a pressing need in only a few countries, may in the long term be more generally important. In today's world, however, the greater problem is rapid population growth in many developing world countries, not low fertility in the developed world.

### **EG POVERTY**

#### **POVERTY DEFINITION**

#### **POPULATION URBANIZATION AND POVERTY**

#### **AFRICA AND POPULATION GROWTH AND PER CAPITA INCOME**

Rapid population growth combined with changing habitations patterns, overgrazing, bio piracy, deforestation, pollution and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources is a growing concern in East Africa. The region, once rich in natural resources, now struggles to sustain water supply, food security and agricultural productivity. This has a direct impact on the health of locals plus various important industries, including tourism, livestock productions and various development targets.

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