

**CORRUPTION AND POPULATION INCREASE IN NIGERIA: ANALYSIS OF THEIR
IMPACT ON SELECTED MACROECONOMIC VARIABLES**

Anthony Orji (Phd)

Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

E-mail: anthony.orji@unn.edu.ng

Jonathan E. Ogbuabor (Phd)

Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

E-mail: jonathan.ogbuabor@unn.edu.ng

Onyinye U. Dunu

Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Email: onyinyedunu@gmail.com

Peter N. Mba (Phd)

Department of Economics, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Email: petermbanta@yahoo.com

Onyinye I. Anthony-Orji (Phd)

Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

E-mail: onyinye.anthony-orji@unn.edu.ng (Corresponding Author)

ABSTRACT

This study analysed the impact of corruption and population growth on two selected macroeconomic variables in Nigeria. The results from the Multiple Regression Estimations show that population growth has significant impact on both unemployment and economic growth. Corruption control (CC) variable on the other hand, was found to decrease unemployment and increase economic growth. Furthermore, the findings revealed a long-run relationship among the variables of interest in the models. Therefore, based on these findings, the study recommended amongst others, that government should enact appropriate policies that will reduce unemployment and sustain steady economic growth. Furthermore, state institutions and mechanisms for corruption control should be strengthened in order to reduce the negative impact of corruption on the economy. Finally there is need to enact and implement good investment policies aimed at attracting more domestic and foreign investments in the country since investment and manpower development are major ingredients for rapid and sustainable productivity and growth in the economy.

Keywords: Population Growth; Corruption; Unemployment; Economic Growth

JEL Classification: D73, E24, F43, O47, Q56

1. INTRODUCTION

For many decades now, Nigeria has been faced with divers issues which have left the economy in an unfortunate state. These issues have been on the increase over the years and can be seen as potent deterrents to economic advancement in Nigeria. Sadly, despite the fact that Nigeria is large and popularly known as the 'Giant of Africa' and gifted with enormous resources both human and material, yet, the resources available are mostly under used, not used at all or grossly mismanaged (Orji, et al.2020, Nurudeen & Marcin, 2021). This reflects greatly on the economy as her citizens continue to live in poverty, inequality and general underdevelopment. A vast majority of Nigeria's problems can be traced back to one root cause known as corruption (Nwankwo, 2014, and Bushi, 2019). Corruption has greatly enervated the economy, penetrating through all economic, social and political institutions and numbing the advancement of the nation (Rotimi, et al, 2021).

In addition to corruption, one of the more malignant maladies plaguing the Nigeria economy today is the problem of unemployment. Current unemployment statistics as released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2020 pegs the rate at about 27%. This is an increase from 13.9% in year 2016. Apparently, this problem not only exists, but is getting worse.

The high rate of unemployment is perceived to be connected to Nigeria's continuously expanding population and other socio-economic issues. Currently, Nigeria's population is over 200 million people, and at a yearly growth rate of over 2%, There is a tendency of the population clocking 250 million people in a couple of years (NBS, 2017). With an unemployment rate of 14.2% (and rising), it is safe to say that the number of unemployed Nigerians is set to double in the coming years. The twin impact of corruption and population growth is assumed to fuel the unemployment line, and this exacerbates the terrible economic situation of Nigeria even further.. Furthermore, as Okun's law of 1962 states, unemployment and economic growth have a relationship but vary in different countries. The need to reduce the rate of unemployment and increase economic growth in Nigeria is of great significance.

The causes of a growing population in Nigeria can be attributed to poverty, lack of education and awareness creation especially in the rural areas, lack of improved medical care, cultural beliefs, religion, etc. With an annual population growth rate of over 2%, it is quite obvious that most population control policy measures have been poorly implemented and this has led to the increasing rate of population in Nigeria. Both present and past governments have few evidences of population control policies enacted and implemented. Many times, governments make policy statements with