



POPULATION EDUCATION AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING AMONG ARTISANS IN DELTA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT IN DELTA STATE

*¹Ojighoro, R.E., & ²Oyibo, R.U.

¹Department of Religious Studies, College of Education, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria

²Department of Physical and Health Education, College of Education, Warri, Nigeria

*Corresponding author email: reubenojighoro@yahoo.com

Abstract

The study examined the effectiveness of population education in enhancing the standard of living among artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District. The method employed in this research is the pre-test and post-test quasi-experimental research design. The population of the artisans were about 3000 comprised of cable welders, auto electricians, auto mechanics and panel beaters. A sample of 100 was drawn from each of the categories of artisans making a total of 400 using the multistage sampling techniques. Frequency and percentage were used for the demographic data, while mean and standard deviation and ANOVA were used to analyze the data at 0.05 level of significance. The findings showed that $F= 16.454$ at a $p=0.000$ significance level hence there is a significant difference in the improved knowledge of artisans towards population control through population education in Delta Central Senatorial District. Also, there is a significant difference in the effectiveness of population education in enhancing the living standard of artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District as $F= 22.711$ at $p=0.000$ significant level. The result revealed that $F= 27.716$ at $p=0.000$ level of significance hence, there is a significant difference in the role of government in enhancing the knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase in Delta Central Senatorial District. The study therefore recommended that improving the level of education among artisans should be paramount, also having a moderated family size should be the rule for all artisans and not the option.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Population, Population Education, Population Explosion, Standard of Living, Artisans.

Introduction

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with an estimated population of over 200 million according to United Nations Population Fund report (Bukar, 2018). Among these populations, artisans dominated a significant percentage of between 30-35% (Oloidi, 2011; Lebechukwu & Peter, 2021). The present population growth rate among artisans is very alarming. As the population grows, the difficulty of survival is manifesting as glaring joblessness, frustration, abysmal poverty, radicalism and extremism (Adebowale, 2010). Efforts for most of the artisans to improve their standard of living have often been held down by the present population growth rate. Nevertheless, artisans actively contribute to the primary production and exchange of goods and services, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit within the population (Hoyte, 2019). Despite the potential advantages derived from the various services provided by artisans, there exists a lack of awareness regarding their living standards and the issue of population growth (Oloidi, 2011). Addressing the control of population growth is essential, as it could result in significant savings, leading to improved well-being for artisans in the Delta Central Senatorial District.

Given the strong religious beliefs in Nigeria, there is no intention to decrease the population and birth rate. However, this stance has led to a concerning trend where Nigeria, surpassing India in 2018 according to the World Bank (Emefiele, 2019), now has the highest number of poor people globally (Eneh, 2010). This can be attributed to scarce resources, exacerbated by the oil curse, and the country producing more individuals than it can adequately support. Consequently, this perpetuates the creation of a new generation of impoverished individuals in the future. Nigeria holds the 8th position on the global demographic scale, as reported by (Ogundipe & Obinna, 2018). The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the country stood at approximately 5.6 percent in 2016 and slightly decreased to 5.46 percent in 2017. Concerns among stakeholders arise from the fact that, despite these figures, a significant number of Nigerian women still lack complete access to family planning services. This situation raises alarms, suggesting that the population is poised to continue growing. There are indications that Nigeria is on the brink of a population explosion unless decisive measures are taken to address the persistent high fertility rate.

It is crucial to emphasize that addressing population crises in Nigeria requires a comprehensive embrace of family planning by women, accompanied by a collective commitment from both men and women to be more diligent in their efforts towards nation-building. The country is experiencing a geometric increase in its population, resembling a progression like 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc., while food production is advancing at an arithmetic pace, similar to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. This stark contrast indicates that the Nigerian population is on track to surpass food production. Without intervention, this misalignment poses a serious threat, leading to potential starvation and increased poverty unless effective measures are taken to curb population growth (Ezegwu and Okozio, 2019).

Population plays a crucial role in determining the standard of living in any country. From 1960 to 2018, Nigeria's population experienced a staggering growth of over 300%, soaring from approximately 45 million to more than 190 million (Oji, 2019). Projections indicate that, with a current population growth rate of 2.47% in 2017, Nigeria could become the third most populous country, reaching nearly 450 million people by 2050 (Oji, 2019). However, the Nigerian government has not adequately prepared for this population explosion, lacking the necessary amenities to support the emerging demographic challenges. Despite having one of the youngest populations globally, with over 43% under the age of 14, the dependents-to-non-dependents ratio is disproportionately high, with 88% dependents to 100% non-dependents. This imbalance may be attributed to factors such as unemployment, inadequate education and training, and ineffective family planning policies and implementation. A youthful age structure alone does not guarantee economic growth or development; it depends on the government's efforts to create a conducive environment for education, training, and job opportunities for young people. National development, measured by the growth in income per capita and dependent on the Gross National Product, hinges on the effective utilization of human and material resources. Per capita income, as a measure of the standard of living and a nation's relative level of development, is crucial for national progress (Ogbe, 2016). Population education and health education play integral roles in national development, addressing issues related to population growth and its consequences.

Population education is an educational process that involves studying the population situation at various levels—family, community, nation, and globally—to instil in citizens a national and forward-looking attitude and behaviour to enhance the quality of life (Engelmen, 2019). Isaac (2020) defines population education as the study of population, family, and sex knowledge and attitudes, encompassing population awareness, family living, sex and reproductive education, and basic values. Population education contributes to addressing population problems by increasing awareness and understanding of the factors influencing population change and its consequences, benefiting various segments of the population, including artisans (Procter, 1995).

Artisans, skilled workers who create items with their hands, play a significant role in society. However, challenges such as poverty, lack of opportunities, poor infrastructure, and increasing family size have hindered these tradesmen from translating their creativity into economic success. Population education and family life education serve to create awareness among artisans about various aspects, including income generation and employment opportunities, which are essential strategies for improving their living standards and eradicating conditions of backwardness, extreme poverty, and hunger. The term population in its widest sense can be used to encompass a group of items assembled and sharing several characteristics (Faturabin, 2011). In this sense, the term can be applied to a group of living things or a group of non-living things, sharing a common location at a particular period. Population analysis is important both as a factor and as a measure of development in a country. According to Areola et al. (2002), the term "population" encompasses the entirety of human resources within a specific country. Key facets of population in this context include factors such as population size, spatial distribution, demographic structure including age and sex composition, growth rate, birth and death rates, as well as indicators of standard of living, health, and educational status. The exploitation of natural resources and the development of commerce and industry in a country, to a large extent, depend on the population. This is because the population constitutes the labour force, as well as the market for the products produced. Population influences all primary, secondary and tertiary economic activities in any given country. The effectiveness of a country's labour force is contingent upon the size and quality of its population. This quality is defined by factors such as the level of education, available skills, health status, physical strength, and standard of living. The composition of a state's population is indicative of the level of social and economic development within a country. Therefore, characteristics like population structure, growth rate, birth and death rates, as well as standards of living, health, and education are frequently employed as measures or indicators of a country's development. In practical terms, a higher level of social and economic development tends to correspond with lower birth and death rates. Additionally, a more balanced or favourable age and sex composition within a country's population typically results in a higher standard of living for the people. This interplay between population characteristics and

development indicators underscores the significance of understanding and managing a nation's demographic profile in the pursuit of overall social and economic progress.

Factors Affecting Population Education

Several factors impede the effective teaching of population education in schools and in general. These factors include:

- **Confusion of Concept:** The concept of population education lacks a satisfactory definition, creating difficulties for teachers, teacher educators, and educationists to have a clear understanding of its aims, curriculum, and methods.
- **Inadequate Curriculum:** Population education, being a relatively new concept compared to other subjects, lacks a well-developed curriculum and suitable teaching materials for implementation across various levels of education.
- **Lack of Proper Planning:** Given that population education is a relatively new area in the field of education, it requires proper planning and coordination at each level. The absence of such planning makes it challenging to effectively implement the subject.
- **Lack of Communication:** The slow progress of population education in Nigeria is attributed to the government's insufficient efforts to establish a dedicated department for population education and communication facilities. A significant proportion of the Nigerian populace residing in rural areas remains difficult to reach with population awareness efforts.
- **Lack of Trained Teachers and Research:** Imparting instructions on population education demands advanced knowledge, skills, and training for both teachers and instructors. Untrained teachers may struggle to effectively teach population education, and the field requires more research work for progress, which is currently inadequate in Nigeria.
- **Social and Religious Taboos:** Traditional societal norms and religious beliefs contribute to the slow progress of population education. Some individuals may resist or be unwilling to appreciate the population education program due to cultural or religious taboos.
- **Lack of Resources:** The government's insufficient investment in human and material resources hampers the implementation of the population education program. The lack of resources can constrain the development and execution of effective educational strategies in this area.

Importance of Population Education

- **Ensuring Quality of Life:** As the population grows, it may become more difficult to live a fulfilling life because of limited access to necessities. Population education is a chance and a task to inculcate in people the desire for a higher standard of living and to investigate means of achieving it.
- **Moral Responsibilities:** The state's moral obligations are to ensure each citizen's welfare, health, and general growth. By promoting moderate population increase, population education serves as a means for carrying out this duty.
- **Value Orientation:** Population education helps families instil in their kids values that are deemed desirable by society. It supports the growth of positive attitudes, a sense of quality, and a sense of human connection in people. It also offers advice on how to cultivate self-control in sexuality-related issues.
- **Recognizing the Significance of Family Planning:** Population education plays a significant role in promoting acceptance of family planning programs in nations such as Nigeria, where a significant portion of the populace lives in rural areas. Population management is crucial for survival and stability in the quickly changing modern world. People, especially illiterate couples, can learn about this through mass media campaigns, volunteer population education programs, and other means.
- **Recognizing World Issues:** By providing real information on population dynamics, population education helps the next generation to understand the scope and character of the problems brought on by fast population expansion. It raises awareness of population and development-related worldwide challenges.
- **Government Population Goals are Supported:** Population education acts as a roadmap to help governments reach their population targets. It assists the government in effectively managing population welfare initiatives in a long-lasting and sustainable way by offering guidance and insights (Mohammed, 2020).

The world is experiencing an ever-increasing rise in human numbers. The rise differs greatly from country to country. It has been found that industrial countries and urban districts usually have lower birth rates than agricultural nations and rural districts (Okowa,2022). Countries with higher standards of living (Britain, Sweden, USA, Australia) have lower rates of population growth than countries where the standard is lower (e.g. India, China, Indonesia, Congo and Nigeria).

It is most disheartening to note that Third World Countries which can ill-afford any further population increases, register some of the greatest population increases. The growth of the population creates an urgent need for the basic requirements of civilized human existence: food, clothing, housing, education, social, medical and cultural amenities (Areola, 2002). According to the United Nations Survey, four out of five people in the world are probably underfed (Fatubarin, 2011). Many of the Asian and African countries suffer acute shortages of food and many people perish in famine every year. The problem of food shortages is greatest in Africa, where there are far more mouths to feed than there are crops to be harvested. For clothing, Africa's needs are not too great; thanks to the tropical climate. Even so, there are millions in Africa going about clad only in rags. The housing problem is often acute, especially in fast-growing towns and cities. Many families are crammed into small houses, badly ventilated and unhealthy. Many are permanent pavement dwellers and some spend their whole lives in boats. Slums are almost inevitable in every major city of Nigeria for example. Moreover, illiteracy is still very high in this part of the globe. There are literary millions in the world who cannot read or write. Adequate funds should be made available to construct schools, train teachers and provide textbooks to educate the masses. Every effort must be made to eradicate poverty and raise the world's standard of living. The problem of overpopulation is not a domestic issue; it is a concern of the world. The "haves" should help the less fortunate "have-nots" and the prosperous nations should render effective assistance to the weaker nations. If this attitude of mutual help can be made to work on a global scale, men would have gone a long way making the world a better place for everybody.

Statement of Problem

The impact of population explosion extends to all aspects of human life—individual, national, and international—adversely affecting the well-being, prosperity, and progress of individuals and families. To mitigate the multifaceted challenges posed by issues such as food scarcity, economic strain, health concerns, environmental degradation, and educational limitations, there is an urgent call for population education at all levels. The rapid growth of the population consistently poses a threat to both individual health and economic development, particularly impacting the well-being of individuals, especially artisans who rely on daily work for survival. Overpopulation becomes a hindrance to elevating the standard of living for the masses. Artisans grapple with overpopulation challenges, primarily due to factors like disorganization, lack of population education, limited capital, insufficient exposure, lack of market intelligence, and a deficient institutional framework. Despite recent studies indicating that artisans are among the lower-income earners in society and tend to have higher birth rates, none of these studies addresses the effectiveness of population education in improving the standard of living among artisans in the Delta Central Senatorial District. Consequently, this study is undertaken to explore this aspect.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Find out if population education would improve the knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District.
2. Examine the difference between population education and the living standard of artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District.
3. To investigate the relevance of government in enhancing the knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase (family planning).

Research Questions

The following research questions will be raised to guide the study:

1. Would population education improve the knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District?
2. Is there any difference between population education and the standard of living among artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District?
3. What is the role of the government in enhancing the knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were generated to guide the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean knowledge perceptions of artisans on population education in Delta Central Senatorial District.
2. There is no significant difference in the knowledge perception of artisans and their living standards in Delta Central Senatorial District.
3. There is no significant difference between the relevance of government and knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase in Delta Central Senatorial District.

Methodology

The study was conducted using a descriptive survey research design, which is the most appropriate for this kind of cross-sectional descriptive investigation. All artisans who own or share workshops in the Delta Central Senatorial Districts make up the study's population. The artisans include auto-electricians, welders, motor mechanics and panel beaters which was about 3000 across the senatorial districts. The sample size, which was up to 400, was chosen in three steps using the multi-stage random sampling technique. Firstly, 4 local governments were sampled from the eight local governments by stratification into urban and rural local government areas. Secondly, five towns were sampled from both the rural and urban local government areas by simple ballot. Thirdly convenient sampling technique was used to select the sample comprised of all the different types of artisans (auto-electricians, welders, motor mechanics and panel beaters). The instrument was validated by three experts, two from physical and health education and one from the Test and Measurement Education Department in the College of Education Warri, Delta State. The reliability of the instrument was done using the test-retest reliability test to administer question items to 30 artisans in Warri which is located in Delta South Senatorial Districts. The instrument was reliable for the study as a calculated index of 0.60 was obtained. The data collected was analyzed using Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0. Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency and percentage were used for the demographic variables while mean, standard deviation and ANOVA were used to determine the difference among variables at a 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Table 1: Summary of Analysis of population education and population control among artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District

SN	Item	Mean	SD
1	I am aware of population control	1.9000	0.83170
2	I have received formal education in population education	1.8250	0.73874
3	Population education may have an influence or impact on the artisans	3.3250	0.75551
4	I have had some discussions with family members or friends on the importance of population control	3.2750	0.83733
5	I will be interested in attending workshops or events on population control if there is an opportunity	3.5000	0.54841
Grand mean: 2.76			0.74

The Table showed that the grand mean of 2.76 ± 0.74 is higher than the criterion value of 2.50. The result revealed that population education would improve the knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District.

Table 2: Summary of Analysis on Population Education and living Standards of artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District

SN	Item	Mean	SD
1	My living standard will improve if I receive training in population education	3.7250	0.59182
2	Population education may have a positive impact on the living standard of artisans	3.6750	0.60852
3	Population education should be prioritized for artisans	3.2750	0.70755
4	I have observed changes in the living standard of my fellow artisans who have previously received population education or other form of training.	3.3750	1.01832
5	Population education is necessary for the overall development of the artisan's community	3.6500	0.61518
Grand Mean: 3.54		3.54	0.70

The analysis revealed that there is a significant difference between population education and the living standard of artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District as the grand mean of 3.54 ± 0.70 is higher than the criterion mean of 2.50.

Table 3: Summary of Analysis on population education and curbing population increase among artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District

SN	Item	Mean	SD
1	The government has a role to play in enhancing the knowledge of artisans on population growth	3.6250	.53394
2	The government can enhance knowledge of artisans' family planning through population education	3.8000	.40050
3	An increase in population may affect your trade or craft negatively	3.4000	1.02108
4	The government can collaborate with educational institutions to develop specialized training programmes for artisans	3.7250	.44707
5	Empowering artisans with the knowledge of population education can lead to better job opportunities	3.0750	.81918
Grand mean: 3.52		3.52	0.62

The result revealed that there is a significant difference between the role of government in enhancing knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase as the grand mean of 3.52 ± 0.62 is higher than the criterion mean of 2.50.

Table 4: Summary of Analysis on population education and knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Between Groups	132.750	3	44.250	16.454	.000
Within Groups	1065.000	396	2.689		
Total	1197.750	399			

Table 4 revealed the summary of ANOVA analysis on population education and knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District. The table showed that $F= 16.454$ at a 0.000 significance level. Given that the significance level is below 0.05, the null hypothesis is deemed to be rejected. Thus, in the Delta Central Senatorial District, there is a notable disparity in the artisans' enhanced understanding of population control through population education.

Table 5 Summary of ANOVA analysis on population education and living standard of artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Between Groups	394.000	3	131.333	22.711	.000
Within Groups	2290.000	396	5.783		
Total	2684.000	399			

The table revealed that $F= 22.711$ at a 0.000 significant level. Since the level of significance is less than 0.05, then the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant difference in the effectiveness of population education in enhancing the living standard of artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District.

Table 6: Summary of ANOVA analysis on the role of government in enhancing the knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase in Delta Central Senatorial District

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Between Groups	314.750	3	104.917	27.716	.000
Within Groups	1499.000	396	3.785		
Total	1813.750	399			

Table 6 revealed that $F= 27.716$ at a 0.000 level of significance. Since the significant level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there is a significant difference in the role of government in enhancing the knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase in Delta Central Senatorial District.

Discussion

This paper presents the findings based on the questions that respondents were asked to achieve the main aim of the paper. The purpose of the study was to find out if population education would improve the knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District in Delta State. The first research question is addressed by presenting the findings about increased knowledge of artisans towards population control in Delta Central Senatorial District, while the second research question is addressed by presenting the findings about knowledge on population education and artisans' standard of living. Meanwhile, the third research question, which has to do with the role of government in enhancing the knowledge of artisans in curbing population increase, is addressed during the synthesis of the findings.

This first major finding of the research evokes a positive response from respondents, indicating that there would be an increase in the knowledge of artisans towards population control where there is population education. This was corroborated by Jega (2019), when he said, "If the necessary investments are made in the young population, investment in their education, skills development and health care, including access to full and voluntary family planning, the demographic dividend can then be achieved. The second finding reveals the efficacy of knowledge as population education seems to enhance the living standard of artisans. It is therefore imperative for those in authority to prioritize population education among artisans. All education in this vein should be directed towards the development of character (Kelly, 2003). The aim of population education among artisans and other low-income earners in society, therefore, should be to improve and enhance their standard of living. The third finding has brought to the fore that the government has a major role to play in enhancing the knowledge of artisans, to curb population increase. The response from respondents attests to the fact that the government should be at the forefront of the vanguard of educating and enlightening artisans on the need to curb population explosion. There is a need to watch our resources with our population growth because populating change is a determinant of the level of infrastructural development and indeed the quality of life of the people (Oganwu, 2005).

Conclusion

The study presents the effectiveness of population education in enhancing the standard of living among artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District. It identified the effectiveness of population education in enhancing the standard of living among artisans in Delta Central Senatorial District, factors affecting population education, the importance of population education and the dangers of overpopulation.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that:

1. The government should collaborate with other stakeholders to promote the knowledge of artisans in family planning to reduce population increase. This can be done through constant seminars and adult education.
2. There is a need for proper population education on such socio-cultural practices and religious beliefs that encourage multiple wives, the production of many children and early marriage.

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