

## THE EFFECT OF BIRTH REGISTRATION IN NIGERIA; IMPLICATION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

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### Abstract:

A functional vital registration system in any country, by supplying the most reliable data on deaths and births and population dynamics, provides indicators for health and development. This study examined the effect of birth registration in Nigeria, implication for national development and planning. The study adopted expo facto in its methodology. Data was collected from CBN statistical bulletin, 2016. Linear regression was used to test the study hypothesis. The result of the study revealed that Birth registration has a significant effect on national development and planning ( $r = .743$ ;  $p = .014$ ;  $F = .9.87$ ). It was concluded that No nation can effectively plan and develop without a reliable population profile obtained from population data and vital statistics

**Keywords: Birth Registration, Nigeria, Implication, National Development and Planning**

### Introduction

It is the right of every child born in the country to have its birth registered and provided with a birth certificate free of charge. It is also the duty of every state to make birth registration accessible and available to all. The importance of birth registration cannot be underestimated since it bestows a legal identity on children for life. Without a birth certificate, children may be excluded from education as well as health and social services (Mouravieff-Apostol, 2001). In industrialized countries it is viewed as a formality that parents have to fulfill following the birth of their child.

Birth registration is the official recording of the birth of a child by some administrative body of the government. It is a permanent and official record of a child's birth. Complete, timely and accurate registration of birth and death events is crucial for understanding population dynamics and planning effective development programs. Birth registration is no mere administrative measure rather a passport to citizenship for the registered child, and it incorporates vital data for national statistics to guide governments' formulation of their development policies, e.g. in the fields of health, education and social services.

A functional vital registration system in any country, by supplying the most reliable data on deaths and births and population dynamics, provides indicators for health and development; and

pre-requisite data for the effective planning of health and other services, resource allocation, legal, administrative and health policy formulation, program planning, and evaluation (Jewkes, & Wood, 1998; WHO, 2007). A complete birth and death registration system is the only way to generate reliable information on various demographic indicators like birth and death rates, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, child sex ratio, at district and sub-district level. Data are required for formulating, implementing and monitoring various programmes relating to health of the mother and child including immunization and nutrition and universal education for children (Serrao and Sujatha, 2004)

Poor record of birth registration hinders building a vision for the nation and curtails the planning process for overall development. The availability of data supports numerous stakeholders in building comprehensive planning at various stages of progress (Serrao & Sujatha, 2004). The resistance to birth registration can be linked primarily to traditional perceptions. Birth registration in Africa originated when colonial administrations, such as in East Africa, made it compulsory for non-Africans to register births (African Child Policy Forum, 2005). Serrao and Sujatha (2004) informed that majority of children in rural public schools have birth dates in May, June or July. This is not their actual month of birth, rather, it is because their parents are not aware of when they were born as well as the children not knowing when they were born. Therefore, to suit the enrollment in schools, some date is given and that becomes the official date of birth.

The registration of births in Nigeria has been poor with many births going unregistered. This has negative consequences for economic planning and development. Ordinary, it is simpler to record the name, sex, parentage, and time and place of a child's birth, but the reality in Nigeria is that it is difficult and complex. Progress towards universal birth registration in Africa and in Nigeria in particular is painfully slow and the gap between promise and achievement is wide (African Child Policy Forum, 2005). It is therefore imperative to study the effect of birth registration in Nigeria, implication for national development and planning.

### **Objective of the study**

The main objective of the study is to examine the effect of birth registration in Nigeria, implication for national development and planning.

### **Research Question**

To what extent does birth registration affect national development and planning?

### **Research Hypothesis**

H0: Birth registration has no significant effect on national development and planning

## METHODOLOGY

The study adopted ex-post-facto design in assessing the effect of birth registration in Nigeria, implication for national development and planning. The variables for the study include birth rate and per capital income. The study estimates the models numerically using time series data for the period of 10 years (2006-2015).

### Method of Data Collection

In obtaining the necessary information for the study, compiled data (Secondary data) were used. The choice of documentary secondary data (Birth Rate and per capital income) termed as archival research was informed by the nature and objectives of the study. Relevant documents and records which were used for the study are from the national bureau of statistic

### Variable of the Study

Independent variables also known as the predictors or explanatory are the variables that cause the change to happen anytime they are concomitantly manipulated with the dependent variables. This study used one independent variables namely; birth rate registration. While the dependent variables are for the study was per capital income.

### Data Analysis Techniques

The study used inferential statistic. The choice of inferential statistic for the analysis of data in this study is as a result of its great importance in establishing the effect between the variables and its ease of comprehension. Hence ordinary least square regression technique was adopted in testing the study hypotheses at 5% level of significance. The analysis will be conducted using SPSS version 24.

### 3.7 Model Specifications

Ordinary least square regression analyses was applied in the study

Therefore our model from which income tax management patterns is estimated is as follows;

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + \dots + b_tX_t + \mu$$

Where:

Y = Independent Variable on Analysis

$X_1, X_2, X_3, X_t$  = All dependent variables on analysis

a = intercept

$b_1, b_2, b_3, b_t$  = coefficients/parameters estimates

$\mu$  = regression residual/error term

It is applied in this study as:

$$\text{Model 1: } MTit = \beta_0 + \beta_1 DIit + \mu it \dots \dots \dots (i)$$

Where:

**MTit** = Birth rate registration

**Dlit** = Per capital income

And  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$ , are the coefficients/parameters estimate;  $\beta_0$  intercept

$\mu_{it}$  = Residual

**DECISION RULE:** *Reject  $H_0$  if p-value  $\leq .05$ , otherwise accept  $H_0$*

## Results

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
PCI	2213.4400	454.68481	10
BR	40.8260	1.00445	10

## : Model Summary<sup>b</sup>

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.743 <sup>a</sup>	.552	.496	322.65897	1.180

a. Predictors: (Constant), BR

b. Dependent Variable: PCI

**Table 3: ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1027774.022	1	1027774.022	9.872	.014 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	832870.482	8	104108.810		
	Total	1860644.504	9			

a. Dependent Variable: PCI

b. Predictors: (Constant), BR

## : Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	15948.703	4372.705		3.647	.007
	BR	336.434	107.077	.743	3.142	.014

a. Dependent Variable: PCI

Table 1 showed the descriptive statistic of the study result. From the result, it revealed that the mean and SD of per capital income and birth rate in Nigeria within the last ten years is 2213.440  $\pm$

454.6, and  $40.8260 \pm 1.00$ . The linear regression of the effect of birth registration on economic planning and development shows that there is strong positive relationship between per capital income and birth rate ( $r = .743^a$ ). The study further showed that birth rate registration has a significant positive effect on per capital income ( $p = .014$ ;  $F = .9.87$ ). The study result therefore indicates that vital birth registration influences national planning.

### **Discussion of Finding**

The study result revealed that vital birth registration influences national planning.. As indicated in the study result, birth registration influences the standard of living of every nation, therefore a functional vital registration system in any country, remains a paramount in planning national development as it ensures the supply of most reliable data on births and population dynamics, provides indicators for health and development; and pre-requisite data for the effective planning of health and other services, resource allocation, legal, administrative and health policy formulation, program planning, and evaluation. This agrees with Serrao and Sujatha, (2004) who noted that a complete birth system is the only way to generate reliable information on various demographic indicators like birth and death rates, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, child sex ratio, at the district and sub-district levels, data required for formulating, implementing and monitoring various programmes relating to health of the mother and child including immunization and nutrition and universal education for children.

Population data gives the country an idea of which parts of the country are densely populated. According to him, comparison of population densities is necessary to determine the actual situation in one part of the country as compared to other parts. This knowledge enables the government plan on what social amenities are to be provided. Birth registration helps the government in determining an up-to-date population density. A regular birth registration and population data are useful for the estimation of the rate of growth of national income and for the calculation of per capita income. According to Amangwai (2016), a country that can estimate its rate of growth of national income and per capita income can plan accordingly to stimulate growth in certain areas that can lead to the growth of the economy. Further expressing the importance of birth registration in national planning for development, Amangwai (2016) summed that through birth registration, government draw up educational programmes that will meet the needs of the children, Therefore, the determination of the required number of schools, classrooms, teachers, equipment etc would be difficult without population data and vital statistics.

Serrao & Sujatha, (2004) further indicated that information gotten from vital registrations are of importance in determining the growth rate of the population. Nigeria being a federating state, revenue allocation among States is done based on the population of each component unit- revenue is allocated proportionate to the population of each state in the federation. Without accurate population data, these areas may be overlooked and denied the necessary budgetary

allocations. The lack of such data may, therefore, lead to the further exclusion of people already marginalized from the social and economic life of their country.

### **Implication of the Study to National Planning Development**

Growth rate enables the government determine how fast the population of the country is growing. Amangwai (2016) notes that if the rate of population growth is too high in a country, a much higher effort by the government will be required to maintain the standard of living of the people. Birth registration therefore helps the government in ascertaining the actual growth rate of the population. Amangwai (2016) informed that without detailed and extensive population data and vital statistics it would be difficult to undertake any meaningful economic planning. It is when the population and its growth rate known, that its' variances can be integrated into development planning process for projection purposes, then the government can adequately undertake an economic planning that suits the area taking into consideration the peculiarities of their needs.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Nigeria is one of the fastest growing countries in the world in terms of its population. Regular birth registration plays a vital role for planning and development process in any given country. No nation can effectively plan and develop without a reliable population profile obtained from population data and vital statistics. It is therefore suggested that regular birth registration should be encouraged. Nigeria government should see the need to effectively engage in birth record in order to enhance national planning

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