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Demographic transition, demographic dividend and economic growth in Nigeria

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Abstract

Changes in age structure that results from demographic transition have economic consequences. This paper identifies the period of potential window of opportunity or demographic dividends created by Nigeria's demographic transition. This is done by simulating the period of the demographic window of opportunity in Nigeria. In a simulation covering 1950 – 2050 our results reveal that Nigeria entered the window of opportunity in 2003 and will last beyond year 2050. The highest benefit will accrue in years 2032 and 2033 when the dividend can account for more than 10% of the growth of GDP per capita even if the current performance scenario continues to exist. However, the paper notes that the demographic dividend is not automatically realized and Nigeria needs to embark on strategies that will develop her human capital and position her towards not only capturing the first dividend but the second dividend as well.

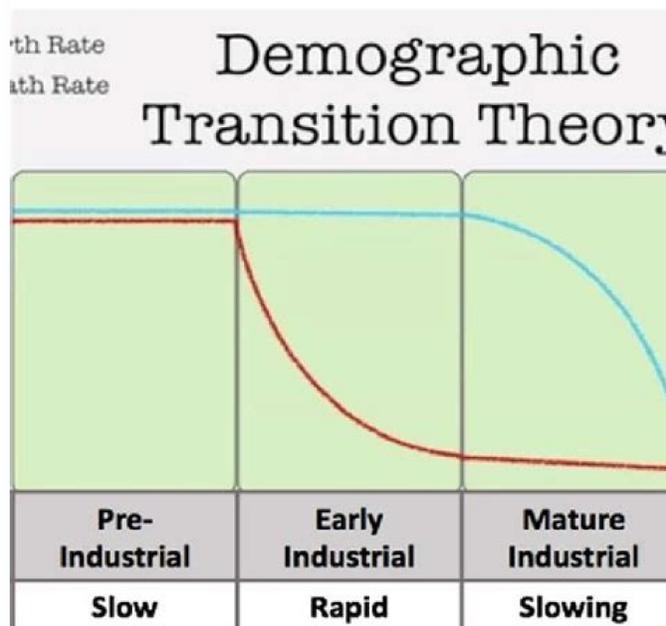
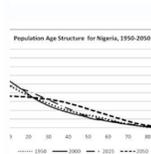
Keywords: demographic transition, demographic dividends, national transfer accounts (NTA), economic lifecycle, economic support ratio

Résumé

Les changements dans la structure d'âge qui provient de la transition démographique ont des conséquences économiques. Ce papier identifie la période de fenêtre potentielle d'opportunité ou de dividendes démographiques créés par la transition démographique du Nigeria. C'est fait en simulant la période de la fenêtre démographique d'opportunité au Nigeria. Dans une simulation couvrant 1950 – 2050. Nos résultats révèlent que le Nigeria est entré dans la fenêtre d'opportunité en 2003 et durera au-delà de l'année 2050. Le plus haut avantage s'accumulera au cours des années 2032 et 2033 où le dividende peut représenter plus de 10 % de la croissance de PIB par habitant même si le scénario de performance actuel continue à exister. Pourtant, le papier note que le dividende démographique n'est pas automatiquement réalisé et le Nigeria a besoin d'adopter des stratégies qui développeront son capital humain et la positionneront non seulement pour capturer le premier dividende mais le second dividende également.

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The concept of demographic transition. First demographic transition theory. What are the four stages of the demographic transition theory. What are the five stages of the demographic transition. Demographic theory of transition.

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Further, people of high socioeconomic status who have access to modern health services are more concerned about public health problems than those in the low group. Urbanization occurs at a rate of about 11%/year. In Lagos, people with primary education delay marriage 1-2 years longer than those who have no education. Further, 71% of uneducated people in Ibadan who were = or + 38 years old were in a polygynous marriage compared to 38% of educated people in the same age group. The actual and desired family size in Nigeria ranks among the highest in the world. In addition, only 20% of the total population use modern contraceptives and usage is highest in Lagos and Ibadan. Most acceptors are educated urban middle class who use contraceptives to space births instead of the traditional spacing methods of postpartum abstinence and prolonged lactation. Eventually more and more urban middle class women will use contraceptives to prevent births. 1% of these acceptors are demographic innovators, however. Further they begin to use contraceptives at high parities. Still child mortality among them is lower than others. Since the late 1970s, as people are being exposed to Western culture, the economy has improved, mortality has fallen, more children attend schools, yet fertility has grown substantially in urban and rural areas. With the expansion of Western education to females, the changing pattern of life style of the educated urban middle class, and increase of women in nontraditional professions, expectations and needs of children will change. Around 2000 Nigeria will begin its demographic transition from high to low fertility. The World Fertility Survey: charting global childbearing. Lightbourne R Jr, Singh S, Green CP. Lightbourne R Jr, et al. Popul Bull. 1982 Mar;37(1):1-55. Popul Bull. 1982. PMID: 12311520 Demographic and social characteristics of family planning acceptors in Jordan. Sahawneh F, Sahawneh F. Popul Bull ECWA. 1982 Jun-Dec;(22-23):119-36. Popul Bull ECWA. 1982. PMID: 12266313 The health consequences of adolescent sexual and fertility behavior in sub-Saharan Africa. Zabin LS, Kiragu K, Zabin LS, et al. Stud Fam Plann. 1998 Jun;29(2):210-32. Stud Fam Plann. 1998. PMID: 9664633 Review. Women's education and fertility: results from 26 Demographic and Health Surveys. Castro Martin T, Castro Martin T. Stud Fam Plann. 1995 Jul-Aug;26(4):187-202. Stud Fam Plann. 1995. PMID: 7482677 Review. MeSH terms Cite Format. AMA APA MLA NLM Nigeria has an estimated population of about 206 million, making it the seventh most populous country in the world. The country's population is projected to increase to 263 million in 2030 and 401 million in 2050 when it will become the third most populous country in the world. This is because the country's population continues to grow at a high rate of 2.6%. The global population growth is 1.05% per year. Nigeria's population growth is a product of persistent high fertility and consistently declining mortality. In 2018 the total fertility rate (or the average number of children per woman) was 5.3, and the death rate was 11.9 deaths per 1,000. The high fertility rate has led to a situation in which children and adolescents make up a large segment of the population. According to United Nations (UN) population projections for 2020, about 43% of the Nigerian population comprised children 14 years and below, 19% are 15-24 years – meaning 62% are younger than 25. By contrast, less than 5% is 60 years and older. This makes Nigeria a youthful population with median age of about 18 years – lower than Africa (20) and world average (29). The combination of high fertility and declining mortality, resulting in a period of high population growth rate, puts Nigeria in a "demographic trap". This typically happens in the second stage of a demographic transition. This classic theory states that a population's fertility and mortality will both decline from high to low levels as a result of economic and social development in three stages. The first is a period of high birth rate and corresponding high death rate with low growth rate. In the second stage, quality of healthcare improves and death rates fall, but birth rates still remain high, resulting in a period of high population growth. The third stage is when the birth rate starts to decline with the prevailing low death rate resulting in low population growth rate. The term, demographic trap, is used to describe the situation which persists because falling living standards reinforce the prevailing high fertility, which in turn reinforces the decline in living standards. This results in more poverty, where people rely on more children to provide them with economic security. The persistence of high fertility in Nigeria, especially in the poorest parts of the country and among the poor, makes it impossible for the government to attain its development agenda as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes eradicating poverty and inequality; combating hunger and malnutrition, expanding employment and educational enrolment and health care. Bleak development outlook Development indices for Nigeria have remained bleak over the years. Nigeria ranks 157 out of 189 countries in 2018 Human Development Index – a UN tool that measures achievements in key dimensions of human development. Estimates from the UN showed that by the end of May 2018 there were 87 million Nigerians living in extreme poverty relative to 73 million in India, the country that used to have the highest level of poverty. According to the World Poverty Clock, the number increased to 91 million in February, 2019. Unfortunately, the outlook for poverty alleviation in Nigeria is extremely weak. The country has been unable to maintain a trajectory of improving economic development because it's been unable to: provide the education needed for more school age children. It has the highest number of out of school children in the world. The figure stands at about 13 million. create more jobs for the expanding workforce; and provide basic infrastructure and services, such as roads, bridges, water supplies, electricity, and stable food supplies. A possible result of remaining trapped in this state is that the government may reach a state of "demographic fatigue". This is when a lack of financial resources means it cannot stabilise its population growth, and is unable to deal effectively with a range of threats. These include natural disasters as well as diseases and population induced crises such as land degradation, communal clashes, banditry, insurgency, irregular migration and insecurity. Read more: Why #EndSARS protests are different, and what lessons they hold for Nigeria Events in Nigeria suggest that the country may have reached this state. The demographic dividend myth Some – including researchers and policymakers – argue that Nigeria's large population has merits. This includes the argument that a large population is good because it results in a demographic dividend. The demographic dividend is the accelerated socioeconomic growth that may result from a decline in a country's mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the population's age structure. With fewer births each year, a country's young dependent population grows at a slower rate in relation to the working-age population. With fewer people to support, a country has the window of opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic policies are developed and investments made. Clearly, large numbers of young people in Nigeria can represent great economic potential. But this only works if families and governments can adequately invest in their health and education and stimulate new economic opportunities for them. But, as long as total fertility and population growth rates remain high, and children and adolescents greatly outnumber working-age adults, families and governments will not have the resources needed to invest adequately in each child. So the attainment of a demographic dividend by Nigeria in the short (less than 10 years) to medium-term (10-15 years) is far-fetched. For Nigeria to attain a demographic dividend, government must create the enabling environment for human development and economic growth. Steps to be taken for human development should include: Reducing fertility to below four children per woman; Investing in family planning, maternal and child health and in child survival; Prioritising education, especially secondary education for girls. This helps to delay marriage and pregnancy, and give young people skills and confidence to be effective in the labour force. Steps to be taken for economic growth should include: Improving the gender-equity environment. This will ensure that women are free to access and use family planning without social-cultural barriers. This kind of environment enables women and couples to choose the number, timing and spacing of children. And it allows women to participate in labour force and contribute more to the family's economic well-being. Implementing economic policies that create jobs and economic growth. These include encouraging foreign investment and promoting exports of locally manufactured goods. These policy initiatives constitute a set of herculean tasks for the Nigeria government, or the government of any developing country. This is because of the enormous developmental issues confronting the country. Nevertheless, the government should, as a matter of urgency, prioritise them. Simulation models suggest that Nigeria can enter the ranks of lower middle income economies and obtain a demographic dividend by 2050, but only if it adopts appropriate family planning, education and economic strategies. Only decades of purposeful, proactive and well-informed statesmanship can avert the impending catastrophe that could befall Nigeria.

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