

**ASSESSING THE RELEVANCE OF POPULATION CENSUS TO THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF UGANDA
(THE CASE STUDY OF NANSANA MUNICIPALITY)**

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ABSTRACT

The major objective of this study was to find out the relevancies of population census to the economic development of Nansana municipality. The study also had with specific objectives which include: To determine the number of people who pay tax and to estimate the amount of revenue obtain in different sectors in Nansana municipality, to investigate the environmental impact of population growth, use of water, land and other resources on economic development of Nansana municipality, to determine the number of unemployed and standards of living of the citizen in Nansana municipality. The researcher used descriptive research which was a process of collecting data in order to test hypothesis to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject under study. Results were presented through simple statistics, tables, percentages and frequency distributions (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used to carry out the study on the relevancies of population census on economic development of Uganda. Where sample size of 23 participants used for data collection during the study. These were to be obtained in the ratios of (04) Administration & HR, (01) Finance, (02) Internal Audit, (02) Education & Sports, (03) Health, (02) Natural Resource, (04) Physical Planning, (04) Production & Markets, and (01) Community Based Service department who made to 12 selected participants from Nansana Municipal council to represent the rest. The study recommended that the government should put measures to ensure that the economy development at a higher rate than the population growth as seen in population census. This would ensure that the increasing demand of services arising from the population growth is met. There is also need for the government to change

the education system to ensure that new training methods, which develop existing skills and create skills where they do not exist are implemented. In that respect, the role of good governance in providing job opportunities need not to be emphasize

Key words: population census and economic development

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Uganda started with the population count of 1911. This was followed by those of 1921 and 1931. These counts used mainly group enumeration with the hut as the Unit of enumeration. Taking of scientific censuses started in the pre-independence era with the 1948 census followed by that of

1959. Both censuses were conducted separately for the African and non-African populations, and the individual was the unit of enumeration (Ronald & Kazaara, 2023). In the post-independence period, three unified censuses were conducted in 1969, 1980 and 1991. These were conducted jointly for all races and they used better methods of enumeration. They also included a built-in sample survey where some topics were examined in detail. The 1980 and 1991 censuses also had modules on the housing conditions. The total fertility rate (the number of children that, given current age-specific birth rates, women will have in their lifetime) as estimated by the DHS, stood at 6.9, largely unchanged over the past ten years and much higher than in neighboring countries (e.g., Kenya: 4.7; Tanzania: 5.6, see UBOS, 2001). Consequently, the population growth rate was about 3.4% per year between 1991 and 2002, which puts Uganda among the countries with the highest population growth rates in the world. On the other hand, Economic development originated in the post-war period of reconstruction initiated by the United States (Frank et al., 2023). In 1949, during his inaugural speech, President Harry Truman identified the development of undeveloped areas as a priority for the west. In Uganda, the economy has grown since the 1990s: real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an average of 6.7% annually during the period 1990-2015 whereas real GDP per capita grew at 3.3% per annum during the same period (Dima Dick) Nansana municipality has population of 365,124 according to national population census (2014). The economic activities in Nansana are influenced by its proximity to Uganda's capital city Kampala.

this proximity has seen the growth of Nansana as a dormitory town since most people who reside in Nansana work in Kampala and come back in evening hours making Nansana more vibrant in the night, Nansana town council authorities do not like such a town setup because “there is no source of revenue if Nansana continues to be a dormitory town” several businesses that mushroom only during the night are not taxed hence the council losing out revenue (town build 2018)

Statement of the Problem

Due to the increasing population in Uganda, recently in 2014, Uganda had a population of 34.6 million people and high total fertility rate of 5.4 children per woman (UBOS& ICF,2016)

implying a high population growth rate of 3.0 %. Therefore, as result the Ugandan economy is developing at a high in rate just of recent, it grew for 4.5-5.0% in 2015/16 compared to an average of 7% in early 2000s. However, the economic growth in Uganda decelerated from 6.5 percent in FY 2019 to 3.3 percent in FY 2020 due to covid19 crisis, and makes an assumption for growth levels in the final two quarters where at least four months of economic activity was affected by the pandemic (Christopher & Felex, 2022). The economy of Uganda is growing at a good rate, but it is difficult for the government to handle the pressure of ever-increasing population which is discovered in the process of population census. However, the quality of the economy and therefore unemployment are a big problem for Uganda; both the total and youth unemployment is increasing with the rise in population(Nelson & Christopher, 2022). The bottom-line of the matter is how to manage the growth in population as we seem to be in a situation of perpetual poverty (population census report 2014). This brings a complex relationship between population census and economic development with regard to Uganda’s Economy. This research study will examine how the economic development is affected by the increase in size of the population. The increasing population according to different censuses carried out in Uganda has caused the desire to investigate those relevancies of population census to the Uganda’s economic development.

Specific objectives of the study.

- 1. To determine the number of people who pay tax and to estimate the amount of revenue obtain in different sectors in Nansana municipality*
- 2. To investigate the environmental impact of population growth, use of water, land and other resources on economic development of Nansana municipality*
- 3. To determine the number of unemployed and standards of living of the citizens in Nansana municipality*

Research Questions

- 1. What are the factors that determine the number of people who pay tax and the revenue obtained in different sectors in order to improve the economic development of Nansana municipality?*
- 2. What are effects of number of unemployed and standards of living of people on the economic development of Nansana municipality?*
- 3. What are the environmental impact of population growth, use of water, land and other resources on the economic development of Nansana municipality?*

Hypotheses of the Study

H₀: there was no relationship between the number of people who pay tax and the economic development of Nansana municipality

H₁: there was relationship between the number of people who pay tax and the economic development of Nansana municipality

H₀: there was no relationship between the standards of living of people and the economic development of Nansana municipality

H₁: there was a relationship between the standards of living of people and the economic development of Nansana municipality

H₀: there was no relationship between the environmental impact of population growth and the economic development of Nansana municipality

H₁: there was relationship between the environmental impact of population growth and economic development of Nansana municipality

Methodology

Research Design

The researcher used a cross-sectional survey design because the study intended to pick only some representative sample elements of the cross-section of the population. The study was cross sectional because it was conducted across participants over a short period of time and it was not necessitating the researcher to make follow ups of the participants. The survey was preferred because it allowed the researcher get detailed inspection of the relevancies of population census to economic development of Uganda

Study population

The population estimated 38 Members of from different departments from Nansana municipality local government which include; (05) from Administration & IR, (03) Finance, (03) Internal Audit, (07) Education & Sports, (03) Health, (06) Natural Resource, (03) Physical Planning, (05) Production & Markets, and (03) Community Based Services Department

(<http://www.nansana.go.ug>).

Sampling Procedure

Cluster sampling method used the study since it helped the researcher to divide the Population into separate groups, called clusters. Then, a simple random sample of clusters will be selected from the population. In addition, a purposive sample will be selected basing on Characteristics of the population from Nansana municipal council and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling will be therefore very useful in situations when there is need to reach a targeted sample quickly.

Sample size

A sample size of 23 participants used for data collection during the study. These were to be obtained in the ratios of (04) Administration & HR, (01) Finance, (02) Internal Audit, (02) Education & Sports, (03) Health, (02) Natural Resource, (04) Physical Planning, (04) Production

& Markets, and (01) Community Based Service department who made to 12 selected participants from Nansana Municipal council to represent the rest for the study

Data collection tools and method

Interview

Interviews used to collect data from people who cannot read and write. They also used for those people who have enough time to attend to the interview sessions. This method helped the respondent to probe the respondent since it involved face- to-face interaction. It also helped to obtain data that can be used to quote as the respondent explains answers at length (Adefila, J.J 2008).

Data Analysis

Data collected from the primary source will be compiled, sorted, edited for accuracy, clarity, classified, coded into a coding sheet and analyzed using a computerized data analysis package/tool known as SPSS 23.0 for easy statistical analysis and in order to compute the regression and correlational relationships between the variables.

Descriptive statistics was also generated in order to determine the various characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

Table 1: A table showing descriptive statistics of variables under study

Stats	Gdppercapita	Gds	Dgghep	Tfr	Popn
Mean	927228.3	3.25e+12	5.198422	6.625156	2.67e+07
Sd	273318.2	4.53e+12	2.057276	.4802729	8324978
Min	553376.8	-1.40e+10	3.465615	5.591	1.52e+07
Max	1352747	1.51e+13	8.887736	7.103	4.29e+07
Cv	.294769	1.394122	.3957501	.0724923	.3116358

The minimum values of GDP per capita (gdppercapita), Population (Popn), Gross

Domestic Saving (Gds), Domestic Government Health Expenditure Per capita (Dgghep) and Total Fertility Rate (Tfr) include 553376.8, 1.52e+07, -1.40e+10, 3.465615 and 5.591 respectively. Whereas

their maximum values include 1352747, 4.29e+07, 1.51e+13, 8.887736 and 7.103 respectively. The descriptive statistics show that the average GDP percapita is 927,228.3, 3.25e+12 average Gross domestic saving, 5.198422 average domestic government health expenditure percapita,

6.63 average total fertility rate and 2.67 average population growth rate.

Descriptive characteristics of Participants

Table 2: Descriptive characteristics of Participants

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Gender</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	19	54.28
	<i>Female</i>	13	37.14
	<i>Total</i>	32	100%
<i>2</i>	<i>Age</i>		
	<i>Less than 20 years</i>	-	-
	<i>20-29</i>	05	15.62
	<i>30-39</i>	12	37.5
	<i>40-49</i>	08	25.0
	<i>50-59</i>	04	12.5
	<i>Over 60 yrs</i>	03	9.37
	<i>Total</i>	32	100%
<i>3</i>	<i>Marital status</i>		

	<i>Married</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>50.0</i>
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	<i>Single</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>18.75</i>
	<i>Divorced /separated</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>21.87</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Level of Education</i>		
	<i>Certificate</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>18.75</i>
	<i>Diploma</i>	<i>09</i>	<i>28.12</i>
	<i>Degree</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>46.87</i>
	<i>Masters level</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>6.25</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Designation</i>		
	<i>Administration &HR</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>12.5</i>
	<i>Finance,</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Internal Audit</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Education & Sports</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>12.5</i>
	<i>Health</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Natural Resource</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>18.75</i>
	<i>Physical Planning</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Production & Markets</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Community Based Services</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>100%</i>

Source: Primary data (2018).

From the Table 2 above, the finding revealed that the males (54.28%) participants were more than the female participants (37.14%) within Nansana Municipality which implies that municipal council is mostly dominated by men who occupy different departments in the municipality.

According to the table, for the case of Age of participants, most of the participants (37.5%) were in the age ranges of 30-39 years, followed by 25% of participants who were between 40-49 years, 12.5% were between 50-59 years, 15.62% were between 20-29 years, while None of the participants were of ages Less than 20 years. This implies that most of the participants who were interviewed in the study were between 30-39years and 40-49 years.

As regards the marital status of people operating in Nansana Municipal council, most of the participants in the study were married at 50%, followed by the Widowed at 21.87%, while

18.75% of the participants interviewed in the study were single. The Divorced /separated of participants were the least at 9.37%. In terms of the level of Education of participants, most of the participants were degree holders at 46.87%, followed by 28.12% as Diploma holders while the least participants were at Masters Level at only 6.25%. This thus implies that Nansana Municipal council is mostly occupied by learned individuals who are knowledgeable enough to implement effective service delivery within the region. Lastly for the case of designation of participants, most of the participants dominated the Natural Resource departments, Administration &HR, Education & Sports of the municipal council with 18.75%, 12.5% and 12.5% respectively, followed by the Finance, Internal Audit, Health, Physical Planning, Production & Markets, and Community Based Services departments.

Descriptive statistics of population in Nansana municipality.

Table 3: population structure of Nansana municipality

<i>1.1: Population Size</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
<i>Total population</i>	<i>365,124</i>	
<i>Total male population</i>	<i>172,061</i>	<i>47.1</i>
<i>Total female population</i>	<i>193,063</i>	<i>52.9</i>
<i>sex ratio (males per 100 females)</i>	<i>89.1</i>	

(Source: report 2014)

From the figure above, the total population is 365,124, the male population is 172,061 which makes a 47.1% of the total population and the female population is 193,063 which makes a total a 52.9% of the total population.

Tax payments and revenue obtained in different sectors.

Findings on whether the local revenue tax is done according to outlined policies

Table 4 Findings on whether the local revenue tax is done according to outlined policies

<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>31.25</i>
<i>Agree</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Not sure</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>3.12</i>
<i>Disagree</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>9.37</i>
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>6.25</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Primary data, 2018

From the table above, 31.25% strongly agreed, 50 % were in agreement, 3.12 % were not sure,

9.37% were in disagreement, while 6.25% were in strong disagreement. Implying that

the majority of the participants were in agreement that the local revenue tax collection is done as outlined policies.

Finding on whether the local revenue has been carried out very financial year

Table 5. The local revenue is carried out every financial year

Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	15	46.87
Agree Not sure	09	28.12
Disagree	00	00
Strongly disagree		
Total	32	100

Source: Primary data, 2018

From the table above, the majority were in strong agreement, that is 46.87%, 28.12% were in agreement, none were not sure, 9.37% were in disagreements and 15.62% were in strong disagreement implying that the revenue assessment is carried out every year. This can be illustrated in in pie chart below

Conclusions

The relationship between population growth and economic growth has therefore been fundamental to the policy makers in different countries. However, there has been no consensus whether population growth is beneficial or detrimental to the economic growth in the developing countries. Given this scenario, there was thus a need to establish the relationship between population growth and economic growth in Uganda. The study conducted a granger causality test and the results indicated that there was no causality between population growth and economic growth in the country. Through the use of Vector Auto regression Approach (VAR) the results indicated population

growth and economic growth are both positively correlated and an increase in population will impact positively to the economic growth in the country both in the short run and also in the long run.

Recommendations

With the results indicating a positive correlation between population census and economic growth in Uganda, then a carefully planned population growth strategy based on population censuring activities coupled with institutional and policy changes could be beneficial to this country. A well-managed population expansion will ensure that both the population and the economy are complementing each other without concerns that population expansion will lead countries to famines and lack of other socio-economic facilities since it's the inadequate government policies, rather than population growth which are responsible for the woes including, famines that besiege most developing nations.

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