

NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL, ACCRA, GHANA
PAPER PRESENTATION AT AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE AT ARUSHA,
TANZANIA, 10th-14th DECEMBER, 2007

TITLE: CHANGING AGE STRUCTURE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR WELL-BEING: INTEGRATION OF POPULATION VARIABLES INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS – IDEAS FROM GHANA.

Introduction

The population of Ghana is the object and instrument of development. However development planning especially at the District level had not taken into consideration demographic variables in the planning process until recently. The ICPD PoA and the National Population Policy (Revised edition, 1994) have all recognized and recommended the integration of population/demographic variables into development planning at all levels. In view of this, the NPC in collaboration with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and with funding from Government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the modules were developed. The modules use Microsoft Excel in analyzing and projecting future needs of the population.

Objective

The objective that guided the preparation of the modules is to produce a workable document as a systems approach to development planning to be used by policy makers and development planners in the development planning process.

However, the objective of this presentation is to showcase these modules and share experiences on how they were used to train personnel in some Districts of Ghana. It will go further to discuss the few results and challenges that have been documented.

Methodology:

The under-listed steps were followed in development, use and evaluation of the modules.

- With funding from Government and the UNFPA the NPC collaborated with the Department of Planning, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology to develop the modules;
- Modules were pretested;
- Training of some District planning and budget officers, Coordinating Directors and District Chief Executives in some selected districts; and
- Evaluation of the use of the modules in development planning

Rationale for Developing the modules

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) came up with a Programme of Action (PoA) on population and development.

The PoA builds upon the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, and the 88 recommendations for its further implementation approved at the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in 1984.

Chapter 3 of the PoA deals with interrelationships between Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development, and mentions *Integrating population and development strategies* in development planning.

The National Population Policy (Revised 1994) mentions as one of the goals that

The National Population Council is a statutory body set up to advise Government on population and related issues. The Council has produced a National Population Policy (Revised edition, 1994) which is the guiding document for all population activities in the country. One of the goals of this document is that “measures will be taken to....promote integrated population and development planning and programming at national, regional and district levels”. Therefore in keeping with the ICPD PoA and the National Population Policy the NPC has facilitated the development of the integration modules to be used by Policy Makers, Planners at all levels in their planning process. These modules examine in general terms the dynamic links among population, economic development and social needs. It is used to determine the development needs of a particular area based on the structure of the population. It has been used as an advocacy tool to sensitize politicians at the district level in the allocation of resources for population activities.

Since the adoption of the decentralization policy in 1987, the Districts have become the unit for development planning in the country. Accordingly the NPC and other stakeholders are of the view that all development planning at that level must be informed by population variables.

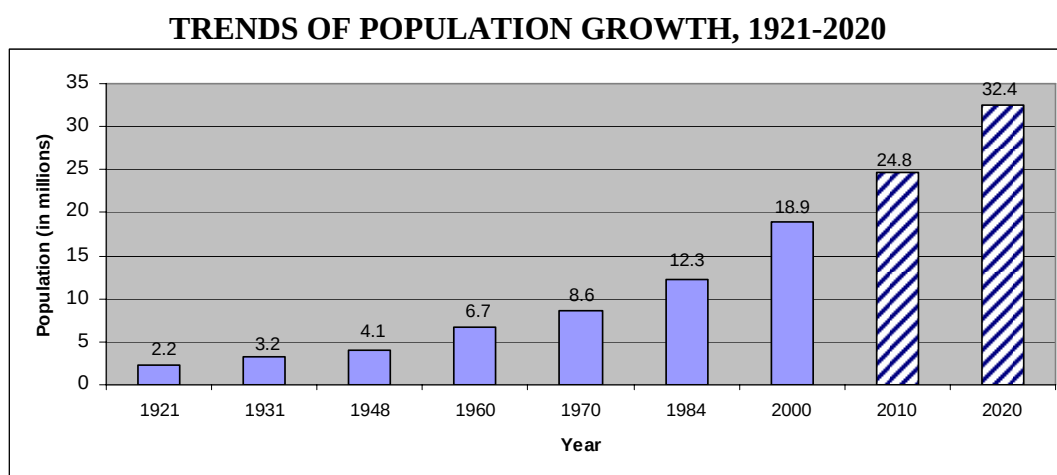
Trends in Population Growth in Ghana

The 1921 census was the only one that covered the entire area of modern Ghana. Since independence, Ghana has witnessed a rapid improvement in census taking; the 1960 census was a classic example of such improvements in data collection methods, objectives, scope and production of adequate and reliable demographic information. The second census of the Republic was carried out in March 1970 and since then two more censuses were conducted, in 1984 and 2000.

The results of these censuses and virtually all the demographic sample surveys conducted in the country are employed in explaining the demographic trends in the country.

Population Size and Change

Ghana's population of just over 2 million in 1921 increased to about 6.7 million in 1960 and 8.6million in 1970; it thus more than tripled in a short period of nearly fifty years (i.e. 1921-1970). Although data for the early part of the 20th century are not reliable, they are, indicative of a rapid increase in the country's population. The reported average annual growth rates of 1.6 in 1931-1948 and 4.1 per cent in 1948-1960 suggest an acute under-enumeration of the 1948 population. The average annual growth rates of 2.8 per cent between 1921 and 1960 and 2.7 per cent between 1931 and 1960 also confirm the undercount that occurred in 1948. The depression in the 1930s however might have shrunk the immigration stream or even reversed it (Kimble 1960:88; Caldwell 1967:113) so that the level of incompleteness might not therefore be as high as portrayed by the results. Figure 1.1 presents a picture of the changes in population since 1921.



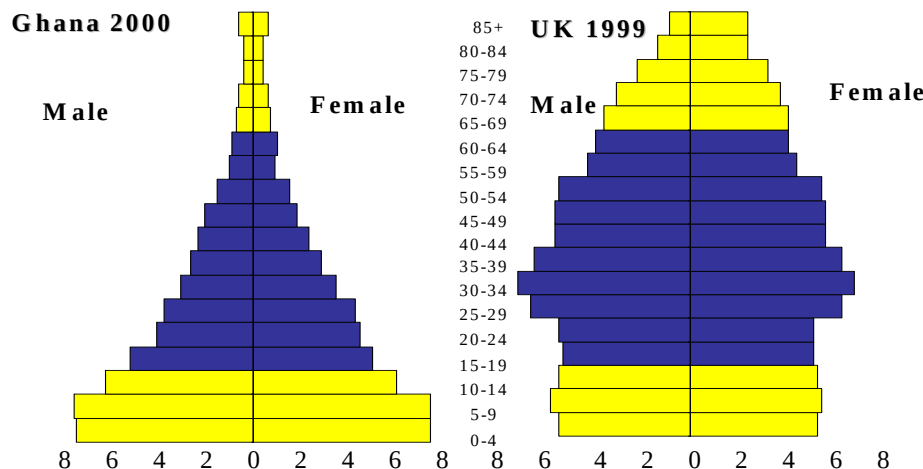
NB: 2010, 2020: Projected.

Source: NPC Fact Sheet I, POPULATION OF GHANA, NATIONAL TRENDS, 2005

In view of the declining mortality and constant fertility levels until the 1980s, an average annual growth rate of 2.4 per cent is recorded for the decade of 1960-1970. A look at the Graph shows that within a period of 30 years (1970-2000) the population of Ghana more than doubled (from 8.6m to 18.9m). The projected value of 24.8m (2010), shows that the population will double between 1984 (12.3) and that year. There is every indication that population growth rate that has hovered between 2.4 and 3.0 from the 1960s to 2000 is described as rapid.

The Age and Sex structure of Ghana shows that of a developing country. The structure is here compared with that of a developed country; and as we aspire to the structure of this developed country, the nation needs to reposition itself and make planning supply the needs of a would-be changed structure.

GHANA (2000)/UK (1999) POPULATION STRUCTURES COMPARED



Source: NPC Fact Sheet I, POPULATION OF GHANA, NATIONAL TRENDS, 2005

In the case of Ghana the structure of a broad base shows the youthful nature of the population with about 41% being under 15 years for both sexes. Those in the working age range from 15-64 years who carry the burden caring for themselves and the non-working group. This gives a dependency ratio of about 87%. It is satisfying that the population 65 years and above takes about 6% for the 2000 PHC. The Age-Sex structure of Ghana depicts that of a developing country while that of United Kingdom depicts that of a developed country. As nations aspire to develop the trend of population growth will be changing, not only for the age-sex structure but other variables as well. It is for this anticipation that development planning must take the changing structure into consideration in the planning process.

Development and Development Planning In Ghana

The colonialist whose aim was that the colonies existed for the benefit of the Metropolitan Britain practiced a centralized system of development planning. The Governor acting upon the instruction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies planned development. The legislative Council continued to make their voices heard because they had little hand in the planning and implementation of issues that were supposed to develop the then Gold Coast.

The Post independence era continued with the centralization. However the indigenous people had say now as the Parliament was completely black. The process of planning followed the planned economy type viz; top-down approach. The Overthrow of the Nkrumah regime started a process of changing the development planning process. Some Development Plans Ghana has had include the following:

TYPE OF PLAN	DURATION	TIME
Perspective/ long term	21	1963/4-1984
Medium term	7	1963/4-1969/70
Perspective/Vision 2020	25	1994-2020
Medium term	5	1994-1999
Short term (GPRS I)	3	2003-2005
Medium term (GPRS II)	4	2006-2009

The dawn of 1983 brought in its wake the adoption of Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) and subsequently Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), prescribed by The Bretton Woods system of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development-IBRD (World Bank) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Ghana's economy was growing at negative rates at that time. Later on Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Cost of (the Structural) Adjustment (PAMSCAD) was unleashed to solve some structural problems the recovery programme had created.

Underpinning these was the decentralization programme. As at that time Ghana was divided into Municipal, Town and Area Authorities. Not much power had been given to these Authorities to mobilize and plan for themselves. Development projects were literally shared from Accra- the centre-, and politicians and influential bodies and people vied for such projects.

A process was set in motion to facilitate the creation of Central Places/ Growth Poles in the countryside. The District Assemblies were created (1987). Elections were held in 1988 to elect District Assembly Members; of course some of the members had to be appointed (and even up to date), as provided for by the 1992 Republican Constitution.

The Metropolitan/ Municipal/District Assemblies are the units of Development Planning in the country. The District Assemblies have a Planning Unit that is responsible for technical input and the production of development plans. The Regional Coordinating Councils only coordinate and try to harmonize the D-Plans in their regions of jurisdiction. It is thus imperative to have an input into development planning in the country without targeting the Assemblies.

The Modules

There are fifteen modules in all. The modules come in the form of a book for the theory that explains concepts and methodology to use in defining needs; whereas the methods of projections that are based on Microsoft Excel software is recorded onto a disc fixed in the back of the book.

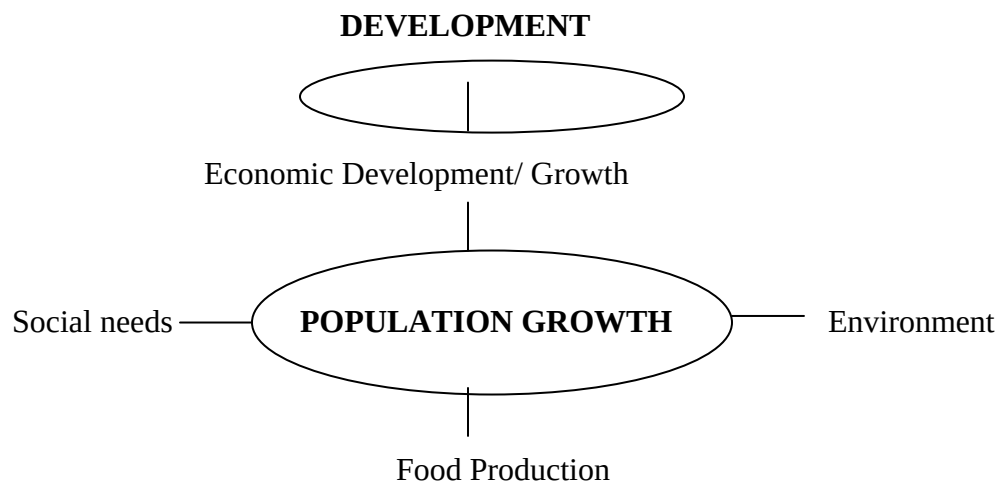
Module 1: Systems Concept of Development

Sub-titles treated under this module are:

- What constitutes development
- Introduction and background information
- Population and development
- Dimensions of a system
- Development (Growth and Change) as a system
- Population growth and Economic development
- Population growth and food production
- Population and environment
- Population growth and social needs

The chapter thus introduces you to what concepts are in the chapters ahead for comprehension; and shows the interrelationships between population growth and development as shown in the diagram below.

Figure 1: **Linkages between Population Growth and Development**

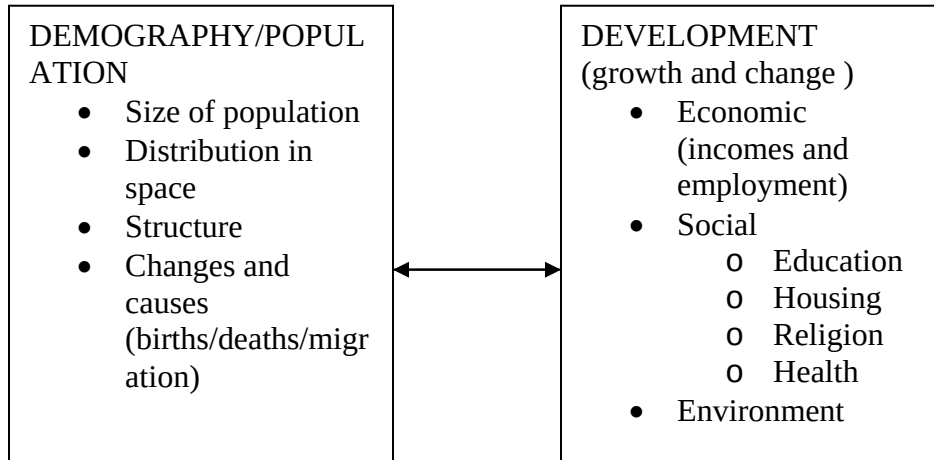


A system has been defined in the book variously to mean a collection of parts or events that can be seen as a single whole thing because of interdependence and interaction of those parts and events. This underpins the interrelationships that exist between the modules for total development.

Module 2: Population and Development

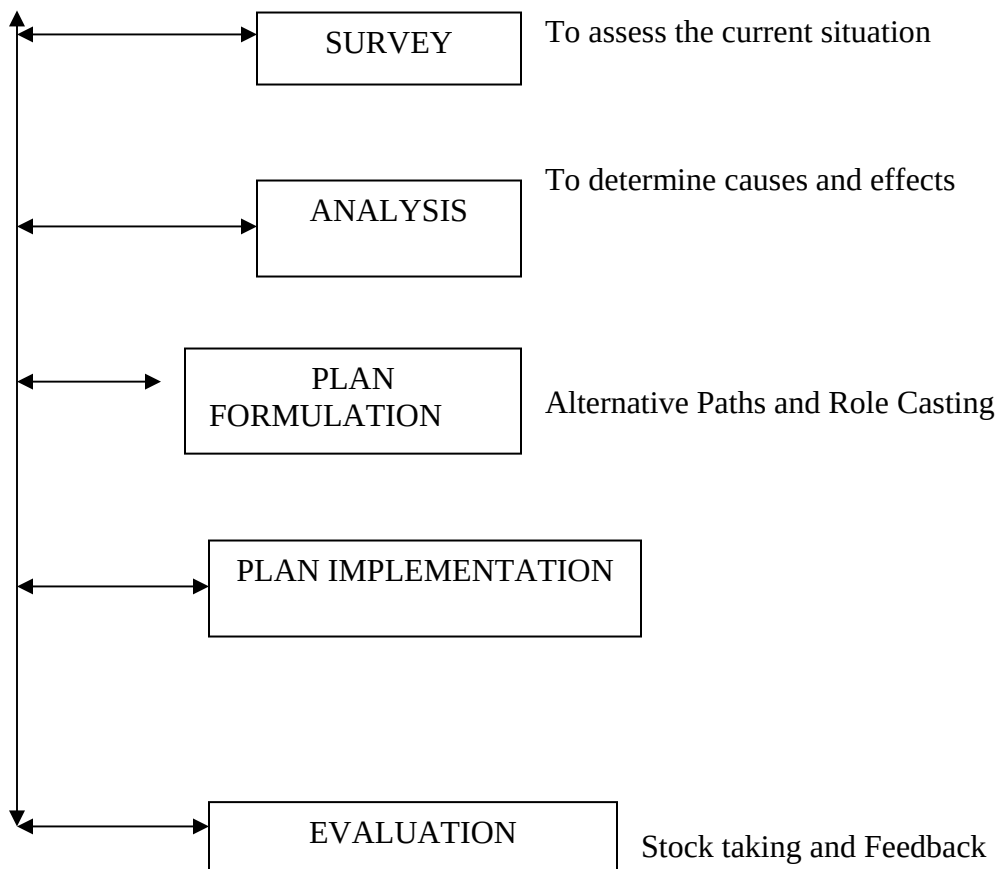
The chapter starts with an introduction and treats the subject matter such that trainees will be expected to appreciate the need for integration of population issues into development planning activities. They would be equipped with the requisite techniques of finding, analyzing and organizing population data to ascertain district development needs. Subtitles include:

- Population as both a determinant and consequence of development



- Population variables and development
- The planning process and its implications for population

Figure 3: A Typical Planning Process



The chapter dilates on methods of acquiring population data and those of projections.

Modules 3 up to 13 pick on various needs of the people. The theory of defining the variables and methods of estimating their future needs are explained. The various subtitles under each Module are listed below;

Module 3: Health Needs

Subtitles:

- Health systems in development
- Community diagnosis and health needs assessment
- Information and data identification for health needs
- Sources of information and data for understanding health needs
- Summary of an assessment of current health data
- Computer application

Module 4: Educational Needs Assessment

- Types of educational needs
- Methods of educational needs assessment
- Continuing education
- Adult education/ Functional educational needs
- Quality education
- Variables for computer modeling
- Exercise: Computation of educational needs

Module 5: Water and Sanitation

- Water supply systems
- Major demand determinants of water consumption
- Methods of forecasting demands for water
- Practical application
- Provision for sanitation facilities

Module 6: Housing Needs

- Concept of housing
- Importance of housing
- Concept of housing needs
- Concept of demand and supply

- Methodology for assessing housing demand
- Housing demand analysis
- Delivery systems analysis
- Estimation of housing needs and investment of Districts and settlements
- The estimation procedures

Module 7: Land

- Introduction
- Land Carrying Capacity Analysis
- Land Capability Analysis
- Land Suitability
- Conclusion

Module 8: Food Security

- Introduction
- Food Affordability
- Process for Assessing Food Security Deficit
- Dealing with Food security
- Exercise

Module 9: Employment

- Introduction
- Elements of Employment
- Calculating the Internal Shift Share and Estimated Employment Behavior
- Skill Requirements
- Conclusion

Module 10: Rural Transport Planning

- Development, Transport and Population Nexus
- Decentralization, Participation and Rural and Rural Transport Planning
- Problems of Rural Transportation in Ghana
- Options for Road Rehabilitation and maintenance at the Local Level
- Summary
- Exercise and Approach

Module 11: Built Environment

- Human Settlements
- Problems of the Built Environment
- Confronting the Challenge of the Built Environment

- Exercises
- Steps In Calculating Land Required For Residential Development

Module 12: Natural Environment

- The Natural Environment
- Principles of Ecosystem Function and their implications for Humans
- Principles of Ecosystem Sustainability and Implications for Human Population
- Ecosystem Balance and Implications for Human Population
- Estimating the Impact of Population Growth on the National Environment

Module 13: Energy Needs

- Introduction
- Uses of Energy
- Sources of Energy

Module: 14 Fiscal Resource Mobilization

- Background
- Objective
- Revenues
- Local Revenue Instruments
- Revenue Mobilization
- Critical Issues on Revenue Mobilization
- Selected Methods for Analyzing Revenue Performance
- Methods for Improving Local Revenue Mobilization
- Summary

Module 14 discusses resource mobilization. The central Government pays a percentage of national revenue into the District coffers known as the District Assemblies Common Fund. The districts are also expected to generate revenue from traditional sources such as property rates and taxes. Revenue mobilization has four dimensions namely:

- Fiscal policy formulation
- Revenue collection
- Monitoring of operations
- Performance assessment.

The chapter deals with these and others that will help the districts mobilize enough revenue to provide the present and future needs of the population.

Module 15: Fiscal Resource Utilization and Management

- Expenditure estimation-outline
- Using Existing Expenditure Base
- Increase of Expenditure

Chapter 15 dilates on management of the resources for the benefit of all, to improve the quality of life of the population, which is the ultimate goal of planning.

Computer Application.

The excel software is user friendly and gives out projections once the appropriate population data have been entered

Lessons learnt:

- Lack of commitment of some District Assemblies to use the modules. They, some cases prefer to cite projects and amenities due to other reasons rather than to be guided by technical consideration.
- High staff turn-over. Most trained staff had been transferred. Since the training had not been done for all the districts, this poses a problem.
- Some trained officials did not use modules due to lack of adequate computer literacy to some level. Most of the Districts also lack the requisite staff and this poses threat to the use of the models for the purposes they are intended.
- Modules are to be reviewed for gaps found and emerging issues identified.

Conclusion.

The National Population Council, Ghana has showcased and shared experiences in the integration of population variables into development planning. We are willing and ready to work with all interested parties who wish to have further understanding of the processes we have outlined in the development and use of the Integration Modules.



ⁱ Prepared by E. Oppong-Aboagye, 13102000