

STATISTICS AND TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT

By

Peter Siyan Ph.D

Professor & Director

**Centre for Distance Learning & Continuing
Education**

University of Abuja

Nigeria

Conceptually, Statistics is the activity of inferring results about a population given a sample.

And

Transformational change is the process whereby positive development results are achieved and sustained over time by institutionalizing policies, programs and projects within national strategies.

Sound statistical practices must be based on the followings:

- The extent of any economic, social or infrastructural challenge can be clearly determined.
- The resources constraints and or benefits can be identified.
- The sincerity of political promises can be assessed by the electorates.
- Performances of agencies, institutions and the government at large can be appraised.
- Research activities can be better enhanced.
- Socio-cultural harmony can be promoted. Especially in a multi-ethno religion and multi-cultural society like ours as it relates to boundary issues and natural resource continuum

The Role of Statistics in Transformative Development

The role of statistics in national development has become increasingly important to achieve any meaningful social and economic development.

Statistical information is vital for an effective and efficient policy operation in both the private and public sectors of every economy.

- Governments are concerned about the status of their citizen's welfare in relation to health, education, housing, recreation and other areas.
- Data are essential for global financial operations and competitiveness. International organizations, financial institutions and banks rely on statistics to evaluate their investments.
- Statistics is used in all areas of human endeavour. The physical and Social Sciences, professional fields of engineering, medicine, education and business all employ statistics in setting standard for establishing policies, planning and evaluation.

- As an imperative apparatus in the development process of a nation, statistics must be sieved of politicking and sentiments. Statistical procedures and methodologies must not be viewed from political or other considerations.
- For a developing economy like ours and many other countries still battling with the challenges of high illiteracy, high prevalence rate of communicable diseases, high rate of rural to urban migration, lack of basic utilities like pipe-borne water and electricity, poor sanitary and environment et cetera. Statistics can best be visualized as the link between development and underdevelopment.

- True and unbiased statistics will necessarily shed light on every dark area in regard of our national life and remove contention and animosity among the various ethno-political enclaves in the country.

This is particularly instructive for demographic statistics in the country.

Few Examples of the use of Statistic for Transformative Development

- Through statistical evaluation, Nigeria has been declared as the largest economy in the continent after debasing the economy and the 26th largest economy in the world.
- Nigeria is now the sixth most populated nation in the world after China, India, USA, Indonesia and Brazil.

With an estimated population of 170 million.

- Nigeria alone accounts for 2.4 percent of the world's population and the most populous country in Africa. (NBS 2013).

- Road crashes are a leading cause of death and injuries in the world: 1.3 million death and 20 – 50 million injuries leading to disabilities
- 90 percent of road traffic accident deaths occur in Less Developed Countries and it's projected to increase in the future.
- 1.3% of each country's GDP (reflecting cost on medical treatment, rehabilitation, and loss of productivity). WHO 2013.



Thank You for Listening