

Demography:

BASIC CONCEPTS & ANALYSES



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Demography: Basic Concepts and Analyses

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Preface

"Demography is destiny"
Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

Demography is not only a desirable discipline but indispensable in all spheres of life and it is important that everyone has at least basic knowledge of it. The most crucial events in life are births, deaths, migration and marriages and the dynamic changes in them are of great cultural, social, economic and biological salience. Demography as a social science treats these dynamics in both qualitative and quantitative manners.

Demography is the study of human population using both empirical and statistical methods and employs census, survey and vital registration as its common tools. Demographic discipline is concerned with the measurement and discovery of uniformity in the basic process of human birth, death, migration and population growth and these phenomena are treated in both their socioeconomic and biological contexts. Demographic analysis enjoys reality and makes as much use of advanced mathematics as those of any other discipline in the social sciences. However, as interesting as these components are, their interconnectivity is complex to analyze and understood. This could be one of the reasons why students dread the discipline and why its texts are not so common. Among the tools needed to make Demography appealing are reader friendly and practical oriented handbooks with simplified concepts and principles that can be easily understood by all. These are definitely not common in demography especially in the areas of fertility, mortality and migration. This evasiveness is pungent and dangerous for upcoming generations, socio-economic development and the

future of the discipline. While most demographic researches or papers end up at the conference tables, a formal packaging that is accessible to all is exigent. A compilation of basic concepts in demography like this is expected to fill this gap and help in popularizing the discipline of demography in our society.

This book is never a total compendium of Demography but a simplified synopsis of ideas and data relating to demographic concepts from reputed authors that will be found useful to all students, lecturers and professional researchers in the field of population. The book is divided into seven chapters with each covering specific and basic themes in demography. All concepts explained in this book are easy to learn and simple to apply. Review questions are also added at the end of each chapter to appraise the reader's understanding of the chapter.

The whole book or parts of it should be found useful as introductory course to undergraduates and students in colleges who are studying the subject for the first time. It is an attempt to provide a handbook on basic definitions of common demographic concepts (fertility, migration and mortality) especially as illustrated by diverse authors. However, many claims and propositions are without proofs and are merely academic imaginations of the author. Therefore, the author takes responsibility for all quotes and misquotes that may be included in this book. However, since no single book by any human being will ever become the last word on any subject, this book also is not the final but contains valuable information that are very useful to all progressive demographers in and around the globe.

Amoo Emmanuel Olagunju.
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Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges all authors whose works are cited in this book. The compilation of basic concepts and analyses in demography represents a personal vision to popularize demography and make its texts accessible to every interested individual within and outside academic environment in this part of the world. The peculiarity of this book is anchored on almost every page to statement of facts from reputable authors and renowned demographers that would have been difficult to access without a work like this. In completing this book, therefore, I found my intellectual debt more than usually explicit and ramifying.

First and foremost, I appreciate the visionary and invaluable ambient environment created by the Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, under the auspices which this book was written. The relentless efforts of the university authority in the drive for excellence under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Aize Obayan gingered the idea and the production of this book. I appreciate the exhortations and encouragement of a role model, Pastor Yemi Nathaniel, the Executive Secretary of the Living Faith Church World-wide, and the mentorship from Pastor K. O. Adesoji, in all ramifications.

I appreciate with tremendous humility, the tutoring and coaching enjoyed from Professor A.K. Omideyi of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. I am also grateful for the privilege of learning from Professors T.O. Fadayomi, I. O Ogunrinola, Don Ike (of the School of Social Sciences), Dr. P. A. Edewor and Dr. Onipede Wusu Department of Sociology, Covenant University, Nigeria. My profound gratitude also goes to scholars that have been of great inspiration to me especially in

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Above all, my appreciation goes to the Almighty God who has been the driving Spirit behind this project.

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Dedication

Dedicated with affection, to the
loving memory of my late Parents:
**Chief (Pa) Thomas Ojo Amoo and
Madam Felicia Oladunni Ige Amoo.**
The valiant 'men' that taught me to do
my best in whatever I pursue.

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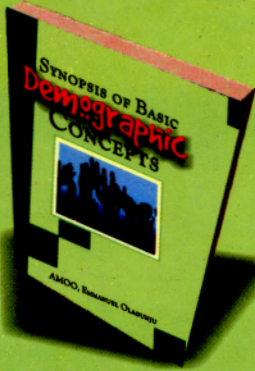
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THE BOOK

This book, **DEMOGRAPHY: BASIC CONCEPTS & ANALYSES** is never a total compendium of Demography but a simplified synopsis of ideas and data relating to demographic concepts from reputed authors that will be found useful to all students, lecturers and professional researchers in the field of population. The book is divided into seven chapters with each covering specific and basic themes in demography. All concepts explained in this book are easy to learn and simple to apply. Review questions are also added at the end of each chapter to appraise the reader's understanding of the chapter.

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