

**ALIORU REBECCA (2009-M053-20001)**

**Population Growth and Rural Development: A Case Study of Adumi Sub-county**

The study focuses on population growth and rural development taking a case study of Adumi Sub-County. The objectives of the study were to; identify the causes of population growth, examine the relationship between population growth and rural development, establish the challenges of population growth and rural development and suggest possible solutions for population growth and rural development. The independent variable is population growth which includes polygamy practice, early marriage, low level of education and the dependent variable is rural development which includes land fragmentation, land development, rural urban/urban rural migration, and social crime rate among others. Previous literature related to the study is critically reviewed. The study used case study design. Within the research design, quantitative and qualitative strategies were used. Other methodologies used included random and purposive sampling techniques. One hundred and seventy (170) respondents were selected for eliciting responses. The instruments for data collection included questionnaires, focused group discussion, taking into account quality measure, gender considerations and limitation of the study. The study findings reveal that some of the salient causes of population growth are polygamous marriages, early marriages and ignorance about family planning. It also revealed that there is a close link between population growth and rural development. Population growth affects rural development both positively and negatively. Some of the challenges of population growth and rural development included land shortage for development, food shortage which leads to malnutrition, lack of education, rural urban migration among others. The study, therefore, recommended that the government should encourage education and more so enforce girl child education for all the girls in rural areas to address the problem of ignorance and early marriage. Government should launch a big campaign about family planning which will help to reduce the overwhelming number of children in Adumi sub-county and elsewhere. Early marriages which have been a common practice and one of the major causes of population growth should be discouraged. The government should take it upon herself to set a standard age for marriage and anybody who violates it should be seriously penalised among others.

**Key Words: Population Growth, Rural Development**