

ASSESSMENT OF VITAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN NIGERIAN RURAL AREAS: A CASE OF KWARA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines Vital Registration System (VRS) in rural areas of Kwara State, Nigeria. Vital registration is one of the main sources of demographic data which has often been used for population estimation. However, it has often witnessed low patronage of people from the rural areas. In this study, data on vital registration were generated from respondents in the study area, using questionnaire administration. The data were analyzed with simple percentage and presented in tables as well as figures. From the analysis, 77% of the rural people registered their births, while 78% of their deaths were not registered. The study also revealed that most (86%) respondents registered in hospital against the primary registration centres-National Population Commission offices nation-wide. In addition, the study observed that 76% of rural people are aware of vital registration. Despite this, the area has low death registration. Thus, the study recommended that vital registration especially on deaths should be made free and compulsory.

Keywords: Population Data, Vital Registration and Rural Area