

Population Growth in the Region of Tripoli, Libya

¹Osama Kh. Ali, ²Noorazuan Hashim, ²Katiman Rostam and ²Hamzah Jusoh

¹University of Garyounis, Libya.

²School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi.

Abstract: This paper is going to discuss the population growth in the region of Tripoli. This discussion will be focused on population natural growth and the contributions of migration Tripoli's population increase like; local Migration and Foreign Migration to Tripoli region to identify its contribution of migration to the population growth and its influence on the extension of urban area in the region of Tripoli. The issue now which introduced in this paper is how much the population is growing in Tripoli region, especially, when we know this growth made informal settlements in south of Tripoli region which has classified around 10307.43 hectare as residential area.

Key words:

INTRODUCTION

According to preliminary figures from Census 2006, total number of Libyan inhabitants in Tripoli region amounts to 1519000 people, ad this represents 27 percent of the population of Libya. The Tripoli region is the central urban region in Libya, when we compare to other major urban areas in northern Africa, the Tripoli region is number six or seven. Cairo is a mega-city, where the city population alone amounts to about 8 million. Alexandria and Giza are other cities in Egypt, with a city population of about 3.8 and 2.5 million respectively. In morocco the city population in Casablanca is about 3.3 million and Algeria the city of Algiers hosts about 1.7 million.

Of course the outcome of such comparisons depends on how the "city" is defined vis-à-vis the urban area and the agglomeration. Nevertheless, it could safety be size to other metropolitan regions in northern Africa. On the other hand, when relating the size metropolitan region to the population in the whole country, it turns out that the relative size of the Tripoli region, 27 percent as stated above, is relatively high when comparing to the other metropolitan regions in northern Africa.

According to one of the leading urban economists is in world, Vernon Henderson, professor of economics and urban studies at Brown university, providence, R.I., USA, it is feasible to estimate what is the best degree (best with respect to economic growth) of urban concentration, for countries of different scale and at different levels of economic development (Henderson, 2000). The robust results from this research indicate large growth losses from significantly non-optimal urban concentration.

Libya is not included in the nations analyze in this part. It may still be expected that the relative size of the Tripoli sub-region represents neither too little nor excessive urban concentration. It should be added that the population figure reported 1519000 inhabitants in the Tripoli sub-region, underestimates population size are non-Libyan are not included. According to the preliminary results from census 2006, the non Libyan number is less than 9000,0 people. However, this most probably is a significant underestimation of the actual non-Libyan population (Tripoli Region Plan, 2007).

Urban expansion as a dynamic process of land use change is a complicated social/economic phenomenon. It may be linked with details related to topography, transportation, land use, social structure and economic type, but it is generally related to demography a city (Lin 2003). Land uses do not only require planning and the analytical estimates of the future population composition for the urban area. But, land uses also require an indication as to how the total population and how selected composition groups are specially distributed in the urban area. Thus, estimates of the distribution of the future total population among the various neighborhoods have obvious implications for the study of residential area and their community facilities. Moreover, while urban-wide age composition analysis are used in estimating the total land requirements for schools, estimates of residential distribution of school-age children will provide guides as to how the estimated total land requirements should be allocation to the different parts of the city. Similarly, studies of special distribution of various income groups and household-size categories among the different neighborhoods provide clues for geographic patterning of residential densities (Stuart 1972). Applying these population studies and other considerations involved in determining future patterns of density are coming up this chapter.

Population Growth:

Natural conditions mainly affect the distribution of the population in Libya, the desert environment is the dominant feature of the country, representing over 90% of its land, which makes the distribution of the population is concentrated along the strip Coastal areas do not exceed 2% of the total area of the geographical. However, Tripoli region is included the largest urban area and population in Libya, and the political capital of the country, as evidenced by improved economic conditions in Libya generally, and the increase in the population because of the increased birth rates and low mortality, and increase in the number of immigrants. Increase in population for the region of Tripoli has varied across censuses. In the census of 1973, the region was with a total population of about 615,161 people, while the total population in 1984 reached about 994,136 people. That is, with population growth amounted to 378975 people comparing with previous census. In 1995 the population reached about 1,059,000 people, the change with previous census was 64864 people, finally in year 2006 the population in the region was at around 1,519,000 people and population increase comparing with previous census was 460000 people, Table 1.

Table 1: Populations change in the region of Tripoli (1973-2006).

Year	Population	changes between census
1973	615,161	-
1984	994,136	378975
1995	1,059,000	64864
2006	1,519,000	460000

Source: Censuses 1973, 1984, 1995, 2006

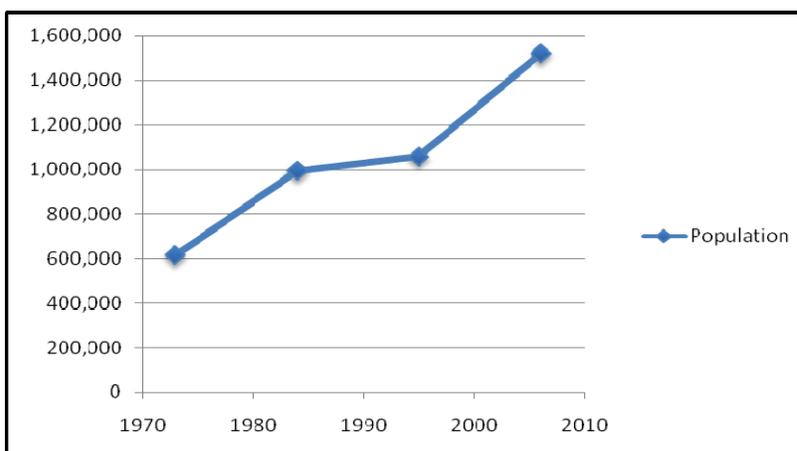


Fig. 1: The population growths in the region of Tripoli during 1973-2006 Periods.

Table 1 shows that, the rate of population growth varies significantly between censuses (1973-1984). It was due to improve economic conditions after the discovery of oil, as already mentioned. The high proportion of the population increases significantly between the two censuses (1995-2006). This increase may be due to immigration and natural increase of population.

For the population distribution between the districts of Tripoli in year 1973, the population of Tripoli center district has been changed to about 120,701 people, which is equivalent to 19.6% of the total population of the region. While, Sogaljumaa district got population number are 117,008 persons, which is equivalent to 19.0% of the total population. Tajura district had actual population of approximately 3,434,521 people persons, which is equivalent to 5.6%, while Ainzara district is with a population of 58,698 persons, which is equivalent to 9.5% of the total population in the city. The population of 103,509 inhabitants in Bosleam was replaced at a rate of 16.8% of the total urban population. Like many residents of Andalus district replaced by the gross 150,522 people, or 24.5%, while Janzur district comes with a population of 30,202 people, which is equivalent to 4.9% of the total population, Table 4.2

In Table 2, the biggest number of population between districts in year 1973 was in Andalus district this district included about 24.5 percent of population in the region. This increase was as a result of the rapid urbanization in the city as a whole. In this year Andalus district attracted the population because it being one of old districts in the region and Andalus district dominated the state population rather than other district.

In 1984, there was difference in population distribution among the region districts. The population of Tripoli center district was around 120,542 people, which is equivalent to 12%. While, the population of Sogaljumaa reached to about 206,580 people, which is equivalent to 21%. But, Tajura district had numbered 47,985 people, which is equivalent to 5.6%. While in Ainzara district, the population was about 145,568 people,

which is equivalent to 15% of the total population. While in Bosleam district, the population became 156,543 people, which is equivalent to 16%. In Andalus district, the population reached 271,672 people, which is equivalent to 27%. Finally, Janzur district came with population of about 45,246 people, which is equivalent to 5% percent of the total population in region of Tripoli, Table 4.2.

In Table 4.2, the less population number was in Tripoli center district, the decrease of population in this district come because the city extended rapidly that led the population move to other parts in Tripoli. In this census, the increase was reported in Andalus and Ainzara districts that due to new residential areas have been built there, thus it created a new trend in residential land use expansion.

In 1995, the population in Tripoli center was changed to approximately 131,245 people, which is equivalent to 12% of the total population in the region. While, in Sogaljumaa district the population reached to 211,507 people, which is equivalent to 20% of the total population. District of Tajura was with a number 73,503 people, which are equivalent to 7 %, while the population in Ainzara district was 149,224 people, which is equivalent to 14% of population in the region. But, the population in Bosleam district was 189,964 inhabitants, which is equivalent to 18% of the total population in the region of Tripoli, as the population of Andalus district has been replaced by the total number of 251,353 people, which is equivalent to 24 %. Finally, Janzur district was populated with 52,204 people, or an equivalent of 5% of the total population in the region.

During the 1984-1995 periods, the spatial proximity of downtown and the availability of land for construction became the focus of housing. In addition, the availability of public transport connecting the districts of region as whole has led to an increase in the proportion of the population in Bosleam district, also because of its location in the southern part at Tripoli region where land for construction was available.

As for the population distribution between Tripoli districts in 2006, the population of Tripoli center was 143,040 people, or an equivalent of 9.4 % of the total population of the city, while the Sogaljumaa population was approximately 310,020 people, or an equivalent of 20.4 % of the total population. Tajura district was with 84,254 people or an equivalent of 5.6 %, while Ainzara district numbered about 246,002 people or an equivalent of 16.2 % of the size of the total population in the region. The population in Bosleam was registered at 272,553 inhabitants or an equivalent of 18% of the total urban population, whereas, the population of Andalus was 391,142 people or an equivalent of 25.7 %, and finally the population of Janzur district was 71,989 people or an equivalent of 4.7% of the total population size in the region.

Table 2: Population Change in Tripoli' districts during 1973-2006.

population Districts	population								Change		
	1973	%	1984	%	1995	%	2006	%	73-84	84-95	95-2006
Tripoli center	120,701	16.6	120,542	12	131,245	12	143,040	9.4	-159	10,703	11795
Sogaljumaa	117,008	19	206,580	21	211,507	20	310,020	20.4	89,572	4,927	98513
Tajura	34,521	5.6	47,985	5	73,503	7	84,254	5.6	13,464	25,518	10751
Ainzara	58,698	9.5	145,568	15	149,224	14	246,002	16.2	86,870	3,656	96778
Bosleam	10,3509	16.8	156,543	16	189,964	18	272,553	18	53,034	33,421	82589
Andalus	15,0522	24.5	156,543	27	251,353	24	391,142	25.7	6,021	94,810	139789
Janzur	30,202	4.9	45,246	5	52,204	5	71,989	4.7	15,044	6,958	19785
Total	615,161	100	994,136	100	1,059,000	100	1,519,000	100	+378,975	+64,864	460000

Source: Censuses (1973, 1984, 1995 and 2006)

Contributions of Migration Tripoli's Population Increase:

Migration is defined as 'a change of domicile or habitual residence to a new location and different,' it means a change in the ocean along with the change in housing units, provided that the presence of intention and intention stability in the region of the new time period is not short (Saadi, 1986). The change in the place of residence may be an international movement, the political boundaries enacted state while other defined it as the out-migration and may be local movement within the borders of the state called internal migration or from one region to another within the same region called residential move or migrate within the urban region (Kachidan, 1995). In addition to the ramifications for other types of migration, which can be according to duration, seasonal or permanent, or according to individuals or groups, as well as, in terms of migration motives, which may be optional or compulsory migration. Moreover, this part of the research will address both sides of the internal and external migration, and it will focus on migration within the urban area at the level of the Tripoli districts.

Internal Migration To Tripoli Region:

Primary driving forces of migration from rural and small towns include the opportunities and services offered in urban areas - especially jobs and education, while in some cases, conflict, land degradation and exhaustion of natural resources in rural areas are also important. The patterns of rural-urban migration may be city-specific, reflecting, among other things, changes in the city's economic base, labour market and age structure. They also reflect social, economic and political changes within the region and nation and are influenced by economic factors in the surrounding and distant rural areas, such as landowning structure, agricultural practices and crop prices, and overall rural productivity. Most evidence suggests that increasing the

income and level of education of rural populations accelerates migration and this phenomenon, coupled with the greater access to urban areas, has led to an inevitable increase in rural populations seeking employment opportunities in urban areas, (Ichimura 2003).

The number of Libyan migrants in the region of Tripoli during 1954 and 2006 are varied but overall it is in increase. In year 1954 internal migrants Number was around 80,650 people or 18 % of the total population in Tripoli region, while in year 1963 internal migrants number was 139,009 people or 17.3 % of the total population. In year 1973 the internal migrant's number has become 129,923 people or 21.1 % of the total population, and in year 1984 the internal migrant's number has reached to 75,376 people or 7.6 % of the total population in Tripoli region. While in year 1995 internal migrants number was 56,854 people or 5.4 % of total population, finally in year 2006 internal migrants number has increased up to 207,844 people or 13.7 % of the total population in Tripoli region.

Table 3: the number of internal migrants in the region of Tripoli.

year	Internal migrants Number	% to total population
1954	80,650	18
1964	139,009	17.3
1973	129,923	21.1
1984	75,376	7.6
1995	56,854	5.4
2006	207,844	13.7

Sources: Censuses report of Libya 1954, 1964, 1973, 1984, 1995 and 2006.

The data that has reviewed and presented in table 4.3 about number of internal migrants in the region of Tripoli show that, during 1954-2006 period around 689,656 of total population in Tripoli region are migrants, in other words, around 45.4% of population in Tripoli region are migrants and they have come to the region from the rural and other Libyan cities and towns. The number of internal migrants in the region of Tripoli has changed upside down during 1954-2006 period; after the state got its independency in year 1951 the government has decided that Tripoli is the capital of Libyan state. Thus, Tripoli has began attracting the migrants from in and outside the state, and the government gave Tripoli specialty in term of service, activities attributes and it had industrial zones. The natural population and in-migration have increased for these reasons in year 1954 and 1963 till 1973 after this date the migrants number has reduced referred to the political changes in the state.

The migrant's number has declined in year 1984 due to the war has been started with Chad state, and the people stopped moving everywhere and most of the people has not given attention to quality of life and improvement their salaries. In year 1995 the government started giving advantages to Tripoli region and this attention did not encourage the people trending to Tripoli region for new jobs and opportunities. Increase the number of internal migrants in the region of Tripoli in year 2006 referred to removing the embargo on Libya by international committee in year 2003; thus, it opened the door for firms and international companies to participate in the development of the country and particular in capital 'Tripoli'. This openness to the world was pull factor to in-migration to the region of Tripoli; figure 4.2 the number of internal migrants in the region of Tripoli.

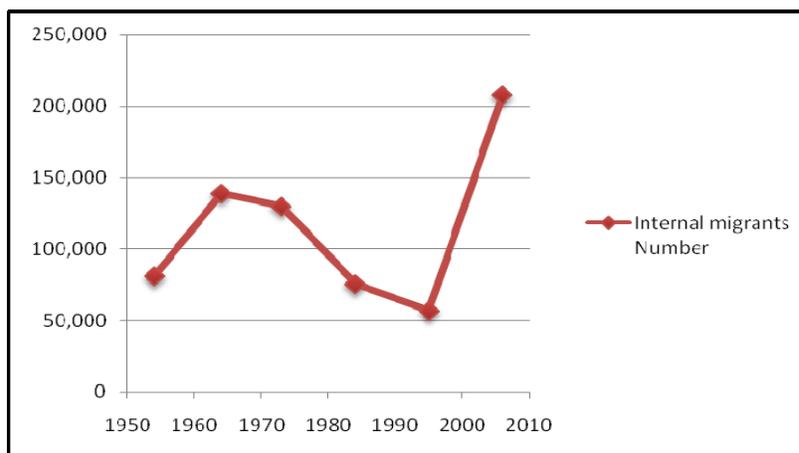


Fig. 2: The number of internal migrants in the region of Tripoli.

External or Foreign Migration to Tripoli Region

Migration is the second largest source of population growth. Its impact on demographic change on the environment and the population in terms of size and composition of the population cannot be overestimated.

Although the movement or migration of this transition does not play a stand-alone as is the case for agents of self as a process of natural increase of population growth themselves. This rate is measured in terms of births and deaths, but they are of fundamental importance in the redistribution of population growth and the divergence of their composition and the difference, especially in terms of age and sex, which usually measure rate of net migration from the region, have therefore an impact on rates of population growth. External migration in the region seeks to reduce the rate of population growth when natural growth is high and increasing population growth of support if the increase in natural surroundings is low.

External migration is the movement of individuals from one country to another. It implies bypassing the political boundaries. In light of the contents of table 4.3, we found that Tripoli region did not influenced by the largest share of the volume of incoming foreign immigration. In the fifties, the number of non-Libyans was about 41,074 people (25.2%) of the city's population. This number dropped to 39,079 (13.9%) people in 1964 from the total population of the city, which was equivalent to 79.9% of the total population of foreigners in Libya. In 1973, the foreign population in Tripoli was around 57,260 (9.3%) people of the total population in Tripoli and about 30.8% of the total population of foreigners in the country. In 1984, the number of foreign residents in the city was about 85,923 (8.6%) people of the total population in Tripoli region, which was equivalent to 21% of the total foreign population in the country.

In 1995, the number of foreigners decreased to 68,916 people in region of Tripoli, which accounts for 6.5% of the total population in the city to 16.9% of the total foreign population in the country. Finally, in 2006, the foreign population in Tripoli was 57,844 people, which is equivalent to 5.4% of the total population in Tripoli, which amounts to 59.8% of the total foreign population in the country.

In light of the contents previous paragraphs that was discussing the number of external migrants in the region of Tripoli it can see that, foreign or external migration in the region of Tripoli is low comparing to the other states, in my opinion this is referred to political condition and the roles of migration do not allow to immigration, the mentioned the little rate of the external migrants are Egyptian people, because the government only allowed to Egyptian labor to work in Libya as casual workers in construction sector.

Table 4: the number of external migrants in the region of Tripoli, by year, and their Proportion to the total immigrants in the country as a whole.

year	External migrants Number	Percentage of foreigners'
1954	41,074	25.2
1964	39,079	13.9
1973	57,260	9.3
1984	85,923	8.6
1995	68,916	6.5
2006	57,844	5.4

Sources: Censuses report of Libya 1954, 1964, 1973, 1984, 1995 and 2006.

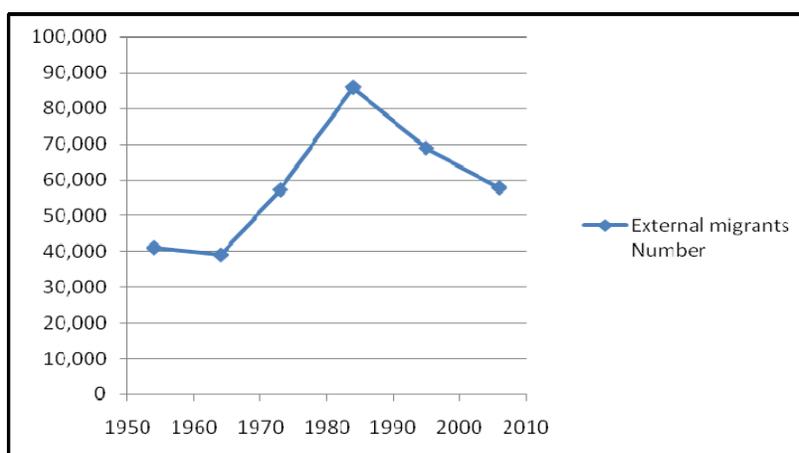


Fig. 3: The number of external migrants in the region of Tripoli.

In this study, Table 4.5 shows the population of the foreign immigrants in the districts of Tripoli. In 1954, the number of migrants in Tripoli center district was approximately 10,042 persons constituting approximately 24.4% of total migrants in the city of Tripoli. In Sogaljumaa district, the number of migrants was 8,025 (19.5%) of the total population of the city. In Tajura district, the number of migrants was 2000 people or a percentage of 4.9percent, while Ainzara district was with a number of migrants of 5,456 persons or 13.3%, while the number total migrants in Bosleam was about 4,542 people or 11.1% of total migrants in the city respectively. Andalus

district has a value of 10,429 immigrants or 25.4 percent. Finally, Janzur district housed 580(1.4%) immigrants of total migrants in Tripoli region.

The 1964 census has reached a population of 10,125 people in Tripoli center district or 25.9% of total immigrants in Tripoli. The Sogaljumaa district brings the number of immigrants to the 7,881 population or 20.2% of total immigrants in the city. Tajura district immigrants' population was about 1,920 persons constituting 4.9% of total immigrants in the city, while the number of migrants in Ainzara district was 5,100 persons or 13.1% of total number of immigrants in Tripoli. Bosleam district reached a population of 5,090 persons or 13%, while Andalus district population numbered 8,259 or 21.1% of the total foreigners in the city. Finally, Janzur total population was 704 people or 1.8% of total immigrants in Tripoli region.

In 1973, the number of foreign migrants in Tripoli center district was 15,988 people or 27.9% of the total migrants in the region. Sogaljumaa district has 10,258 immigrants or 17.9%, while the Tajura district brings the number of immigrants to 4,256 people or 7.4% of the total migrants in the region. Ainzara has 6,989 immigrants or 12.2% of the total population, while the number of foreign migrant in Bosleam district was 5,030 or 8.8%. Andalus district has reached a population of 14,235 inhabitants and the percentage of the total 424.9 immigrants in the region of Tripoli. Finally, Janzur district was with 504 immigrants or 0.9% of the total immigrants in the region.

In 1984, immigrants in the Tripoli center district were about 23,365 people, or 27.2% of the total immigrants in the region of Tripoli. Sogaljumaa district inhabited by 16,999 immigrants or 19.8%, while the total number of migrants in Tajura district was 4,900 people or 5.7%. Ainzara district brings the number of immigrants to 8,800 people or 10.3% of the foreigners. On the other hand, Bosleam district was with 9,020 of immigrants or 10.5 percent of the total immigrants in the region, while the number of migrants inhabited in Andalus district was 15,165 people or 23.1%. Janzur district has 2,949 numbers of immigrants or 3.4% of the total immigrants in the region of Tripoli.

The 1995 census registered a decrease in the number of foreign migrants in the region as well as in the districts. Tripoli center district decreased to 20,650 migrants or 30% of the total foreigners. Sogaljumaa district has 14,200 people or 20.6%. Tajura district has 4,123 people or 6% of the total migrants in the region, while the number of migrants in Ainzara district was about 7,020 people or 10.2%. In Bosleam district, the number of foreigners was 6,269 or 9% of the total migrants in the region of Tripoli. Andalus district has 15,165 numbers of foreigners or 22% of the total population. Lastly, Janzur district has minimum number of foreigners in the region, bringing the number of immigrants to the 1,489 population or 2.2% of the total number of immigrants in the region of Tripoli.

Finally, in 2006, the number of immigrants in Tripoli center district was approximately 18,695 persons or 32.3% of total immigrants in the region while migrants Sogaljumaa district amount to 12,365 people or 21.4%. Tajura district reached the number of immigrants of around 3,521 people or 6% of the total number of immigrants in the region, as the number of foreign migrants in Ainzara district was 5,214 persons or 9% of total migrants. Bosleam district has 5,100 population or 8.8% of immigrants. Andalus district was 12,039 people or 20.8% of total migrants in the city. But Janzur district total foreign population was 910 persons or 1.7% of total immigrants in the region.

It is noted in the above analysis that the highest percentage of foreigners rises in Central Tripoli and Andalus districts as they are one of the oldest districts in the region and all services you are looking at current includes members of foreign embassies or company websites or other services. We note the decline in numbers in each of Tajura and Janzur districts population, because these villages were close to the city and there were no factors of attraction for immigrants, making them abstain from dwelling so significantly.

Table 5: the Distribution of Foreign Migrants in the region of Tripoli.

Districts	1954		1964		1973		1984		1995		2006	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Tripoli center	10,042	24.4	10,125	25.9	15,988	27.9	923,365	27.2	20,650	30	18,695	32.3
Sogaljumaa	8,025	19.5	7,881	20.2	10,258	17.9	16,999	19.8	14,2200	20.6	12,365	21.4
Tajura	2,000	4.9	1,920	4.9	4,256	7.4	4,900	5.7	4,123	6	3,521	6
Ainzara	5,456	13.3	5,100	13.1	6,989	12.2	8,800	10.3	7,020	10.2	5,214	9
Bosleam	4,542	11.1	5,090	13	5,030	8.8	9,020	10.5	6,269	9	5,100	8.8
Andalus	10,429	25.4	8,259	21.1	14,235	24.9	19,890	23.1	15,165	22	12,039	20.8
Janzur	580	1.4	704	1.8	504	0.9	2,949	3.4	1,489	2.2	910	1.7
Total	41074	100	39079	100	57260	100	85923	100	68916	100	57844	100

Sources: Censuses; 1954, 1964, 1973, 1984, 1995 and 2006

Summary:

This paper has introduced the population change in the region of Tripoli. In year 2006 the population in the region was at around 1,519,000 people and population increase was 460000 people, comparing with previous census 1995. Also, the chapter detected the contributions of migration Tripoli's population increase and it found

that, during 1954-2006 period around 689,656 of total population in Tripoli region are migrants, in other words, around 45.4 % of population in Tripoli region are migrants and they have come to the region from the rural and other Libyan cities and towns. At the same time, this chapter examined composition of the population, and it got that age and gender structure not much different between Tripoli region and Libya thus, in-migration to Tripoli region was in form of families not individuals. And economy structure, Tripoli region has got higher number of employment in year 2006 the employment size was 305507 people or 18.7 % of the total employment in the state. Moreover, another result says The development policy which has been in Libya during last century was in proper level comparing with other developing countries, but in year 2000 the planning has delayed that led to changes in the urban land uses and uncontrolled growth 'semi-squatter'.

In Tripoli, the dramatic effects of rapid population growth are very clear in the region. As the urban land expand, the main zone of direct impact is the sub-region, and those living in the sub-region face many new challenges and opportunities in meeting their needs and accommodating the by-products of the urban populations. Although, Tripoli serve as 'engine' of growth in most Libyan cities by providing opportunities for employment, education, knowledge and technology transfer and ready markets for industrial and agricultural products, high urban populations place enormous stress on natural resources and imposes 'ecological footprints' on the sub-region.

Population growth leads to the outward expansion of the sub-region and results in changes in land use whereby urban residents buy up prime agricultural land for residential uses in Tripoli region. The conversion of farm, barren lands and watersheds for semi-squatter purposes have negative consequences on environment, water supply, sanitation water, infrastructure, educational, health services and general appearance well as the health of the people in the region as whole. Also the planners should thing more how they include other services to the region like; schools, healthcare centers, infrastructure and gardens, thus, the infrastructure must be provided in national and local scales.

REFERENCES

- Census, Tripoli Libya: 1954, 1964, 1973, 1984, 1995 and 2006.
- Henderson, J.V., 2000. How urban concentration Affects Economic Growth. *The World Bank: policy research*, pp: 2326.
- Ichimura, M., 2003. Urbanization, Urban Environment and Land Use: Challenges and Opportunities. in *asia-pacific forum for environment and development expert meeting*.
- Kachidan, A., 1993. The theory of housing movement within the urban area. The first event of geographical; science geographical and environmental, Alzawya, Libya.
- Lin, J.Y., ed. 2003. *Development Strategy, Viability and Economic Convergence*. 53 vols: Economic Development and Cultural Change.
- Report, 2007. third generation plan, Tripoli Region.
- Stuart, C.J., ed. 1972. *Urban Land Use Plannin*. second edition ed.