

## Climate Change and its Challenges on Wealth Creation in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria

*'Idialu Patricia Ejiyamenmen & 2 Osagjede Mercy Afe*

*'Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, School of Education, College of*

*Education, Agbor Delta State, Nigeria. Email: pmrsidialu@yahoo.com. Department Of Primary*

*Education Studies (PES), School Of Education, College of Education, Agbor, Delta State Email: osagjedemercv@vahoo.com*

### **Abstract**

*Natural, human and material resources are major determinants of wealth creation of any nation. Elements of human society and environment that bring about wealth creation are sensitive to climate variability and change. This paper discusses more on the negative impacts of climate change on human health, agriculture and natural ecosystems which include increase in the spread of infectious and warm-related diseases like the cerebral spinal meningitis, malaria, dengue and yellow fever; increase in insect pest on farm produce; reduction in natural regeneration rate of land resources; nutritional unbalance etc. educating the farmers on strategies of handling climate change in respect of agriculture; government assistance to farmer; that are victims of climate change effects; national and international policies on mitigation and adaptation of climate change as well as revitalizing public health system in communities that are more vulnerable to climate change health implications are some of the authors recommendations in this paper.*

### **Introduction**

There is a strong relationship between climate and wealth creation of any nation. The interrelationship between climates, agriculture, health, and livelihood lies in the sensitivity of nation's wealth creation to climate variability and weather extreme such as droughts, flood and severe storms, where for instance communities are severely affected or worse still, total wiped out by flood, the wealth of such communities are not only lost, but the resources meant for other wealth creations may be diverted to rescue the victims of such communities. The word wealth has various definitions and concepts which are context dependent. Wealth is generally defined as anything of value; it is the abundance of valuable resources or material possession. Adam (1976) describes wealth as the annual produce of the land and labour of the society. The produce he explains as that which satisfies human needs and wants of utility. Wealth can also be defined as an abundance of items of economic value, or the state of controlling/ possessing such items usually in the form of money, real estate and personal property.

Wealth of the nations are measured by natural capital which consist of land, forest, fossil fuels and minerals; human capital which is the populations' education and skills while physical or manufactured capital includes such things as machinery, buildings and infrastructure. In economic analysis, wealth is regarded as the net worth of a person household or nation, that is, the value of all assets possessed and net of all liabilities owned at a point in time. For national wealth, the net liabilities are those owned to the rest of the world. Wealth can also be used more broadly to refer to the productive capacity of a society or as a contrast to poverty. Wealth analysis can also be on its determinant or distribution. (Samuelson & Nordhaus, 2004; Ruggles, 1987; Wolf, 2004; Heilbroner, 1987). A wealthy individual, community or nation has more

accumulated resources (capital) than a poor one.

Climate change is a change in the statistical properties of the climate system when considered over long periods of time regardless of cause. It may be a change in average weather conditions or the distribution of events around the average such as more or fewer extreme weather events. Climate change may be limited to a specific region or may occur across the whole earth. Climate change can result as part of the earth's natural processes; it can also be caused by human activity. (Adebayo, 1998; Adefolalu, 2007). The intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC 2007) reports that recent studies indicate that increased frequency of heat stress, drought and flood negatively affect human health, crop yields and livestock beyond the impact of mean climate change, creating the possibility of surprises with impacts that are larger and occurring earlier than predicted using changes in variables above. The prevalence of some diseases and other threats to human health depend largely on local climate for example, rise in temperature can increase air and water pollution, which in turn can harm human health (IPCC, 2007).