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BIG DATA AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN AFRICA

MAXIMIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES

Osuolale Peter Popoola, PhD

Mathematics and Statistics Department

Adeseun Ogundoyin Polytechnic, Eruwa

Oyo State, Nigeria



Introduction

One of the Characteristics of the 3rd Industrial revolution is the internet of things.

Like many new information technologies, big data can bring about dramatic cost reductions, substantial Improvements in obtaining official statistics by the NSOs in Africa

Before this era, official data are generated largely from sample survey, censuses and administrative methods

Big data burst upon the scene in the first decade of the 21st century.

From the dawn of civilization until 2013, humankind generated 5 Exabyte's of data. Now the world is producing 5 Exabyte's of data every two days...and the pace is accelerating.

Big data comes from everywhere

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Oyo State, Nigeria

**Human-sourced data**

Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn,)
Blogs and posted comments, Pictures ,
Videos (Youtube, ...) Search engine queries.
Mobile data content (text messages, ...)

E-Transaction data

Commercial transactions, Banking/stock
prices records, E-commerce, Telephone
Call Detail Records, Credit cards, Medical
records from Public Health

Machine generated data

Sensor data eg. Weather/pollution sensors,
Traffic sensors/webcam,
Security/surveillance,videos/images.T
racking devices e.g GPS systems, Mobile
phone location, Satellite images



A

In Africa most NSOs and Research Institutes are still facing the challenges of obtaining official statistics using traditional methods

C

In Europe and Developed country Big data is been used to obtain official statistics. Agencies such as:

Eurostat, the European Statistical System (ESS), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and UNSD have started incorporating big data in obtaining official statistics



Popoola, Osuolale Peter, PhD
Mathematics and Statistics Department
Adeseun Ogundoyin Polytechnic, Eruwa
Oyo State, Nigeria

In Asia and the Pacific Big data is at experimental stage

B

Currently in Africa more than half of the SDGs indicators have no or insufficient data for its monitoring

- **For Africa development** NSOs and research institutes need to incorporate big data in obtaining OS

D



Five speakers, Four
Continents

