

From the Second Child Policy to the Open Third Child

-- Why Does China's Fertility Rate Keep Falling

Xinyu Hu, Jingwen Du, Zuowei Xu, Liju He

Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Anhui, China

Abstract: In recent years, the fertility rate of all countries has been in a state of continuous decline, and even some countries will have zero or negative fertility growth. China is also facing the dilemma of declining fertility rate. From the one-child policy to the second-child policy to the third-child policy, China has been making efforts to improve the fertility rate. But how did China, as a populous country, change from a country with high fertility rate to a country with various policies to improve fertility rate? Today, we are questioning the background of the fertility rate in the past and the development of today's society, to explore the reasons why the fertility rate has been decreasing in recent years, and to find out the countermeasures to improve the fertility rate, so as to promote social progress and the continuous development of the national economy.

Keywords: Fertility rate second child policy third child policy.

1. Introduce

China has been a populous country since ancient times. Today, China has a total population of 1.4 billion, ranking first in the world. Although the total population is huge, in recent years, the birth rate of newborns in China has been declining. From the implementation of the second-child policy to the open third-child policy, China has changed from suppressing the fertility rate to encouraging the birth of children. There are many reasons for this, such as low marriage rate, heavy life pressure, low willing fertility rate and so on. Therefore, today we will analyze the background of fertility change and the reasons for the continuous decline of fertility in recent years, so as to find relevant measures and methods to improve fertility.

2. Organization of the Text

2.1. Description of fertility rate and related terms

2.1.1. Fertility rate

Fertility rate refers to the ratio of the number of babies born in a certain period (usually one year) to the average number of women of childbearing age in the same period. If the fertility rate is too high, it is not conducive to the balanced development of the population; The low fertility rate and the serious aging of the population are not conducive to social progress and the growth of national economic interests. Therefore, the country should control the fertility rate in an appropriate position, which will not lead to uneven population development because of overpopulation, and will not hinder economic development because of too small population.

2.1.2. Second child policy

In October 2015, in order to promote the balanced development of the population and adhere to the basic national policy of family planning, China implemented the second child policy, and each couple should not have more than two children. If you are a rural hukou, you can have a second child if your first child is a girl, and you can only have one child if your first child is a boy. If someone ignores the policy of having more children, they will be severely fined to

prevent more people from having more children regardless of the policy.

2.1.3. Three-child policy

On May 31, 2021, in order to cope with the aging population and improve China's fertility rate, China began to implement the three-child policy. The state advocates marriage and childbearing at the appropriate age, prenatal and postnatal care, and a couple can have three children. Moreover, in order to get a strong response to this policy, the state has issued many related welfare policies, just to enable more young people to get married and have children at the right age, and to have good children.

2.2. Changing background of fertility rate

2.2.1. 1949 -1970

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, due to the influence of the war, the total population of our country is relatively small. After the war, everything needed to be done, and the basic livelihood of most people was difficult to be guaranteed, so the fertility rate at that time was also low. But at that time, China's land labor needed a large number of labor force population, so the state encouraged vigorous fertility. Affected by this, the people at that time also thought that "many children are more blessed", and one more child in the family would be more powerful. At that time, almost every household in the countryside would have several children. Therefore, during that period, the population of our country was able to grow rapidly.

2.2.2. 1970 -2015

In the 1970s, the rapid population growth hindered the economic development of our country to a certain extent. In response, China planned to launch a basic national policy of family planning, which was strictly implemented in the 1990s. The state encourages a couple to have only one child, and will give incentives and subsidies to families with only one child. This national policy has restrained the population growth in China to a certain extent, and the fertility rate in China is also at a low level. Moreover, the national policy has far-reaching influence and is still being implemented today.

2.2.3. 2015 to present

With the progress of society and the rapid development of

the times, influenced by the family planning policy that has been implemented all the time, China has been in a state of low fertility for a long time. If it continues in the long run, it will have a negative impact on China's economic development. Therefore, in 2015 and 2021, the state introduced the second child policy and the third child policy to encourage people to give birth from the second child to the third child. The constant change of policy is to conform to the continuous development of the times, so as to promote social progress and rapid economic development.

2.3. Reasons for China's continued low fertility rate

2.3.1. Great economic pressure

With the accelerated pace of modern society, everyone seems to be caught in a state of "involution", and the economic pressure is getting bigger and bigger. The subsequent car loans, mortgage loans, price increases, etc. have become a headache for many young people now. I can hardly support myself, so how can I have time to support my children? What's more, the cost of raising a child is very high in today's society. For ordinary children, from pregnancy to college, it costs at least 100 thousand yuan; For those children born in big cities, if they want to get a better education and grow up better, they need to spend more money. For example, in order to prevent their children from losing at the starting line or if they want to cultivate some hobbies, parents will enroll their children in various cram schools and interest classes on Saturday and Sunday. The prices of cram schools and interest classes are high, which will also become a big expense in family income. Therefore, economic pressure will become a reason for the decline of fertility rate. The greater the economic pressure, the less many young people may want to have children.

2.3.2. The concept of marriage and childbearing has changed.

In the past, people didn't think it was difficult to raise a child, as long as they were fed and dressed warmly, and they didn't think so much at all. But nowadays, due to the rapid development of society, the cost of giving birth to children is getting higher and higher, it is becoming more and more difficult to raise children, and the pressure of young people's lives is becoming greater and greater. Therefore, some young people are unwilling to have children or even get married, and there are more and more unmarried and dink families, which will lead to lower marriage rate and fertility rate in China. In addition, today's society is not as demanding as it used to be, but now with the increasing pressure of employment competition, highly educated people can get better jobs and higher incomes, so more and more young people choose to extend their education years, and the phenomenon of delaying marriage and childbirth has become more and more. The age of marriage and childbearing is getting older and older, which will not be very friendly to the health of older women. The fertility difficulty of older women will be greatly increased compared with that of young people, which will also reduce the fertility rate and is not conducive to the improvement of the fertility rate.

2.3.3. Poor health

Many young people will become mentally ill due to the great pressure of life, and naturally, there will be some more or less physical problems. The man may have problems such as high sperm deformity rate and large number of dead sperm,

while the woman may have problems such as poor egg quality and tubal nowhere, which will affect the success of pregnancy; If the man or woman has serious physical problems, it may even lead to infertility. In addition, young people now love some puffed foods and carbonated drinks, but most of these foods contain food additives; In recent years, milk tea, fried chicken, hamburgers and other foods have sprung up, but these foods will not bring benefits to the health of young people, but will only increase their physical burden; Coupled with bad hobbies such as smoking and drinking, all these are bound to damage some physical functions of young people. Therefore, this is also a major reason for the decline in fertility.

2.4. Measures and methods to solve the low fertility rate

2.4.1. Increase cash subsidies

Nowadays, most young people will choose not to have children because of economic pressure. If young people only have children, the state will give corresponding family subsidies and give families with children more benefits with real money. I believe there will always be young people willing to have children. Some research data show that the more financial expenditure is spent on family welfare, the higher the fertility rate will be. Some developed countries, such as Germany, Finland, Iceland, etc., will give high welfare subsidies to fertility families in order to improve the fertility rate, and even some countries will introduce a policy of rewarding 600,000 for giving birth to a child. It can be seen that in order to improve the fertility rate, it is necessary to increase the welfare subsidies for fertility families, so that more young people can be effectively and practically encouraged to have children.

2.4.2. Provide more employment support for women.

The reason why many women have children late or are unwilling to have children is that it takes too long to have children and the postpartum repair after giving birth, which will not be conducive to women's work and promotion in their posts. Even some enterprises will not grant maternity leave and parental leave. If you go back to have children, you may not have your post when you come back, which will be the reasons for women's late childbirth and even infertility. Therefore, the state needs to provide more employment support for women. It is necessary to provide more jobs for women and provide re-employment training for postpartum women, requiring all enterprises not to discriminate against women, and to provide maternity leave, parental leave and other holidays for women. During the holidays, wages are paid as usual, and women are not allowed to be demoted or resigned after returning to their posts after childbirth. These will give women who want to give birth more sense of security and protect their rights, so the fertility rate will naturally increase.

2.4.3. Improve the child care service system.

Many families will choose not to have children because both husband and wife are working and no one takes care of the children after giving birth, or because some husband and wife can't continue to work and can't get enough income after giving birth. If the country can solve these problems, for example, after the birth of a child, there are special care institutions to raise it, and the expenses of these care institutions are low, which will reduce the expenses of parents' support; Or expand child care services and strive to provide comprehensive services for all children, which will make

parents feel more at ease to put their children in foster care institutions ... In this way, many couples have solved the problem of raising children, and the birth rate has increased accordingly.

References

- [1] Yuanyuan Xu, Hao Sun, Bin Yan. Study on the influence of rural population age structure changes on household consumption—Take the five northwest provinces as an example [J]. Northwest population, 2016,37(05):112-118.DOI:10.15884/j.cnki.issn.1007-0672.2016.05.015
- [2] Hua Li. Study on the status and allocation of obstetric health resources in a district in Shanghai [D]. The PLA Naval Military Medical University, 2019. OI:10.26998/d.cnki.gjuyu.2019.000125.
- [3] Yushang Fu. Pay for the rain business. — Based on the theoretical perspective of welfare pluralism [J]. International PR, 2022(02):43-45.DOI:10.16645/j.cnki.cn11-5281/c.2022.02.046.
- [4] Xin Yuan.Original and new. Comparison of population policy and population national conditions in China and Russia [J]. Eurasian Economy, 2016 (03): 13-19 + 125 + 127.
- [5] Qian Huang.Research on the high turnover rate and social support of female flight attendants under the background of birth policy adjustment [J]. Shandong Trade Union Forum, 2020,26 (01): 72-77.