The Causes and Effects of the Declining Birth Rate in Taiwan

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報告名稱：The Causes and Effects of the Declining Birth Rate in Taiwan

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日期：民國96年5月2日
Abstract

In recent years the population of newborn has been dropped year by year. Taiwan now has the lowest birth rate in Asia now. We hope our research would lead to a better understanding of the declination of population to everyone. The declination of population will affect economic, education, health-care industry and social culture of our country. The research took place at the Tainan train station. The participants filled out the surveys at the train station. A total of 100 people participated in the research whose were anyone who ages from 20 to 40 years old, and we chose randomly for 50 male and 50 female. The results showed the top three reasons why people don’t want to have children. The biggest reason they concerned is economic (36%), followed by education (27%) then child is burden (24%). These years our government set some policies to encourage people to have children, such as the Taipei city also draft over milliard to the important polity, it can subsidize three thousand who have three children’s family every month. It can subsidize until the 333 policy, children is three years old. If everyone has two children, they can subsidize until the plan, and then get twenty five hundred.
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The Causes and Effects of the Declining Birth Rate in Taiwan.

Introduction

Statement of Problem

According to Dept. of Household Registration Affairs, MOI, the demographics in Taiwan, from 1975 to 2005 the population total rise, the baby population birth drops, if we expressed by population pyramid, the population pyramid of here means that it can be used to find the number of economic dependents being supported in a particular population. Economic dependents are defined as those under 15 (children who are in full time education and therefore unable to work) and those over 65 (those who have retired). Of course, in some less economically developed countries children start work well before the age of 15, and in some more economically developed countries it is not usual to start work until 18 or 21, and people may work beyond the official retirement age of 65, but the definition provides an approximation. The government must plan the economy in such a way that the working population can support these dependents. 30 years dive the population pyramid graphical representation is Underdeveloped Country. Some possible reasons of this were The Taiwan people educate the standard to be lower and the people do not understand birth control down to the child storm increases. See appendix A.

Receives 10 years, the Taiwan government advocated the family plan, the people educate the standard to enhance, 1985 young population birth rates in addition only to remain 14.2%. Here the birth rate means the average annual number of births during a year per 1,000 persons in the population at midyear; also known as crude birth rate. The birth rate is usually the dominant factor in determining the rate of population growth. It depends on both the level of fertility and the age structure of the population. In 1995 reduced 9.9% some possible reasons of this were received the
family planning the influence, the female realizes gains ground, does not marry and the late marriage person are more and more many, but causes the detention and the birth control which the first embryo baby is born, population pyramid shows for the transformation developing country.

Until 2006, the infant fertileness decreases in 1.256%. According to population pyramid, it means developed country. Some possible reasons of this were many couples want to enjoy life themselves, and it is a large sum of expenses to raise children than raise pets. According to the news from UDN (2006) stated, how much to feed a child in Taiwan? Compare the experiences of every ages of parents, it must spend $NT 5 million dollars to feed a child from they were born to graduated from a collage. If you want to supply them to finish the master, it may cost over $NT 10 million dollars.

The declination of child population influences not only the fewer children and people getting older, but also the Economics, Education, Health-care industry and Social Culture of a country. Those are influenced to each others.

**Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study will be to examine the causes and effects of the declination in Birth rate in Taiwan. This study will use a survey design as the method of research. It is hoped that an examination of the causes and effects of the declination in birth rate in Taiwan would lead to a better understanding of the situation that it comes the risk for keeping birth rate down to our country.

**Literature Review**

Effects of the birth rate declination to our economics, we found some reports, according to Lui (2004) stated (translation),” Because of the declination of birth rate, it comes a vicious circle. At beginning, people getting elder in a country, then the
population of labor less. Their saves less comes their ability of expenditure less. Our children of future generation they will afford more social welfare because of there are getting more elder in our country. It will influence our country economics heavily.”

The declination of the birth rate not only effects our economics, but also involved in the education, here is a report, according to Shiu (2006) stated (translation),” in recent year school-age population skid declination due to birth rate declination crash. In 93 school year new students of elementary enrolled 284 thousands 5 hundreds and 50, there were less 3 thousands new students than 92 school year. To expect there will be cut down more than 1530 thousands new enter students. Until the 100th year of the Republic Era all of Taiwan’s junior, elementary will have cut 10 thousands classes. As the same time according to Council for Economic Planning and Development, from the 91tst year of the Republic Era to the 140th year of the Republic Era the population of statistics Taiwan of R.O.C. showed there will be decreasing.

On the other hand, the health care industry also is impacted. According to Du (2006) stated (translation),” The aging of population bring great worries, the old man needs the medical resources that. At the same time, the expenditure of the government's public health insurance medical treatment in future, or resources that children can offer, may not be enough for our basic demand. Then it is heightening that the medical treatment and health care expenses; and young labor is shortage. In the future, the foreign labor service will be immigrated, served, nursed more than now. A lot of other development countries which foreign laborer population will increase constantly and foreigners will account for more than 20% of total population.

According to the information of D.G.B.A.S (2006) showed ‘Population increase gradually, but the population of children goes down day by day. These
represent that population have the phenomenon of advanced age and less population. Women become more and more independent so that men get married with Southeast Asia’s women. These all beat against the society structure of population in Taiwan.

Saw a Taiwan birth rate declination tendency; we can look Japan as the same with the Asia. According to Chen Report Sing Pao Daily News, in 2005 the Japanese nation newborn is 106.7 ten thousand people, compared the year before last to reduce Ten thousand people; If compared with 1975’s 209 ten thousand people, was the sharp decline nearly five tenths. Then we can look US again, according to Central Intelligence Agency, in 1970 time population birth rate was 1.84%, but fell in 2006 birth rate to 14.14 births/1,000 population, thus it may be known, the baby population birth rate reduction not only a Taiwan country was occurring, but was global is reducing.

**Method**

**Research Design**

This study used a survey as its research design. A survey was used because we wanted to have a large number of participants. Our questionnaire will have open-ended and fixed alternative, there will have nine questions in the questionnaire. It will take around 10 minutes for a person. See appendix D and E.

**Participants**

The participants were anyone who ages from 20 to 40 years old, and we chose randomly for 50 male and 50 female.

**Setting**

The research took place at the Tainan train station. The participants filled out the surveys at the train station. Some were waiting for their friends or family members; some were going to take a train. A total of 100 people participated in the research.
Data Collection

There were five researchers went to the Tainan train station. We were informed that we were being asked to participate in a research project for a project class. We were telling them this questionnaire about our topic “The Causes and Effects of the Declination in Birth Rate in Taiwan.” We were finding people who were voluntary at the Tainan train station. When participates do the questionnaire, they didn’t need to write down their name and any personal data.

During the process we did the questionnaire. The participants stood and finished the survey. They spent around 10 minutes.

Data Analysis

We analyzed the results of the survey and calculated the percentages of participants’ responses for each question. We then compared and contrasted the percentages in order to understand our participants and our participants’ opinions and views toward the questions related to our topic.

Results

In response to the question Do you want to get married? The majority answered yes (68%), and no (32%). See table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you want to get married?</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1
The response to the question *do you want to have children?* The vast majority (64%) replied *yes*. Thirty six percent said *no*. See table 2-1.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No</strong></td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2-1

The overwhelming of respondents answered *two* to the question (64%), *how many children do you want to have?* Only 30% answered *one*, and 6% were *other*. See table 2-2.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>One</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two</strong></td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2-2
The response to the question varied considerably. *Pick up three reasons that you don't want to have a baby*, with *Economic* receiving the largest percentage (36%), followed by *Education* (27%), *Child is burden* (24%), *Environment* (16%), *Value* (12%), *Bad looking of figure* (1%), and *DNA* (0%). See table 3.

![Pie chart showing reasons for not wanting to have a baby](image)

**Table 3**

In responses to the question *Do you know that the birth rate of Taiwan decrease every year?*, the large of respondents answered *yes, I do* (96%), while only 4% replied *no, I don't*. See table 4.

![Pie chart showing birth rate knowledge](image)

**Table 4**
In response to the question *Do you know declination of birth rate will affect on education in Taiwan, cause the class to reduce and the school closed?* The large of respondents answered *yes,* (93%), while only 7% replied *no.* See table 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5

Responses to the question *Do you know declination of birth rate will affect on economic in Taiwan, cause the population elder and less labor?* while 96% replied *yes,* and 4% answering *no.* See table 6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes, I do.</th>
<th>No, I don't.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6
The over whelming answered yes to the question (94%), Do you know the declination of birth rate will affect the medical treatment? We have to pay more insurance of health-care, and our children will burden more welfare at the old. Only 6% answered no. See table 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you know the declination of birth rate will affect the medical treatment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, I don't.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7

In response to the question do you know that the Declination in Birth Rate would affect the cultures in the society in Taiwan, the large of respondents answered yes, I do (92%), while only 8% replied no, I don’t. See table 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you know that the Declination in Birth Rate would affect the cultures in the society in Taiwan?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, I don't.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8
In respondent to the question *Whether affect you to have children or not, when you finish the questionnaire?* The number of respondents answered *yes* (10%), while only 90% answered *no*. See table 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whether affect you to have children or not, when you finish the questionnaire?</th>
<th>Yes, I do</th>
<th>No, I don’t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I do</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, I don’t</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9

Discussion

The goal of this study was to understand that there is more and more people don’t want to have a baby and inform them that effects of the declination in birth rate in Taiwan that situation will be heavy impact in Taiwan.

*Do You Want To Have Children? And How Many Children Do You Want To Have?*

One reason of why 64% of the participants answered they want to have children might be they want to carry on the family name. They also want to have their own child with their wife or husband, and 36% of the participants answered they don’t want to have children might be most of people think about that the effect of economic is more important than the others. Many participants also think that children are a burden, and they want to have freedom more. There were 19% of the participants answered they just want to have one kid might be they think that having a child will spend them lots money, so they can’t afford it to bring up more children in this
society. And about 41% of participants answered they want to have two kids might be they think two children grow up together properly. Two children would live in the same family that they can learn from each others.

OECD (2004) stated, “The birth rate of Taiwan is the last in the world. An average of each female only wants to have one or two children last year. Why Taiwan has the Declination in Birth Rate, the reasons are declination in marriage rate, economic recession, and concept difference. The effect of economic recession, according to the survey result, there is 42% of officers have effect of birth plan; more than half female desist in marring if her companion has no economic base. As for the woman, they don’t depend on their children because they have extended education, economic independence, and expanse of social welfare. At the same time, the price rise and society keen competition cause education expense on the rise. So far, researchers estimate the children spent five hundred million from birth to finish graduate school. At present, the young people don’t get marry and bring up children into their purpose.”

Pick Up Three Reasons That You Don't Want To Have A Baby.

One reason of why 36% of the participants answered the economic was the top one that might be people who think that to make a living was the basic situation we have to face, if we have no money to buy food, and then we die. Twenty-seven percent of participants answered the education was the reason of top two might be they think that the tuition was a heavy problem just for a kid, and parents usually support money for their children for education till they finished the college. Twenty-four percent of the participants, they think that child is burden was the reason of the top three that might be parts of couples they want to finish their dreams; they will be encumbered with children.
Huang (2006) stated (translation), “there are husband and wife; they are the middle class in Taipei, who both are 33 years old, the husband works at a famous electronic company, and the wife is an accountant. Their annual salaries are 1.5 million dollars. Since their child was coming, she felt it is tough to live. They met the first problem was they had to pay 20 thousand dollars for finding a baby-sitter each month, then they had to move to a bigger place to live, because of they needed a room for their baby. She said that it’s not import how much do you earn, it’s how much do you save after those basic costs.”

Han (2006) stated (translation),” it’s not important how much money you make; that more important deduct from the disbursement then you are surplus of how much. Do you know how much money a child will spend from born to graduate of elementary? That’s 2.5 million!! It’s not a myth, but the double salary families’ face to the realistic pressure.

In Taiwan, child's education expenses to have been expensively more and more young husbands and wives regard give birth to the child to get up each month for the extravagant hopes triplets to subsidize 5,000 Yen policies, can convince the double salary family increase to have babies?”

Yan (2006) stated, (translation)” Department of Health, Executive Yuan, R.O.C.(Taiwan) in accordance with 25 to 39 unmarried men and women do investigation of married and have children’s logos last year. In the survey male like to get married more than female up to 15 percentages. Most of female they don’t want to get married the reasons not only they don’t meet Mr. Right yet, but also they enjoy their single life. Otherwise, reason does not marry which to male then quite actual: The current economic condition is not good.”

In order to encourage people to have children, the government sets some policies.
Let’s face to the Declination in Birth Rate in Taiwan, the government how to do?

Now, the government already had taken effect “maternity leave wages subsidy”,
according to BLI, once the female have a baby, they can ask for leave. They can apply
for by 「袋鼠媽媽產假人力替代方案」.

The government uses the education funds to educators. For example, education
book, in the kindergartens’ students they can get ten thousand or for student loan, the
interest rate is not high, after they graduate from their schools, they can relaxed to
give money in return

Legislative Yuan pass the rules at the first time in the end of 2006. The fees of
education deduct from one family to one person in school. Everyone can decrease
twenty five thousand dollars. However, the range is to expand from the university and
collage to the elementary school last three years.

As well as, Taiwan Council of Labor Affairs Executive Yuan all pass the vacation
of brings up a baby, this strategy will welfare two hundred eleven thousand female.

Moreover, the Taipei city also draft over milliard to the important polity, it can
subsidize three thousand who have three children’s family every month. It can
subsidize until the 333 policy, children is three years old. If everyone has two children,
they can subsidize until the plan, and then get twenty five hundred.

In addition, the overseas also have this appearance, how to solve this problem?
The scholars bring up many the plans of solve. The way as follows:
1. Take the remedy of vibriosis into health insurance.
2. The laws and decrees should consider the requirement of special children, it orders
   that the children is under three years old, the first medical treatment should
   responsible by the children’s doctors.
3. The way of love boat in Singapore, arrange the unmarried and high education’s
people take a trip together.

Conclusion

Time has been changing. The declination of birth rate phenomenon happened not only in Taiwan, but also whole world. It’s a global trend. In our study of Taiwan, the birth rate is the last in Asia. We found how serious it was, we should think about how to solve it or prevent it to come. Taiwan government had couple policies of encouraging people to have a child, but it’s limited with the limit policies. For example, the fees of education deduct from one family to one person in school. Everyone can decrease twenty five thousand dollars. There is another solving; in Taipei city it can subsidize families who have three children’s with 3,000 NTD every month. It can subsidize until the 333 policy, children is three years old. If everyone has two children, they can subsidize until the plan, and then get twenty five hundred. Here comes the latest, last month the Ministry of the Interior had a research about population problem. In order to solve the risk of declining birth rate, they are planning to subsidize raising children and having a baby-sitter. When the plans are approved, every family with a child who during 0 to 6 years old which can apply two thousand NT dollars per month, two babies family they can apply three thousand NT dollars per month, three babies family they can apply five thousand NT dollars per month. The other plan’s condition is that a family with a baby who is during 0 to 2 years old, the Ministry of the Interior will depend on your income then choose a proper project for you, and then you may apply three thousand to six thousand NT dollars per month for having a baby-sitter. Hope these policies really can stimulate people to have more babies for our country, and themselves.
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Zhang. (2004). To discuss our country's lacking the son crisis— reading impression
Appendix A

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
Appendix B

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
Figure 4
Appendix C

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
Appendix D

您好！這份問卷調查是有關於少子化的現象將會對台灣多方面有所影響，大約花您十分鐘的時間，來完成這份問卷，謝謝您！

1. 你想要結婚嗎？ □ 想  □ 不想

2. 你想要有小孩嗎？
   □ 想，預計幾個______，跳第四題作答。
   □ 不想

3. 選擇三項，你不想生小孩的原因。
   □ 經濟壓力  □ 教育問題  □ 生長環境
   □ DNA  □ 小孩是個負擔  □ 身材走樣  □ 社會價值觀改變

4. 你知道台灣的出生率逐年降低嗎？□ 知道  □ 不知道

5. 你知道少子化的現象會影響台灣教育，導致班級減縮、學校倒閉。
   □ 知道  □ 不知道

6. 你知道少子化的現象會影響台灣經濟，導致人口老化，缺少勞力。
   □ 知道  □ 不知道

7. 你知道少子化的現象會影響台灣醫療，因爲人口老化，導致健保的負擔加重，對下一代的小孩給付老人福利也是種負擔。
   □ 知道  □ 不知道

8. 你知道少子化的現象會影響台灣社會文化，因爲台灣女性都不生小孩，導致有傳宗接代壓力的家族，跟外籍新娘結婚。
   □ 知道  □ 不知道

9. 做完這份問卷後，是否會影響你對生小孩的意願，或者多生幾個來增產報國？
   □ 會  □ 不會
Appendix E

Dear participant, this survey is about the causes and effects of the declination in birth rate in Taiwan. It will take you about 10 minutes. We’ll thank your join.

1. Do you want to get married? □ Yes □ No

2. Do you want to have children?
   □ Yes, How many children do you want________, Skip question 3
   □ No

3. Pick up three reasons that you don't want to have a baby.
   □ Economic □ Education □ Environment □ the value
   □ DNA □ Child is burden □ Bad looking of figure

4. Do you know that the birth rate of Taiwan decrease every year?
   □ Yes, I do. □ No, I do not.

5. Do you know declination of birth rate will affect on education in Taiwan, cause the class to reduce and the school closed.
   □ Yes, I do □ No, I do not.

6. Do you know declination of birth rate will affect on economic in Taiwan, cause the population elder and less labor?
   □ Yes, I do □ No, I do not.

7. Do you know the declination of birth rate will affect the medical treatment? We have to pay more insurance of health-care, and our children will burden more welfare at the old.
   □ Yes, I do. □ No, I do not.

8. Do you know that the Declination in Birth Rate would affect the cultures in the
society in Taiwan? There are many females don’t want to have children, cause some families who have to get married with foreigner to last their blood

☐ Yes, I do.        ☐ No, I do not.

9. Whether affect you to have children or not, when you finish the questionnaire?

☐ Yes, I do.        ☐ No, I do not.