

The effect of women's employment on the fertility rate

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Motivation

Since women's rights have been given more attention and women's status has been improved, there are more studies focusing on how women influence society. Based on the data collected by the World Bank, the total fertility rate (births per woman) has been decreasing drastically for the last 50 years. In the meantime, there is a striking increase in women's labor force participation. Studies on fertility and labor supply decisions of women generally predict a negative association between the number of children and female labor force participation (Gronau, 1973; Rosenzweig and Wolpin, 1980b; Schultz, 1980). The result seems to make sense since women who have jobs instead of being full-time housewives would contribute more time to work and less time to give birth. As a female from China, I'm interested in finding out whether the employment of women will negatively affect the fertility rate in China since I grew up hearing the old saying goes like There are three ways to be unfilial; having no child is the worst. This study is to explore the linear association between women's

employment and fertility rate in some major countries around the world between 1960 and 2020.

Data Source

My study will mainly focus on China and the United States since the main goal is, first, to confirm the negative correlation between women's employment and fertility rate and, second, to check whether it's the same situation in China. Data on employment will be taken from the International Labor Organization and World Bank, and data on fertility and reproductive health will be taken from the Global UN and World Bank.

Figures

