

Title: The Comparison of Fertility Behaviours of Migrants and Non-migrants

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at comparing the fertility behaviours of migrants and non-migrants. The value of children as evaluated by the two groups was also investigated. The research method applied was quantitative. The sample groups, both migrating and non-migrating, included the heads of families or their wives whose ages were between fifteen and forty-nine years. Based on the purposive sampling technique, one hundred and ninety households were selected for the interview which was aimed for the collection of data. The data were subsequently analyzed to find their percentages, averages, standard deviations, and variations.

The results of study are as follow:

1. The General Characteristics of the Sample Groups

There were 190 cases under study, 47 migrating males, 49 migrating females, 39 non-migrating males, and 55 non-migrating females. The ages ranged from 20-24 years to 45-49 years, with the majority of 35-49 years. The average age level of the migrants was 36.33 years while the non-migrants averaged 38.22 years. The family size of most of the investigated households was 4-6 persons, with the average number of able-bodied laborers of 3.18 persons per households. Most completed primary schools and are farmers.

The proportion of migrants, males and females, was approximately equal for those who moved to different places in Bangkok, to the other province in the Northeast, and to other places. The trend of migration was found to have increased for the last two years.

The behaviours relating to their fertility included the age level at marriage time. It was found that most of the migrants and non-migrants married at 20-24 years of age, with the average of 21 years among both groups. In terms of birth control, the migrants was found to do so more than the non-migrants, relying for the most cases on temporary methods.

The study of socio-psychological characteristics revealed that the majority of both groups had an average or below average internal locus of control. The difference between the two groups was statistically significant. Future orientation attitudes were also average and below average for the most cases. When these were tested, however, the outcome did not show a

statistically significant difference. As for personal modernization, both groups reached high levels, but with a statistically significant difference between them.

2. The Comparison of Fertility Behaviours of Migrants and Non-migrants

2.1 Migrants and non-migrants with different levels of internal locus of control had no statistically significant difference in terms of the number of children-ever-born.

2.2 Migrants and non-migrants with different levels of future orientation attitudes showed no statistically significant difference in terms of the number of children-ever-born.

2.3 Migrants and non-migrants with different levels of personal modernization showed no statistically significant difference as related the number of children-ever-born.

2.4 Migrants and non-migrants at different age levels had a statistically significant difference in relation to the number of children-ever-born.

2.5 The attitudes toward fertility of migrants and non-migrants with different levels of internal locus of control, future orientation, personal modernization, and age were significantly different.

3. The Study on Value of Children

3.1 The value of children as evaluated by the parents among the two groups was average. It was also found that migrants and non-migrants with different numbers of migrating

times, age, and attitudes toward fertility had an average level of value given to the children.

3.2 The value of children as evaluated by migrants and non-migrants with different levels of internal locus of control, personal modernization, age, or different numbers of surviving children was not significantly different.

3.3 Migrants and non-migrants with different levels of future orientation showed a statistically significant difference in terms of value given to their children.