

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on

Fertility /ecline in Econo" ically /e*eloped Countries

0ariations in patterns of decline

Pat# / ependence

Fertility changes will occur within a pre(existing institutional & cultural and historical setting

Fertility and institutional background come together

Key Issues Affecting Fertility

Easy entry into adult roles

Finishing school

Getting a job

Establishing an independent household

Reconciliation of parental and work roles

Key Issue - Labor Market

- Shorter and more flexible full-time work
- Availability of part-time work with benefits
- Low unemployment rate
- Flexibility for others to reenter the labor market
- Precarious jobs
- Labor market insecurity

Key Issue ' 2 Childcare & Parental Leave & Child Allowances

- **Subsidised childcare 456**
 - Open during working and commuting hours
 - High quality for children of all ages
- **Maternity and paternity leave 456**
 - Paid at high levels of wage replacement
 - Ease of return to work
- **Government subsidies for families with**

! ey Issue)2 9ousing

- 1fforda+le #ousing for owners#ip and rental 456
- Location near wor%place 456
- 1ccess to afforda+le " ortgage 456
- 1*aila+ility of pu+lic #ousing 456

! Key Issue <2 Marriage(C#ild+earing Lin%

- Strong disapproval of non(" arital
c#ild+earing 4(; ; 6
 - Effects +ot# " ot#ers and c#ildren
 - May delay c#ild+earing

Key Issue . 2 Primary and Secondary Education

- School provides lunch and long school hours 456
- After-school programs 456
- High level of expectation for parents involvement 4(6
- High level of demand and cost for after-school private lessons 4(6

! Key Issue >2 Tertiary Education

- Relative ease of returning to education after discontinuing 456
- Rigid ranking of colleges and universities & strongly linked to employment opportunities 4(6
- High cost 4(6

Key Issue @2 Gender Considerations

- Gender e: uita+le s#aring of #ousewor% and fa" ily care 456
- 9ig# le*el of gender e: uity in wor% place 456

Economic Development & Gender and Fertility

- In general a negative correlation between G/P per capita and period fertility
- Positive correlation for G/P per capita above (U3A), & , , ,
- Exceptions due to gender equality
 - France and Australia higher fertility
 - Japan and Singapore lower fertility
 - The same similar G/P per capita

Key Issue: Immigration

- Migrants tend to have slightly higher fertility than native populations but the overall effect is small
- Migrants tend to have at peak childbearing ages
- Many wait to have children until they settle in the destination country

/o Policies Ma%e /ifference;

Direct vs. Indirect Policies

In France & Singapore & Republic of Korea many policies are designed to be indirect

Many policies in Northern Europe are designed to be indirect +y gender and employment considerations & are designed to be indirect effects +ecause they promote work-family reconciliation

Many policies designed as anti-poverty measures are designed to be indirect effects

Institutions and Family Policy

Institutional context presents a potentially important constraint on what is seen as possible policy innovations

History and cultural heritage & family system & labor market & educational system & housing market & gender equality

