

United Nations Economic and Social Council

Topic A: Population policies for the regulation of arrival of young immigrants in low natality countries.

Presidente: Miguel Ángel Flores Zamora

Moderador: Johanna Iliane Herrera Hernández

Oficial Asistente: Karla Veronica Cantú Gonzalez

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has made an improvement in diverse societies, creating the social, economic and cultural opportunities to increment life expectancy, unlike as it would seem, it has also brought a drop over birth rates, especially in Europe and Asia.

An appreciable amount of problems in the world may go unnoticed, such as the case of low birth rates. To have babies is a personal decision, but for a nation's population, that decision carries considerable consequences; provoking a notorious change on global markets as first effects, jeopardising at the time economic stability, due to the direct connection in growth matter.

Birth rate, is the number of children born for every 1000 people during a particular period of time. The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years. For a country to maintain a stable population, it is necessary to have a TFR (total fertility rate) of at least 2.1 children per woman.

A considerable percentage of the population, may think that the low birth rate is a good strategy for more people to have a home or food, however, this will only involve economic and social consequences, such as the arrival of many migrants to countries going through this problem.

There are several factors that contribute to the low birth rate. In developed countries, the majority of the population are seniors. The

lack of young population is due to the new generations not caring about having babies as much as before. Nowadays young people have been discouraged to have children for different reasons. The leading reason is that young adults have decided to acquire a higher independency level before having someone to take care of, unlike years ago, where getting married at a young age was an aspiration. Now, in developed countries, the necessity of a college education and the price of a homeownership, is more important than having a family, therefore, low birth rates mean a smaller younger population relative to the elderly.

There are powerful incentives motivating people to migrate from developing to developed countries. Because of the high unemployment rate in their natal country, the most common group of individuals that migrate to developed countries are young people, who seem to be forced to pursue a better quality lifestyle, better life conditions, education, and work. They search in those countries because there is a low percentage of young people that occupy those jobs.

We continue to see a decrease in the populations of many countries with low birth rates.

There is a big concern for their future economic growth, because fewer people will be able to join the workforce in incoming years due to their age. Europe, as it is aging, no longer renews its generations, and instead welcomes massive numbers of migrants who are going to replace the native Europeans, even though for some people, immigration is thought to be a good alternative for economic problems, unfortunately, is seen as an issue to many others.

The debate usually revolves around fears that immigrants drive down wages, and take jobs that would otherwise be available to native nationals, or just because they bring with them other type of culture with radically different values.

According to the United Nations Statistic Charts, the top five migrant hosting countries by 2015 were: United States, Germany, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and United Kingdom, most of them, known by their low natality rates. In the other hand, the top five migrant sending countries were: India, Mexico, Russia, China and Bangladesh.

In 2010, it was estimated that countries such as Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain and Italy had a total fertility rate between 1.4 - 1.8, as they are below the minimum [2.1], this countries are considered as a low natality country. Some others involved in this, are:

Australia	Latvia
Austria	Poland
Canada	Portugal
Croatia	Puerto Rico
Denmark	Romania
France	Serbia
Greece	South Korea
Hong Kong	Sweden
Hungary	Switzerland
Ireland	Taiwan
Japan	

Historical background

Both, low birth rates as well as migration, have been transcendent problematics different countries have dealt with. Moreover the common factors besides them are the conflictivity level each regions presents, considering it as a determinable element in social development.

After the World War II, the lack of labour force was a contudent reality within the two divided german countries, reason why during the 1960's the Federal Republic of Germany enabled the "Gastarbeiterprogram", in english guest workers program, through which were recruited foreign workers to improve its industrial production. The workers came from Italy, Turkey , Greece, Morocco, among others, to labor during a lapse of two years, assuming that ounce the period was concluded they would return their origin countries. However, about 350,000 turkish workers did not return back, instead brought their families and conformed settlements, nowadays present in Germany.

For sure, all along the historic acts this topics had made notice, 1974 is a key starting point for diplomacy in relation with population issues, besides human development, since the Third World Population Conference took place in Bucharest, Romania. In spite of having already been celebrated two more conventions [Rome, 1954 and

Belgrade,1965), this was the first one with an intergovernmental participation; attended by 135 country members. As resolution it was written up the World Population Plan of Action, which targeted to collaborate over the matter; as highlights birth control methods and women reproductive rights were agreed.

During 1979, the People's Republic of China decides to establish an anti-natality law, well known as the One-Child Policy. Contrary to the problematic related to this topic, the mentioned was established to control population's growth by denying couple to conceive more than one child. Although it achieved its goal to prevent a worst overpopulation scenario, it caused another type of problems such as abortion, female infanticide, underreporting of female births, and a population with more males than women.

In the case of the United States of America, it has been presented a changing demographic status in the course of the second half of the Twentieth Century. Since the postwar baby boom timelapse, characterized by its highest fertility rates, a continuous fertility drops had remarked the country, due to the impact of the declines within the american economy. The next graph show the relationship between fertility rates, as well of economic declines.

Current relevance

Nowadays, low birth rates and aging population challenge the entire world socially and economically. A low population growth environment means that economic pie grows slower too, and in the long run, wealth will consolidate too. In a low population growth society, inequality is more easily entrenched, parental wealth more easily passed on to heirs, new startups are less able to expand rapidly.

The European Commission, warned Europe that it needs to start preparing for a demographic shift towards an older population supported by a shrinking share of people of working age. The report predicts that nearly one third of Europeans will be 65 (or over) by 2060, and that people aged between 15 and 64, are projected to decline from 67% to 56%. This would mean a shift from 4 working-age people to just 2.

China currently presents an accumulative demographic effect, having a young society smaller to sustain the rest of the elderly population. On 2015, the policy was abolished by the chinese government.

In the next graph, it is shown a statistic comparison made by Euromonitor International, of cities belonging to developed countries, with the characteristic of having low birth rates, with a prognosis of rated real GDP growth by 2030.

[IMG 3.png]

The last one expose that the mentioned metropolises, tended to record a bigger forecast fall for the next 12 years. Euromonitor relates the facts, in general, to the diversity of opportunities within cities , attracting the elder population by offering stability security .

The case of immigration, for the countries which currently suffer of weak rates on natality, has been attended in different ways according to each foreign policy.

By one side is positioned a growing right wing ideology through the main geopolitical strong Western States, same that doesn't seem to try to impulse net migration. Even if the policies openly accept migrant flows, the challenge would be, not only its socio-cultural integration, but the existence of a healthy, economy speaking, environment where the native citizens collaborate together with the foreign in order to improve workforce and domestic production.

On the other hand, Japan, as response to its projected high decline in working age population, have been seeking for more foreign workers to migrate into its country. It had been projected, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, a fall of more than 40 million on native labour force, indeed, the Japanese government took actions on 2014 to establish guest worker program to accumulate a population 2 million for the next ten years, after its beginning.

When economies are placed developing status, it's hard to attract immigrants to the countries. Immigration is one way countries counter sagging fertility rates. Immigrants tend to be young, and the babies they have, bolster populations. That is what has kept the American population growing for almost 20 years.

In spite of the current global increase in the median age of migrants, in support of the last mentioned, some regions, such as Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, had presented a set of migrant population becoming younger between 2000 and 2017. In contrary, in Africa, Europe and Northern America, the median age of international migrants had increased during the same lapse of time.

International Actions

In consequence of what this problematic represents, most of the countries have implemented programs in order to dismiss the decline on birth rates; some examples of the mentioned are the next ones:

* Australia; A range of family-friendly measures, allow parents to choose between labour market activities or child raising. Social support is available to low-income families, especially to single

parents. Recent data indicating that Australia's total fertility rate had dropped to 1.73 children per woman have increased pressure on the Government to implement a scheme for paid maternity.

* France; Thanks to a variety of pro-natalist initiatives, such as tax deductions for dependents and paid maternity, financed by The National Health Insurance System, and a generous system of financial support for families that have 2 or more children. Since 2002, France's fertility rate has increased from 1.74 to 2.08 thanks to this kind of programs.

* Japan; To encourage more births, the Japanese government introduced the Angel Plan, a five-year plan in 1994 to assist couples in raising children and make it an attractive option. The most recent idea is the Plus One Proposal, it was intended to encourage families to grow and aimed to create parent-friendly working conditions, with funds allocated for the construction of 50,000 new daycare facilities, enhancing childcare services, improve housing and public facilities for families with children and reduce the economic cost associated with child rearing.

* Korea; The First Basic Plan for Low Fertility and Aged Society, which was set up in 2006, aims to foster environments in favor of child-rearing, to establish the base for improving quality of life in an aged society, and to secure power for economic growth in low fertility and aged society. Followed by the Second Plan in 2011 with the aim of steady recovery of fertility rate and consolidation of the social system for an aged society, and then by the Third Plan in 2016 with the aim of increase of fertility rate to the average level of OECD countries and successful adaptation for an aged society.

Every country that is introducing similar programs in order to help the low birth rate, are focusing in three main things; Extending supports for costs of child care, providing incentives for families with children, and establishing systems for maternity.

Those programs are, in part, the reason why some countries are growing, but in fact, other countries are growing their population because of immigration. The impact of immigration on the UK is clear overall, between 1991 and 2016, net migration resulted in an addition of 4.5 million people in the UK population, accounting for just over half (55%) of total population growth.

UN Actions

* As part of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in

support for the Sustainable Development Goals, on 2016, brought the campaign "I am a migrant", same which had the goal of conveying anti-discriminatory message to society, calling for migrant inclusion. One of the highlights of this campaign was its aim to show the importance of migration within economic growth.

* From 2 to 3 November 2015, it was convened an expert group meeting , by the Population Division, in assistance to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), abording "Policy Responses to Low Fertility" in order to identify policies responsables for the populations trends on fertility; the bullet points were directly related with low fertility regions, as well as its features. The conclusions brought by the experts highlights common patterns on studied cases relatively to roles in society, although rejected the existence of one single policy to overcome the problematic on a global scale. It also called for development on family friendly environments, equity and a human right-based fertility policy.

* On September 19th 2016, was held a highly important meeting at the General Assembly in order to address the large flow of human displacement around the world, at wich was adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; a series of commitments to augment the protection for refugees and migrants. Within the act, all member states exposed solidarity with refugees and migrants by; enforcing each country responsibility to ensure human rights for , according support to countries affected by large movement of refugees and migrants, and agreeing international cooperation within the topich must be equitably.

* "The New York Declaration marks a political commitment of unprecedented force and resonance. It fills what has been a perennial gap in the international protection system – that of truly sharing responsibility for refugees." - UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi

* In the same meeting at the New York offices was agreed the adoption of a global compact on refugees and global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, both for 2018. The second compact is prepared in three phases, guided by the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. By the moment this present document is written, still to be negotiated the third phase, which is provided to finish on July 2018; to be adopted, it will be performed during December at an international conference on migration flow .

Bullet Points

- * Emergency of low birth rates and immigration flows
- * Context and policies options on global birth decay
- * Context and policies options on expelling and receiving countries
- * Reception of migration for labor faculties
- * Socio-cultural integration of migrants and refugees within hosting countries.
- * Development of policies for countries with, and approaching, low birth rates in order to keep economic growth.
- * Actions to be taken to address the consequences low birth rates will induce

References:

- * "Korean Family Planning & Maternal Child Health Association of DPRK." IPPF, 3 Mar. 2017, www.ippf.org/about-us/member-associations/korea-dem-peoples-rep.
- * "Outcomes on Population." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/development/devagenda/population.shtml
- * Palmer, Edith. "Guest Worker Programs: Germany." Guest Worker Programs: Germany | Law Library of Congress, 1 Feb. 2013, www.loc.gov/law/help/guestworker/germany.php
- * "The Declining Fertility of Immigrants and Natives." CIS.org, cis.org/Report/Declining-Fertility-Immigrants-and-Natives.
- * "The Impact of Migration on UK Population Growth." Migration Observatory, www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/the-impact-of-migration-on-uk-population-growth/.
- * "What Can Governments Do About Falling Birth Rates?" New Security Beat, www.newsecuritybeat.org/2014/06/governments-falling-birth-rates/

- * Dillinger, Jessica. "Lowest Birth Rates In The World By Country." WorldAtlas, 7 Dec. 2015, www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-lowest-birth-rates-in-the-world.html
- * Rosenberg, Matt. "Did You Know China's One-Child Policy Has Changed?" ThoughtCo, www.thoughtco.com/chinas-one-child-policy-1435466
- * Stone, Lyman. "The US needs more babies, more immigrants, and more integration." Vox, Vox, 10 Nov. 2017, www.vox.com/the-big-idea/2017/11/10/16631980/fertility-immigration-economics-growth-family-friendly
- * "Falling Birth Rates Threaten Long-Term Economic Growth in Key Developed Cities." Euromonitor International Blog. <https://www.blog.euromonitor.com/2017/01/falling-birth-rates-threaten-long-term-economic-growth-key-developed-cities.html>
- * United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division [2017]. Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 revision [United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2017]

* FERTILITY, CONTRACEPTION AND POPULATION POLICIES. [2018]. [ebook] Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations Secretariat. Available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/contraception2003/Web-final-text.PDF>

* International Migration Report. [2018]. [ebook] Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available at: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf

* The Canon Institute for Global Studies, Selahattin Imrohorglu. [2015]. Guest Workers: Japan's Solution to Aging?[Press release]. Retrieved from http://www.canon-igs.org/en/column/151203_selo.pdf

* New Challenges for Low Fertility and Policy Responses in Korea. [2018]. [ebook] Seoul, Korea: Chair Professor, School of Public Administration, and Director, Institute of Aging Society.

* "United Nations Population Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/24/index.shtml.

