INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND


Fertility transition in essence means a decline in fertility rate over time. This transition began in Western Europe on the onset of the industrial revolution and then to the other parts of developed countries, before spreading to the developing countries (Kirke, 1996). Fertility transitions have been more rapid among the late comers than among the first comers (Caldwell, 1998; Watkins, 1987).

This estimation of fertility in this regard has been based on a conventional period fertility measure (i.e TFR), which is a hypothetical measure of fertility. How can the situation be when the actual childbearing experiences i.e completed fertility rate (CFR) is used?

Problem Statement

Period TFR as a measure of fertility has been largely criticized;
1. Regarded as an unstable and unsatisfactory measure (Bhrolchain, 2011)
2. Does not have theoretical backing and hence does not show the progressive nature of fertility change (Bongaarts & Feeney, 1998; Lutz, 1988).
3. Does not show the progressive nature of fertility change (Bongaarts & Feeney, 1998; Lutz, 1988).
4. Does not control for parity distribution and duration since last birth for women, which are key determinants of reproductive behavior (Bongaarts & Toulemon, 1994; Bongaarts, 1998; Lutz, 2008).
5. TFR is affected by both tempo and quantum effects, inflating the implied level of fertility and are therefore prone to misinterpretation. (Bongaarts, 1992; Bongaarts & Feeney, 1998, 2010; Bongaarts, 2011; Bongaarts & Lutz, 2008)
6. Bongaarts & Lutz (2008) have demonstrated that the period TFR is a very problematic measure for studying fertility trends and its excessive use can lead to erroneous conclusions.

CFR as a measure of fertility represents the childbearing experiences of a real age cohort demonstrating both current and past fertility behaviour (Lutz, 1988; Mboup & Saha, 1998; Sobotka, 2009).

The underlying research question is, how has parity distributions as measure of fertility behaviour, based on cohort childbearing experiences changed over time?

The main objective is to provide the status of fertility transition in Kenya based on completed parity distribution.

Specific Objectives

1. Using completed parity distribution and life table approach (LT) to estimate fertility trends
2. Establish the levels fertility using (1) by socio economic indicators (education levels, place of residence, marital status and wealth index).

Scope and Limitation of the study

1. This study focuses on cohorts of women who are approaching the end of their reproductive cycle (40-49 yrs). This cohort represents past fertility experiences: i.e women who had most of their childbearing experiences two to three decades 20s and 30s

DATA AND METHOD

Data Source: KDHs - Women (IR) file series

Data Requirement:

- Women completing their childbearing
- Age of the mother
- Children ever born (CEB)
- Status
- Place of residence
- Level of Education

Method of Analysis:

Computing Completed Fertility using Life table Approach

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

1. Trends and differentials in modal parity (pi)
   - PPR (pi) represents the behavioural component in the fertility table by giving the probabilities of women dropping out of childbearing process
   - Earlier periods showed higher fecundity compared to the recent period.
   - Levels of 0.8 is considered a threshold as PPR tend to decline rapidly after this value

2. Completed Parity Distribution (di)
   - CDF di explains childbearing behaviour
   - Highest of di represents the modal completed parity
   - An earlier modal parity represents the propensity to stop childbearing behaviour

3. Proportion Remaining Childless di(0)
   - Proportion remaining childless (women with parity 0) declined from 2.6% in 1989 to 1.9% in 2014, a difference of 0.7 percentage change
   - Fertility decline is triggered by women having fewer children in their lifetime

4. Mean family size (F00)
   - (F00) is same as the cohort total fertility rate (Lutz, 1988)
   - Charts below compares the trends in F00 and TFR
   - There is a progressive decline of F00 over the years (Sniegower, 2009)

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- Fertility transition is still on corroborating findings by Sniegower (2009), however, there are evidence of stalling among those with less (1993-1998) and those living in urban areas (2008-2014).
- Recommending for use of other demographics and perspectives in analysis.

Selected References