

# Internal Migration and the Renovation-Era Fertility Decline in Vietnam

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## 1. Aim

In the Renovation era, large volume of internal migration coincidentally happened with the decline of fertility. Some authors suggest that internal migration, especial from rural to urban, plays a role in the decline of fertility. The initial expectation was that large scale of migration accompanied by economic development after the Renovation is a factor that reduces the fertility in Vietnam. My study focuses on last stage of the demographic transition in Vietnam, the period after the Renovation era (started in 1986) and before the decline slowed down to around replacement level at the present. Demographic transition during the Renovation-era of Vietnam is often overlooked, thus, this study hopes to provide an insight to the topic.

## 2. Data and Methods

A sample of 5,665 Vietnamese women from the Vietnam Demographic and Health Survey 2002, was analyzed in this study. Three theories of socialization, adaptation and migration are examined by fitting both OLS and Poisson regression models for the number of children ever born.

## 3. Results

The results most strongly support the adaptation theory after controlling for education, age, age at marriage and wanted fertility. Women adapt to the fertility norms at their place of current residence to a greater extent than their place of birth. Rural-born women who currently live in urban areas have 17 percent fewer children than those who currently live in rural areas.

## 4. Conclusion

My study suggests a weak support for the effect of internal migration in the fertility decline in Vietnam. The major factor is the adaptation to new environment, not the act of migration itself, suggesting that migrating was not the determinant to the fertility decline during the Renovation-era in Vietnam.