FERTILITY DYNAMICS IN MALAYSIA: COMPARISON OF MALAY, CHINESE AND INDIAN ETHNICS

Saharani Abdul Rashid[1*], Puzziawati Ab Ghani[2], Noorizam Daud[3], Siti Noorul Ain Nor Azemi[4], Zulkifli Ab Ghani Hilmi[5], Mohd Rizal Razak[6] and Sharifah Norhuda Syed Wahid[7]

[1]Mr, Universiti Teknologi Mara Pahang, Malaysia, saharani@pahang.uitm.edu.my
[2]Assoc. Prof. Dr, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Malaysia, puzzi@tmsk.uitm.edu.my
[3]Assoc. Prof. Dr, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Malaysia, noorizam@tmsk.uitm.edu.my
[4]Mrs, Universiti Teknologi Mara Pahang, Malaysia, noorulain@pahang.uitm.edu.my
[5] Assoc. Prof, Universiti Teknologi Mara Pahang, Malaysia, zulghani @pahang.uitm.edu.my
[6]Mr, Universiti Teknologi Mara Pahang, Malaysia, dragon_admire007@pahang.uitm.edu.my
[7]Mrs, Universiti Teknologi Mara Pahang, Malaysia, sha_norhuda@pahang.uitm.edu.my
*Corresponding author

Abstract

For the past several decades, the annual growth rate of world population has been declining and is projected to continue to decline in the coming years. This phenomenon occurred partly due to a significant drop in fertility rates. Globally, the average total fertility rate (TFR) has dropped by half from about 5.0 births per woman in the early 1950s to 2.5 in 2010. Malaysia, like any other developing countries is also experiencing changes in fertility rates. Thus, the aim of this paper is to examine the pace of fertility change in Malaysia from 1970 to 2010 using time series data obtained from Department of Statistics Malaysia. Trend analysis has been applied in order to explain the fertility transition of Malaysia's population. In addition, this paper provides a comparative analysis of fertility trends among three major ethnic groups in Malaysia namely Malay, Chinese and Indian. The most important findings to emerge from this study are that between 1970 to 2010, Malaysia's TFR has dropped from 5.0 to 2.1 births per women and the fertility trends of the three major ethnic groups have steadily declined. By 1982, Malays experienced the highest fertility rate with 4.6 births per women while Chinese and Indian were 2.9 and 3.2 births per women respectively. This study concludes that the fertility differentials will lead to changes in ethnic composition and age structures. It is hoped that the findings of this study will assist policy makers and healthcare providers to shape the actions needed to improve the fertility rate in Malaysia.

Keywords: Fertility, Ethnics, Declined, Comparative analysis.

ISBN: 978-605-64453-5-4