

On the Impact of Migration on Fertility — Can Migration Reduce Fertility? —

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The fact that "migration reduces fertility" has been reported among the relatively many researches which dealt with the relation between migration and fertility in some developing countries. In the countries in which urbanization are rapidly proceeding, migrations from rural areas to urban areas are continuously dominant, and according to their researches, fertility of the rural-to-urban migrants are lower than that of the rural stayers, and this contributes to lowering the fertility of not only urban areas but also the whole countries. In this paper, whether these phenomena hold true also for Japan or not, and if true, what is the primary factor, are examined from "The Fifth National Survey on Migration". After splitting the whole country into urban areas and rural areas, migration types are set up according to the birthplace, present residence and the residence of before and after the first marriage. The fertility of migrants from rural areas to urban areas were lower than that of rural stayers and even of urban stayers, and especially lower were the rural-to-urban migrants who were supposed to migrate before first marriage. Three hypotheses, which were discussed in the past researches to be the main factor of lowering the fertility of rural-to-urban migrants, are also examined. As a result, they are all explicable and above all, "Adaptation" hypothesis, which assumes that fertility of migrants is adjusted by adapting the various environments at the places of destination, is assumed to be most influential.