

Recent Fertility Pattern among the Immigrant Population in Japan

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Japan has experienced a growth in the number of immigrants for approximately the last two decades. The number of foreign population rose from 0.8 Millions in 1980 to 2.2 millions in 2009. Migration has demographic effects on the host society through not only the influx or outflow of persons but also their reproduction behaviors. In this paper, the number of births to and total fertility rate (TFR) of foreign mothers is considered in order to examine their impact on the number of births and TFR in Japan. The results are as follows.

The number of births to foreign mothers increased from the late 1980s to around the mid-1990s and then approximated the level in the mid 20,000 range. During this period, while the number of births to Korean mothers decreased from 9,030 in 1987 to 4,213 in 2008, those to the Chinese mothers increased from 1,463 to 7,905 in the same years. The spatial distribution of births to foreign mothers was observed to be greater in metropolitan areas than it was in non-metropolitan areas. When examining the proportion of foreign mothers' births to the total births, the "Chubu chiho" (the central part of Japan) also showed high figures in addition to metropolitan areas. Nevertheless, these figures are lower as compared to those in Europe.

The TFR figures are different depending on whether census data or registration data are used; however, TFR of foreign mothers in Japan is well below the replacement level as opposed to that in Europe, where it is above the replacement level.

With respect to the TFR of foreign mothers by nationality, there were cases that showed considerably high TFR, such as Philippine and Thai mothers in 1995, but this difference in the TFR of Japanese mothers drastically reduced in the 2000s. The geographical patterns of TFR of foreign mothers changed from the highest figures in the "Tohoku chiho" (the northern part of Japan) in 1995 to the highest figures in the "Kanto chiho" (the eastern part of Japan) and "Tokai chiho" (the southeastern part of Japan) in 2005.

The impact of TFR of foreign mothers on Japan's TFR was rather small, and it resulted in reducing the TFR rather than increasing it.