

Ethnic Differentials of Population Dynamics in Singapore as a City State

SUGA Keita

This study reviews two-hundred-year population history of Singapore since its discovery, and analyses components of ethnicity-specific population changes by natural increase and net-migration. By the results, we emphasized its characteristics of the migration-oriented nation. All major ethnic groups shared increasing roles of natural increase when population reproduction structures were matured. However, there were significant differences in determinants of population changes in the contemporary Singapore. Larger size of immigration helped Chinese and Indian populations of low fertility maintain an ethnic composition, while higher birth rate acted as the same ladder in Malay population. We insisted that changing marriage patterns had affected Singaporean multi-ethnic society such as wide spreads of inter-ethnic and international marriages from the beginning of the twenty first century.

Singapore government implemented experimental immigration policies in the late 2000s by which the government accepted immigrants of nearly the replacement. Despite long history of the migration-oriented nation, the government could not enforce it for a long and learned that recovering fertility rates was vital for population and socio-economic stability. In a society with few out-of-wedlock births such as Singapore, partnership is the essential proximate determinant of fertility that owes prospects of the city-state future population dynamics.

Keywords: Population history of Singapore, Demographic transition, International migration, Ethnic differences