

Childbearing and Migration: Longitudinal Analysis of Couple-level Data using the Vital Statistics

NAKAGAWA Masataka and KOIKE Shiro

Using the birth registration data drawn from the vital statistics, this paper constructs couple-level longitudinal data to analyse the relationship between childbearing and migration. Information on date of birth for both mother and father, which are available for all birth records registered since 1992, is used to generate a couple-level identification number. Inter-municipal migration is measured by changes in place of residence between first and second births. The results of the analysis confirm a significantly higher propensity to migrate after the first birth among couples in the inner-metropolitan areas. Increases in the proportion of those who changed their place of residence between the first and second births are observed for the all inner-metropolitan areas. In the inner areas of Tokyo and Nagoya, at the same time, the share of moves out of the inner areas to suburban areas is at a lower level compared to that of the 1990s. Such relative decline in migration to suburban areas is also observed for those living in regional cities outside the large metropolitan areas. These results imply that the long-term changes in migration patterns of young couples at the early stage of household formation have contributed to some extent to the so-called "re-centralization" in the metropolitan areas since the 2000s, and that the regional city areas have been undergoing the similar processes. Further research is needed to examine factors associated with these geographical patterns and changes in the relationship between childbearing and migration.

【Keywords】 migration, childbearing, re-centralization, suburbanization, vital statistics