

Implications of economic reform and spatial mobility for fertility in Vietnam

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Abstract. Vietnam has registered a dramatic decline in fertility during the last decades. While the causes of such a sustained decline are still not well documented, many observers believe that government policies adopted in the 1980s have contributed to lower fertility. This article focuses on the implications of the *Doi Moi* program of market reforms on fertility, taking into account the influences of migration and population policy. The analysis is based on a sequential logit model of birth histories of ever married women interviewed in Vietnam in 1997. The results show a substantial decline in fertility since the *Doi Moi* program was introduced. The disruptive effects of migration are less pronounced, although migrants generally exhibit lower childbearing rates, and a somewhat different pattern of parity progression. We argue that the economic reforms of 1986, and the two-child policy initiated two years later, have reinforced Vietnamese women's desire for smaller families.

Keywords: Economic reform, Fertility, Migration, Vietnam