

Impacts of 1990's genocide on population of Rwanda and its awareness about family planning

Abstract

This thesis pursues the demographic development and the population's attitude to family planning in the state of Rwanda. The observed time period includes the second half of the 20th century to the present time. The first aim is the basic description of the demographic development of the state in relation to historical events. It's well known that wars have a negative impact on the population and economics of a state. The civil war broke out which brought big population losses in Rwanda in the 1990's. In this period the demographic revolution proceeded as it had in many other developing countries, which was important for the socioeconomic development of the state, and it was ceased as a consequence of the genocide. The Rwandan government at that time as one of the first governments began with the support of family planning programmes, which could have had a positive impact on the acceleration of the demographic transition. The second aim of the thesis is the determination whether the genocide had an impact on these governmental initiatives and stalled broadening of the awareness of family planning among the population this way, namely by means of media. The last aim of the thesis is the determination whether there is a statistically considerable relation between the awareness of women about family planning by means of media and the chosen key factors, which are place of residence, age of the mother at birth of her first child and the highest level of education. The analytic part of the thesis is based on the data from the Demographic and Health Surveys and the calculations are executed by means of the binary logistic regression analysis. It was confirmed that the civil war in the 1990's had a negative impact on the socioeconomic and demographic development of the state Rwanda whereas the consequence was also the interruption of the demographic revolution. The analysis showed that during the observed years 1992, 2000 and 2014–2015 all factors mentioned above had more or less statistically significant impact on the awareness of the population by means of media and the awareness was not disturbed by the genocide, whereas the intensity of the awareness is rising since the 1990's. The thesis is complemented by a brief outline of the history of the researched region, socioeconomical characteristics of the state and an explanation of the demographic revolution in relation to the demographic dividend, whereas Rwanda is one of the states that can use this population advantage in the near future.

Keywords: Rwanda, population, demographic dividend, developing countries, genocide, family planning, logistic regression, SPSS, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)