

Abstract

All high-income nations have experienced a sharp decline in fertility rates during the past century. With birth rates in many developed countries currently below the replacement level, the population is ageing quickly, raising concerns about how this may affect public finances and living standards. Higher-income nations are not the only ones experiencing a fall in fertility; the majority of low- and middle-income nations are getting closer to fertility levels at replacement levels. To better understand fertility behaviour and the presence of low-fertility regimes, many recent studies examined the impact of parenthood on subjective well-being (SWB). Even though having a child is usually the joint decision of partners, each parent might experience parenthood differently, and the so-called well-being gap can arise. The aim of this thesis is to analyze how children affect the between partners' gap in subjective well-being and how this gap varies between families while using EU-SILC data conducted in 2013 and 2018. The results suggest that there is a trend only in the year 2018 where the effect is the largest for parents with small children and that it disappears (becomes indistinguishable from the effect observed for parents with 15-year-old children) more-less when children reach school age. In this case, mothers tend to have significantly higher levels of well-being than fathers. No significant trend is observed in the year 2013. When the sample includes childless couples, there is no difference in subjective well-being gap between partners when comparing parents and non-parents.

JEL Classification F12, F21, F23, H25, H71, H87

Keywords subjective well-being, well-being gap, parenthood, childbirth

Title Does childbirth change the gender gap in well-being within family?