THE GROWING SIGNIFICANCE OF NONMARITAL FERTILITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

by

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Context
Slow fertility decline

Age-specific fertility has declined but the relative declines are lowest among the youngest age groups

Decreasing marriage, Increasing cohabitation

- Data for 15 years old and older in 2000

Illegitimate births are increasing

- Percent of live births that are illegitimate

Source: Vital Statistics Reports for specified years; Data for the period 1980 to 1998 are not available
Acceptance of nonmarital births

- In 2002
  - 15% of youth say that it is alright for a woman to get pregnant even if she is not married to the father of the child
  - 59% of the youth think that the community would accept children of unmarried couples
  - 66% of youth said that an unmarried woman who got pregnant by a man she likes but with whom she has not discussed marriage should have and keep the baby without marrying (58% in 1994)

Objective of this paper

- To estimate the proportion of births contributed by those living together or the never married.
Data

- 2008 NDHS
  - 13,594 women

- 1993 NDS
  - 15,029

Estimating Fertility Rates

\[ f_i = \frac{b_i^m}{w_i} + \frac{b_i^l}{w_i} + \frac{b_i^n}{w_i} \]

where:
- \( f_i \) = fertility rate for age group \( i = 15-19, 20-24, \ldots, 45-49 \)
- \( b_i \) = births
- \( w \) = number of woman-years of exposure
- \( m \) = formally married
- \( l \) = living together
- \( n \) = never married
Estimating Conditional Fertility Rates

\[ c_i^m = \frac{b_i^m}{w_i^m} \quad c_i^l = \frac{b_i^l}{w_i^l} \quad c_i^n = \frac{b_i^n}{w_i^n} \]

where:
- \( c_i \) = conditional fertility rate for age group \( i = 15-19, 20-24, \ldots, 45-49 \)
- \( b_i \) = births
- \( w \) = number of woman-years of exposure
- \( m \) = formally married
- \( l \) = living together
- \( n \) = never married

Estimating Fertility Rates

\[ f_i = \left[ \frac{w_i^m}{w_i} \right] \times c_i^m + \left[ \frac{w_i^l}{w_i} \right] \times c_i^l + \left[ \frac{w_i^n}{w_i} \right] \times c_i^n \]

where:
- \( f_i \) = fertility rate for age group \( i = 15-19, 20-24, \ldots, 45-49 \)
- \( c_i \) = conditional fertility rate (see previous slide)
- \( w \) = number of woman-years of exposure
- \( m \) = formally married
- \( l \) = living together
- \( n \) = never married
Contributions to the TFR of births to women living together or never married increased 1993 to 2008
... especially among the younger women

![Graph showing percentage contributions to APFR by age and marital status from 1993 to 2008.]

Declines in fertility could have been higher if fertility among the not married is lower

![Graph showing TFR by education level and marital status from 1993 to 2008.]

* In their marital status group
Rate of childbearing among women living together is higher than for the married.

The rate of childbearing of women living together is highest among those residing in rural areas.
The difference in the rate of childbearing between women living together and married is highest among the high educated.

To summarize

- The contribution of births of women living together or never married to the TFR increased from 1993 to 2008, especially among the young.
- The rate of childbearing among women living together is higher than women formally married.
- Declines in fertility could have been higher if fertility among the non married were much less.
Using the expressions presented above, decompose the change in fertility between 1993 and 2008 into contributions of:

- marital status composition (never married vs. living together vs. married)
- rates of fertility by marital status
- their interaction

Thank you!