

The Relationship between Feminism and Birth Rate

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Many developed countries are battered by low birth rates which have hit all-time low. In a bid to stave off the looming disaster, South Korea is considering a new military exemption for men: if they have three or more babies before they turn 30. This clearly shows that the government is turning a blind eye to the brewing feminist movement in society: women are refusing to give birth.

Firstly, more women choose to invest their time and resources in other pursuits and having babies becomes their opportunity cost which is the highest-valued option forgone. As women gain more education and employment opportunities, they may choose to delay having children or not to have them. Given limited resources, a choice needs to be made between 'me' or 'children'. They are more likely to participate in the labour force and contribute to economic growth and this can lead to increased opportunities for women, as well as more equal distribution of resources and power between genders. Interestingly, the short run aggregate supply increases but the long run aggregate supply would decline due to the declining birth rate.

Secondly, low birth rate can be explained by the concept of law of demand. With the skyrocketing cost of living and having children can cause gigantic financial burden, especially when gender discrimination exists in the workplace and females receive lower wages than male. What's more, people started to substitute children with pets nowadays. The demand for having a child therefore decreases drastically.

To conclude, the government should subsidise to stimulate birth rate by implementing expansionary fiscal policy with financial incentives, so that aggregate demand and long-run aggregate supply increases in the long run.