

***MIGRATION AND FERTILITY: REPRODUCTIVE TRENDS, INTENSITY AND
CALENDAR OF THE FOREIGN WOMEN IN SPAIN***

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT:

Introduction

The quick growth of international migratory flows and, of foreign population residing in Spain, has increased the necessity of studying and understanding its demographic behaviours. Previously, the scarce number of individuals made these phenomena practically insignificant related to its impact on the population development. Nowadays, this situation has radically changed due to diverse reasons. On one hand, majority of the events are already statistically representative, and inform us about the migratory processes and the foreign population's settlement. Specifically, phenomena like fertility or nuptiality, have been transformed in a significant way. On this sense, the analysis on differential demographic behaviours of foreign population has become the core of the study of integration.

Recent data from National Statistics Institute for 2006 confirm the continuous growth since 1998 of natality figures, such as the total number of births, the Gross Birth Rate or the Total Fertility Rate (TFR). In 1996 there were in Spain 79.169 births from foreign mother, 16.5% of total births occurred. This figure is quite higher to the 3.3% of births from foreign mother one decade before. Although the average number of children per mother neither has stopped increasing during the studied period (same thing for the number of births and the gross birth rate), it is not less true that the TFR of foreigners has not stopped decreasing during the above-mentioned period.

In this respect, the most recent literature has shown some clear questions regarding the reproductive behaviour of Spanish and foreigners women¹. On one hand, Spanish women have slowly increased their fertility and they have continuously postponed their average age at maternity. On the other hand, foreign women have reduced their fertility regarding their origin places and they have a calendar of maternity considerably more precocious than autochthonous ones. Being aware of these patterns already differentiated, it is sought here to deepen in the specific behaviours of each group inside the foreign community, since it would be reductionist to assume that the foreign condition (or immigrant) alone determines a particular reproductive behaviour. In this way the purpose is to detect the existent specificities according to nationality or birth place, and age group.

Data and methodology

This paper analyzes data from the individual anonymous registers, from the "Birth Certificates" of the Vital Statistics that the Spanish Statistical Institute (INE) makes available in microdata, as well as the annual population figures provided by the municipal population register.

The sustained increase of births in Spain is evident, and introduces the necessity of examining these trends from a more complex and suitable point of view. This can be addressed by some relative figures that allow us putting in context the births into a framework given by the total population and precisely the female population in fertile ages (women aged 15 to 49). We estimate some general figures such as Gross Birth Rate, and other specific figures such as Fertility Rates by age groups, and in extent the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), just as the average age at maternity. These figures allow separating the effect of the continuous arrival of female immigrants in fertile ages over the totality of births, from the effect of the individual reproductive behaviour of these women.

¹ DELGADO, M. and ZAMORA, F. (2004): "Españolas y extranjeras: su aportación a la fecundidad en España". *Economistas*, 99. pp.88-97.

DELGADO, M. and ZAMORA, F. (2006): "La contribución de las mujeres extranjeras a la dinámica demográfica en España". *Sistema*, 190-191. pp.143-166.

IZQUIERDO ESCRIBANO, A. *et.al.* (2006): *Demografía de los extranjeros. Incidencia en el crecimiento de la población*, Bilbao. p.336.

LÓPEZ DE LERA, D. (2006): "El impacto de la inmigración extranjera en las regiones españolas", *Análisis territorial de la demografía española*. 2006, Madrid: Fundación Fernando Abril Martorell.

In any case, the authors are totally aware of the limitations introduced by the use of alternative data sources in the denominators of the figures. Those limitations apply specially to the Municipal Register because of its doubtful reliability regarding foreign population. We understand that an event like births are full-registered (independently of foreign condition); nevertheless the reference population which is in relation to these events is supposed to have bias in its registration. Despite being the most accurate data source for this proposal, the under-registration of the foreign population in the Spanish Municipal Register is a well known feature. The foreigners appearance during the last regularization processes (2000-2001-2005), in which was necessary to prove the real residence in the country, clearly illustrate these situation². However, the causes of the over-registration: not registering cancellations, duplications, false registers; might counterbalance the under-registration effects.

Discussion

In what measure are related the recent recovery of fertility in Spain and the (already) not so recent, but maintained, arrival of foreign population? In which measure contribute the foreign and Spanish women? How greater is the level of fertility of foreigners? In which extent changes in the fertile behaviours of foreign women can be interpreted like an approach to the patterns of native women? Is this an *integration* form? These are some of the questions outlined in the present study. The aim of this paper is to analyze the reproductive patterns of foreign women and its contribution to both evolution of births and fertility in Spain, during a recent period (1996-2005). This analysis goes beyond the general average of the foreign fertility for the Spanish case, at the same time that it shows the particularities of the behaviour patterns according to mother's nationality. This will also allow detecting the existent differences among the main nationalities in relation to the tendency, the intensity and the calendar of their fertility, analyzing their specific weight in natality and in the recovery of the TFR in Spain. Also, we will quantify which is the contribution from children from Spanish mother and foreign father makes to total births and fertility in Spain. This is a question that, in many cases, is not considered when the contribution to fertility of foreign population is analyzed. Once the phenomena is analyzed from the general point of view,

² Delgado, M. and Zamora, F. (2006): "La contribución de las mujeres extranjeras a la dinámica demográfica en España" *Sistema*, nº 190-191, pp. 143-166

we will deepen on its structure by age, this is, the possible differences of behaviour according to age group and their national origin. These calculations will allow us estimating in which measure takes place the real recovery of fertility of Spanish women in function of their fertile calendar and, in extent, how it happens in the case of foreign women.

Keywords: fertility, births, reproductive patterns, international migration, foreigners, natives