



FERTILITY AND CHILD MORTALITY: AN EVALUATIVE DISCOURSE

OYEDELE, Ovikuomagbe (PhD)

Department of Economics, Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

High fertility and high child mortality are a challenge in sub-Saharan Africa, precisely Nigeria. Understanding the relationship between them would provide an insight into properly addressing the challenge they pose. Calculating the replacement rate of births to a child death for the Nigerian case also remains an unfilled gap. This study examined the relationship between fertility and child mortality using a simultaneous equation model and a two-stage estimation method. An increase in the number of child death was found to significantly increase the number of children ever born in both urban and rural locations, and in all six zones. An increase in fertility was found to reduce the number of child deaths only among educated women with the least education being a post-secondary education for the case of rural women. The replacement rate was 0.57. A significant reduction in child mortality is key towards fertility reduction.

*Keywords:* Number of children ever born, Child death, Endogeneity, Women,