

Evolution of Attitude toward Marriage and Family Structure

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abstract

In many countries, trends of less marriage have recently been observed. In this article, focusing on marriage decision of females, we attempt to make a theoretical explanation for the trend of less marriage by an overlapping generations model including both sexes: male and female. Our driving force of the trend of less marriage is the narrowing gender inequality in wage rate. In the early stage of economic development, there is a wide gender inequality in wage rate, and then the economic reliance on husband is of primary importance in marriage for women. In the process of economic development, the gender gap in wage rate narrows. And then, women gradually alter their attitude toward marriage. Women begin to put more importance on affection for their husband. We conduct some numerical experiments and examine the effects of childcare subsidy and publicly provided childcare center.

Keywords: marriage attitude, family, economic development, demographic transition

JEL classification: J1, J12, O11

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