

Population and Development in Asia : The Impact of Population Trends and Structures on MDG Progress

The course will present the Population and Development theory from the viewpoint of international organizations and the theory of the Demographic Window of Opportunity with examples from Asia, mostly East, South and South-East Asian countries. The 1994 Cairo ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) opened a new approach to the relationship between population and development which was at the origin of the adoption of the MDGs by the UN and more than 200 countries in 2000 <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>. Thus, MDG indicators will be considered as indicators of social, economic and human development and we shall consider the impact of population trends and structures on development through MDG indicators in Asia.

The first section will present the demographic process of the demographic window of opportunity as a phase of the demographic transition consisting in a change in age structure linked with changes in population trends, mostly fertility decline, based on regional and country examples. The macro and micro impacts of the demographic window on development and MDGs will also be considered in the frame of the various types of MDG indicators (services coverage and outcome indicators in mortality, fertility, education...).

In a second section, we shall analyze the relationship between various MDG indicators by types. Is there a relation between services coverage and outcomes in health and education, for instance? Then, we shall consider the relation between population trends (growth rate, fertility rate) and structure (dependency ratios), and development/MDG indicators. We shall also consider the central role of poverty (goal 1) on the other MDGs through socio-economic indicators like population in poverty and GDP per capita. The impact of gender equity will also be considered on both use of health and education services, fertility and mortality levels and population trends.

Finally, the impact of migration in Asian countries on population structures and the advancement in the demographic window and MDGs will be presented.

The relation between demographic or socio-economic variables and MDGs will be presented on national data for Asian countries with a brief comparison with the Pacific and Africa, to highlight the specificity of Asia.

References:

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