

---

**NEWSLETTER**

---

## **The Impact of the Double Reduction Policy on Family Fertility Intention: A Study Based on a Survey of 29 Provinces across China**

*By Chen, X. & Ning, B.*

*Correspondence to: Bentao Ning, East China Normal University, China. E-mail: [btning@ses.ecnu.edu.cn](mailto:btning@ses.ecnu.edu.cn)*

**A**NATION'S population is the bedrock of its socio-economic development. In the 1990s, China began to enter the period of low fertility, and its total fertility rate has remained below the replacement level since. Family fertility intention, a major predictive indicator of family reproduction behavior, constitutes an important parameter for projecting fertility levels, relating to the long-term development of the population. Facing the long-standing issue of low fertility, most studies have focused on the impact of fertility policy on the size of the population with little research on the influence of education policy. This study aims to explore the relationship between parents' attitudes towards the Double Reduction policy and their intention of having more than one child, as well as the mediating effects of family education expenditure and parental educational anxiety on this relationship, using 10341 parents of primary and secondary school students from 29 provincial administrative regions as research subjects.

### Research Findings:

- Parental positive attitudes towards the Double Reduction policy could effectively predict the enhancement of parental intention of having more children. Compared with parents disagreeing with the policy, those endorsing it exhibit significantly higher intention of having more than one child.
- The policy had a greater impact on the second-child fertility intention than on the third-child fertility intention in parents. In the meantime, the policy is more impactful among parents with higher education levels than those with lower education levels in heightening their fertility intention.
- Family education expenditure and parental educational anxiety had chain mediating effects on the relationship between the parents' attitudes towards the policy and their intention of having more than one child. The Double Reduction policy alleviates the financial burden of education on parents and their educational anxiety; at the same time, the mitigated parental educational anx-

iety, in return, further reduce the family's educational spending, thus helping enhance the parents' intention of having more children.

The authors give the following suggestions:

- Improve the understanding of the Double Reduction policy in the parents of compulsory education students. This policy is a systematic one, involving multiple stakeholders. Its effectiveness is contingent on parents' attitudes towards it and their willingness of cooperation.
- Strengthening the execution of the Double Reduction policy. It is important to heighten the supervision of off-campus training institutions and improve the supporting measures for the implementation of the policy.
- Increase the coordination between the education and population policies. To boost the parents' motivation for having more than one child, it is imperative to formulate a welfare policy framework that is family-friendly and family-supportive.

*Source: Journal of East China Normal University, 2024; 42(5):75-85.*