



Research on the Problems and Countermeasures in the Implementation of the Three-Child Policy

Pengfei Lyu^(✉)

Shandong Youth University of Political Science, Jinan 250000, Shandong, China
pengfeil420@163.com

Abstract. With the rapid development of economy and science and technology in China, problems such as population aging have emerged. In order to effectively solve the problems of the population structure, the “three-child” policy has played a key role. The implementation of the three-child policy can optimize China’s population structure and deal with the problem of population aging. This paper analyzes the problems that people will encounter in the implementation of the three-child policy, such as low fertility willingness, family contradictions, and the maintenance of women’s rights. How to effectively solve these problems affects the implementation of the three-child policy. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the corresponding welfare policies to encourage childbirth, prevent and solve family conflicts, and improve the relevant security measures to ensure women’s rights.

Keywords: Three-child Policy · Policy Implementation · Encourage Fertility

1 Introduction

In recent years, with the rapid development of high-tech and economy, people’s quality of life and living standards have been significantly improved, the aging problem has gradually become prominent, and the population structure has changed. Therefore, a variety of methods and ways are needed in order to deal with the problems caused by the population change. In May 2021, the three-child policy officially came into operation. There is a need to gradually liberalize the fertility policy and realize the natural balanced development of the population [1]. The three-child policy can effectively solve the labor shortage caused by population changes and adjust the population structure, which is of great significance. Ensuring the smooth implementation of the three-child policy is an important way to ensure its effectiveness. The three-child policy may face multiple obstacles, resulting in some people’s “not daring to have children” or “not wanting to have children” [2]. Therefore, many problems will be encountered in the implementation of the three-child policy. By combining the research related to the two-child policy with the research on the three-child policy, the author tries to find solutions to the problems in the implementation of the three-child policy, so as to ensure the smooth implementation of the three-child policy.

2 Research on the Implementation of Two-Child Policy and Three-Child Policy

Before the three child policy, it was the two child policy. If you want to better study the three child policy, you need to understand the relevant research of the two child policy first. Through the analysis of the two child policy, this study understands the process from the two child policy to the three child policy. By referring to the problems and solutions in the implementation of the two child policy, this paper analyzes the problems and possible problems in the implementation of the three child policy, and puts forward corresponding suggestions.

2.1 Research on the Implementation of the Two-Child Policy

There are abundant research materials on the implementation process of the two-child policy. From the perspective of economics, to solve the problems in the implementation of the two-child policy, three aspects, namely the policy itself, the implementation subject, and the policy environment, are needed to ensure the smooth implementation of the policy [3]. As an important part of promoting the two-child policy, grass-roots governments also face many problems. In the specific implementation process of the policy, grass-roots governments face three important problems: the high sex ratio at birth, the limited effect of the comprehensive two-child policy on fertility, and the aging population [4]. Liu Luwen summarized the problems encountered in the implementation of the two-child policy from four aspects: the low willingness of the people to bear children, challenges to public services and resources and environment, new family contradictions, and impacts on women's employment [5]. To sum up, there are many problems in the implementation of the two-child policy, both micro and macro, and these problems also appear in the research of the three-child policy.

2.2 Research on the Implementation of the Three-Child Policy

The three-child policy has been implemented for only more than a year, so there is less research on the policy implementation. However, in order to ensure the smooth promotion of the three-child policy, domestic scholars have also put forward corresponding suggestions for the implementation of the policy. Many scholars believe that the three-child policy should be promoted while building a complete social security system for women or ensuring the implementation of women's policies [6][7].

To ensure the smooth implementation of the policy, it is also very important to improve the people's willingness to have children. It is essential for people to understand the real needs of families that have fertility issues and help them reduce the differences between the willingness and behavior to the greatest extent [8]. In a word, the three-child policy is another optimization of the fertility policy [9]. The three-child policy is of great significance to the adjustment of China's population structure.

2.3 Positive Impact of the Three-Child Policy

The three-child policy can solve the population problem, promote economic development, and ensure the advantage of labor supply. According to the sixth census of China,

Table 1. The proportion of the labor force population according to the sixth census of China and the latest census of China.

	Results from the sixth census of China	Results from the latest census of China
Labor force population aged 0–14	17%	18%
Labor force population aged 15–59	70%	63%
Labor force population aged 60 and above	13%	19%

the proportion of the labor force population aged 15–59 is 70%, the proportion of the elderly aged 60 and above is 13%, and the proportion of children aged 0–14 is 17% [10]. The latest census results show that China’s labor force population is 63%, the elderly population is 19%, and the children population is 18% [11].

It can be seen from the Table 1 that China’s current labor force population has decreased by 7% and the elderly population has increased by 6%. China’s labor force is gradually in shortage, and the aging problem is gradually serious. Therefore, in order to ensure the sufficiency of the labor force, the “two children” and “three children” policies are very necessary, and the “three children” policy is more conducive to regulating the population structure. Not only that, ensuring the sufficiency of labor force is also ensuring the sufficiency of human resources. Having three children is conducive to maintaining the advantages of human resources endowment and promoting economic development [12].

3 Problems in the Implementation of the Three-Child Policy

By summarizing the previous scholars’ research on the “two child” and “three child” policies, the author summarizes the problems of the “three child” policy as follows.

3.1 Low Fertility Willingness of the Public

The low willingness of the public to have children has appeared since the promotion of the two-child policy, so this issue needs to be focused on. Some people believe that low fertility can reduce the cost of raising children at home and improve the quality of family life. This has caused many people to have fewer children now [13]. Considering their own health and safety, some women may also refuse to have three children. They believe that having two children will bear great risks, which greatly affects women’s willingness to have two children. Some who have had two children and whose health has been affected will be more resistant to having three children. Moreover, considering household expenditure, child care, and health issues, some women will also choose not to have three children. As mentioned above, there are many reasons for women’s low willingness to bear children.

3.2 Contradictions Between Family and Work

IN the three-child family, the parents should give consideration to work and child care. With the increase of family expenditure, the parents of children need to devote more energy to work. However, the care of children also requires parents to devote a lot of energy. The conflict between work and family of both sexes is prominent, causing the problem of difficult child care [14]. Although some families can take care of their children with the help of the children's grandparents, this is not a condition that all families can have. At present, the conflict between parents' working hours and children's care time is relatively serious. If three children are born, the child's care time will be increased, which will lead to the parents of three newborn children not having enough time and energy to work, or only focusing on work and ignoring the care of the newborns.

3.3 Women's Reproductive Security

In the process of having three children, women will face problems of family, health, and employment. Some families may force their children to have children or not to have children, and may force pregnant women to have forced abortion, which violates women's basic rights. The three-child policy means that women who have given birth in the workplace will have another child, while young women who are still in the job searching stage and have not entered the workplace may have one or more births [15]. The employment security for women who have many children is likely to be infringed during the childbirth process. Some enterprises may reduce the women's work pay or even dismiss female employees because of the fact that female employees can have many children. Additionally, having more children means that women face higher reproductive risks, so more perfect medical security measures are needed to help them solve the problem of reproductive risks.

3.4 Family Welfare Issues

When the "three children" policy is implemented, relevant allocation measures are also implemented. In many "three-child" families, women need certain welfare support to help them in health care, employment, and life. "Three children" means that a family needs at least one person to take full-time care of the children in the family. In other words, parents have to take care of both work and family, which is likely to cause economic and mental pressure. In this paper, the social welfare atmosphere needed by the "three-child" family is divided into three aspects: economic aspect, physical and mental health aspect, and daily life aspect. It is necessary to supplement social welfare in these aspects to help the "three-child" family reduce the pressure and take better care of the children.

4 Proposal

The implementation of the three-child policy will face greater pressure and difficulties than the implementation of the two-child policy, but it meets the wishes of some

families to have more children. The most important thing is to adjust the population structure and help China's population development gradually tends to the trend of natural growth. In view of the problems of the three-child policy, this paper has the following countermeasures and suggestions to improve the implementation efficiency of the policy.

4.1 Improving Fertility Willingness

When the three-child policy is implemented, its corresponding supporting measures have been introduced at the same time, but these supporting measures still need to be improved. First is to improve the social security system and the social welfare of "three-child" families. For families that are fully capable of raising three children, it is necessary to ensure that these families can enjoy the corresponding social welfare care and the quality of their family life can be improved. Secondly, for some families who are able but have difficulties in raising three children, the basic social security measures should be provided to help them raise their children, and then there is a need to gradually improve their social welfare to solve the problem of "raising difficulties". Public policies of childbearing support should be based on the perspective of childbearing willingness, and the policy focus should be devoted to reducing the gap between childbearing wishes and birth plans of couples of childbearing age, that is, to solve or alleviate the problem of "wanting to have children but not daring to have children" [16]. The third is to strengthen the policy publicity. It is important to let the public understand the benefits and welfare of the three-child policy and help residents understand the content of the three-child policy through various ways, thus encouraging residents to have children and improving their willingness to have children. Finally, the medical security measures for women's childbirth needs to be improved, and the health problems and reproductive risks in women's childbirth needs to be reduced.

4.2 Improving Social Care Measures

Parents of three-child families are facing with the problem of time allocation. Some two-child families choose to let children's grandparents take care of the children in order to save time for parents on taking care of their children. But "three-child" means that the grandparents have to take care of more than two grandchildren, which also puts great pressure on the grandparents. Therefore, improving social care can help parents relieve the pressure of looking after their children and help parents better allocate their time. There is a need to care for the healthy growth of infants and provide facilities supporting children's activity and resources regarding childcare service [8]. The pressure of children's care on parents can be alleviated through the development of childcare institutions, trusteeship institutions, and the "4:30 class" Children who are relatively young can be placed in formal childcare institutions for short-term custody. Children who have entered the primary school or who are at a higher school age can be arranged to have after-school counseling in the "4:30 class" in the local community, and then the children can go home after their parents get off work. This is also a way to take advantage of the community to take care of children. What's more, children who are relatively at an older age can be temporarily placed in formal custody institutions, such as the "dining table" of primary school students.

4.3 Improving the Maternity Security Mechanism for Women

Women who have three children face problems in family, employment, health, and other aspects. Considering these problems, some women will refuse to have three children, which also reduces women's willingness to have children. To solve the problem of fertility intention, the corresponding supporting measures, preferential policies, and employment equity need to be improved [17]. The first is to protect women's basic rights, and ensure that their basic rights will not be infringed after giving birth to "three children". The second is to respect women's reproductive wishes. No individual (including women's family members) or institution can force women to have children or not to have children. The third is to improve women's social welfare. Women may face health problems after giving birth to "three children", and free medical services should be provided to ensure their health. The fourth is to protect women's employment rights and ensure that women's employment rights are not infringed during the birth of "three children". The last is to help women relieve psychological pressure. Some women will have mental and psychological pressure after having many children, so they need emotional counseling. Improving women's reproductive security mechanism can help women maintain their legitimate rights and interests. At the same time, basic facilities such as mother and baby rooms need to be increased in public places to protect the basic rights and interests of women.

4.4 Improving the Social Welfare for Three-Child Families

According to the social welfare needs of the "three-child" family, the economic pressure of the "three-child" family, economically speaking, can be alleviated by increasing cash subsidies including childcare subsidies and tax reduction and exemption [18]. In terms of physical and mental health, free medical examinations and medical health lectures can be regularly conducted for housewives who have three children to protect women's physical health. It is also a good way to carry out family education activities for "three-child" families and provide emotional support to prevent women in "three-child" families from having psychological problems and ensure their physical and mental health. From the perspective of daily life, the community can provide certain childcare institutions to help "three-child" families take temporary care of their children. It is also possible to appropriately adjust and extend the maternity leave of women who have three children and issue maternity subsidies to improve the life of women in "three-child" families.

5 Conclusion

The three-child policy is in the initial stage of implementation. To better implement the policy, there is a need to constantly improve the security of women's medical care, employment, and other aspects. It is also essential to strive to improve residents' willingness to bear children, and improve the childcare mechanism in order to better implement the three-child policy. This paper summarizes the relevant research on the two-child policy and the three-child policy, and sorts out the problems that will be encountered in the implementation of the three-child policy according to the previous literature. However, at present, there is less research on the three-child policy in China, and the number

of literature referred to in this paper for the analysis of the three-child policy is also relatively small. Therefore, there may be some deficiencies in the analysis of the implementation of the three-child policy, but the author believes that more scholars will invest in the research of the three-child policy in the future. At the same time, this paper only analyzes and summarizes the implementation of the policy, and involves less in other aspects of the policy. The implementation of the three-child policy means that scholars have a new research direction, which is of great significance for the possible multi-child policy, population policy, and residents' fertility willingness in the future.

References

1. Qi, M.D., Dai, M.Y., Zheng, Y.Y.: Discussion on the impact and trend of the comprehensive liberalization of two children policy on China's birth rate. *China Population, Resources and Environment* 26(09), 1–10 (2016).
2. Nie, J.L., Dong, Z.Y.: Three-child policy: positive influence, multiple obstacles and coping strategies. *Journal of Guangzhou University* 20(06), 77–84 (2021).
3. Zhang, Y., Qu, Y.F., Xu, F.F.: Research on the improvement path of the implementation of the two-child policy under the cost of family education. *Fortune Era* (08), 218–219 (2020).
4. Liu, J.B.: Research on the implementation of family planning policy under the comprehensive two child policy. Shandong Agricultural University (2020).
5. Liu, L.W.: Research on the implementation of the two-child policy from the perspective of Smith model. Jilin University of Finance and Economics (2018).
6. Hu, G.X.: Birth or not: a Study on the impact of the three-child policy on rural women—based on a field survey in Xicun, Hunan. *Journal of Guangzhou University (SOCIAL SCIENCE EDITION)* 21(01), 113–124 (2022).
7. Li, Y., Liu, A.C.: Review of the effect of the implementation of the comprehensive two-child policy and the outlook of the three-child policy. *Journal of Huaihua University* 40(06), 9–14 (2021).
8. Hong, X.M., Zhu, W.T.: Family three-child fertility willingness and its relationship with infant care support. *Journal of Guangzhou University (SOCIAL SCIENCE EDITION)* 21(01), 136–148 (2022).
9. Mu, G.Z.: The three-child policy and the optimization of China's population fertility: background, prospect and vision. *Journal of Yangzhou University (HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)* 25(04), 65–77 (2021).
10. The Main Data Bulletin of the Sixth National Population Census in 2010 (2012/04/20), http://www.gov.cn/test/2012-04/20/content_2118413.htm, last accessed 2021/09/12.
11. The Seventh National Population Census Bulletin (No.5) (2021/05/11), http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/202105/t20210510_1817181.html, last accessed 2021/09/12.
12. Nie, J.L., Dong, Z.Y.: “Three-child” policy: positive impact, multiple obstacles and response strategies. *Journal of Guangzhou University (Social Sciences Edition)* 20(06), 77–84 (2021).
13. Zhang, Y.C., Liu, Y.C., Liu, W.: Analysis on the main problems and guiding countermeasures of youth implementing family planning policy in the new era. *Theoretical Observation* (07), 86–90 (2021).
14. Peng, S.Q.: Work and family conflict between men and women in the context of the multi-child policy. Shanghai Normal University (2022).
15. Wang, Y.F.: Research on the impact of the three-child policy on women's rights. *Western Academic Journal* (06), 69–73 (2022).

16. Wang, J., Wang, G.Z.: Research on low fertility willingness under China's three-child policy and its policy implications. *Journal of Tsinghua University (PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)* 37(02), 201–212+217 (2022).
17. Zhen, X.Y.: The impact of national fertility willingness on the implementation of the three-child policy. *Heilongjiang Human Resources and Social Security* (05), 42–44 (2022).
18. Xia, J., Liu, L.: How to create fertility benefits—The promotion of the three-child policy and the construction of supporting measures under the international comparative perspective. *Journal of Guangzhou University (Social Sciences Edition)* 20(06), 85–94 (2021).

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

