



# The Effect of Urban and Rural Origin on Young People's Fertility Intention: A Multi-chain Mediation Effect Mode

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**Abstract.** In recent years, the fertility rate of China's population has continued to decline, which will cause security risks for national and social development, Urban and rural background is a significant factor affecting the fertility willingness of young people. Therefore, based on the Chinese General Social Survey (CGSS) data in 2018, by constructing the benchmark model and the mediation effect model, the relationship between Chinese urban and rural origin and youth fertility willingness was empirically analyzed and tested. The results found that, firstly, the fertility intention among urban youth is lower than rural youth. Secondly, The number of houses and marital status mediates the effect of urban and rural origin on young people's fertility intention. Thirdly, class identity does not have an intermediary effect on the urban and rural influence on youth fertility intention. Fourthly, the urban and rural origin can significantly affect the number of youth properties, marital status, and class identity. Therefore, the country needs to accelerate the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy. The government needs to reduce the birth burden of young families. The enterprises should follow the real estate policy and strive to coordinate with the fertility policy. Moreover, society should guide young people to form the correct concept of marriage and childbearing.

**Keywords:** Urban And Rural Young People · Fertility Intention · Tobit Model · Mediation

## 1 Introduction

In recent years, the government and the entire society have paid extensive attention to and highly valued the sustained decline in the birth rate. It is not merely a sociological problem but also a national economic issue. One of the fundamental facts about the population is that the more young people there are, the stronger the country's innovation capacity. However, the current aging population situation in China has severely hindered the driving force of innovation and entrepreneurship strategies. The birth rate has collapsed,

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and the crisis of low birth rates has arrived. There is no opportunity to reverse this trend in the short term quickly. Therefore, addressing the severe population and social problems derived from the decline in fertility rates is urgent. Understanding the impact of rural-urban backgrounds on the fertility intentions of young people and exploring the factors that influence their fertility intentions can help accurately grasp their attitudes towards marriage and childbearing, stimulate their intrinsic fertility potential, and have a significant practical significance for increasing the population size and optimizing population structure.

China's low fertility rate has shifted from "exogenous" to "endogenous" causes [1]. Whether the decline in fertility rates is due to policy intervention remains a lingering question [2]. Even with the recent shift to a three-child policy, which focuses on increasing the birth rate [3, 4], the impact on fertility rates has been minimal. In recent years, some scholars have studied the factors that influence the fertility intentions of young people from different perspectives based on their rural-urban backgrounds, showing some differences. Influenced by factors such as cultural traditions, religious beliefs, national fertility policies, marital relationships, and women's social participation [5–7], the fertility intentions and decisions of the population often change over time.

A literature review found that the research on the factors influencing fertility intentions is relatively scattered, and the conclusions drawn from studies on rural-urban backgrounds need to be more unified. This article aims to innovate based on previous research, focusing on the impact of rural-urban backgrounds on the fertility intentions of young people, as well as the mediating effects, to make up for the lack of attention paid by previous studies to the heterogeneous effects of the rural-urban backgrounds on the reproductive-age population, in order to reduce the negative impact of the population crisis on China. This study is based on the 2018 China General Social Survey (CGSS) data to investigate fertility intentions, attempting to place this highly debated social issue under the objective scrutiny of data analysis.

## 2 Method

### 2.1 Data Source and Processing

The national baseline survey of the China Comprehensive Social Survey (Chinese General Social Survey, CGSS) project, conducted in 2003, aims to collect multi-level data on society, communities, families, and individuals by summarizing social development trends. So far, the survey has released survey data from 2003 to 2018. This paper selected data from 2018 for study. The 2018 survey sample covered 28 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions, with 12,787 effective samples, to explore the impact of urban and rural origin on young people's fertility willingness. Regarding preliminary data processing, each sub-database was combined according to individual ID, excluding samples under 45 years old and invalid samples with missing data, abnormalities, refused responses, unknown responses, and answer options unrelated to the research question. The study finally yielded 3747 effective sample sizes.

## 2.2 Descriptive Results of the Rata

**Explained Variables.** This paper defines the explanatory variable as the youth fertility intention. The study chose the number of children that respondents expected to have as a measure of youth fertility willingness. According to the questionnaire, "If there are no policy restrictions, how many children would you like to have?" The answer option is finite numerical type, which belongs to the blocking variable. We use the Tobit model for analysis. Among them, "I hope to have 0 children" means that they do not desire to have children, while the rest means they want to have children. In particular, in the original data, the number of willing children is less than 0, and greater than ten does not conform to the actual situation and will not be analyzed.

**Core Explanatory Variables.** This paper defines the core explanatory variable as the urban and rural origin. Urban and rural backgrounds belong to the problem of "the household registration place when you were born to." Combined with the actual research of this paper, the value of "township" and "rural" in the value is "0", and the value of "county," "urban," and "suburban" is "1".

**Intermediary Variables.** This paper defines the intermediary variables as the number of properties, marital status, and gender concept. The number of properties belongs to the problem of "how many houses do you have currently (including jointly owned with others)." In the original data, the number of houses is more than 100 does not conform to reality and will not be analyzed if deleted. Marital status is "your current marital status is" this problem. This paper focuses on "married" and "unmarried" groups on the difference in fertility desire. The original questionnaire "unmarried" and "cohabitation" as "unmarried," assigned "0", "have a spouse for the first marriage," remarried spouse, "separation is not divorced," "divorce," "widowed" as "married," assigned to "1". In general, "in the current society, your own social and economic status belongs to," and "1" to "5" from the "upper class" to the "lower class," reassign values from "1" to "5" in "lower class" to "upper class."

**Control Variables.** Data from age groups under 18 and over 45 were excluded to avoid missing values and outliers, and seven individual characteristic variables that may affect fertility intention were selected as control variables, namely, gender, age, ethnic group, economic income, gender concept, health status, and education level. In terms of gender, "male" was assigned "1," and "female" was assigned "0". This paper studies the childbearing age group, so the age group of 18–45 years old is selected. For ethnic groups, the value of "Han" is "1," and for other groups, "0". Economic income is "What is your total income for the whole year last year (2017)?" This problem, the individual annual income more than millions as an extreme value, deleted not analyzed. Gender concept belongs to the problem that men are naturally better than women, from "totally disagree" to "1" to "5" in "totally agree," reassign values as "1" to "5" from "totally agree" to "totally disagree." Health status is "do you think your current physical health is" this problem, this paper focuses on "health" and "unhealthy" group on the difference of fertility will, the original questionnaire "very unhealthy," "relatively unhealthy" as "unhealthy," the assigned value is "0", "general" "relatively healthy" "very healthy" is combined into "healthy," the assignment is "1". Translate education level into the continuous variable of years of education, "no education" = 0, "primary school" = 6,

**Table 1.** Descriptive statistics of the variables are presented

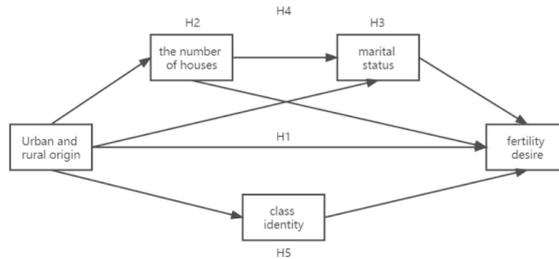
category	Variable name	mean	standard deviation	minimum	maximum
explained variable	fertility desire	1.81	0.79	0	10
Explanatory variables	Urban and rural origin	0.28	0.45	0	1
mediator	The number of property	0.59	0.66	0	5
	Marriage situation	0.76	0.43	0	1
	Class identity	2.36	0.82	1	5
controlled variable	gender	0.47	0.50	0	1
	age	33.72	7.55	18	45
	nation	0.96	0.20	0	1
	health condition	0.93	0.25	0	1
	gender conception	3.41	1.17	1	5
	economic income	58630.73	182560.2	0	9950000
	Education level	7.47	5.49	0	19

“middle school” = 9, “technical secondary school, technical school” = 11, “vocational high school, regular high school” = 12, “college” = 15, “college undergraduate” = 16, “higher than college undergraduate” = 19. Descriptive statistical results of the variables are shown in Table 1.

### 2.3 Research Hypothesis

This study puts forward five hypotheses for the research question, namely, that urban and rural origin has a significant impact on young people’s reproductive intention, that the number of houses can mediate the relationship between urban and rural heritage and young people’s reproductive choice, that marital status can mediate the relationship between urban and rural origin and young people’s reproductive intention, that the number of houses and marital status can mediate the relationship between urban and rural heritage and young people’s reproductive choice, and that the number of dwellings and marital status can mediate the relationship between urban and rural origin and young people’s reproductive intention. Class identity can mediate the relationship between urban and rural origin and young people’s fertility intention, as shown in Fig. 1.

**Urban and Rural Background and Fertility Intention.** At present, some studies have also shown that the urban and rural background still significantly affects the fertility



**Fig. 1.** The conceptual model

intention of young people. Urban registered people have more relative autonomy [8] and a higher willingness to re-breed. The implementation of the “universal three-child” policy has a significant impact on the urban population [9, 10]. However, some studies have shown that the fertility intention of urban residents is lower than that in rural areas [11, 12]. Urban women of childbearing age in China not only have a low degree of fertility satisfaction but also have a significant downward trend [13]. Moreover, compared with rural mothers, non-rural mothers are less likely to re-breed [14]. Based on this, the following assumptions are proposed:

H1: The urban and rural background significantly impacts the fertility intention of young people.

**The Intermediary Role of the Number of Houses.** The number of houses is often seen as an essential indicator of a family’s financial situation [15]. In general, owning more homes means more finances and thus provides better living conditions and educational resources. For example, youth in a family with multiple properties may be more likely to marry and have children later because they can more easily provide better education and living conditions for their children. Young people in a family with no property may be more likely to marry and have children early because they need to provide housing and living conditions for their children earlier [8]. Based on this, the following assumptions are proposed:

H2: The number of real estates can mediate the relationship between urban and rural backgrounds and the fertility will of young people.

**The Intermediary Role of Marital Status.** Married youth are more likely to have children because they have entered a married life and need to face their children’s parenting and education responsibilities. Unmarried youth are more likely to have no fertility intentions because they are not yet married and are not required to take responsibility for parenting and education [16]. Based on this, the following assumptions:

H3: Marital status can mediate the relationship between urban and rural backgrounds and the fertility willingness of young people.

**Number of Real Estate Properties and Marital Status.** Some studies have found that urban youth are more expensive and bear more financial pressure, so they often delay marriage [17]. At the same time, the demand for house purchases has also become one of the essential factors for young people to choose people to marry, and they are more inclined to choose partners with better economic conditions. Therefore, urban youth tend

to marry older and have lower marriage rates. Conversely, in rural areas, the number of houses is relatively tiny, and housing prices are relatively low, so rural youth marry earlier and have higher marriage rates [18]. Based on this, the following assumptions are proposed:

H4: The number of real estate and marital status can mediate the relationship between urban and rural backgrounds and the fertility will of young people.

**The Intermediary Role of Class Identity.** Some studies have found that urban youth tend to accept modern gender concepts and, thus more receptive to the idea of fertility delay. In addition, urban youth tend to pay more attention to personal growth and development, so they are more inclined to pursue a high quality of life, which may delay childbearing time [19]. In rural areas, the traditional gender concepts and marriage concepts are more common, so the rural youth tend to get married and have children earlier [20]. Based on this, the following assumptions:

H5: Class identity can mediate the relationship between urban and rural backgrounds and young people's fertility will.

### 3 Result

This paper constructs a baseline model and an intermediate effect model, including the number of properties, marital status, and class identification. Stata 17.0 software is used for quantitative analysis.

#### 3.1 The Baseline Model and Robustness Tests

A multicollinearity test was first conducted on the variables in the baseline model. The results showed that the Mean VIF was 1.03 and the Max VIF was 1.06, both less than 10, indicating no multicollinearity problem. Regression analysis can be conducted, and the regression results are shown in Table 2. It should be noted that Model 1 in Table 2 is the baseline regression model without intermediate effects, Model 2 is the test model with intermediate effects added, and Model 3 and Model 4 were obtained through robustness tests by replacing the independent variables. From the regression results, it can be seen that:

Firstly, based on Model 1, the rural-urban background significantly negatively affects the fertility intentions of young people, indicating that young people from urban areas have higher fertility intentions than those from rural areas, which verifies Hypothesis 1. After adding the intermediate variables to obtain Model 2, the extent of this effect increased from 21.4% to 21.5%, and it was highly significant at the 0.1% level. Therefore, it can be preliminarily judged that the number of properties, marital status, and class identification have specific indirect effects on the fertility intentions of young people. Specifically, the number of properties has a positive effect on the fertility intentions of young people, and it is highly significant at the 5% level, indicating that young people from different rural-urban backgrounds can increase their fertility intentions with an increase in the number of properties. Marital status has a positive effect on the fertility intentions of young people, and it is highly significant at the 0.1% level, indicating

that young people from different rural-urban backgrounds can be influenced by their marital status to affect their fertility intentions. Class identification has a positive effect on the fertility intentions of young people, and it is highly significant at the 5% level, indicating that young people from different rural-urban backgrounds can increase their fertility intentions with an increase in their class identification.

Secondly, the effects of control variables are examined. The gender and age of young adults have a significant positive impact on their fertility intentions, indicating that males have a higher fertility intention and that young people's fertility intentions increase with age. This may be attributed to traditional beliefs such as "carrying on the family line," which influences males to have a higher fertility intention. As young adults grow older, they may feel pressure to have children because they are approaching the end of their fertile years. Additionally, with age, young people are influenced by their peers and environmental factors, such as their parents, which can increase their fertility intentions. Ethnicity, health status, and gender attitudes have a significant negative impact on young adults' fertility intentions, indicating that young adults from ethnic minority backgrounds have a stronger fertility intention, those with poorer health have a higher fertility intention, and those with more gender-equal attitudes have a higher fertility intention. Several reasons could explain this: first, ethnic minorities may be more influenced by local customs and culture, which could enhance their fertility intention; second, young people with poor health may feel a greater sense of urgency regarding the importance of life, thus increasing their fertility intention; third, young people with more gender-equal attitudes may question the unequal division of labor and cooperation in traditional marriage, which could lower their fertility intention. However, the influence of young people's economic income and education level on their fertility intention was not statistically significant, indicating that their income and education level did not significantly impact fertility intention. This may be due to interference from multiple variables, which reduced their precision and required further research.

Thirdly, this paper used the variable replacement method for a robustness check. The results of the robustness check showed that after replacing the urban-rural background variable with the current household registration status variable for the youth sample, the coefficients, directions, and significance of the core explanatory variables, intermediary variables, and control variables did not change significantly. The youth sample with current household registration status still verified the positive effect of urban-rural background on youth fertility willingness and the mediating effect path through the intermediary variables of property ownership, marital status, and class identification. This indicates that the effect of urban-rural background on youth fertility willingness and its mediating effect path are robust.

**Table 2.** Regression estimates of the impact of rural-urban background on young adults’ fertility intentions.

Variable name	Full sample		Robustness test	
	fertility desire		fertility desire	
	model 1	model 2	model 3	model 4
Urban and rural origin	-0.2138381	-0.2149901	-0.1766804	-0.1814262
	(0.0286638)	(0.0291562)	(0.0260452)	(0.0265111)
The number of property		0.046023*		0.0476023*
		(0.0210437)		(0.0210992)
marital status		0.1352689		0.1426291
		(0.0377141)		(0.0376621)
Class identity		0.0387008*		0.0387585*
		(0.0159301)		(0.0159665)
sex	0.0548867*	0.0650813*	0.0512763*	0.0620619*
	(0.0259358)	(0.0263854)	(0.0259517)	(0.0264037)
age	0.0121264	0.0062703**	0.013386	0.007263**
	(0.0017341)	(0.0021477)	(0.0017348)	(0.0021559)
nation	-0.1294285*	-0.1279124*	-0.1253119	-0.123663
	(0.0645617)	(0.0643166)	(0.06464)	(0.0643747)
health condition	-0.1251595*	-0.1535301**	-0.1186387*	-0.1474326**
	(0.0512374)	(0.0513997)	(0.0513278)	(0.0514632)
gender conception	-0.05337959	-0.0523611	-0.0521529	-0.0503808
	(0.0111596)	(0.0111268)	(0.0112156)	(0.0111779)
economic income	-0.0000000247	0.0000000325	-0.000000003824	-0.0000000302
	(0.0000000704)	(0.0000000705)	(0.0000000706)	(0.0000000706)
Education level	-0.0030077	-0.003843	-0.00277	-0.0036572
	(0.002345)	(0.0023446)	(0.0023471)	(0.0023463)
cons	1.87865	1.879048	1.838833	1.842609
	(0.1089128)	(0.11374)	(0.1088088)	(0.1138106)
Pseudo R2	0.0201	0.0234	0.0190	0.0226
Obs	3700	3700	3700	3700

Note: \* p < 0.05; \*\* p < 0.01

### 3.2 Mediating Variables on Young Adults’ Fertility Intention

From the results in Table 3, the urban-rural background of the entire sample has a positive effect on the number of properties and class identification of young people. In contrast, it harms their marital status, and the effects are incredibly significant. This fully demonstrates that the urban-rural background can effectively influence the number of properties, marital status, and class identification of young people. It also indicates

**Table 3.** Regression estimates of mediating variables by rural-urban background for youth

Variable name	Full sample		
	The number of property	marital status	Class identity
Urban and rural origin	0.1180247	-0.0975755	0.2304616
	-0.0227187	-0.0125959	-0.0298327
controlled variable	control	control	control
sample capacity	3700	3700	3700
F-statistic	5.29	18.76	3.04
Pseudo R2	0.0690	0.4038	0.0163

Note: \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$

that urban-born young people have more properties and higher class identification than rural-born young people but tend to get married later.

### 3.3 Test of Mediation Effects

This paper used the bootstrap method to test for mediation effects (Table 4). Specifically, we conducted 5000 bootstraps resamples at a 95% confidence interval level to validate the constructed mediation models. The analysis results showed that, in the entire sample, the mediation models constructed with property ownership and marital status as mediator variables had 95% confidence intervals of [0.0019945, 0.0126832] and [-0.0462409, -0.0209683], respectively. Since the confidence intervals did not include "0", it indicates that property ownership and marital status mediated the impact of rural-urban background on the reproductive willingness of young people. Thus, hypotheses 2 and 3 were confirmed. The chained mediation model constructed with property ownership and marital status as mediator variables had a 95% confidence interval of [0.0015296, 0.0057607]. The confidence interval did not include "0", indicating that property ownership and marital status played a chained mediating role in rural-urban background's impact on young people's reproductive willingness. Therefore, hypothesis 4 was confirmed. The mediation model constructed with class identity as the mediator variable had 95% confidence intervals of [-0.002213, 0.0143335], and the confidence interval included "0", indicating that class identity did not play a mediating role in the impact of rural-urban background on the reproductive willingness of young people. Therefore, hypothesis 5 was not supported.

**Table 4.** Mediation effects test and decomposition

Variable name		Full sample					
		Observed coefficient	Bias	Boot SE	Boot ULI	Boot ULI	
direct influence	Rural-Urban Background → Fertility Intentions	-0.22541811	0.0000375	0.02984385	-0.2846288 (P)	-0.1681476 (P)	
					-0.2849175 (BC)	-0.1691976 (BC)	
indirect effects	Rural-Urban Background → Property Ownership → Fertility Intentions	0.00660676	-0.0000253	0.00272882	0.0019945 (P)	0.0126832 (P)	
					0.0022643 (BC)	0.0133727 (BC)	
	Rural-Urban Background → Marital Status → Fertility Intentions	-0.03268357	-0.0001712	0.00647387	-0.0462409 (P)	-0.0209683 (P)	
					-0.0466762 (BC)	-0.0215194 (BC)	
	Rural-Urban Background → Property Ownership → Marital Status → Fertility Intentions	0.0034215	-0.0000147	0.00107243	0.0015296 (P)	0.0057607 (P)	
					0.0016383 (BC)	0.0059837 (BC)	
	Rural-Urban Background → Class Identity → Fertility Intentions	0.0057374	0.00000395	0.00424798	-0.002213 (P)	0.0143335 (P)	
					-0.0020333 (BC)	0.0144844 (BC)	
	Total Impact		-0.24233603	-0.0001697	0.02957067	-0.3005401 (P)	-0.1859364 (P)
						-0.3006642 (BC)	-0.1860519 (BC)

Note: P: Percentile; BC: Bias-corrected

## 4 Discussion

This study is based on the survey of fertility intention on the data of China General Social Survey (CGSS) in 2018. The survey samples covered 28 provinces/cities/autonomous regions in China. Moreover, there were 3700 valid samples, focusing on the influence of urban and rural origin on young people’s fertility intention. The main conclusions are as follows.

### 4.1 Contemporary Young People’s High Life Pressure is an Essential Factor Hindering Fertility

First, based on model 1, urban and rural origin has a significant adverse effect on the fertility intention of young people, indicating that the fertility intention of young people of urban origin is higher than that of young people of rural origin. Hypothesis 1 is verified. Rural women are more influenced by traditional concepts than urban women. Rural women are more dependent on the economic care provided by their husband’s families and have a more profound family concept. They need to improve their recognition in

their husband's families by giving birth, and their sense of self-empowerment is weaker [21]. However, from another point of view, rural reproductive women are still an essential reproductive subject, so policymakers should pay attention to grasp the needs of rural reproductive women. Therefore, the configuration mechanism of rural homesteads can be improved. Moreover, for families with fertility intentions but with low per capita living areas, the requirements for the approval of residential land can be relaxed appropriately to stimulate rural women's fertility enthusiasm and improve the living quality of multi-child families [22].

After adding mediating variables, the research gets Model 2. The influence degree increases from 21.3% to 21.5% and is highly significant at the significance level of 0.1%. Therefore, it is preliminarily concluded that the number of house properties, marital status, and class identity directly affect young people's fertility intention. Specifically, the effect of the number of houses on the fertility intention of young people is positive and highly significant at the significance level of 5%, indicating that with the increase in the number of houses, young people of different backgrounds in urban and rural areas can improve their fertility intention. Under the influence of traditional culture, such as "if you do not settle down, you will not enjoy raising children," the vast majority of people hold the idea of "having a house means having a home" and "not having a house means not having children." Regard buying a house as one of their life goals. Residents tend to have housing property rights to get a sense of belonging [23]. The two major livelihood issues, housing, and fertility, never exist in isolation. We should consider the coordination between real estate and fertility policies. Strike a combination of these policies, and implement real estate policies that have long-term significance and are fertility-friendly. Meanwhile, improve the existing parental leave system, for example, comprehensively increase parental leave and nursing leave for both men and women and supervise their implementation to speed up the formation of a fertility support policy system, gradually eliminate fertility concerns and promote the increase of fertility intention.

The influence of marital status on the fertility intention of young people is positive and highly significant at the significance level of 0.1%, indicating that young people of different backgrounds in urban and rural areas can influence fertility intention according to their marital status. The root cause is that the mainstream concept in China is still "get married first and then have children." Families whose family capital is in a stable or mature state can promote fertility intentions. The effect of class identity on young people's fertility intention is positive and highly significant at the significance level of 5%, indicating that young people of different backgrounds in urban and rural areas can improve their fertility intention by improving their class identity. For example, the culture of the middle class is: it has the mentality of striving for progress, good professional spirit, modern individual subject value consciousness, and social and moral responsibility. If they show a higher degree of identification with class values, the stronger their sense of social and moral responsibility is, the more they realize that childbirth is urgent for the country.

Meanwhile, a high degree of class identity will lower individuals' social expectations of upward mobility, thus lowering the consumption standard of social status. The consumption pressure of social status is less, the surplus is sufficient, and the cost of

childbirth is reduced. So it raises the fertility rate. In this regard, the government should protect the common rights and interests of all strata and take more responsibilities to safeguard the bottom line fairness to promote individuals to enhance their self-identity, sense of belonging, and sense of security.

#### **4.2 The Fertility Dilemma Faced by Contemporary Young Women**

Second, the effect of control variables. Gender and age significantly positively affect fertility intention, indicating that male fertility intention is higher. The older the young people are, the higher their fertility intention will be. The reasons are as follows: first, under the influence of traditional ideas such as “carrying on the family line,” male fertility intention is higher. Women are less likely to feel this way. Second, with age growth, young people gradually miss the golden age of childbearing and feel pressure. Their peers, parents influence young people, and other external circumstances, increasing their willingness to have children. The health status and gender concept of young people have a significant negative impact on fertility intention, indicating that the poorer the health status of young people, the higher the desire to have children—the more equal the gender concept of young people, the higher the fertility intention. The reasons are as follows.

First, young people are affected by their health conditions, and their fertility will be higher in the urgency of life. Second, the more similar the gender concept of young people may be suspicious of the traditional marriage of “male farming and female weaving,” “male master outside and female master inside,” unequal division of labor and cooperation, reducing their reproductive intention. Regarding ideology, guide young people to form the correct concept of gender, bride price, and fertility. Starting from youth education, promote gender equality. Carry out reform of wedding customs, break the “sky-high bride price” habit, and take concrete steps to address significant problems in critical areas such as conducting large-scale activities. Encourage and publicize families with high fertility intention through various channels and media platforms, break people’s negative impression of families with multiple children and report more information like “brothers and sisters in families with multiple children can help each other, take care of each other, exercise their interpersonal skills, be more lively and sociable, which is conducive to the healthy physical and mental development of children.

However, the impact of economic income and educational level of young people on their reproductive intention did not pass the significance test, indicating any significant impact of economic income and educational level. It may be due to the interference between several variables that reduces its accuracy, which needs further study. After all, it is generally believed that education level and income have essential effects on a family’s or an individual’s desire to have children. Nevertheless, this study believes that although high income improves the financial ability to raise children, these families tend to pay more attention to the quality of children’s education. The cost of raising children is higher, so high income has a reverse effect on fertility intention. However, the fertility rate of low-income groups is subject to economic factors, so the economic income of young people has no significant influence on fertility intention.

Most studies show that the improvement of the educational background has a significant inhibitory effect on fertility intention. However, this study must be consistent with

most domestic investigations' conclusions. Therefore, the relationship between educational background level and fertility intention in this period may differ from previous periods.

## 5 Conclusion

To sum up, young people from urban backgrounds have lower fertility intentions than those from rural backgrounds. Therefore, the urban and rural origin is still essential to young people's reproductive intentions. The number of houses and marital status play an intermediary role in the influence of urban and rural origin on young people's fertility intention. Class identity does not mediate the fertility intention of young people from urban and rural backgrounds. Urban and rural origin can significantly affect young people's housing, marital status, and class identity. In this regard, the following suggestions are put forward. First, the configuration mechanism of rural homestead can be improved, relax the requirements of homestead approval for families with fertility intention but low per capita living area, and stimulate the enthusiasm of rural women to give birth. In addition, attention should be paid to the coordination of real estate policy and birth policy, and play a combination of these policies. Encourage young people to get married and have children with solid economic rewards. Then, improve people's sense of class identity, appropriately reduce the social expectations of individual upward mobility, and thus lower the consumption standard of social status. If the consumption pressure of social status is slight, the surplus is sufficient, and the cost of childbirth is reduced. This paper provides a scientific clue on how the birth rate is shaped by urban and rural origin, class identity, economic level, and education level. However, due to limited research samples, the number of samples can be further expanded in the future to improve the universality of research conclusions.

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