

Comments on “Rationed fertility theory and evidence”

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- Interesting question: human capital and the birth control policy
 - Idea: education difference of twins birth in regulated and un-regulated groups
 - Finding: lower education in un-regulated family

- How to think the hypothesis in the model?
- The model prediction is not so clear:
 - The relationship of \bar{n} and education actually depends on the utility function specification, as well as the technology of raising the quality (in the budget constraint)
- From the simulation result, at the optimal fertility rate, the quality also reaches the peak
 - It is a coincidence?
 - Does the model assume an inverted U shape between quality and family size?
 - Unregulated family (large family), when having twins, is more likely to cross the peak

How to evaluate the birth control policy?

- If the quality and family size has a monotonistic decline trend (rather than a U shape), but the marginal effect of quantity on quality is declining as well
 - Do we have a similar observation?
 - Unregulated family, when having twins, the observed quality is lower as well
- But the welfare implication of the birth control policy, in these two cases, are very different

The Hypothesis to test

- In the family controls, the income/welath is not controlled
 - Do Han pople and minority Chinese have different income levels?
- Can we estimate the desire of faimily size?
 - the family size of their relatives, neighbours?
 - The effect should be observed at the marginal family