



Pro-poor population policies

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Global context of population and development

- Interrelationships between rapid population growth and development/poverty.
- Large families have high dependency ratios and are more often in poverty than small families; this results in reproduction of poverty.
- High dependency is a factor of poverty at the household level and reducing dependency reduces poverty
- Poor families have low access to health and education services



Excerpts from recent studies

Declines in mortality and fertility are favorable to growth and poverty reduction (Eastwood and Lipton 2001, Barros 2001, Kelley and Schmidt 2001): *declines in each mortality and fertility 'contributed around 0.32 points of changes in per capita growth in 1960-1995' or 21% of 1.50% the average annual growth of per capita output.*

Eastwood and Lipton (2001). "Demographic Transition and Poverty: Effects via Economic Growth, Distribution and Conversion". In Birdsall et al (eds), *Population Matters*, Oxford Univ. Press 2001.

- Mason and Lee (2004): household data of Indonesia for 1996 used to analyze the demographic dividend show that 10% reduction in the children population is to reduce the level of poverty by 11%.

Andrew Mason and Sang-Hyop Lee, 2004. "The Demographic Dividend and Poverty Reduction," http://www2.hawaii.edu/~amason/Research/mason_popmdg19_rev.pdf

But, is it about poverty or development?

- Economic growth does not automatically result in poverty decline. Several countries have experienced high economic growth and increasing poverty.
- Equitable growth, pro-poor policies are necessary for poverty reduction.
- Even with economic growth, poverty slows development because it is
 - a waste of human resources,
 - a loss of demand/economic growth and
 - a cost to state services,
 - a threat to security and political stability.

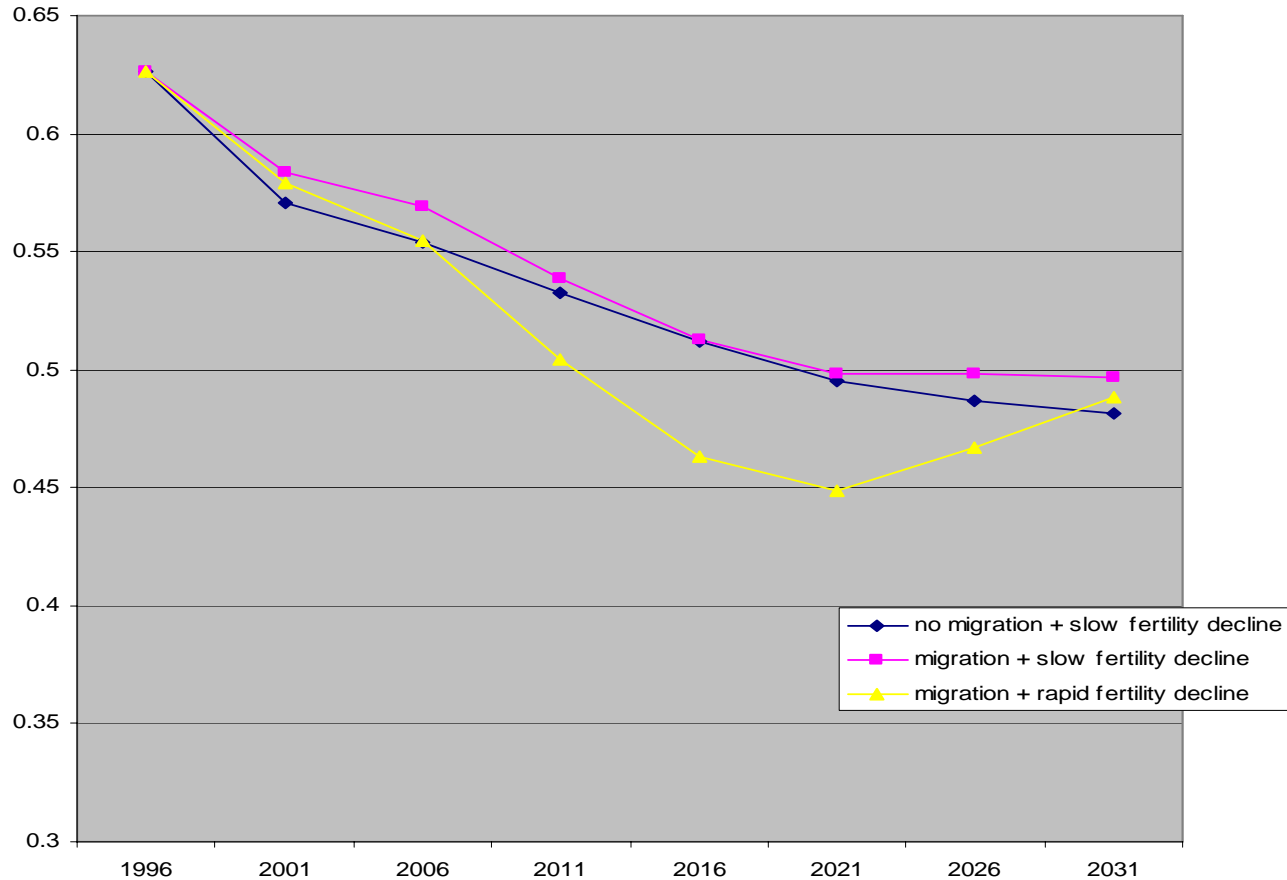


A few questions?

- *Is an additional child in a poor family extending work force – from age 8, 12, 14 - or increasing poverty? And how will he be raised/educated?*
- *What will be the prospects of children born for remittances when they will migrate 18 years later? – They'll have to compete on a global market – need high education.*
- *Has a young single mother high chances of a brilliant career? And what about her child(ren)?*
- *Are unemployed youth contributing to the economy? and how long will they remain so?*
- *Is a GBV victim to work at her best, to go to work regularly?*
- *Is a HIV/AIDS patient at his/her best productivity?*

The Demographic Bonus or Window of Opportunity

Projected dependency ratios for Fiji, 1996-2031



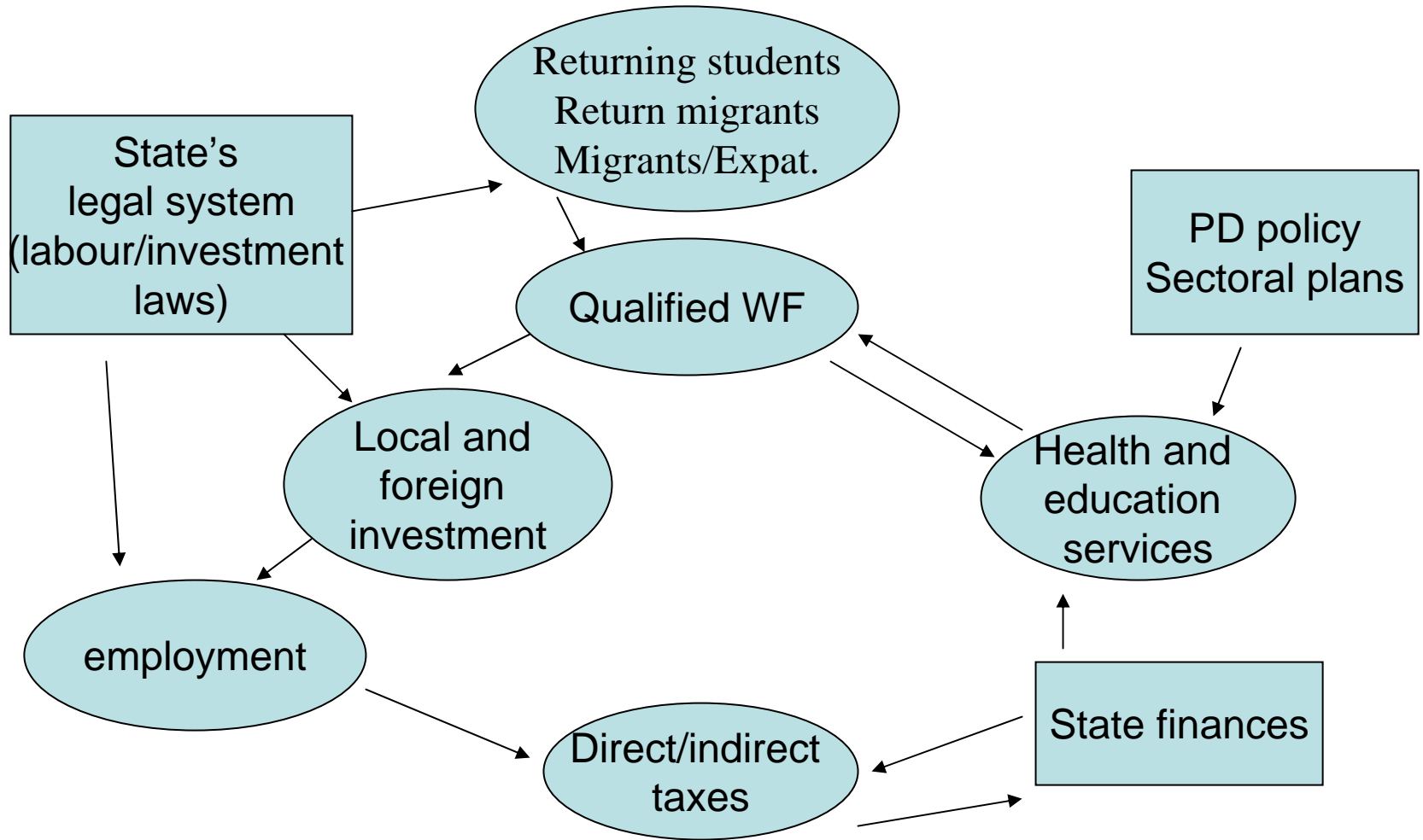


Integration of Population and Development

- Demographic bonus is linked to rapid fertility decline (Asian example)
- Population structures matter and are closely linked to both demographic and economic growth
- Lower demographic and economic (workers/population) dependency is favorable to economic growth
- Ageing/pensions are paid by workers in the money economy - not by unemployed youth.
- A qualified work force is an incentive for foreign investments: smaller families can provide higher education to their children.

But, it is necessary to have appropriate policies in place at the right time to take advantage of these conditions

What is the role of the State?



Quality services for all; direct rather than indirect taxes; good governance



Pro-poor and rights based policies

- Human Rights base approach
- Gender sensitive approach
- Non discriminatory policies (sex, age, religion, race/origin, disability, sexuality, economic status...)
- Evidence-based policies (data timeliness and accuracy, disaggregated data),

are necessary to ensure the same chances to all.



Population Policy formulation, implementation, monitoring



Topics of Population Policy

- Control growth to ensure sustainable population trends (RH-CPR)
- Child and maternal health (RH-ante/post-natal care)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health including for adolescents (SRH and ASRH)
- Human resources: literacy, education/qualification, adult training
- Migration/urbanization (eventually international migration)
- Development/LF: access to jobs (women/youth)



Policy framework

- **Situation analysis from disaggregated data** to scrutinize all population groups: *sex, age, income, education, employment, geographic units...*
- **Policy choices and realistic quantitative and time-bound goals** (NDGs and MDGs), based on trends analysis, disaggregated data, demographic and econometric modeling - including simulation of effects of policies, mostly in the economic areas.
- Implementation and **'action' plan**, *that is not only functional administration*
- Framework matrix with **Evaluation and Monitoring indicators** (*avoid 'killing' indicators - MMR*).
- **Costing/budgeting** (focus group: poor, slums, remote areas, vulnerable populations...)
- **Periodic reviews** of progress,
- **Accountability: facilities created/renovated, new staff/ trained staff...** (*the problem of goals leading to curb data...*)

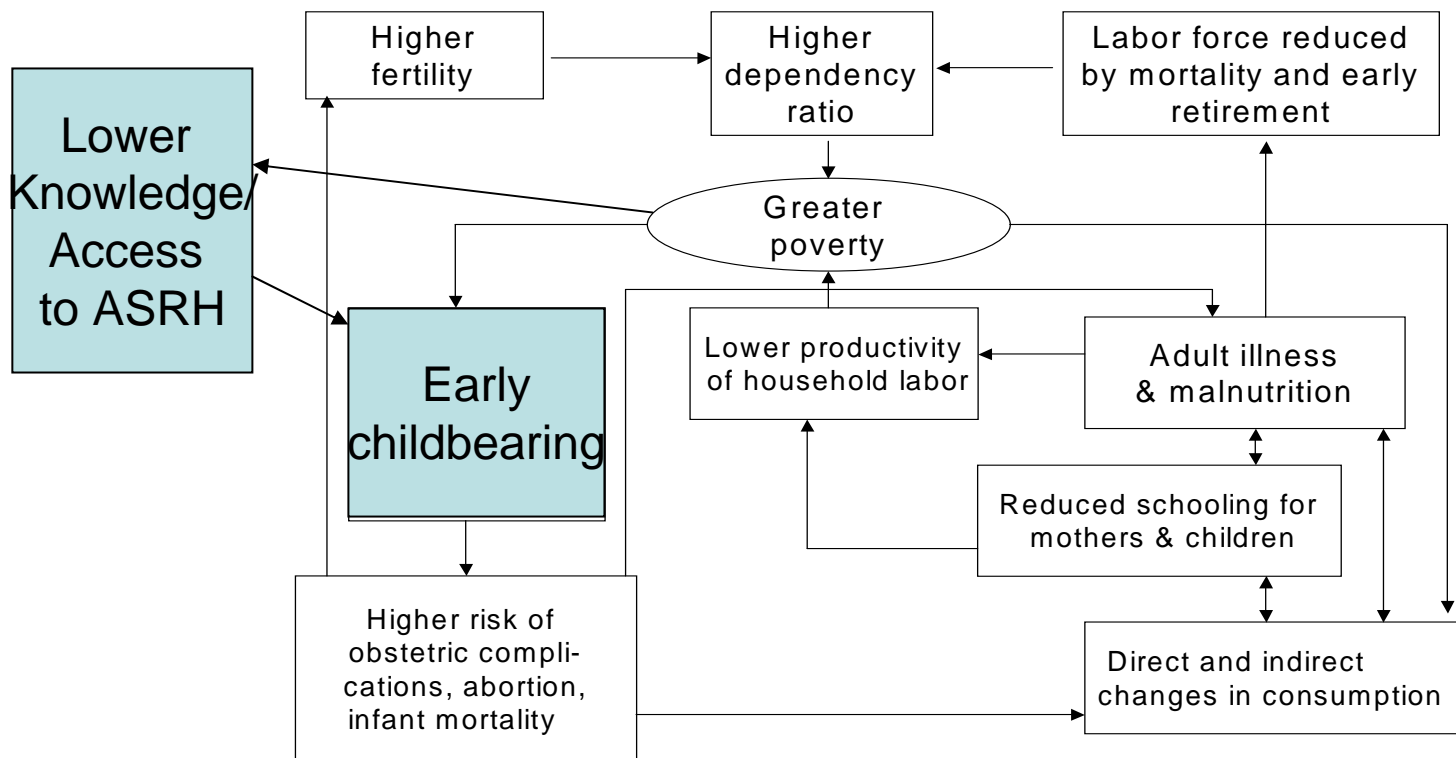


Sexual and Reproductive Health

- **Access to RH for all women (ICPD goal)**
 - Women can decide (with their partners) of number and timing of their children.
 - CPR and **unmet need**
 - **Teenage pregnancies**
 - STIs (including HIV/AIDS) prevention, VCT and treatment – *prevention is always cheaper*
 - non disruptive RHCS services (the poor cannot afford the private sector)
 - Enhance knowledge of the poor: IEC and male involvement

Association or Causality?!

Consider early childbearing, RH and poverty:



Pro-poor SRH (2)

- **Pro-poor aspects:**

We have seen that the poor have less access to RH

- Free quality services for those with income below xxx (BNPL?) or for all (?)
- Targeted information/action: local level, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, populations at risk (*whenever poor or not as, for instance HIV, other diseases or an early/additional birth can push a family into poverty... anticipation*)...
- localization of services (slums, insecurity areas, remote areas and other areas where poverty is prevalent)
- Various UNFPA costing models for RH services; they show savings from prevented births/cost of unplanned births/failed contraception



The need to address STIs and HIV/AIDS

- **No** reliable **data**, no VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing) – *HIV, as cause of death, may not be always reported.*
- In PICs, **testing** occurs mostly in **late** stage when associated diseases start to develop (between 5 to 10 years after infection).
- Thus, the figures relate to 7~8 years ago. Since then, transmission has increased and **real figures may be 10 times or more higher.**
- High levels of STIs make HIV infection easier and show that sexual behaviour in the Pacific has **prepared the paths** for HIV transmission.
- **People** who **fear** being infected usually **avoid testing.** Need to **advise** pregnant women on MTC transmission and prevention. VCT/anonymous testing centers do not cover all cases.

Thus, emphasize prevention (it's cheaper and saves lives).



HIV/AIDS prevention and poverty

- Given that HIV can result in families falling into poverty, the pro-poor approach needs to be extended to prevent both infection and poverty.
- Usual action is *free condom distribution to risk groups*. But in the Pacific, most of risky behaviour is between youth or adults and not specifically with sex workers, but identify areas: *industrial areas, prostitution areas, clubs, lone youth, migrants...*
- Lack of information is also not limited to the poor, because many secondary and even tertiary students are not well informed on sexual health/STI prevention or reluctant to use prevention methods, due to religious/family influences and lack of *information campaign in the medias pointing to services (2 girls in a car)*.



Human Resources

Education is a strong factor to reduce poverty

- Goal: Qualification of the work force, including women
- It starts from 1ary education for easy transition to 2ary, from there to 3ary. Quality of education at every level is essential (prepare for work, emigration...).
- Ensure universal 1ary education (*boarding for rural students, scholarships*),
- Raise **qualification of teachers** – periodic training,
- Budgeting and costing to cover 100% children, train teachers, provide teaching materials, increase classrooms if school-age population growth



Migration/urbanization

- **At the source: rural/remote areas (a problem of access to cash)**
 - improve delivery of quality **services**,
 - increase community budgets for **infrastructures**,
 - develop **micro credit**, subsidize agriculture – if possible
 - develop **niche markets**
 - halve administrative functions,
 - Develop monetization of economy - *cash for own expenses thru paid work, sell products, trade...*
 - reduce monetary social/church contributions unless for civil infrastructures - replace by traditional goods.

Migration/urbanization (2)

- **At arrival: slums (an economic and social problem)**
 - control growth of slums,
 - improve **infrastructures and services** to slum dwellers
 - improve **security** (GBV, domestic violence, crime)
 - **educate**: HR, gender roles/issues, literacy/training
 - provide jobs/hope
- *Mobility restrictions have many adverse effects, but it may be necessary to relocate people to ensure sustainability of environment, economy and security*
- *Improving conditions, increasing opportunities attract more migrants; still it's a humanitarian obligation and a rational economic response to do so.*
- *Little address of internal migration in PICs policies beyond increasing services to rural areas.*

Development/employment

- If they cannot have stable employment, youth are likely to fall into poverty when they leave parental home (which always happens sooner or later) – or be a burden on hh if they stay long (*Japanese ‘parasites’, in the frame of low wages at beginning of work life*).

Create jobs with decent wages for the youth (including for women in manufacture) and reduce long-term unemployment.

- Gender issues: Education, and mostly occupational status of women are major factors of both access to RH and hh economic status.
- Women are more likely to promote equity than men:

Increase participation of women in paid jobs and mostly in decision making positions.

- Targeted action is the key to success
not only targeting the poor, but also those at risk of becoming poor as well as all risk groups and behaviours that can result directly or indirectly in impoverishment or harm
- Compensate for disadvantages of the poor in:
 - education/knowledge thru targeted IEC,
 - social/family environment (elderly, youth, female headed hh) thru easy access to services,
 - representation at the civil society level, in elected bodies, in decision making positions
 - women empowerment/rights
 - non discriminatory policies



Macro-micro levels interrelationships

‘All macro level initiatives need micro level interventions to be effective and to affect lives; micro level efforts – to empower women and meet their reproductive health and rights needs – require an adequate support structure that macro level policies and programmes can provide.’



Conclusion

Reducing poverty is involving more people to have a productive role in the economy. It is favorable to economic growth.