Implementing China’s Relaxing One-Child Policy: Early Lessons and Some Projected Outcomes
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Relaxing the One-Child Policy
The one-child policy is the one-child limitation in the population control policy of China that aims to control population, alleviate the negative impacts resulted from rapid growth of population, and advance China’s economy.

It was introduced in 1978 and initially implemented as a basic national policy in China in 1979. With the profoundly negative effects produced by the one-child policy, such as changes of population structure and family structure, gender imbalance, shortage of young labor, and aged population crisis, in November 2013, Chinese government decided to relax the one-child policy.

The new policy allows the urban couple to have their second child, but only if one of them is from the one-child family. Until March 6, 2014, only 8 provinces – Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Anhui, Guangxi, and Shanxi out of totally 31 provinces have started implementing this new policy.

My Research
The reason and possible outcomes regarding these 8 provinces with early implementation can offer the other 23 provinces useful experiences, which they use can to prevent from disadvantageous influences due to the new policy. They can also efficiently assuage the disadvantageous influences produced by one-child policy.

So, relying on 6 aspects – population, gender, age, education, urbanization, economy, I compare the average of 8 provinces, 23 provinces, and total 31 provinces to measure their difference. Besides, I compare the value concerning these 6 factors from these 8 provinces with early implementation can compare the value concerning these 6 factors from the 8 provinces.

Method
All the data in this paper was collected from the National Bureau of Statistics of China. In order to obtain a reasonable and reliable result, I take advantage of the comparison method to analyze the possible reasons as well as outcomes from the new policy reform from the first 8 provinces.

Part A: Comparison of Averages Between Provinces

1) Population
These 8 provinces do not have huge population base, which should be the decisive reason for their first implementation.

2) Gender Ratio – Male Proportion
The higher proportion of male implies these 8 provinces may have serious gender imbalance.

3) Urbanization
Urban couples are the target group for relaxing the one-child policy, so more urban population means more public acceptance for this new policy.

4) Age
Less youngsters implies these 8 provinces may have not enough young labor in the next decades, and more elder people implies the potential crisis of age population.

5) Education
More population with higher education means the public attitude toward this new policy would be more welcome and rational.

6) Economy
Higher incomes in these 8 provinces show people living in these areas have strong economic capability to support their second child, and these places have strong economic strength to welcome the increasing infants.

Summary of Possible Reasons
In sum, population is the most decisive reason that these 8 provinces were chosen to implement the new policy first. But, they also have other preferential reasons. Like Anhui and Zhejiang, even though they have a larger population base, Anhui has smaller urban population and Zhejiang has serious aged population crisis, so both of them became the first provinces to carry out the new policy. Due to the obvious gender imbalance, Tianjin has become one of these eight provinces. For Jiangxi, Guangxi, and Shanxi, their smaller urban population also allows them to implement first.

Part B: Comparison Among 8 Provinces

Projected Outcomes From the Implementation in 8 Provinces
Advantages:
1) Enhancement of young labour;
2) Alleviation of age population crisis;
3) Reducing financial burden of providing for the aged;
4) Changing the demographic structure;
5) Assuaging gender imbalance.

Disadvantages:
1) Higher demands on cities’ public infrastructure, social security, and health care;
2) More limited social resources, like educational resources;
3) More competitive employment markets in the next couple years;
4) Higher financial pressures on local government;
5) Increasing internal immigration in a short time.

Conclusion
The reason for these 8 provinces relaxing one-child policy first that is the advantages they can obtain from the new policy. Thanks to the complexity of local situations, the other 23 provinces have not yet started relaxing one-child policy, but they have put them on government agendas. The most concern for them may be the increasing population and the following challenges. Hence, how to balance the enhancement of population and incomplete public infrastructure and limited social resources should be the foremost task for the next 23 provinces.

The Early Lessons
1) Having a strong financial support;
2) Strengthening and completing public infrastructures, the health care system, educational resources, and the social security system;
3) Making a precise prediction on the increasing population;
4) Fully investigating the public will and attitude toward the new policy.

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