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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article **Fertility Decline in Sri Lanka: Are All Ethnic Groups Party to the Process?**

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Abstract This study investigates the relative size of the various ethnic groups in Sri Lanka and changes in them over past decades. It compares fertility trends and levels within each ethnic group as well as ethnic differentials in the levels and patterns of fertility decline. Ethno-religious differences in the context of social, economic and cultural determinants of fertility decline among various communities are also highlighted. The determinants (age at marriage and contraceptive use) of fertility trends and levels of various ethnic groups are also investigated. The study concludes that all ethnic groups in Sri Lanka have experienced significant fertility declines and, over the past two decades, a narrowing of ethnic disparities in fertility levels.

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