Provisional Abstract

Conference Theme: Families and households
Title: Family strategies for reconciling parental responsibilities and work: the case of Navarre (Spain)
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Since the mid-twentieth century, one of the greatest transformations experienced by the Spanish family has been the transition from a predominantly family model, based on gender-differentiated roles whereby the woman was responsible for the housework and the man for providing the family's financial support, to a different model characterised by the incorporation of women into the labour market, bringing with it a certain merging of gender-specific chores. This transformation, together with others, such as the decline in large families and increasing labour mobility, has generated profound changes in the family organisation after the birth of the first child.

The objective of this paper is to analyse whether the different strategies for reconciliating family life and paid work in Navarre homes do in fact influence family fertility levels. The target population for our study are those Navarre families that have received some type of family support aid from the Government of Navarre (families with three or more children, multiple births, paid leave, etc). Through the Survey: "Between nappies and the office. The reconciliation of work and family life in Navarre" carried out on 1040 women (3% sampling error) in June 2004, we have obtained some valuable information that has enabled us to analyse the different conciliation strategies, taking both the mother and the father into account. The profile for these families is one of a young couple (the mother's average age is 34.5 years), for the most part married (90.4%) with at least one child under four, a high fertility level (average number of children 2.9), and where the mother works outside the home (74.6%).

The methodology applied is the multivariate analysis using the logistic regression technique. This method enables us to determine, on the one hand, which are the most "successful" strategies and, on the other hand, whether the said reconciliation strategies do in fact determine fertility levels or whether, to the contrary, these are determined by other more socio-cultural variables (for example, the number of children desired or the generational family model).