

On measures to reconcile family life and a period of study for young women

Vegard Skirbekk

World Population Program, IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis)



Overview

- Public support to childbearing in Norway
- Norwegian fertility support during education
- Childbearing preferences and tertiary education
- Tertiary education and realized fertility

Support to parents in Norway

Fertility Support, Norway

(Values and exchange rate: 1 Euro = 8.15 NOK as of February 1, 2007)

- 1.a Cash benefit at birth/adoption (foreldrepenger)

33584 NOK	4124 Euros
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- 1. b Otherwise, if employed for last 6 of the last 10 months, 100% salary for 44 weeks or 80% salary for 54 weeks while on leave. A salary of 40000 Euros (326000 NOK) would imply 32000 Euros (260800 NOK) in benefits for the 10-month duration.

- 2. Monthly cash benefits (Kontantstøtte)

3303 NOK	405 Euros
Total amount (23 Months)	9326 Euros

Given for 23 months from baby to 3 years, if not in kindergarten. Gradual decline in amount if child attends kindergarten less than 33 hours per week. If child attends kindergarten for 33 or more hours per week, no money is given. Child must live in Norway.

- 3. Child support is given to the age of 18 years (Barnetrygd). Child must live in Norway (6 months abroad allowed). Amount is doubled if single parent .

Monthly benefits	970 NOK	119 Euros
Total (age 0 to 18)	209520 NOK	25714 Euros

Additional Public Support to student parents

- **Additional benefits for childbearing during studies**

If the parent is a student, the parent is eligible for a birth stipend (Fødselsstipend) from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Statens Lånekasse for Utdanning) for 42 weeks

9430 NOK
8140 NOK

1157 Euros per month, or
998 Euros, dependent on financial situation

There are other possibilities to help students who are poor or single

- Low income parents with high living costs may be entitled to public housing financing (husbanken) which is provided by the state.
- Subsidized, cheap housing is available
- Additional benefits may be available from social support offices
- Substantial additional benefits are given to single parents.

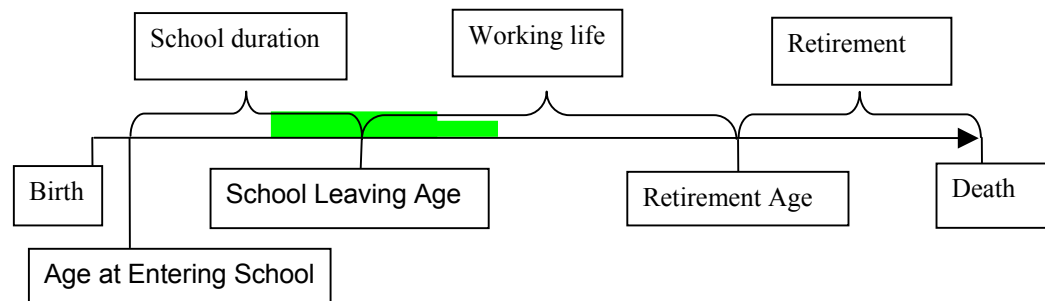
Scandinavian countries much more likely to see childbearing

Share of women who have first birth before end of education (Source: Billari and Philipov 2004)

Country	Share
Finland	31 %
Norway	30 %
Sweden	41 %
Austria	12 %
Belgium	4 %
France	9 %
Germany	12 %
Switzerland	16 %
Greece	12 %
Italy	13 %
Spain	11 %

Life cycles and fertility

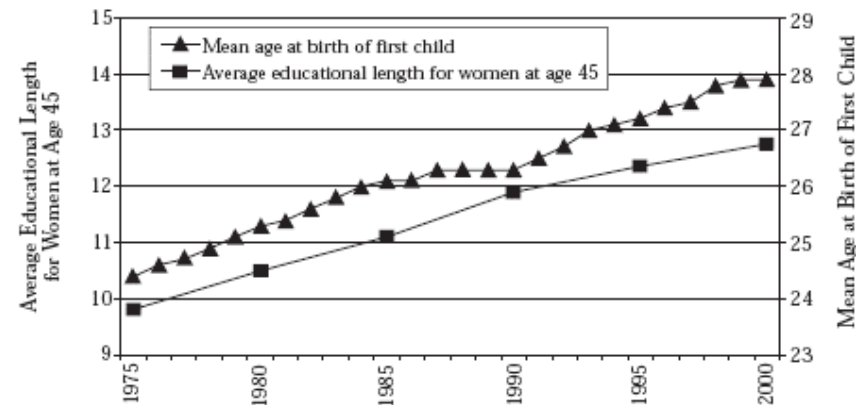
Stylised Life Cycle of Women who participates in tertiary education



 = Childbearing ages

School leaving age strong determinant of timing of fertility

- Education a strong determinant of fertility timing
- Very strong effect of increasing school leaving age at timing of first birth (Skirbekk et al. 2004)



Education specific timing of fertility

- Higher educated women have later births, most women wait until they have finished education

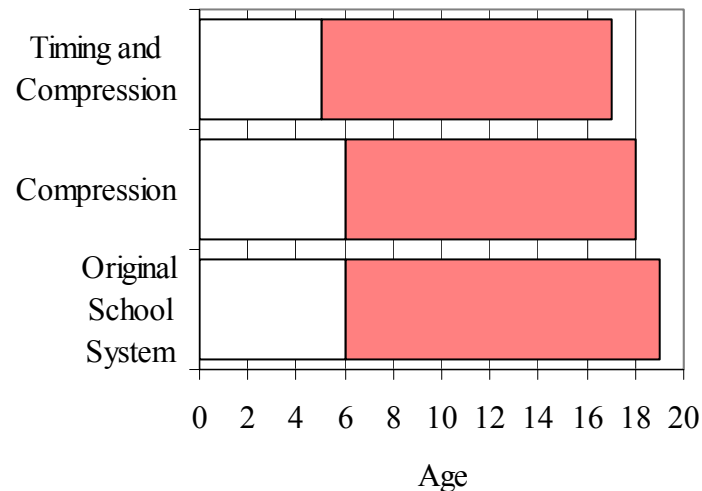
Mean age at first birth by education in Sweden,
women born 1946-1962

(Source: Skirbekk et al. 2006)

<i>Primary school</i>	22.7 Years
<i>Up to short secondary</i>	24.1 Years
<i>Long secondary school</i>	26.0 Years
<i>Tertiary education</i>	27.3 Years

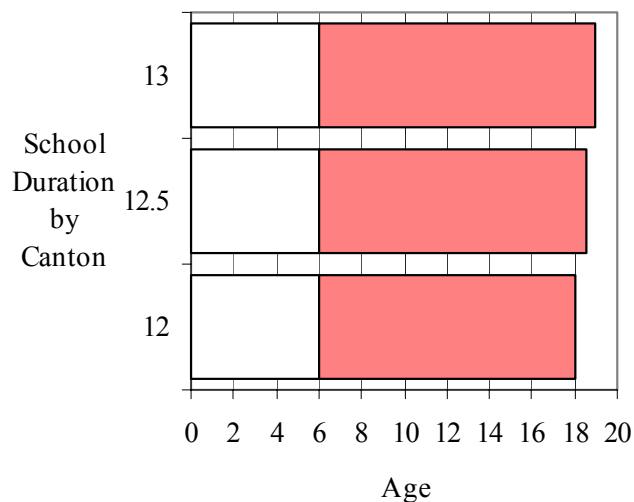
Attaining degrees younger

- Earlier school leaving ages can be achieved by a shift in
 - the *timing* of education shifts *downwards* (individuals enter school at age 5 rather than age 6) and
 - the *duration* of schooling is *compressed* (individuals spend 12 rather than 13 years in primary and secondary school)



Could one decrease school leaving ages by 1-2 years without decreasing school quality?

- To investigate the human capital impact of variation in school duration, we study Switzerland. Here academic track school duration varies from 12, 12.5 to 13 years according the canton. TIMSS data final year of secondary school test score used (math and science test results) – no effect on student performance
- Finding: School length irrelevant to student performance at the end of secondary school



- Impact of 1 year change in school entry age in Sweden found not to have any substantial effect on affect adult labour market performance (Skirbekk 2005)

Fertility Preferences

- Europeans would like to have more children than they have (Testa and Grilli 2006)
- Education not related to different fertility preferences
 - Tertiary educated European women do not want less children (Symeonidou 2000, Van Peer 2002)
 - Testa and Toulemon (2006) find a positive relation between education and family size ideals; higher educated want more children and fewer would like to be childless

Fertility Levels

Higher educated women have fewer and later births

Late onset of childbearing important reason why highly educated women do not realize fertility ideals

European Total Fertility Rate, 1995-2000 (Lutz and Goujon 2001)

	Eastern Europe	Western Europe
<i>No Education</i>	1.62	2.24
<i>Primary Education</i>	1.64	1.71
<i>Secondary Education</i>	1.44	1.64
<i>Tertiary Education</i>	1.15	1.54

Conclusions

- Few births among women with tertiary education
 - Contrasts preferences: Particularly highly educated women want more children than they have
 - Other negative effects of low fertility among highly educated (e.g. wealth inheritance -> social inequality)
 - Related to high abortion rates
 - Most healthy ages for childbearing
- Economic difficulties during long education one reason for low childbearing
- Better financial circumstances during childbearing could help students who have children
- Norwegian system of financing student parents could represent one possible way to increase student fertility