

ing labor force needs to improve its technological know-how, often by attending technological courses or training programs. Meanwhile, in order to prepare their children to meet the market's demand for experts and professionals in the future, people have to increase their investment in educating their children. Therefore, more and more people wish to have a small number of children to whom they can provide better care and education. In addition, adults also need to contribute more energy to adapt to the keen competition in the market, which reduces the time they can use for parenting their children. The parents' function as the principal spiritual counselors of children has also been replaced by various kinds of modern recreation. Thus, people's expectations about having children have also changed.

The market economy exercises influence on fertility trends mainly through economic development. The flourishing market economy has increased productiv-

ity, boosted economic growth, improved the livelihoods of people, and produced tremendous changes in people's ideologies, values, and in their attitudes towards marriage and having children. The development of a market economy has also created a financial basis for the social service systems consisting of various social security services sponsored by the state, enterprises, and social organizations. Therefore, the traditional belief in the need to provide for one's own old age through raising children has been further weakened. This change of ideas has helped lower the birth rate.

Relations between the population and the economy were thus complicated by the numerous economic factors affecting fertility changes. Considering the quantification of indices and the feasibility of data collection, Huang Junlong, a mainland scholar, chose the 1993 per-capita national income and the per-capita income of peasants as indices for the level

Table 5. Fertility Rate and the Level of Economic Development

Total fertility rate (‰)	Per-capita national income (yuan)			Per-capita income of peasants (yuan)		
	799 and under	800-1,499	1500 and above	499 and under	500-699	700 and above
2.09 and under	Sichuan	Heilongjiang, Jilin	Beijing, Tianjin, Liaoning, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang	Sichuan	Heilongjiang, Jilin	Beijing, Tianjin, Liaoning, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang
2.10-2.58	Gansu	Hepei, Shansi, Anhui, Fujian, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Hubei, Hunan	Guangdong	Inner Mongolia, Gansu	Hepei, Shansi, Anhui, Fujian, Shandong, Hubei, Hunan	Guangdong
2.59 and above	Kiangsi, Henan, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Shensi	Hainan, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang	---	Henan, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Shensi, Qinghai	Kiangsi, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Ningxia	---