

## **Socioeconomic Determinants of Fertility Rate in Somalia**

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### **Abstract**

The primary objective of this research was to examine how socioeconomic variables affected the fertility rate in Somalia between 1990 and 2020. To accomplish this goal, the study was conducted by applying a vector error correction model to gauge the associations among socioeconomic factors and fertility rate. The study employed annual time series data obtained from the World Bank and the Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries. The research discovered the long-term impact on the fertility rate due to various socioeconomic factors. Female labour force participation and GDP per capita participation rate were found to have a long-term, significant negative impact on Somalia's fertility rate, whereas the fertility rate was significantly and positively impacted over time by the infant mortality rate. The study also found that the fertility rate in Somalia was not significantly affected in the short run by socioeconomic factors. As a result, the study concludes that socioeconomic factors only have a long-term effect on the fertility rates in Somalia. The study suggests that based on its findings that the Somali Democratic Republic's government implement national policies aimed at promoting female empowerment in the workforce and education, which would directly reduce the fertility rate.

### **Keywords**

TFR, GDP per capital, Johansen method, VECM Model and Wald test.

### **1. Introduction**

Over the past few decades, a significant reduction in fertility rates in most countries worldwide has been found. According to the United Nations (2022a), about 67% global population living in the areas of fertility less than 2.1 children per woman. Currently, developed industrialized nations have a birth rate per woman below the replacement level, as noted by Aitken (2022). The declining trend of fertility rates is found in developing countries, with the total fertility rate dropped from seven births per woman in the 1950s to less than three births per woman in 2020, according to Bongaarts and Houghton (2022a). Meanwhile, Africa has experienced an unpredictable decline in fertility rates. Overall, fertility rates in Africa have dropped from over six births per female in the 1950s to less than five births per female in 2020.

According to Bongaarts and Hodgson (2022b), fertility rates have declined in the Eastern (7 to 4.4), Northern (6.8 to 3.3), Western (6.4 to 5.2), Southern (6.1 to 2.5), and Central/Middle (5.8 to 5.5) regions. However, it is worth noting that sub-Saharan Africa

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