

# *Is it just a matter of personality? On the role of life satisfaction in childbearing behaviour*

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## Abstract

This paper analyses the role played by individual subjective wellbeing (SWB) in conjunction with personality traits (PTs) in childbearing behaviour. Recognizing the triangular relationship between the three elements, we use the German Socio Economic Panel (GSOEP) survey to estimate the way satisfaction matters for having a(another) child. We find that SWB positively predicts childbearing for women and men, with the effect significant (and sizeable) for both genders only for the second child. By controlling that this effect is not caused by the effect of personality traits either on SWB or fertility, we assure that – although PTs are a strong component of SWB variability – the effect of SWB on fertility is not determined by PTs, therefore leaving room for adequate policy measures aimed at raising individual SWB, which in turn would sustain fertility.

**KEYWORDS:** Subjective well-being, fertility by parity, Personality traits, big 5, GSOEP survey

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