GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE

The Population and Housing Census 2019

SEX IMBALANCES AT BIRTH: TRENDS, VARIATIONS AND DETERMINANTS

NHÀ XUẤT BẢN TÀI CHÍNH

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Nhà xuất bản Tài Chính

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PREFACE

The 2019 Population and Housing Census (2019 Census) was conducted at 0:00 hours on 1 April 2019 per the Prime Minister's Decision No. 772/QD-TTg dated 26 June 2018. It was the fifth census to have been conducted in Viet Nam since its reunification in 1975. The 2019 Census collected basic population and housing data across the territory of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for formulating socio-economic development policies and monitoring the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which the Government of Viet Nam has committed.

Following the official results of the 2019 Census released by the General Statistics Office (GSO) on 19 December 2019, such key issues as sex imbalances at birth, fertility, migration and urbanization, and population ageing were further analysed to provide important evidence on their status and policy recommendations in response to demographic and social changes for sustainable development.

The monograph titled **"Sex imbalances at birth in Viet Nam: Trends, Variations, and Determinants"**, developed using the data from the 2019 and 2009 Population and Housing Censuses and from other sources, was a continuation to previous analyses conducted on sex imbalances at birth in Viet Nam.

The data analysis showed that despite the high sex ratio at birth in Viet Nam, i.e., 111.5 boys per 100 girls, the previously observed surge in the sex ratio at birth appears to be levelling off. Another finding was that compared to the natural sex ratio at birth (105 boys per 100 girls), there were 45,900 girls, representing 6.2 per cent of the total number of girls born. The analysis also highlighted the regional and population group differentials in the sex ratio at birth as well as the correlation between social, economic, and demographic factors and sex imbalances at birth in Viet Nam. It particularly helps us to better understand not only son preference and its manifestation through reproductive behaviors, but also the spread of such practice among different population groups.

The study, in addition, pointed out that sex imbalances are inevitable in the future even if the sex ratio at birth were restored to normal in the next 15 years. The monograph also provides recommendations to respond to gender-biased sex selection and sex imbalances at birth in Viet Nam, to continue to monitor the sex ratio at birth, and continue to generate further evidence on social changes and its impact on son preference, thus identifying factors which drive gender-biased sex selection among Vietnamese families.

GSO would like to thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) for its financial and technical assistance extended to the 2019 Census, especially with regards to data analysis and preparation of this publication. Our appreciation goes to the Government of Norway for partially funding the development of this monograph. We would like to especially acknowledge Dr. Christophe Z Guilmoto - UNFPA international consultant, demographer at the French Research Institute for Development, Paris, (CEPED/IRD) and Ms. Valentine Becquet from the French Institute of Demographic Studies (INED) for their dedicated effort in data analysis and development of this

monograph. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to colleagues from UNFPA and GSO who provided their valuable comments during preparation and finalization of this report.

In this light, it is our pleasure to present to you this publication, which looks extensively into the issues of sex imbalance at birth in Viet Nam - a topic of interest to policymakers, managers, researchers, and the society as a whole. We look forward to receiving your feedback and comments on this monograph to improve for upcoming publications by the GSO.

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