The Main Demographic Trends of Rural and Urban Population of Kazakhstan

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Abstract: This article considers the general birth rate, death rate and natural population growth between 1980-2012 in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Overview of population size by age composition showed that the average age of the population of Kazakhstan for 1989-2012 as a whole increased from 23.1 to 31.5 years and from 2010 to 2012 the average age remains unchanged -31.5 years. The mathematical and statistical methods were used for the forecast, different time periods were considered.

Key words: Demographic development • Birth rate • Death rate • Natural population growth • Urban and rural population

INTRODUCTION

The Head of the State Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Development Strategy of Kazakhstan until 2050 [1] put forward a forceful demographic policy among leading priorities of national security. Within the framework of this priority The Concept of state demographic policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan was confirmed. The Concept represents the basic principles, priorities and objectives of the demographic development of the country. This document is intended for modern period of stabilization of the socio-economic situation and the transition to sustainable economic development and long term perspectives.

For the last four years of the demographic processes in the state are developing in the direction of moderate growth, both natural and mechanical growth that is due to the stabilization of birth rate and reduction of population death rate. There are more than 100 diasporas - representatives of other nations, the total number of 5.9 million people, i.e. 35.4% living on the territory of Kazakhstan (2011).

A number of foreign as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States scientists have made a great contribution to the research of demographic issues and its development: Alexandersson G. [2], Funen R. [3], Beckmann M. [4], Mezina [5], Akhmetova A. [6], Abisheva M. [7] and so forth.

RESULTS

One of the most important tasks of social policy at the present stage of social development is to improve the population’s socio-demographic living standards of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Rapid economic development in Kazakhstan in recent years was the main prerequisite for demographic growth in population’s living standards in the country (Table 1).

According to the Statistics Agency of Kazakhstan [8] we can be sure that the demographic indicators for the last five years are going to grow moderately. If we analyze the years of independence (1991-2010 years), starting from 1991 to 2000, almost all major demographic indicators began to decline. And since 2000 in the conditions of economy stabilization the number of births per 1000 increased by 20% - 25%, a death rate decreased by 10-15 %, respectively natural population growth increased by 175%.

Figure 1 presents the general coefficients of birth rate, death rate and natural population growth for 1980-2012 years in Kazakhstan. If we consider in detail these ratios, we can see that the demographic development of the Soviet people during 1980-1986 were favorable times. Figure 1 shows that from 1980 to 1987 there was a growth of the birth rate and natural population and then, within ten years, the destruction of economic mechanisms and economic systems of the country led to
Table 1: Growth rates of demographic indicators for 2006 - 2012 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (total)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>101.1</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>101.4</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>101.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of working age of them:</td>
<td>101.8</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>103.2</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>101.1</td>
<td>100.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth</td>
<td>100.5</td>
<td>100.2</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>101.9</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>100.7</td>
<td>100.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per 1,000 people</td>
<td>- born</td>
<td>107.1</td>
<td>105.6</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>102.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dead</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>97.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural population growth</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>113.1</td>
<td>124.6</td>
<td>104.9</td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>102.9</td>
<td>104.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1: Key demographics indicators from 1980 to 2012

Fig. 2: The rate of growth of the main indicators in previous year, %

their reduction and after a decline stopped for 7 years. This period faced the restructuring of 90’s), in the following years Kazakhstan gradually takes the path of dynamic growth and these figures show that. But the global world crisis has corrected the demographic growth of the population. According to the schedule it is noticeable that the figures for the last 4 years have become stabilized.

If we consider the rate of change in the number of birth rate, death rate and natural population growth indicators (Figure 2), it is also noticeable that the last 4 years the growth rate makes 1 percent to 3 percent. Since 2002 the population increased by only 1 percent, except in 2008 - by 2.6%. And the situation is alarming.

Among the variety of factors that could cause the birth rate of the population, a special attention is given to studying of birth rate in different types of settlements. The objective conditions of life and labor of the population, traditions, customs, behavior patterns and the nature of relationships between people in urban and rural areas has many specific features which have a corresponding impact on the birth rate. In the cities, with their more diverse composition of the population and way of life, representing wide range of opportunities for the formation of a new social and individual psychology and the corresponding system of value orientations and attitudes, there will be created the conditions for a mobile changing trends in the birth rate. In rural areas, which are specific with their more homogeneity in national composition of the population and the relatively more conservative way of life, are prerequisites for the more resistant and long following traditions in family and marital relationships, targeting a large family.

One of the global processes affecting the transformation of reproductive behavior is urbanization. Rural family is the basic reproductive potential, one of the
reasons is that the children remain as economic necessity. City generates a level of aspiration and value orientations. In the 18th century Adam Smith [9] and other representatives of the classical school of economics formulated the law – with the increase of family income the number of children decreases.

Analysis of the age and sex composition of the population for 2009-2011 years showed that, in general, large disparities between urban and rural areas in almost all age groups are not observed. Only in rural areas in 2011, the proportion of the population aged above 15 years is 5.5% more than in urban. Overview of population by the age composition showed that the average age of the population of Kazakhstan for 1989-2012 years in general increased from 23.1 to 31.5 years and from 2010 to 2012, the average age remains unchanged, i.e. 31.5 years (Figure 4). It should be noted that in rural areas the average age is lower than the urban for 2.3 years.

In the structure of the population appear some signs of "aging" that must be considered in the country's leadership for the future. This explains the decline in the birth rate.

The age structure of the population shows that 65% of them are of working age. For a deeper analysis, the working population can be divided into three groups: young working age population (15-29 years) makes 27%, the average working age population (30-49) makes 28% and the older working age population (50-60) makes 10%. The average age at birth has been slightly reduced in the Republic of Kazakhstan. For example, in 2011 it decreased for 1.7 years compared with 1960 year. The process of "rejuvenation" of mothers is closely associated with lowering of middle-aged women who have been married, so in 2011 it was 24 years, i.e. accounted for the age group of 20-24 years. Among women who married in 2009-2011, 11% were married at the age of 18-19 years, 50% - aged 20-24, 21% - aged 25-29. In general, among married women more than 60% have a family under the age of 25 years.

Lowering of the age for matrimony helps to improve the marriage structure of the population as a whole and to increase the proportion of children born. The share of first and second children in the total number of births from year to year increases, while the share of third and subsequent orders of birth, on the contrary, decreases. Increase of the proportion of first-borns and second children indicates the particular trends in the changes of demographic behavior of women.

It is necessary to note that neither the general, nor the specific birth rates do not fully reflect real changes in the level of birth rate. In addition to these, the total birth rate is calculated with the summary birth rate index, characterizing the number of children born per woman on average conditional generation for the entire reproductive period, regardless of the age structure of women [10].

The share of children born by birth order and per year from 2009 to 2011 has not changed much. We present data for 2011 in the context of urban and rural areas (Table 2).

So, if in 1965 the proportion of first-borns and second children was 45% of the total number of births in Kazakhstan, in 1970 it was 52%, in 1980 - 66% and in 1996 more than 73% and in 2011 it made 68.7%. In terms of urban and rural population there is a difference. In rural areas, the proportion of women with three children - more than 16.2%, with four children by 74.2 %, with five children 3 times more.

However, it is worth to say that the decline in the birth rate of the rural population is compensated by the corresponding indices of the urban population. Over the years of 1960-2012 the total natality rate declined in rural areas to 81.3 %, in urban areas - to 41.1 %, due to this difference in the level of birth in urban and rural areas declined from 32% to 2.7%.

Differentiation in the birth rate in urban and rural population is explained by many factors, including ethnic, but the main factors are the peculiarities in the living
Table 2: Percentage of children born by birth order in 2011, in %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Given birth</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Rural to urban, in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Among them: first</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>29.31</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>17.36</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>116.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>8.36</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>174.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fifth and above</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>296.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total born</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total factor</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>128.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 5: Total birth rate

conditions of people in urban and rural areas. And the point is not only in that children in urban areas require more care and attention from adults, there is a difference between the nature of work and living conditions, the degree of neighbourhood contacts and circle of friends and in general, all that which is combined in the complex concept of “lifestyle”, differences which have historically led to a different number of children in families of urban dwellers and rural women. The population structure change affects on the decrease of the birth rate. During the period from 1959 to 2012 the total number of Kazakhstani population increased by 7.6 million (from 9.3 to 16.9), including urban population - 5.2 million people (from 4.1 to 9.3) and the rural population - only 2.4 million people (from 5.2 to 7.6).

This rapid increase in urban population was mainly due to the influence of rural residents in the city, which majorly constitutes of young people. Migration from rural to urban areas means fewer children go to the family and as a consequence, increase of the proportion of urban population leads to a reduction in the total birth rate for the whole country.

The gap is growing in the birth age of urban and rural women with the transition into older age groups. In the cities, many women of childbearing age have ended much earlier aged 20-29 than in the countryside. Here it is pertinent to note that currently the highest birth rate of women in both urban and rural areas aged 20-29 years. Significant differences in 2009-2011 years, in birth rates of women in urban and rural areas again shows changes in the reproduction of the population depending on the influence of young age population flow from rural to urban. This is evidenced by the data in Table 6, There is an intensive increase of birth rates of women aged 25 to 34 years in cities, while in rural areas vice versa, we can see a decrease.

Significant increase in the birth rate among 25-34 - year-old women in the city is conditioned primarily by the influence of young people in the city. It should be noted that the effect on birth rate of this group is large, because they “provide” the birth of children first and second queues.

In such a situation the frequency of born babies significantly increases, women postponed less the birth of their first child, at the same time, many of them abandoned the birth of their second or third child.

Therefore, it can be confirmed that most families are widely used intrafamily birth spacing, planning the number of children, their birth is consistently included in marital relations of our compatriots, but in rural areas this process have not yet been widely adopted by many families. This shows the total birth rate in urban and rural areas (Figure 5).

The maximum total factor accounts for the Southern regions, almost four children per childbearing woman, the minimum total factor falls in the northern regions.
In general, the birth rate in rural areas is still relatively high. The rural population continues to play a crucial role in maintaining the situation of population growth. These figures influence also the differences in ethnicity. Among the population of the Kazakh nationality is more proportion of rural residents, which is higher than the birth rate among ethnic Russian residents - more townspeople, birth is lower, but this issue requires further study.

CONCLUSION

From the analytical data of demographic development process in Kazakhstan we can make the following critical issues that must be thoroughly investigated to identify the cause - effect relationships:

- In recent years the proportion of first-borns and second children is growing from the total number of births;
- The total birth rate in the whole country (2.59) does not provide reproduction of the population;
- Negative effects of demographic processes happening in rural areas, calls for the study of the problems associated with the population of the village.

The above given challenges require a full investigation in order to improve the demographic situation in the country and to make certain decisions and proposals to eliminate them as soon as possible at the governmental level. The solution of many demographic problems will contribute to the dynamic development of the economy, providing manpower extensive territory of the country.

For our country, which has a huge potential for economic growth, vast territory, ambitious development plans for the future, it is necessary to examine thoroughly all the possibilities for growth in the rate of development of the demographic process in the future. It is an urgent need for causes identifying of development trends’ decline of demography and timely action.

REFERENCES