

Deformation of values system as a reason of demographic crisis in Russia

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Abstract. At present, Russia faces a demographic crisis that threatens with an extinction of Russian ethnoses. According to scientists, the reason inter alia, is in the deformation of the values system, expressed in the people's desire for individual achievement in the extra-familial field, egocentrism, reluctance to make a family and have children. The article presents the results of a study of value orientations of the people in Tyumen, summarizing these results, the author comes to a conclusion, that the process of value formation of the personality, with a shift towards the creation culture, the strengthening of family values and the institution of marriage, as well as having many children needs a systemic influence from the government.

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Introduction

Russia faces a demographic crisis - a profound breach of human reproduction, threatening its existence. Let us consider some of the indicators that characterize the population of Russian Federation, and that point to the demographic crisis in the country.

According to the National Population Census conducted in 2010, the permanent population of Russia amounted to 142.9 million. It decreased by 2.3 million people compared to the 2002 census. [1]

Russian Federation ranks eighth in the world by population after China (1,335 million), India (1,210 million), United States (309 million), Indonesia (238 million), Brazil (191 million), Pakistan (165 million) and Bangladesh (147 million people). The average number of born children per 1000 women decreased from 1513 in 2002 to 1469 in 2010. In household composition, both in the city and in rural areas, households with one child are still dominating. [1]

Russia, in life expectancy is not even in the top hundred countries in the world, ranking 102 th place. There is a very low life expectancy of men whose deaths from cardiovascular disease increased in the last 10 years by 1.5 times, from homicides and suicides - by 2 times, from alcohol poisoning - by 3 times. Therefore, the average male life expectancy is less than 60 years. Women in the Russian Federation live on average 13 years longer than men, while in the world - for 4 years. [1]

As a result of these trends, the population of Russia according to UN projections for 2050, will decrease to a critical level - 111.7 million people. [2] Moreover, a reduction of population of the country is taking place against the background of growing

world population, which threatens the extinction of Russian ethnoses (Table 1).

Table 1. Countries' population, mln. people[3]

countries	population, thousands people		Changes 2005/2050, %
	2005 y.	2050 y.	
Afghanistan	29863	97324	225,90
Kazakhstan	14825	13086	-11,73
Kyrgyzstan	5264	6664	26,60
Tajikistan	6507	10423	60,18
Turkmenistan	6780	4833	40,29
Uzbekistan	26593	38665	45,40
Azerbaijan	8411	9631	14,50
China	1315844	1392307	5,81
India	1103371	1592704	44,35
Iran	69515	101944	46,65
Mongolia	2646	3625	37,00
Pakistan	157935	304700	92,93
Russia	143202	111752	-21,96
Turkey	73193	101208	38,28
USA	298213	394976	32,45

Sex and age models, used in demography to describe the types of reproduction, show that in 2050 there will be a very old population, with a high percentage of old people in the total population size (Fig. 1). Thus, the population is considered old when the percentage of persons aged 65 and over in the total population size is more than 7%. In Russia in 2010, this indicator was 12.9%. [4]

Among the most important problems of demographic development of Russia in the beginning of XXI century. V.K.Vittenbek, V.A. Shumaev, N.G. Khairullina highlight the problem of depopulation; the aging of population; a reduction of life expectancy; the degradation of nations' gene pool; the problem of family institution maintenance;

strengthening of tension in the inter-ethnic relations; worsening of socio-economic problems; unemployment; inefficient demographic policies. [6, 7]

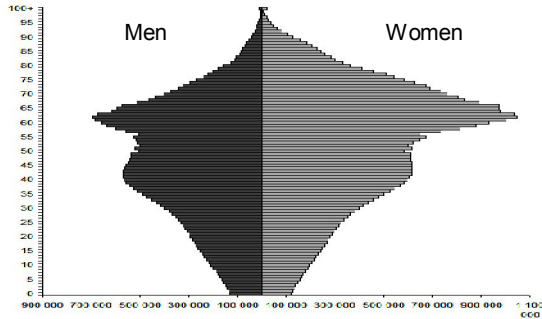


Fig. 1. Sex and age pyramid of Russian population at the beginning of 2050, according to the most likely forecast scenario. [5]

The president repeatedly talked about the complicated demographic situation. So, at the XI World Congress of perinatal Medicine, held in June 2013, V.V. Putin said that Russia in the coming years will face a new wave of demographic crisis. [8] Russian and foreign scientists also point to the actuality of demographic problems for Russia. According to N. Eberstadt, "Russia today is depopulating, which is qualified as a catastrophe" "... the Russian demographic crisis is characterized by a catastrophic mortality rate, it undermines human resource base and offers serious problems for the country's future, its national and international policy priorities." [9] S. Sievert, S. Zakharov, R.Klingholts believe that "if Russia wants to maintain the role of a serious world power, it must take the path of reform ... Demographic changes have extreme pressure on the need for their conduct." [10]

Various scientific approaches explain the depopulation in the country with the deformation of marriage and family institutions, spiritual disadvantage of population, systemic crisis that affected all aspects of Russian people lives etc. Nevertheless, the scientists are unanimous that the cause of demographic crisis is inter alia, the deformation of the values system, expressed in the people's desire for individual achievement in the extra-familial field, egocentrism, reluctance to make a family and have children.

We cannot disagree with A.B. Sinel'nikov, who notes that " demographic crisis in Russia is caused not by economic problems, but is caused by moral problems - extreme individualism leads to a renunciation of marriage and childbearing, divorces, unwillingness to take care of children and parents.

To overcome the crisis a change of moral standards is needed." [11] According to V.A. Borisov, V.M. Medkov, affecting the values prevailing in the society, we can modify the reproductive behavior, and achieve a significant and lasting increase of birth rate because the inertia of value orientations' influence is very high. [12, 13]

The system of values is considered in sociology as a universal, prolonged, consistent structure of priorities, which determines the desired life project, and orientation system of the individual. [14, 15, 16] According to this approach, the family or family life value means importance, significance, prestige, and attractiveness of the family life, a family with several (preferably three or four) children as an opposed to anti-family values, self-centered "life for themselves", i.e. social dependency. [17]

Method

To identify the degree of importance of the value to have children for the citizens, the author conducted a survey of 526 residents of the city of Tyumen in the age 16 to 40 years. Respondents were asked to rank in descending order their value orientations. The original hypothesis of the study was the idea that in the modern values system of the citizens, having children is not a priority.

The main part

The analysis of the respondents' answers revealed that the birth of one child in the family, as a value, Tyumen's residents put at fifth place (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents' answers to the question about the prevailing values orientations of the personality, %

values orientations	rang	The dominating group	rang(% mentioned this position)	
			women	men
			rang(% mentioned this position)	
Career development	1	women 20-24	1 (69,0)	2 (60,8)
material well-being	2	men 15-24	2 (57,3)	1 (66,3)
solving the housing problem	3	women 25-39	4 (49,5)	5 (48,6)
Professional self-realization	4	men 20-24	6 (34,9)	3 (56,7)
One child	5	women 20-24	5 (40,3)	7 (38,8)
Strong marriage	6	women 15-29	3 (51,2)	10 (24,1)
Working in a favorite job	7	men 25-29	10 (15,1)	4 (50,2)
Личная свобода	8	men 20-29	9 (19,1)	6 (40,7)
Good health	9	Women, men 25-40	8 (29,7)	8 (33,4)
Two children	10	women 25-29	7 (32,1)	11 (12,3)
Public recognition and respect	11	men 30-34	11 (9,5)	9 (30,0)
Three and more children	12	Women, men 30-34	12 (4,4)	12 (6,1)
Percentage to sample	-		54,4	45,6

It is obvious, that the desire to have two or more children, both women and men, put in the end of list of value orientations. At the same time there are some differences between the age groups, there are some differences, which, nevertheless, do not add

optimism to the situation. Thus, 26.2% of young people in the age of 25 years do not want to have children, while 39% do not want to have more than one child (Fig. 2).

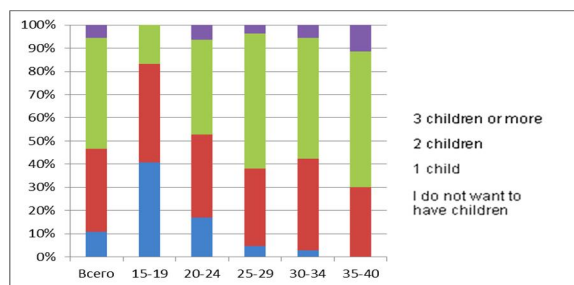


Fig. 2. The distribution of respondents' answers to the question about the desired number of children, % of the total number of respondents in the age group.

According to the statistics, the peak of fertility in Russia occurs in women aged 20- 24 years. At the same time, according to the survey, the vast majority of women in this age group (80.6%) declared for the birth of one (32.8%) or two (47.8%) children.

These results correlate with findings of other studies. Thus, a public opinion poll 536 urban residents of the Tyumen region (excluding autonomous regions), conducted in 2012, showed a devaluation of the institution of marriage - only 11.4% of respondents believe that marriage is important and very important, and 29.7% - unacceptable. As children, mostly born in marriage, we can assume interdependence of the above mentioned negative social phenomena - the unwillingness to marry and unwillingness to have children. [18]

Conclusion

In sum, it should be noticed that the management of human reproduction - is a multifactorial process, which includes socio-economic, psychological, spiritual, moral and national components. Moreover, they differ in their significance in different periods of historical development and have limitations both in the strength and in duration of exposure. It is impossible to achieve consistent results in the management of the process of human reproduction, by accentuating on some factors while ignoring others. Only a comprehensive approach to the management is able to withdraw Russia from the demographic crisis and to ensure the transition to an advanced mode of reproduction.

In consideration of the results of the author's research, it is obvious that the specific role of the state should, inter alia, be given to a systemic influence on the process of personality value formation, with a shift towards the creation culture, strengthening family values and the institution of marriage, as well as large families.

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