

STUDENT ATTITUDE TO DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN RUSSIA

Nelya A. Yarygina^{1*}, Olga F. Piralova², Marina G. Lichutina³, Anna M. Yudina⁴, Boris V. Ilkevich⁵, Rashad A. Kurbanov⁶, Asiya M. Belyalova⁷, Olga V. Popova⁸

¹Togliatti State University, Department of Baccalaureate (Economic and Management Programs), Togliatti, Russia, ²Omsk State Transport University, Institute of Management and Economics, Omsk, Russia, ³Vyatka State University, Department of Civil and Legal Disciplines, Kirov, Russia, ⁴Vladimir State University named after Alexander Grigoryevich and Nikolay Grigoryevich Stoletov, Department of General and Pedagogical Psychology, Vladimir, Russia, ⁵Rector of Gzhel State University, Elektroizolyator, Russia, ⁶Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Government of the Russian Federation, Department of Legal Basis of the Economic Activity, Moscow, Russia, ⁷Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Government of the Russian Federation, International Cooperation Department, Moscow, Russia, ⁸Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, Department of Legal Regulation of Economic Activity, Moscow, Russia, and Russian State University of Humanities, Department of History and Theory of State and Law, Moscow, Russia.

Email: ^{1*} yar13@rambler.ru, ² imec@omgups.ru, ³ Mar.lichutina@yandex.ru, ⁴ anna-yudina@mail.ru, ⁵ ilk_bv@mail.ru, ⁶ mos-ssp@mail.ru, ⁷ asyulya@mail.ru, ⁸ Helga-popova@yandex.ru

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Abstract

Purpose of the study: Since the new generation is the main entity of material and social benefits' renewal process of any state, the article aims to identify the students' attitude to the demographic situation in Russia. It is the younger generation of different age groups that is the main labor unit of the state population. Relevant is the fact that the issues of demography are a global challenge of self-organizing society. The purpose of the article is to identify the students' attitude to the demographic situation in Russia, as well as to consider various models of reproductive behavior.

Methodology: The leading methods for the study of this problem is the survey method, which allows to make a qualitative analysis of the characteristics of the students' attitude to the demographic situation in Russia and to establish the subjective position of students regarding demographic development.

Results: The article reveals that the following administrative and legal measures contribute to the improvement of the demographic situation in the country (legislative acts regulating the marriage age, divorce, attitude to abortion and contraception, the status of mother and children in the divorce, working women's labor regime); economic measures (paid leave, various benefits at child's birth, preferential credit conditions if necessary, tax and housing benefits); educational measures (formation of public opinion, the core and standards of demographic behavior, determination of attitude to religious norms, traditions and customs, family planning policy, sexual education of youth). The authors established a high level of awareness of students about the demographic situation in the country; the presence of anxiety about this situation.

Applications of this study: The data obtained in the work can be used in sociology, social psychology, political science, as well as for further theoretical development of this issue.

Novelty/Originality of this study: The study revealed a high level of awareness of young people about the demographic situation in the country, certain anxiety about this situation. However, young people are not in a hurry to participate in the solution of demographic problems, referring mainly to the difficulties of material nature. This indicates the need for more careful consideration of measures of state support for young families, taking into account the research of their opinion on this matter.

Keywords: *student youth, demography, attitude to the demographic situation.*

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of demographic problems' study is due to many factors. One of them is the fact that the problems of demography are a global challenge of self-organizing society. Based on the new model of reproductive behavior, there are more and more subjective directions in society, which successfully affects the possibility of shifts in many gender and professional stereotypes, asserting the rights of women to various organizational and managerial positions, taking into account career growth and the possibility of self-realization in various fields of activity.

These facts are based on changes in the lifestyle of the new and current generation, which are aimed at the introduction of technological progress in everyday life. They develop and consolidate adaptive abilities in the social environment, which entails the demographic problems in modern society. This problem is clearly seen in the example of our state, where every year more and more attention is paid to demographic indicators. The main indicators of the demographic situation in the country are the national demographic, family and migration policies ([Abishov et al, 2018](#)).

The issue of the demographic situation in Russia does not lose its relevance, despite all the social programs to support fertility and motherhood.

The new generation is the main subject of the process of material and social benefits' renewal of any state since it is the young generation of different age groups that are the main labor unit of the state population ([Cherdymova et al., 2019](#); [Singh et al., 2018](#)).

Due to the change of generation, there is an improvement in the structure of reproduction. Because it becomes a carrier of culture, public institutions, traditions and experience of the past generation.

In the works of domestic and foreign researchers, three basic concepts are used: *demographic processes*, *demographic development*, and *demographic situation*.

The demographic situation is the structural financial and social state of society at different times. It is considered as the leading position of the problem, in a specific period, as opposed to demographic development and process ([Kartseva, 2017](#); [Cherdymova et al., 2018](#)).

The demographic development is a system-based analysis that shows the possibility of positive or negative events, based on the trend of demographic situation development.

In demographic processes, researchers identify three factors:

- 1) Long-term, global modernization changes
- 2) Medium-term, specific to the Russian-Soviet history of the XX century, which predetermined the features of the national model of demographic transition and left a mark on the age structure of the population,
- 3) Short-term, caused by the reforms and crises of the last decade.

Researchers of different concepts have identified various factors, which include the attitude of man to the birth rate of the population with many different nuances.

An important role in the development of the family is played by the relationship of generations. The older generation transfers their experience to the younger. The younger generation, in turn, introduces the older with new progressive changes. There is a mutual influence of generations, and therefore, we can say that in the family, as a small social environment, the influence of all its members on each other takes place. Hierarchically in the family, there is a transfer of experience from grandparents to mothers and fathers, and already from them - to the child, which now combines the experience of all previous generations. The transferred knowledge will help the child to foresee and prepare for the natural problems of life.

The low birth rate in countries with developed economies is due to the economic approach: 1) women strive to make a career, and the family to increase well-being; 2) the priorities are expenses for travel, sports, entertainment; 3) they do not want to spend money on children; 4) reproduction is considered a heavy, expensive and uninteresting capital investment, i.e. children are equated to a product or service; 5) children's health and education are related to the material well-being of the family.

The situation with demographics in Russia is one of the important topical issues of discussion in the country today because the main demographic indicators are of serious anxiety and concern.

For the analysis of demographic problems in modern Russia, it is desirable to trace the dynamics of the Soviet demographic policy

The main reasons that determine the demographic situation in the country are the desire or unwillingness to marry and the attitude to divorce. Civil marriages are becoming more and more popular, reflecting a crisis in the perception of the traditional family.

The low birth rate is determined by misconceptions about the ideal family, where the number of children does not exceed two.

There is a growing trend where parents are willing to have only one child or no children at all. Of particular concern is the oversimplification of abortion, which is not condemned by society.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Method of research

As the main method of research in this work, the questionnaire Internet survey is chosen.

The Internet survey has an advantage because respondents are free to choose the place and time of completing the questionnaire.

The online questionnaire is easy to process on the computer because the answers to the questions are coded before the survey, i.e. the questionnaire is formalized. In addition, no less significant advantage in using this method is the fact that respondents will be confident in anonymity and will give more frank and accurate answers.

Along with the questionnaire, the method of the free interview was used. Free interview on the content is identical to the questionnaire, but the content and form of the questions are significantly affected by the specifics of getting answers - *face to face* with the interviewer. Free interviews are conducted without a pre-prepared questionnaire or a developed conversation plan; only the topic that is proposed for discussion is determined. The direction of the conversation, its logical structure, the sequence of questions, their wording — all depends on the individual characteristics of the person who conducts the survey. The information obtained is not statistically processed; it is valuable for its uniqueness.

An interview guide was developed to collect information using the free interview method. It represents an approximate plan of questions on which the conversation with the informant is based. In our survey, we can break the questions into several units:

- 1) In the first unit of questions, we found out whether young people are familiar with the demographic situation in the country.
- 2) In the second unit we learn to what extent informants are ready to start a family, what factors affect the desire to have children;
- 3) In the third unit, we ask whether young people are familiar with the measures of the state policy in the field of support to young families.

Experimental Sample of the Study

The sampling for the online survey was carried out based on the quota feature- age (from 18 to 35 years), without reference to a certain territory of residence.

The respondents answered the questionnaire on the presence of children as follows: no children - 34.1%, one child - 28.6%, 16.4% - two children, 20.9% - more than two children.

The majority of respondents (83.5%) are familiar with the demographic situation in Russia, 57.3% of respondents monitor changes in the country's population. At the same time, 13.1% of respondents believe that in 10 years, the population will increase, but due to migrants arriving in our country, 29.6% build more optimistic forecasts and believe that the number of Russians will increase due to the correct demographic policy. The rest (57.3%) believe that the population will decrease.

RESULTS

In order to identify the opinion of respondents about the plans for the birth of children in the family, the following answers were received: *I plan* - 38.7%, *I do not plan* - 61.3%.

It is interesting to note that the views of those planning the birth of children in the family differ when considering the gender factor. For example, 76.7% of men and 21.3% of women plan to have children in the family.

To the question: *What factors most affect you when deciding to have a child?* The responses were distributed as follows.

Table 1: Distribution of answers to the question: *What factors most affect you when deciding to have a child?* By the gender %

Answers to the question	male	female	in total
Financial position	42,5	39,2	31,4
Parents' assistance	12,8	26,3	23,6
State assistance (payments, maternity capital, etc.)	34,0	10,2	29,3
My health and my spouse's health, the possibilities of modern medicine	10,7	24,3	15,7

The most common factor influencing the decision to give birth to children in the family is the financial situation. The study showed that in 31.4% of cases the respondents indicated this factor. In 29.3% of the responses, it is found that young parents rely on state assistance — various benefits and payments associated with the birth of children. In every fourth case, the factor is the assistance of parents - 23.6%, 15.7% of respondents also notes that the most important factor in the birth of children is the physical and moral health of future parents. These facts are based on changes in the lifestyle of the new and current generation, which are aimed at the introduction of technological progress in everyday life. They develop and consolidate adaptive abilities in the social environment. Which entails the demographic problem in modern society? This problem is clearly seen in the example of our state, where every year more and more attention is paid to demographic indicators. The main indicators of the demographic situation in the country are the national demographic, family and migration policies.

There are many reasons for depopulation in Russia, as well as many proposals on how to solve this problem. For example, it is proposed to ban abortion, restore the Soviet tax on childlessness and even proposed to ban divorce. An example is China, where for a long time, on the contrary, there is limited fertility at the legislative level.

High fertility is not the only way to solve the problem. It is necessary to reduce the high mortality rate, which in our country has economic, political, social and other reasons. Low level of medicine, availability of alcohol and drugs, uncertainty in the future, these are only a small part of the reasons. In the economy, it is the deterioration of health and safety at enterprises, the unwillingness of businesspersons to bear the costs.

The results of the respondents' survey from the sphere of intellectual work were interesting. They had to answer the question: "What is the family constraint for the birth of the first, second, third and subsequent children" the Results of the study are presented in table 2. The main fact is not the recognition of the consequences of the first two problems, therefore, the danger of national security and the violation of territorial cohesion of the state as the lack of fertility growth and an increase in the high mortality rate of the Russian population in the medium term. In addition, the paper presents the features of settlement, which shows us a picture of population compaction in one part, which contributes to an increase in the share of empty land. There is a problem with a high percentage of the elderly population, in connection with which there are risks of increasing the elderly economic burden on the working-age population.

Table 2: Problems restraining families from having children, %

Problems	1st child	2nd child	3-rd and subsequent children
Financial problem	6,2%	8,8%	11,2%
Housing problems	8,8%	12,0%	12,0%
Confidence in the future and other social problems related to social health	36,2%	32,2%	28,4%
Social problems associated with the development of parents' deviant behavior, including alcoholism, drug addiction	6,0%	9,0%	12,0%
Requirements of the market economy, the desire to be as long as possible competitors in the labor market	35,8%	30,2%	22,4%
Reducing the importance of childhood as it is in the General system of social values	7,0%	7,8%	14,0%

To the question: "What factors most affect you when deciding to have a child?" the responses were distributed as follows.

Among the men, the value of the material factor is slightly higher than among the women and is 41.3%; among the women - 39.2%. The distribution of responses in relation to parental care - women - 26.3%, men - 12.7%, respectively. On the help of the state men (35, 2%) rely largely than women (24.3%). 24.3% of women are more cautious about the health factor and consider it at the birth of children than men (10.8% of).

It should also be noted that only 25.4% of respondents believe that they will not have problems with providing for their families and raising children, 63.8% of young people note that it is difficult for young people to support their families. At the same time, there is a gender difference and questions about the difficulties and problems in the upbringing and maintenance of children.

Table 3: Distribution of answers to the question: "What is your attitude to the measures of state support for young families" in %

Positive	32,4%
Negative	27,3%
Neutral	30,6%
Difficult to answer	9,7%

Analyzing this table, we can see that a little more than a third of respondents gave a positive answer to the question, which was 32.4%, as there were those who expressed a neutral attitude - 30.6%, and a negative attitude - 27.3%. When choosing the degree of influence of demographic policy measures to improve the demographic situation in the country, the youth chose administrative and legal measures and economic measures - 41.5% and 32.6 %, respectively, and 25.9% of respondents indicate that the guaranteed improvement of demographic indicators in the Russian Federation is influenced by educational measures.

DISCUSSIONS

In the Russian Federation, the demographic situation continues to be unfavorable, although there has been a decrease in mortality, there has been no increase in the population, although the birth rate has increased. According to the all-Russian population census of 2010, 142 million people lived on the territory of the Russian Federation, among them - 66 million men and 76 million women. Compared to 2002, the country's population decreased by 2 million 300 thousand people.

In our country, 40.7 million families (as of 2010) consisted of two or more people. In the family where the husband and wife were less than 30 years old - 3.1 million. Families with minor children, accounted for 43 percent of the total number of families (17.3 million families), with two minor children - 11.4 percent, large families - 2.5 percent. In 2013, 23 percent

of children were born out of marriage. At the same time, in 2013 compared to 2006, the number of births increased by more than 28%, the share of second and subsequent births in the total number of births increased. In 2013, the following factors contributed to the positive changes in the demographic situation of the country:

- Entering the reproductive age of a large generation of young women born in the 1980s in recent years.
- The adoption of measures in the framework of the demographic policy Concept of the Russian Federation for the period until 2025, measures to encourage fertility.
- The payment of maternity capital.

Life expectancy has increased to 70.8 years. At the same time, among the women up to 76.3 years, among the men exceeded 65 years. The gap in life expectancy between men and women remained at 11.2 years.

Thus, over the past year, 8% fewer people were born in Russia than died. Compared to last year, the indicator has significantly deteriorated - in 2016, the birth rate, albeit only 0.3%, but still exceeded mortality.

At the same time, the birth rate varies greatly from region to region. In 24 of the 82 regions, the number of births exceeded the number of deaths, with the best rates in the North Caucasus. Of the top five regions for this indicator, three were the South national republics. For example, in Ingushetia, the number of deaths was only 19.4% of the number of births. In Chechnya, the same figure is 22%, in Dagestan — 30.9%. Two more regions in the top five are Tuva with 40% and Tyumen region with 55.3%.

As for changes in the marital status of the population, the ratio of divorces number to the number of marriages in the last year has decreased. In 2016, for every thousand marriages there were 617 divorces, last year this figure fell to 583.

CONCLUSION

The study allows us to draw the following conclusions: the majority of respondents (83.5%) are familiar with the demographic situation in Russia, 57.3% of respondents monitor changes in the population of the country. At the same time, 13.1% of respondents believe that in 10 years the population will increase, but at the expense of migrants arriving in our country. 29.6% believe that the number of Russians will increase due to the correct demographic policy. The rest (57.3%) believe that the population will decrease.

38.7% of respondents plan to have children in their families, 61.3% do not plan to. At the same time, 76.7% of the surveyed men and only 21.3% of women plan to have children in the family.

The decisive factor influencing the decision on the birth of children in the family is the financial situation for a third of the respondents (31.4%). 28.2% of the respondents expect aid from the State for various benefits and entitlements relating to the birth of a child. In every fourth case, the assistance of parents is named - 24.7% of respondents also notes that the most important factor in the birth of children is the health of future parents.

Respondents show a high level of awareness of the measures of state support for young families. At the same time, 82.1% of the answers to the open question are related to maternal capital, 68.3% of the answers concerns such measures as the reorganization of old and the construction of new hospitals and clinics 44.7% of the responses relate to the possibility of obtaining mortgage benefits in the presence of two or more children, as well as the possibility of receiving payments for the first and subsequent children. One-third of the responses, 32.1 percent, refers to improvements in the availability of places in kindergartens and schools.

The main condition for the withdrawal of Russia from the demographic crisis by 71.1% of the respondents consists of the increase in the birth rate, and 15.4% notes a reduction in mortality of the population and 12.4% indicates the need to end diversion of Russians abroad.

According to respondents, the following administrative and legal measures (legislative acts regulating the marriage age, divorce, attitude to abortion and contraception, the status of mother and children in the marriage divorce, working women's labor regime) (40.6%), economic measures (paid leave, various benefits at birth, preferential credit conditions as necessary, tax and housing benefits) (33.5%) and educational measures (formation of public opinion, the core, and standards of demographic behavior, determination of attitude to religious norms, traditions, and customs, family planning policy, sexual education of young people (25.9%) contribute to the improvement of the demographic situation in the country.

Thus, the study revealed a high level of awareness of young people about the demographic situation in the country, certain anxiety about this situation. However, young people are not in a hurry to participate in the solution of demographic problems, referring mainly to the difficulties of material nature. This indicates the need for more careful consideration of measures of state support for young families, taking into account the research of their opinion on this matter.

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