

The tendencies of Fertility in Georgia in the Post Communist Period

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Due to political and social-economic changes, in the Post Communist Period unprecedented decrease of fertility was noticeable in Georgia as well as in other Post Communist countries. Since 1992 the population reproduction indicators have not been able to provide the full renovation of generations. In particular, in 1991-2008 according to the official data total fertility rate decreased from 2,075 till 1,670, and net reproduction rate - from 1,005 till 0,793.

Demographic situation is often evaluated differently due to incomplete registration existing in Georgia. For example, according to the official statistics in 2008 total fertility rate was 1,67 and according to the evaluation of Georgian experts (G. Tsuladze, N. Maglaperidze, A. Vadachkoria) - 2,04.

In comparison with the years of 1992-2000 since 2003 there have been noticeable insignificant increasing of total fertility rate in Georgia like in some Post Communist countries though it was still remaining at the reduced reproduction level till 2009. The coefficient of the childbirth structure has also changed that is caused by increasing of the specific portion of the first and second child among the general number of born children (88 %) and decreasing of the portion of the third and next children – to 12%.

Mean age of childbirth has decreased and in 2004-2008 it reduced from 25,7 till 25,4. Since 2000 the tendency of out of wedlock childbirth specific portion has been increasing that was equal to 55% by 2006, though in 2008 it reduced till 34 %.

At the background of the decreased fertility level for a long period it is difficult to explain and there is given mixed evaluation of the unexpected increase of fertility in the last 2008-2009. On the basis of the initial data (official data have not published yet) total fertility rate had reached 2,25 by 2009.

Sex ratio deserves varied estimation as well, which has been different since 1994 and was on average 110-112 boys per 100 newborn girls, and it had reached 128 by 2008 and had decreased till 105 by 2009. The part of the specialists (G. Tsuladze , A. Sulaberidze) think that the reason of such situation is an incomplete statistical registration existing during the years, and in others opinion (J. Vallin, I. Badurashvili) – early diagnostics during the pregnancy. In order to actually evaluate this issue and demographic situation existing in Georgia, it is necessary to conduct a serious sociological-demographic survey, that will solve many controversial issues.