



Main Trends of Demographic Situations in Uzbekistan

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Abstract

In the article the beginning of changing demographic situations in Uzbekistan in the XXI century is noted. The concept of "demographic situation" represents the portrait of the population in a particular socio-historical period. From this perspective, the demographic situation is determined by the size, composition, and location of the population. As in any country, the demographic situation in Uzbekistan has a number of features. In particular, Uzbekistan, which has the largest population in Central Asia, has an optimal ratio of women and men, young people make up a large part of the country's population, and the potential of the able-bodied population is significant. The country's population is more scattered to the west and northwest of Tashkent, while the Fergana Valley is more densely populated. At present, this situation is constantly changing under the influence of many factors. Moreover, some aspects of demographic change are becoming trending. In particular, the following trends are evident in the demographic changes in Uzbekistan: a) slowdown in population growth; b) changes in human reproductive activity under the influence of a number of socio-economic factors; (c) a reduction in the infant mortality rate as a result of appropriate government policies; g) economic increasing active population; d) the fact that the number of men in the population is growing faster than the number of women as a result of changes in the national mentality and the health care system; e) increasing life expectancy; j) increasing the volume of labor migration.

Keywords: *Demographic Situation; Population Size; Population Structure; Population Location; Demographic Situation Characteristics; Demographic Situation Trends; Women and Men Size; Able-Bodied Population Potential; Population Growth Rates; Reproductive Activity; Infant Mortality Rate; Economically Active Population; Life Expectancy; Labor Migration*

Introduction

By the end of the twentieth century, the demographic situation in human society had deteriorated considerably. In particular, there is a quantitative increase in world population (although this has declined slightly in recent years). This process is taking place at different speeds in developed and underdeveloped countries. At present, the population structure in all countries is becoming more complex. The balance between young and old, men and women, is changing rapidly. Processes related to population distribution

are also noteworthy. Uneven distribution of the population across the country, the expansion of migration is becoming a trend. As a result of such changes, the demographic situation is becoming a factor that seriously affects not only the economic, social, political and spiritual spheres of society, but also the consciousness and activity of the individual, the social image. Therefore, it is important to study the specifics of the demographic situation in Uzbekistan.

In the course of our research in this regard, we have set ourselves the following tasks and tried to accomplish them:

- a) analysis of the peculiarities of the population of Uzbekistan on the basis of scientific sources;
- b) classification of the country's population;
- c) Identify trends in demographic change in Uzbekistan.

Methods and Materials

First of all, in formulating the theoretical foundations of the study, the world philosophical heritage, and then the opinions of experts who studied the problem was relied on.

The methodological basis of the research was the basic rules and principles of dialectics. Furthermore, the study of demographic processes was based on the method of quantitative study of mass events and phenomena of demography processing and analysis of information about the population. The methods of analysis, synthesis, generalization, induction and deduction of logic were used to draw conclusions from the data.

Discussion and Results

The concept of "demographic situation" represents the portrait of the population in a particular socio-historical period. From this perspective, the demographic situation is determined by the size, composition, and location of the population. At the result, there are three components to the demographic situation.

It is known from philosophical theory that the general properties of a system also exist in an element, and that an element can have only specific properties. At the same time, the element itself is a system, that is, it has its own components and the original connection between them, its own development logic. The same can be said about the relationship between the demographic situation in the world (system) and Uzbekistan (element). Indeed, the demographic situation in Uzbekistan has a number of unique features in terms of population size, composition and location. But some trends in demographic change in the country are similar to demographic trends in the world. This is evidenced by the analysis of the components of the demographic situation in Uzbekistan (population, composition and location).

According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as of January 1, 2021, 34 million 558.9 thousand people lived in the country. [23] For centuries, the territory of Uzbekistan has been characterized by a large population. There are a number of objective reasons for this, of course. In particular, the country has its own geographical and natural-climatic conditions. Moreover, Uzbekistan is one of the countries rich in natural resources and energy resources. The presence of large megacities, favorable conditions for the cultivation of agricultural products, the passage of the Great Silk Road through the territory of the country, socio-historical processes - all this has led to a constant increase in population. Today, Uzbekistan is the third most populous country in the CIS after Russia and Ukraine, and the first in Central Asia. The population of Uzbekistan is about the same as the total population of Central Asia.

The composition of the population of Uzbekistan, in contrast to global demographic trends, is more stable. For example, the ratio between the quantity of men and women has acquired an optimal feature. As of January 1, 2021, 17.4 million men and 17.2 million women, or 50.3% of men and 49.7% of women, respectively, lived in Uzbekistan. [29] The socio-economic effect of such an optimal balance is great, of course. Because this balance allows maintaining equality in the social status of women and men in the country, expanding all sectors of the economy, which are mostly engaged in the same sex, developing the labor market for men and women, even strengthening family ties and increasing the effectiveness of child rearing.

The balance between young and old is not the same level. The fact is that Uzbekistan is one of the youngest countries in the world. The average age of men in the country is 28.3 years, and that of women is 29.7 years. [6] Children and adolescents under the age of fifteen totaled 9,870,276 in 2020, and 8,662,220 people aged 15-29. [4] The number of elderly people (usually those over the age of 60 [13]) is relatively low - in 2020 they were 2,762,497. [2] The aging rate of the population is only 8.15%. [3]

The large number of young people in the population has significant importance in the country. This is a sign of the bright future of the country. However, in such circumstances, the amount of funds allocated from the state budget for socio-cultural, in particular for education, is constantly increasing, the number of dependents of able-bodied citizens is growing, the need to create new jobs is growing every year.

Another feature of the population of Uzbekistan is that the number of able-bodied people in the country is much higher. According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as of October 1, 2020, 30.9% of the permanent population of the country are under working age, 58.4% are able-bodied and 10.7% are older than able-bodied [24]. Moreover, this category of the population is growing rapidly. This situation, on the one hand, has a positive impact on the socio-economic development of the country, on the other hand, creates social, economic, spiritual and cultural problems that need to be addressed urgently.

The population of Uzbekistan can be divided into two regions according to their location. The first covers the area to the west and northwest of Tashkent. Due to the relatively low population density in the region, the prospects for improving living standards are great. As the country gained independence and Soviet-era restrictions were lifted, such opportunities increased even more. Due to the low population density, for example, in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, as soon as almost all new families are formed, they will be able to provide housing and land, to live independently. As a result, there is a growing opportunity to establish various forms of individual management.

The second area includes the Fergana Valley. The population density here is characterized by extremely high. Andijan region, which occupies only 1% of the country's territory, is home to 9% of Uzbekistan's population. While the average population density in Uzbekistan is 77 people per 1 sq. Km, the region has a population of 741.4 people per 1 sq. Km. In other words, the population density in the region is 9 times higher than the national average. Similar facts can be cited about neighboring provinces. For example, Namangan region (1.8% of the country's territory) is home to 8.3% of the country's population, and Fergana region (1.5% of the country's territory) is home to 11% of the country's population. [5] This imbalance between the demographic situation in the provinces and land and water resources reduces the potential for extensive economic development.

Another feature of the population distribution in Uzbekistan is the large rural population. 49.4% of the country's population (2021 data) live in rural areas. [26] Therefore, the problems related to the demographic situation in the village are of national importance. For example, it is known that the number of children in rural families exceeds the number of children in urban families. Therefore, the number of children and adolescents in the care of 100 able-bodied people in rural areas is much higher than in urban

areas. However, the disparity between the number of able-bodied people in rural areas and the number of jobs available is growing. This is leading to an increase in unemployment, encouraging rural residents to move to the city in search of work (temporary migration). Therefore, in order to improve the demographic situation in rural areas, to improve the living standards of citizens, it is necessary to further improve the structure of agricultural production, increase employment through the rapid development of horticulture, viticulture, horticulture and animal husbandry.

The above comments show that the demographic situation in Uzbekistan has a number of unique features. At present, this situation is constantly changing under the influence of many factors. Moreover, some aspects of demographic change are becoming trending. In particular, the following trends are evident in the demographic changes in Uzbekistan:

1. The country's population growth rate has slowed. Indeed, in the early twentieth century, Turkestan had a population of 5 million, but during the Soviet era, the population grew tenfold due to natural increase. Apparently, the growth rate in Turkestan is the second largest in Asia after China. It is noteworthy that the growth of Uzbekistan's population in Central Asia was significant. For example, in the former Soviet Union, the population doubled between 1917 and 1991, while in Uzbekistan it was about 5.5 times. [20]

Today, as in all countries of the world, the average annual population growth rate in Uzbekistan has slowed significantly and in 2007 amounted to 17.5 people per 1,000 population. [21] In particular, in 1990-2007 the country's population increased by 6.4 million people, and in 2008-2021 by 7.4 million people. The total population increased 1.2 times, the rural population 1.3 times and the urban population 1.1 times. This can be seen from the following data of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the current gradual growth of the country's population: [27]

Years	Total population (thousand people)	Including	
		Citydwellers	Villagers
1990	20317,0	8311.7	12005.3
2007	26663.8	9584.6	17079.2
2008	27072.2	9698.2	17374
2009	27533,4	14236	13297,4
2010	28001,4	14425.9	13575.5
2011	29123,4	14897,4	14226
2012	29555,4	15143.2	14412.2
2013	29993,5	15370,1	14623,4
2014	30492.8	15555.2	14937,6
2015	31022.5	15748	15274.5
2016	31575.3	15963.9	15611.4
2017	32120.5	16250.8	15869.7
2018	32656.7	16532.7	16124
2019	33255.5	16806.7	16448.8
2020	33905,2	17144,1	16761,1
2021	34558.9	17487.5	17071,4

However, the population growth rate remains large as it slows down. This leads to a number of social problems. For example, as the population grows, the need for accommodation, food supply, education and training, employment, security of life, and so on, will increase. This requires a steady increase in the amount of funds allocated from the state budget for these purposes. Consequently, the problems associated with demographic growth have not lost their relevance for many years to come.

2. The number of births in Uzbekistan has decreased. As in other countries around the world, a number of factors have contributed to the decline in birth rates in Uzbekistan. First, the implementation of the principles of a market economy has dramatically increased the costs associated with raising a child. Providing the child with the necessary food, vitamins, clothing, toys, etc., required a significant portion of the family budget. As a result, most young Uzbek families are planning to have two or three children instead of the previous three or four.

The decline in the birth rate was also due to reforms in the health care system in Uzbekistan. Maternal and child screening centers established in the regions have begun to conduct successful consultations among the population. Contraceptives have increased in the country's pharmacies. Literature aimed at enhancing medical culture began to be published. All of this has shaped family planning skills, new reproductive behaviors in the population.

Under the influence of a number of similar objective and subjective factors, the birth rate in Uzbekistan has been gradually declining. In 1993-1997 alone, the birth rate in various regions of the country decreased from 0.5 points (in Tashkent) to 7.9 points (Andijan and Fergana regions). [14] According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 651.3 thousand children were born in the country in 2009. The birth rate fell from 23.4 per thousand in 2009 to 22.8 per thousand in 2016 and 22.1 per thousand in 2017. [16] It is obvious that the birth rate in our country is falling in line with world standards.

However, of course, the birth rate is not the same in all regions of the country. For example, in the Lower Amudarya and Mirzachul regions, the birth rate was 20.7 and 15.4 per thousand, respectively, while in the Zarafshan and Fergana valleys it was 20.2 and 19.0 per thousand. The same can be said about the birth rates of the urban population. In particular, the average birth rate of the urban population is 16.5 per thousand, while in Tashkent region it is 15.2 per thousand, in Kashkadarya region - 19.3 per thousand. The highest birth rates in the city are observed in Namangan (20.2%), Kashkadarya (19.3%), Syrdarya (18.5%) regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan (18.4%). The lowest rates were recorded in Bukhara (15.8%), Samarkand (15.5%), Navoi (16.8%) regions and Tashkent (15.2%). Such diversity requires that social policy be conducted in proportion to the birth rate in the provinces. [28]

3. The infant mortality rate in the country is declining. It is known that during the Soviet era, Uzbekistan was one of the leaders in child mortality. The living standards of the population in the republic were extremely low. Citizens' access to material and spiritual values was limited. The deteriorating environmental situation, the backwardness of children's health facilities, the lack of iodine and antianemic drugs, the neglect of parents to improve the medical culture - all this has led to a steady increase in child mortality. The government, knowing full well that the situation in the republic is deplorable, did not even consider developing a strategic program to protect mothers and children.

After the independence of our country, unprecedented measures have been taken to protect motherhood and childhood. In particular, "the Mother and Child Program" has been developed and successfully implemented throughout the country. As early as 1993, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a number of special resolutions aimed at overcoming the problems of improving the health of the younger generation. A charity fund called for a Healthy Generation was established, which raised funds to protect motherhood and reduce child mortality. An entirely new range of medicines and methods has been introduced in children's health care facilities, and the structure of medical services for children has been constantly improved. In addition, the recognition of 1998 as the Year of Family Interests, 1999 as the Year of Women, 2000 as the Year of Healthy Generation, 2001 as the Year of Mother and Child and the Action Strategy for 2017-2021 mobilized to eliminate.

As a result of this and many similar measures, the infant mortality rate has dropped significantly. For example, in 1993 the infant mortality rate was 32 percent [15], by 2000 it had fallen to 18.9 per cent,

in 2009 to 15.9 per cent, and by 2019 to 12.4 per cent. Significantly, child mortality is declining more rapidly in rural areas than in urban areas. Among the urban population, the ratio was 22.4 percent in 2000, 19.8 percent in 2009, and 14.3 percent in 2019. Among the rural population, the rate was 17.3 percent in 2000, 13.5 percent in 2009, and 10.8 percent in 2019. [7] In other words, the infant mortality rate in Uzbekistan is gradually approaching the corresponding rate in developed countries.

4. There is an increase in the number of economically active population in Uzbekistan.

Economic reforms, on the one hand, have ensured steady economic growth since 1996, and on the other hand, have significantly expanded employment opportunities. In particular, many types of business and domestic labor have emerged. As a result, the number of people involved in economic activities has increased. This trend continues today.

According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the number of economically active population in 2016 amounted to 13 million 298 thousand people, an increase of 1.8% compared to 2015. Activity in the public sector was 17.7 percent, and in the private sector 82.3 percent. [9] According to the analysis of 2016, the number of employed increased significantly in the following types of economic activities: transportation and storage (by 3.8%), housing and catering services (by 3.6%), construction (by 3.4%), information and in communications (3.1%) and trade (2.7%). [10]

These demographics show that a larger part of the working population is finding its place in the economy every year. At the same time, the growth of the economically active population will change the volume of gross domestic product in the future, increase the need for the development of small business and entrepreneurship, the creation of new jobs.

5. The number of men in the population of Uzbekistan is growing faster than the number of women. It is known that in many countries of the world there is a feminization of the demographic composition of the population (increase in the number of women). In Russia, for example, in 2002, the total number of men was 46.5 percent of the population. Currently, demographers predict that the gap between men and women will reach 10-11 percent in 2015 and 15 percent in 2050. [17]

The growth of women and men in the population of Uzbekistan is not the same. According to the facts, from 1991 to 2001, the number of women in Uzbekistan increased by 2,029.5 thousand people, or 19.5%. During these years, the increase in the number of men was 2175.9 thousand people, or 21.4%. By 2001, the total number of women in the country was 12,449.2 thousand (50.3% of the total population). Considering that the country's population that year was 24.8 million, the number of men was 12,350.8 thousand (49.7 percent of the total population). [8] It can be seen that in 2001, the ratio between women and men was 98.4 thousand.

However, since 2004, the nature of this balance has changed dramatically. In particular, according to official data, the number of women in Uzbekistan in that year was 12876.0 thousand people (50.1% of the total population), while the number of men was 12831.4 thousand people (49.9% of the total population). [18] The ratio between women and men was only 45.6 thousand. By 2020, women will make up 49.7% of the total population in Uzbekistan, and men - 50.3% of the total population. This shows that in the last 5-7 years, the number of men in the country has exceeded the number of women.

There are a number of reasons for this trend. It is known that a boy has always been valued in the Uzbek family. The son was honored as a supportive, protective child in his parents' old age. That is why all families dreamed of having a son. During the years of independence, the opening of ultrasound diagnostic centers has made it possible to predict the sex of the unborn child. As a result, many families began to plan to have children in proportion to their dreams. This has led to an increase in the number of boys among newborns.

This trend has a certain impact on the structure of gross domestic product in the country, as well as the social status of men and women in society.

6. Life expectancy of men and women is increasing in Uzbekistan. Life expectancy for men and women in the CIS countries is declining. In Uzbekistan, unlike many CIS countries, the reverse process has taken place over the past 15 years. This can also be seen in the following table: [19]

Country	Gender	1989	1991	1995	1999	2000	2001
Uzbekistan	Women	72.1	-	72.6	73.1	-	-
	Men	66.0	-	67.8	68.2	-	-
Belarus	Women	76.4	75.5	74.3	73.9	74.7	74.5
	Men	66.8	65.5	62.9	62.2	63.4	62.8
Kazakhstan	Women	73.1	72.4	69.4	71.0	71.3	71.1
	Men	63.9	62.6	58.0	60.3	59.8	60.2
Kyrgyzstan	Women	72.4	72.7	70.4	72.6	72.4	72.6
	Men	64.3	64.6	61.4	64.9	64.9	65.0
Russia	Women	74.5	74.3	71.7	72.4	72.2	72.3
	Men	64.2	63.5	58.3	59.9	59.0	59.0
Tajikistan	Women	71.8	72.9	69.1	70.8	-	-
	Men	66.7	67.3	63.6	66.1	-	-
Turkmenistan	Women	68.4	69.3	67.5	70.4	71.8	72.0
	Men	61.8	62.3	61.9	63.4	64.9	65.4

In 2006, the average life expectancy among women in our country reached 74.6 years, and among men - 70 years [11], in 2016 the average life expectancy was 73.8 years, the average life expectancy among women was 76.2 years, and among men - 71.4 years. [25] Of course, this is much lower than in developed countries. For example, the average life expectancy is 82.1 years in Japan, 80.4 years in France, and 80.6 years in Sweden. [22] However, in comparison with the corresponding indicators of developing countries and the CIS, the coefficients in Uzbekistan are much more positive.

At the same time, these demographics also cause some speculation. For example, in our country, the gap between life expectancy of men and women has become more significant. The situation in the CIS is even worse. One of the main reasons for this is that for many years, women, the social problems associated with their social status have been thoroughly studied by the scientific community. Centers, foundations, magazines and newspapers have been set up to analyze these problems. The problem of men, the change in their social status, the peculiarities of their lives, have been neglected, and still are. There is still no organization dealing with these issues. In the last 20 years, no dissertation, monograph or article on the problem of men has been referred to the judgment of the scientific community. Interestingly, this is a trend that is unique not only to our country, but to many countries around the world. As a result, the average life expectancy of men is 6-8 years less than that of women. This process must also be carefully analyzed by philosophers, demographers and sociologists.

7. The volume of labor migration in Uzbekistan is growing. It is known that the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan pays special attention to the creation of new jobs. However, the situation is aggravated by the fact that the number of able-bodied people is growing by several hundred thousand a year. As a result, there is a tendency among the able-bodied population to look for work in other countries. According to a survey conducted by the Republican Center for Employment and Labor Protection under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, as of October 1, 2019, the number of labor migrants amounted to 2,594.1 thousand (2.6 million). [12] This flow is mainly directed to different regions of the Russian Federation and the southern regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as South Korea and Turkey.

The socio-economic significance of labor migration is great, of course. In particular, it will help reduce unemployment, reduce labor market tensions, develop entrepreneurship, increase staff competitiveness, and strengthen the family budget. Labor migration also brings some benefits to the country's economy. It is estimated that migrant workers will send up to \$ 5.1 billion to their home countries in 2018. [1]

At the same time, excessive expansion of labor migration can also have negative consequences. First, informal labor migration increases the risk that our citizens will be exposed to human trafficking groups, terrorist currents. Therefore, in recent years, the fight against human trafficking in Uzbekistan has become more serious. Second, the majority of labor migrants are engaged in casual types of labor, rather than working in their own specialties in other countries. This leads to a decline in the necessary professional skills and competencies of professionals. In addition, labor migration may lead to a decrease in the number of skilled workers in industrial enterprises. The decline in the potential of qualified personnel will pave the way for a slowdown in the country's economic development.

The negative socio-moral consequences of labor migration are also worrying. The period of migration can lead to the deformation of the moral image of the migrant. Long-term employment of one or more family members has a negative impact on family relationships and the upbringing of children. Consequently, the study of changes related to labor migration, the development of socio-economic factors to overcome it is one of the current problems of modern social philosophy.

Conclusion

Based on the comments, the following conclusions can be drawn: **Firstly**, the demographic situation in our country, with some aspects of the demographic situation in the world, consists of a synthesis of features that are unique to Uzbekistan. In particular, Uzbekistan, which has the largest population in Central Asia, has an optimal ratio of women and men, young people make up a large part of the country's population, and the potential of the able-bodied population is significant. The country's population is more scattered to the west and northwest of Tashkent, while the Fergana Valley is more densely populated. **Secondly**, in the late twentieth and early twentieth centuries, the country's population growth rate slowed, but the growth rate remains high. This is causing a number of social problems. **Thirdly**, under the influence of a number of socio-economic factors, people's reproductive activity has changed, resulting in a decrease in the number of births. **Fourthly**, the infant mortality rate is declining due to targeted government policies. **Fifthly, the number of economically** active population is growing as a result of economic reforms. **Sixthly**, as a result of changes in the national mentality and health care system, the number of men in the population is growing faster than the number of women. **Seventhly**, life expectancy in the country is increasing. However, the gap between women and men in life expectancy remains large. **Eighthly**, the scale of labor migration in Uzbekistan is growing.

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