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Marital Status - As a Factor Influencing Fertility Rate

Abstract

Population dynamics in different countries are mainly determined by birth and death patterns. Marriage status is an important condition for building a complete family. It significantly affects the demographic indicators of the population. In the article, the number of marriages and divorces in Azerbaijan in 2015-2023 was analyzed. It was determined that if the number of marriages in 2015 was 7,2 per 1,000 people, and the number of divorces was 1.3, these numbers have changed considerably in the following years. The number of marriages decreased in 2020 and reached the lowest figure – 3.5 per 1000 people, and began to increase in 2022 and was equal to 6.1. If in 2015 the number of divorces was 1.3 per 1000 people, in 2023 it reached its highest level – 2.1. In other words, there is an inverse trend between the number of those who get married and those who divorce. In our opinion, among the reasons for the increase in the number of divorces, such factors as first of all, the lack of children, that is, the decrease in births, social difficulties, etc.

Keywords: *demographic indicators, family, childbirth, marriage, divorce*

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Ailə vəziyyəti - anabillik məzununa təsir edən amil kimi

Xülasə

Müxtəlif ölkələrdə əhalinin dinamikası əsasən doğum və ölüm nümunələri ilə müəyyən edilir. Nikah vəziyyəti tam ailə qurmaq üçün vacib şərtidir. Əhalinin demoqrafik göstəricilərinə əhəmiyyətli dərəcədə təsir göstərir. Məqalədə 2015-2023-cü illərdə Azərbaycanda nikahların və boşanmaların sayı təhlil edilib. Müəyyən edilib ki, 2015-ci ildə əhalinin hər 1000 nəfərinə nikahların sayı 7,2, boşanmaların sayı isə 1,3 olubsa, sonrakı illərdə bu rəqəmlər xeyli dəyişib. Nikahların sayı 2020-ci ildə azalaraq ən aşağı göstəriciyə – hər 1000 nəfərə 3,5-ə çatıb və 2022-ci ildə artmağa başlayıb və 6,1-ə bərabər olub. Əgər 2015-ci ildə boşanmaların sayı hər 1000 nəfərə 1,3 idisə, 2023-cü ildə ən yüksək həddə – 2,1-ə çatıb. Yəni ailə quranlarla boşananların sayı arasında tərs meyil var. Fikrimizcə, boşanmaların sayının artmasının səbəbləri arasında ilk növbədə uşaqların olmaması, yəni doğumların azalması, sosial çətinliklər və s.

Açar sözlər: demoqrafik göstəricilər, ailə, doğum, evlilik, boşanma

Introduction

Birth is considered one of the most important demographic processes of the modern era and, along with the death rate, determines the reproduction process of the country's population (Yevropeyskiy portal informatsii zdravookhraneniya). In the general structure of demographic indicators of the country's population, the birth rate is considered as the total number of births of people in the genealogy of one generation or the total process of several generations of the population (Kovalev, 2018).

There are several reasons for the decrease in the birth rate in Azerbaijan. In recent years, people have had the opportunity to compare their life in the republic with life in foreign countries. Modern families prefer to have one or two children, which means that it gives them the opportunity to give their children a good education and provide them with housing. Back in the Soviet years, the Azerbaijani family was traditionally a family with many children. The previously existing patriarchal structure of Azerbaijani society represented the classic model of the family. However, the structure and model of the family has completely changed, which ultimately affects family planning and changes in family values during the birth of children (Tagiyeva, 2024). Sociological studies show that there is a direct relationship between indicators of the birth rate and the increase in the number of divorces (Budarin, 2019; Kizeev, 2022).

Research

The quantitative and qualitative indicators of birth related to the number of the country's population and its basic structure are considered the main elements of national power, and some issues, the protection of the gene pool of the Azerbaijani people, migration and demography are very important from the point of view of national security. Population dynamics in different countries are mainly determined by birth and death patterns (Pham, 2019; Murray, 1997). At the same time, marital status is considered one of the important factors affecting the birth rate (Nenko, 2022; Sanderson, 2020).

The purpose of the research was to reveal the characteristics that appeared in the dynamics of the level of some demographic indicators of the population (marriage and divorce) on the example of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Material and Methods

In the course of the research, some demographic indicators of the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan (the number of marriages, the number of divorces) were studied (Azərbaycanda demoqrafik göstəricilər, nigah və boşanmalar altbölməsi, 2024).

The sources of information were the information obtained from the official websites provided by the Azerbaijan State Statistics Committee (Tabib.gov, 2023, dekabr; 2024, yanvar-oktyabr), the Department of Informatics and Statistics of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azərbaycanda demoqrafik göstəricilər, nigah və boşanmalar altbölməsi, 2024, s. 48, 52, 59, 64, 249).

Results and Their Discussion

Statistical data on marriages and divorces are obtained as a result of statistical processing of the data contained in the records of the relevant acts compiled by the registration departments of the Ministry of Justice on the conclusion and dissolution of marriage (Table 1). The legal minimum age for starting a family in Azerbaijan is 18 years for men and women. The date of marriage is considered the date of registration by the registration departments of the Ministry of Justice. Dissolution of marriage is considered to be dissolved from the moment it is registered.

Table 1
 Some demographic indicators (marriages and divorces) recorded by official bodies in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2022-2023

	2022 year		2023 year	
	1000 people	For every 1000 people	1000 people	For every 1000 people
Marriages	61,9	6,1	54,2	5,3
Divorces	16,0	1,6	21,7	2,1

Marriage – is a form of relationship that defines the rights and duties of a man and a woman towards each other and children. The legal relationship between husband and wife is the registration of their marriages in the registration departments of the Ministry of Justice. Current statistics of natural population movement take into account only legally registered marriages. In the population census, those who are actually married are taken into account, regardless of whether they are officially registered or not.

The total rate of marriage – is the ratio of the number of registered marriages to the average annual number of the population, calculated per 1000 people of the population.

Divorce (dissolution of marriage) – the final legal annulment of a cohabiting couple's marriage entitles the parties to remarry. The fact of dissolution of marriage is considered to be dissolved after it is registered in the registration departments of the Ministry of Justice.

The total coefficient – of divorce is the ratio of the number of divorces during the indicated period to the average annual number of the population during that period. It is calculated per 1000 people of the population.

The family – is the basis of the modern state. The model of the Azerbaijani family has been one of the most exemplary social institutions with its own values for centuries. The role of the family in the development of every person and even every nation is great. The strength of this institution means the strengthening and development of that society and the state. Most of the children are born in marriage, in complete families. But, unfortunately, in addition to this, there are also incomplete families, and they make up quite large numbers (Table 2).

Table 2
 Number of children born to women in unregistered marriages

Indicator	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total (people)	15622	18814	17566	17714	21453	20716	22796	26288	24038
In urban areas	6019	7184	6566	6667	7790	7509	8167	9592	9411
In rural areas	9603	11630	11000	11047	13663	13207	14629	16696	14627

As can be seen, if the number of children born to women in unregistered marriages was 24,038 in 2015, in 2023 it was 156,222, that is, it decreased by 1.5 times. The highest number was registered in 2016 – 26,288 people. This indicator was especially high in rural areas compared to

urban areas. Thus, in 2015 there were 14627 people in the village and 9411 people in the city, in 2023 there were 9603 people in the village and 6019 people in the city. Here, too, the highest indicator was recorded in 2016: in rural areas – 16,696 people, in the city – 9,592 people. This can be explained by the lack of opportunities for the rural population to register or the occurrence of early marriages. This situation is also influenced by the constant increase in the number of divorces (Figure 1).

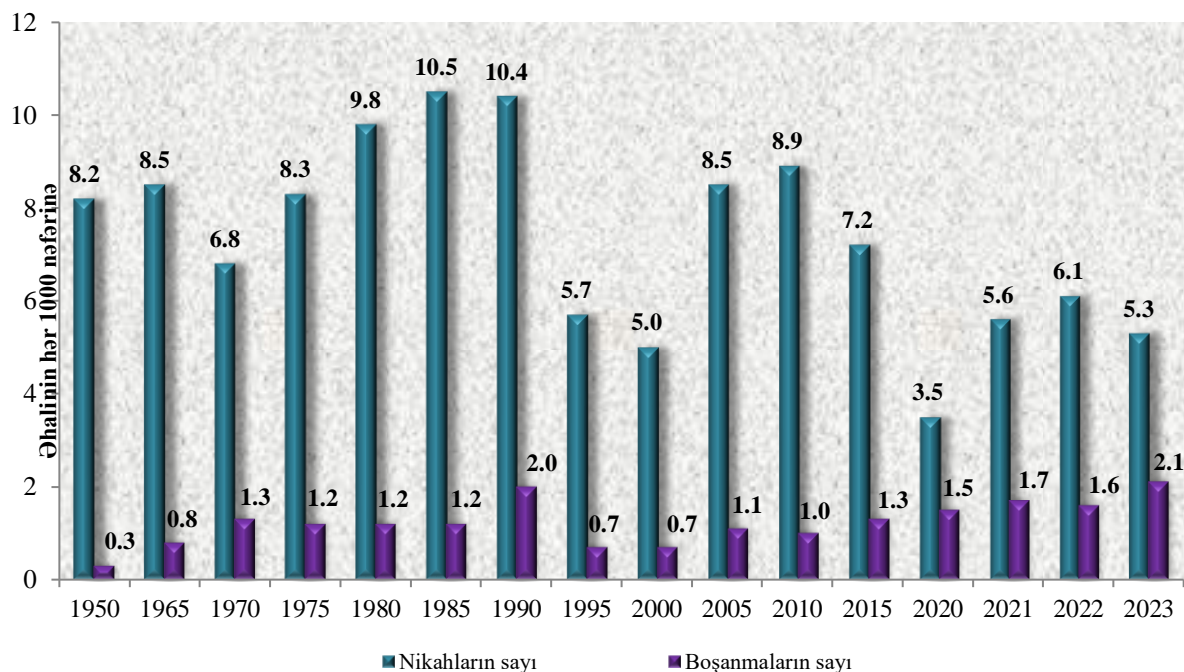


Figure 1 Total ratios of officially registered marriages and divorces in the Republic of Azerbaijan

As can be seen from the picture, if in 2015 the number of marriages was 7.2 per 1,000 people, and the number of divorces was 1.3, these numbers have changed considerably in the following years. Thus, the number of marriages decreased and reached the lowest number in 2020 – 3.5 (per 1000 people), which should be considered as a social consequence of the 2019 global pandemic of COVID-19. Later, it started to increase again and in 2022 it was equal to 6.1. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same about the number of divorces. So, if at the beginning of the studied years (in 2015) it was 1.3 per 1000 population, it had an increasing trend in the following years and varied between 1.3-1.7 in different years, reaching the highest in 2023. reached its limit – 2.1 per 1000 people. In other words, there is an inverse trend between the number of people getting married and the number of divorcees - the number of people getting married is increasing along with the number of people getting divorced. In our opinion, among the reasons for the increase in the number of divorces, first of all, the lack of children, that is, the decrease in births, social difficulties, etc. such factors as At the same time, this can lead to aggravation of the demographic situation (Ümumi məlumatlar, ana ölümü, körpə ölümü; Əhalinin xəstələnməsi, Nigah və boşanmalar altbölmələri, 2024).

Conclusion

It has been determined that if the number of children born to women in unregistered marriages was 24,038 in 2015, in 2023 it was 156,222, that is, it decreased by 1.5 times. If in 2015, the number of marriages was 7.2 per 1,000 people, and the number of divorces was 1.3, these numbers have changed considerably in the following years. The number of marriages decreased in 2020 and reached the lowest figure – 3.5 per 1000 people, and began to increase in 2022 and was equal to 6.1. The number of divorces in 2015 was 1.3 per 1,000 people, and in 2023 it reached its highest level –

2.1. In other words, there is an inverse trend between the number of those who get married and those who divorce.

The reproductive activity of the population is manifested by the birth of children. Its characteristic feature is the ability to reproduce (fertility). The number of births depends not only on biological factors, but also on cultural, social, religious and even political factors. Solving the problem of declining births requires a comprehensive approach in the field of stimulation of births.

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