



Changing Demographic Structure of Kazakhstan, 1991-2015

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Abstract:

Human is always at the core of the development strategy of a country. This makes the study of demographic structure of country a relevant area. "The Conference on Population and Development", held in Cairo (Egypt) in 1994 has been broadened the scope of the demography in the field of study. The population and sustainable development are closely linked with each other and this provides a space to study the changing dynamics of population and its impacts on development. Kazakhstan is a nation having lack of human resources due to emigration of people therefore the demography became the most pressing issue of political and economic development. The extensive industrialization during Soviet era in Central Asian states brought huge number of Russian and other ethnic people to these states that changed the population composition of these countries. The disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991 created a miserable condition for the newly independent Central Asian Republics as huge emigration of skilled people like Russians, Germans and other ethnic groups took place that decreased population of these countries. This paper is going to describe changes occurred in population composition in Kazakhstan during 1991-2015 period.

Keywords: *Demography, Migration, Kazakhstan, Emigration and Immigration.*

Introduction

Demography is the statistical and mathematical study of the size, composition and spatial distribution of human populations and of changes over time in these aspects through the operation of the five processes of fertility, mortality, marriage, migration and social mobility. Demography is defined as the study of human population, its size, composition and distribution across places and process through which population change occurs. Demography is studied in different aspects such as static and dynamic. The static features include

such as composition by age, sex, race, marital status and economic attributes of the region, while dynamic aspects are birth rate, death rate and migration and these are the features those lead to population change of a country. Population composition is described in terms of basic demographic characteristics like age, sex, family and population's socio-economic variables in terms of ethnicity, religion, language, education, occupation and wealth.

The world is in the midst of population change. In the second half of the 20th century world population has reached to



6 billion. The analysis of changes in demographic trends articulates expectations on nation's potential for future economic expansion. The central Asian republics were inhabited by indigenous nomadic Turkic origin people. Under the tsarist rule Russification of these countries began. Earlier influx of Russian people and others was for agricultural purposes of soviet people. Later on, industrialization processes initiated by Soviet Union in these five nations of region brought huge number of people of Russian ethnicity and other ethnic groups. This expansion of population in these states converted the native composition of demography.

outcome of such instabilities was large scale in form of the emigration of skilled people from the country. The transition period in Kazakhstan from 1991 to 2002 experienced a decrease in the total population. The situation started improving from the year 2002 because of political stability and economic development in the region. The government took decisive steps towards the population policies of state. As a result, the population of Kazakhstan showed the sign of increase and it become 17572 thousand in 2015.

Population change is complex phenomena and occurs through changes in birth rate, death rate and migration. The outcome of soviet disintegration was fall in economic conditions and living standard of people. The communist system of economy altered into market economy. The

The objective of the study is to describe the changing pattern in birth rate, death rate and natural increase of population in Kazakhstan during 1991-2015 period. It will also look into the positive steps taken by government of Kazakhstan to increase the population of the country and development of human resource.

Fig. 1 Study Area



Source: www.mapsofworld.com/kazakhstan/html



Need of the study

The study of demography is important to understand the potential of human resources and for understanding social and economic problems and identifying the potential solutions through the formation of social and economic development for a country. Kazakhstan is the country that underwent drastic population change. During soviet period, huge immigration of various ethnic groups specially Russians took place and after independence massive emigration happened. Thus after 1991 enormous changes have occurred in the population composition of the country that is important to study.

Review of Literature

The demographers started applying the statistical methods to study the heterogeneous structure of population. Demographic studies are interdisciplinary those are interrelated to other subjects as social, economic and other aspects (Xie, 2000). Migration is the process in which people change their place of residence either permanently or temporarily. The migration is a dynamic aspect of population change. The movement of people can take place at various levels as regional, national and international. Migration occurs because of the push and pull factors contributing; push factors are the discouraging factors like unemployment, lack of basic amenities, higher prices and environmental degradation those are responsible to leave the place while the pull factors are attracting factors as availability of job opportunities, health and education amenities those result in incoming of people to that place (Sinha, 2005).

Migration is viewed in terms of the adaptation of people with their changing environment. Thus migration brings changes in lifestyle, socio-economic, demographic, ethnic and cultural characteristics at origin, destination and migrants itself. The migration and citizenship policies of Kazakhstan are oriented to Kazakh ethnic people. The government itself approaches towards such a policy, so lack of political resistance provides the ideal situation for the continuation and promotion of repatriation policy. The policy is aimed to overcome negative legacies applied during soviet period as Russification of Kazakhstan and bringing Kazakh people to minority status. However dilemma has appeared as due to integration of immigrant Kazakh people with local community created new issues and social divisions in the society. The government is providing the citizenship to make full-fledged member of nation and financial assistance comes across with resistance by local communities. These possess the new challenges for the Kazakh government (Oka Natsuko, 2013).

Kazakhstan has got independence in 1991, the situation reversed, now people have started returning to their native countries. From 1991 to 2000, about 2 million people left the state. Since Kazakhstan got independence, the population changes in terms of birth rate, death rate and natural change are taking place. At present, the demographic processes are growing at moderate rate due to increasing birth rate and decline in death rate. There is variation in rural and urban areas in population growth because both have different life and living conditions, customs, traditions, behaviour and relationships with people. Urbanization is the phenomena that

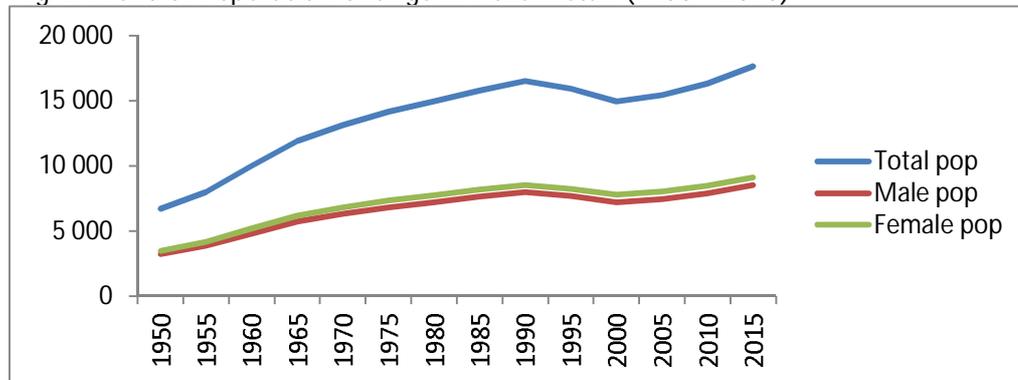


impacted the reproductive performance of women. The ethnic differences also create the different rate natural population growth as Kazakh people having higher growth in comparison Russian people. Thus in rural areas the growth rates are greater than urban areas (Rakhmetova and Abenova, 2013).

The population has declined from 16373 thousand in 1991 to 14976 thousands in 2002. The period from 1991 to 2002 was a transitional period for Kazakhstan during which various political, demographic, social and economic changes have happened. After 2002 population has started increasing and in 2015 its total population was 17572 thousand people.

Results and Discussions

Fig. 2 Trend of Population Change in Kazakhstan (1950 – 2015)



Source: UN population division.

The diagram represents the trend of population change occurred in Kazakhstan from 1950 to 2015 and it shows that population is increasing. Kazakhstan has practiced a decline in size of population of the country in the transition period. Since 1950 the trend of population had been positive till the partition of the USSR but thereafter a decrease in population occurred due to emigration from the country. The demographic structure of the country started improving from the year 2000 onwards.

Changes in Birth Rate and Death Rate

Kazakhstan experienced the socio-economic decline and ethnic conflicts

those had their influences on demographic behavior of the people. This change in the demographic behaviour of people can be differentiated according to their ethnic characteristics and evaluated on the basis of change in the age of marriage and fertility rate. The Kazakhstan has experienced transition period during 1991 to 2002 and in this era birth rate reduced from 21.5 births per thousand in 1991 to 15.3 births per thousand in 2002 but after the transition period the trend came over showing the positive sign. Birth rate began to increase and in 2013 it reached to 22.73 births per thousand.

The birth rate and marriage ratio are also related to each other and the change in marriage ratio brings changes in birth

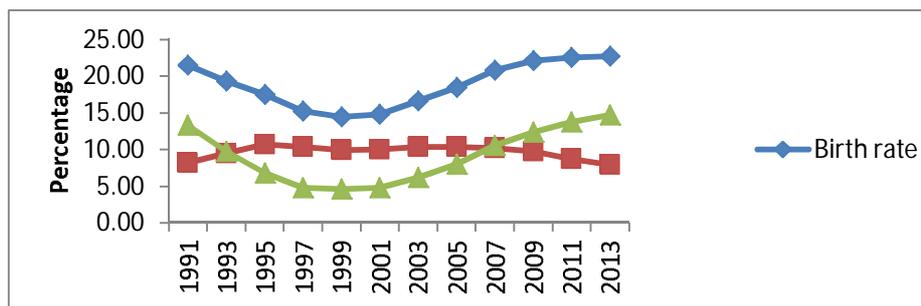


rate. The ethnic differences and socio-economic differences among the females created the difference in the birth rate. Mobility phenomena occurred less among the Kazakh people but Russians had it potentiality for migration after the partition of the USSR, so the age of marriage among Russians was lower but onset of first child was lower due to mobility factor.

U. N. defined the mortality as permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after birth taken place. Death can happen only after birth occurred. After the partition of the USSR, the level of mortality started increasing in Kazakhstan. Earlier the death rate was lower as 8.2 per thousand in 1991 but after the disintegration of USSR the death rate enhanced and it was 10.7 per thousand in 1995 and 10.4 per thousand in 2003 but after 2005-06 these indicated a decreasing trend and it reached to 7.98 per thousand in 2013. The dissolution of the Soviet Union caused an economic shock to its people and the life expectancy declined in all the republics of former USSR.

The primary causes for such high mortality in the country were traumas, accidents, murders, cardio-vascular diseases, and regenerations. The men experienced higher mortality rather than the women in the Kazakhstan as the economic, social and political transformations were taking place in the country and the economic distress triggered the huge consumption of alcohol. The death rate also increased among women those were mainly due to infectious diseases, birth organ diseases and diseases related to blood circulation system. The ethnic variations result in the different rate of mortality among different ethnic groups. The Russian ethnic people practiced higher death rate in compare to Kazakh people although the Russian people were economically better than Kazakhs. As the Russians were more involved in the economic and market activities in the country, the economic and market failure resulted in greater death rate of Russian people rather than the Kazakhs.

Fig.3. Change in birth rate, death rate and natural increase in Kazakhstan 1991 – 2013



Source: Agency on statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, www.stat.gov.kz

It can be analyzed from the diagram that there was sharp decline in the period between 1992-93 to 2002-03 in birth rate and natural increase while the death rate



showed an increased trend in this period. However, now after 2005, the conditions have been changed in the country as the economic growth improved, agricultural and industrial development created a number of job opportunities leading to better quality living standard; health facilities also enhanced in the country that resulted in decline in death rate and increase in birth rate. The natural increase is defined as the difference between the birth rate and death rate. The dissolution of USSR represents a sharp decline in rate of natural increase. After the end of transition period in 2000 the rate of natural increase enhanced. This is a good indicator in the structure of demography of a country that will constitute the strength of nation building.

Migration

Throughout the human history migration of people from densely populated areas to less densely populated areas remained an important mechanism to regulate global demography. Distribution of population is influenced by migration waves either international or internal migration. The republics of central Asia are not exception; movement of people from international borders and internally have impacted the composition of population. The two processes emigration and immigration, meaning respectively to move to other country and to come to a new country, work simultaneously.

Table. 1. Number of Migrants in Kazakhstan (2005 – 2013)

Year	Emigrants	Immigrants	Net migration
2005	52139	74807	22668
2006	33690	66731	33041
2007	42435	53397	10962
2008	45287	46404	1117
2009	33985	41511	7526
2010	26541	42057	15516
2011	32920	38016	5096
2012	29722	28296	-1426
2013	24384	24105	-276

Source: Agency on statistics of the republic of Kazakhstan, www.stat.gov.kz.

The table is representing the emigrants, immigrants and net migration occurred during 2003 to 2013 period. In 2009 the total number of migrants was 33,983 people and among these migrants the numbers of females and males were 18,033 and 15,950 respectively. Thus till 2000 the emigration had dominance over immigration process but after this year the economy of the state started recovering and became stabilized in the

following years that impacted the emigration process and the number of emigrants declined and balanced the migration. After the disintegration of Soviet Union the political elite of Kazakhstan wanted to form a state truly for titular ethnicity by approaching the Kazakhs people living in abroad to “come back home” and granting them the full citizenship of the newly independent state. The policy was aimed to overcome



the negative legacies under the soviet regime as the minority status of Kazakhs in Kazakhstan and the linguistic as well as cultural Russification among the Kazakhs themselves. The migration policy of the government was aimed to balance the emigration of large number of other ethnic communities and populate their territories with members of titular nations.

Conclusion

To conclude, it can be said that the demography of a country is the base of development of that country. The natural increase in population and decline in mortality rate is indicating the development of country. The large proportion of young population will contribute in economic growth and development of nation. As migration is a still a crucial phenomenon of population change in all central Asian republics. The net migration balance is positive in Kazakhstan. The demographic processes in the Kazakhstan are advancing towards the moderate growth rate because of stabilization in the birth rate and reduced mortality rate. There was lack of human capital in Kazakhstan after the USSR dissolution as a consequence of large scale skilled migration but now gradually Kazakhstan has come over from this condition and is now having good number of human capital that is contributing in the development of the country.

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