

POPULATION QUALITY – THE BASE OF DEMOGRAPHIC SECURITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Demographic changes in the Republic of Moldova encouraged the appearance of some problems as: birth rate decrease, mortality rate increase, negative natural balance and as consequence – limited population reproduction. Improving demographic crisis consequences, it is necessary to elaborate and implement a demographic functionally security strategy. The main idea of this security strategy should be a demographic policy based on improving population quality (health conditions, education and cultural level).

Key words: *demographic security, demographic policy, population quality, population aging.*

I. Introduction

Demographic development of a country represents one of social and national key priorities. These priorities require commitments of competent bodies and consistent policies, guided to problem's solution linked with population, joined authorities, institutions efforts and civil society, locally and regionally. Priorities and tasks are oriented to slowdown population rate decrease and raise human capital quality level (health conditions, education level, population abilities). In context of demographic transition from a situation when the population number was increasing numerically to another of stabilization and aging population, as in the case of Republic of Moldova, demographic strategy interferes in keeping on a demographic balance necessary to each country, according to problems that affect it. Demographic strategy is one of necessary elements to increase population quality and ensure optimum conditions for a durable development of a unique society, with a high level of education, culture and health. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to know actual demographic situation of the state, its problems and factors that caused occurrence and maintenance of existing problems. Their knowledge will help to elaborate a concrete plan of economic, social, political and demographic actions. These measures will help to improve negative impact of existing demographic problems.

This study has the goal to analyse actual demographic situation of the Republic of Moldova, the main demographic problems, factors that determine its occurrence and maintenance. These are necessary for elaborating a plan of actions in order to eliminate negative consequences of these problems, socially, politically and economically. For elaborating this plan, help measures that are targeted to improve qualitative aspects of population – human capital level which represents the base of a sustainable development of each country, also of the Republic of Moldova.

II. Critical analyses of the researching problem

The Republic of Moldova population, as in other countries, pass through important demographic changes. The situation is characterized of a set of demographic problems, as: birth rate decrease, mortality rate increase, infant mortality high rate, aging population, rapid change of social structure and the migration growth character. All these changes lead to decrease the number of population of the state. The demographic fall and the damage of the age structure are the most visible and concern aspects of the demographic situation in our country. After about two decade of demographic fall, in the lack of factors that could change the evolution, the state demographic future is gloomy and the elaboration of a national population strategy became one of the national priorities.

In this connection, can be mentioned the most important actual demographic problems in the Republic of Moldova:

- Rapid decreasing of the birth rate, infertility rate increase, and as consequence limited population reproduction;
- Mortality rate increase, maintaining high level of infant mortality and maternal mortality rate;
- Life expectancy at birth decrease (although, in the last years its value have been growing, but remain under the limit of many European countries);
- Divorce rate increase, especially of rural population;
- Increasing of age structure imbalance, decreasing the young population weight (up to 20 years old) and rapidly increasing of aging population (especially, over 60 years old);
- Intensification of aging population. If, during many decades, Republic of Moldova was having a favourable age structure (young population had a fixed percent, and aged population under 12%), in the last period, during 20-25 years, population passed aging limit (12 %), also some districts overrun the critic level of 20 % (Drochia, Donduşeni, Briceni);
- Emigration intensification, as result of economic crisis and of all economic, political and social inefficient changes. It is important to specify that preponderant emigrate young people, of reproduction years, with high level calcification and rich professional practice;
- Depopulation process intensification, especially of villages. At the same time, human potential are concentrated in Chişinău municipality and neighbouring districts and other towns (Bălţi, Orhei, Soroca, Cahul) are not attractive for intern and external migration;

At the base of these rapid and continuous demographic changes there are some groups of factors. In order to analyse the origin of a problem, its evolution and as a result to elaborate a plan of actions, it is strictly necessary to know factors that are responsible of these changes. Just knowing these factors, it will be possible to elaborate proposals of consequent and working demographic policies. Some of these factors, those caused quality changes are:

- Population income and living standards;
- The system and level of education;
- Reproductive health and health system;
- Sexual culture and sexual behaviour risks.

Analysing these factors, it could be mentioned that people's income contributes directly to increasing and decreasing their living standards. These have an important role in demographic development of the country. Radical economic changes, after Republic of Moldova become an independent country, worsened the demographic situation and stimulated emigration. The consequences of created situation had and continue to exert negative effects on demographic situation. The Republic of Moldova is situated the last position in Europe and on the 147th position in international ranking by PRB per capita – 1736\$, while other European countries its value overtakes some thousands USD (Luxembourg – USD 96269, Norway – USD 80749, Romania – USD 9570, Ukraine – USD 2002).

Education system has a determinate role in increasing human capital quality. Population education level, also as education opportunities which education system offers to children, have a significant impact on population reproductive behaviour. According to National Bureau of Statistics, student's number in institution of higher education is increasing continuously. The number was of 357 persons/ 10000 inhabitants in 2006, and 273 persons/ 10 000 inhabitants in 2014, the number diminished with 24 % over 8 years. Another demographic indicators from education category is school life expectancy, which had the value of 11,3 years for primary-higher education, while in other countries of European Union this value is of 16-17 years (for example Spain – 17,1 years, France – 16,3 years, Romania – 16,3 years). These aspects are only some examples in analysing demographic situation of education level of people in Republic of Moldova, necessary for acting in improving human capital quality.

Reproductive health and health system quality is a factor that also affects the creation of actual demographic situation. The reproductive health is defined as physic, mental and social health, linked with functionality and reproductive system. This is directly influenced by general level of population health. Some demographic indicators of health, as infant mortality, has high rate comparative with other countries, of 9,6 ‰ for 2014th year (Romania – 9,2 ‰ for 2013th year, Bulgaria – 7,3 ‰, the highest rate in European Union, and the lowest rate – Cyprus – 1,6‰, Finland – 1,8 ‰, Estonia- 2,1 ‰). This value is in process of decreasing, which means that the medical assistance quality is better. Mortality rate is a generalized indicator, but it's rate variation determine birth rate level, natural increase, life expectance. Mortality rate in Republic of Moldova has a downward trend, although its value remains higher than other developed countries. In 2014, it registered 11, 1 ‰, while developed countries, for example France has the mortality rate of 8 ‰.

Sexual culture and sexual behaviour represent other factors that influenced precarious demographic situation in our country. These factors determine directly birth rate, fertility, primary and secondary infertility. Sexual behaviour is represented of contraceptive method use with low effects and low information about modern contraceptive methods, and also about sexually transmitted diseases. This is influenced by the education level of people. It is known that persons with low education level prefer to use traditional contraceptive methods, while persons with high level of education use modern contraceptive methods. The effect of this inappropriate behaviour is experienced through high level of sexual transmitted diseases. Young people are the most affected group of persons, who are at risk of HIV/AIDS. The incidence of infections with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the last years was reduced with 9 % compared to 2008 – 111 cases / 100 000 persons (2013), the value being higher than in other European countries [9, p.85].

III Own vision about problems and obtained results of research

Actual demographic problems of our country are well known by competent bodies, Government and society. It is important to know that the essence of a demographic policy is a working demographic management. The management should be a durable and permanent activity, necessary in the process of development and renovation of demographic policy elements and measures. Only having a qualitative and qualified demographic management it could be elaborated demographic policy and security demographic strategy. Fixed and removable demographic policy could help to reach standards of social and economic development for a long perspective. This policy should focus on increasing qualitative aspects of population. Republic of Moldova could cope to demographic challenge only focus on population quality, which represents: ... a category of population qualitative characteristics as: health, education, culture, which represents a minimum necessary to develop the society. Besides population social movements and health, some authors attach to qualitative characteristics of population a set of demographic indicators as natural population movement and ethnic structure [3, p.419]. Regional and global experience shows that countries have success when invest in health, education and work opportunities for people, especially young people. Fertility rate may increase when there are investments in health and education and also when there are lows and programs to support families, especially young one to reconcile work with the wanted number of children. Planning family programs, also, could contribute to a healthier and more productive society, and its numerical growth.

While fertility rate variation is influenced by many factors, infertility is a medical problem. In Republic of Moldova there is a high secondary infertility rate (one of five women who already have a child, could not have the second one) and this problem should be examined in order to permit families to have the wanted number of children. Planning family available programs and access to qualitative education and to adequate for age services it proved to be important for reducing sexual transmitted diseases, including HIV, and decrease infertility rate.

Young people could be the main important ring in the process of social changes if they are insured with health services, qualitative education and decent work opportunities. Their active and significant participation at public life are not fully realized. The realization of these objects could be possible through

elaboration of a demographic security plan. The demographic security represents the population conditions which express the protection from any risks in order to create demo-social-economic conditions for human interest promotion. In others words, demographic security represents the demographic protection from the potential and real threats, ensuring at least political, economic and ethnical preservation of the country and aims first of all demographic vital processes, linked with the society existence, which reflects its quality, the development level and functionality [1, p.63]. These are reproduction processes, formed by three forms of population shift: vital statistics (birth rate, death, fetal deaths, marriage and divorces), also, the qualitative characteristics of population (physic, psychological and social health). It is important to add that qualitative population characteristics are also of education and qualification, and culture. All these, ensure a minimum necessary for future society development, and of the state economy. The main important aim of demographic security consists of creating conditions necessary for demographic threat prevention and ensuring population stability, generally, the demographic security represents the depopulation resistance, keeping livestock population, including economical active population and ensures its reproduction.

In the Republic of Moldova already there is a project, named "National strategy of demographic security in the Republic of Moldova". According to The National Strategy Program of demographic security (2011-2025), approved by the Government Decision nr. 768 from 12.10.2011, the expected measures were planned in order to solve three domains of demographic problems: birth rate, death rate and migration, including many factors that influenced these processes. This strategy is in impasse because of the demographic politic lack; also it was elaborated without consulting specialists, based on identical elaboration of neighbour countries.

Generally, demographic security strategy should contain a set of measures, as laws and directives that have influence on the country demographic development in time. The Project of Demographic Security Strategy in the republic of Moldova that was discussed represents a symbiosis of the demographic political concept and economic, social and ecological one for future decades. The project is overloaded with a lot of information which are not prerogatives for the demographic security strategy.

According to expert's opinions, The Demographic Security Strategy of a country should trace activity directives of all economic, social, political, territorial actors in order to recover the demographic situation at some steps of the country development. It is necessary to elaborate some demographic development programs, considering the economic, social and demographic concrete situation for any step of the demographic projection.

A good demographic security project for the Republic of Moldova should be based on some simple and realizable actions as:

- The identification of an evaluation mechanism of the politics impact on population and population dynamics in sectorial politics in order to satisfy people necessities;
- Creating conditions which will permit families to decide how many and when to have children in order to balance professional and personal lives;
- Young people free access to information, education and healthcare, thus remain health and to contribute efficiently to country development. In order to improve on demographic aging, age people implication in public life represents a priority and for realizing this, it is necessary to elaborate new mechanism of cooperation through generation;
- The consolidation of Parliament and National Commission for Population and Development in the process of plans monitoring and existence strategies implementation, also the necessary fund allocation and new policies elaboration in line with European and international standards;
- The development of a stronger research and dates collection capacity in the Republic of Moldova institutions, to recommend to decision factors the process of success politics development;

These are only some of starting points in demographic strategy elaboration, based on the improving of population qualitative dimensions. Only, contributing with common efforts to increasing human quality,

the country will cope with demographic and economic provocations. The elaboration of a functional demographic policy and a national population strategy isn't the last step in improving of demographic crisis consequences. The strategy management and the institution's work in implementation of demographic strategy are also very important. The monitoring of the strategy application and results is indispensable for correcting ongoing, the priorities and means re-evaluating, the negative effects avoiding.

III. Conclusions

According to was said earlier, from the short approach about the most important demographic problems that affects the Republic of Moldova, factors that are the base of problems appearance and aggravation or melioration in time and human quality role in the process of sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova could be nominate the next conclusions:

1. Knowing the current demographic situation in the country, also the factors which affects this situation creation and its evolution represent the first step in the process of a demographic strategy elaboration;
2. The demographic crisis is one of the national problem of grate important with consequences on economic crisis;
3. Human capital quality is one of the most important national priorities in elaboration of a working and efficient demographic strategy;
4. The realization, implementation and correct running of the demographic strategy, based on the human quality improving represents the base of a sustainable development social and economic assurance.

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