

Assessment of the Role of the State as a Leader in the Demographic Development of Ukraine

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ABSTRACT : It is established that one of the most methodologically difficult is the problem of assessing the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development. Such assessment should be comprehensive, taking into account not only the achievement of the set goal, but also the wide variety of consequences for the family, region, country. Based on practical experience, the assessment of the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development was made on the basis of a sociological survey. The surveys were conducted in Kyiv (Ukraine) during 2015-2017. The survey was conducted among students of the Academy of Municipal Administration and their families, as well as students of the master's program in the specialty "Civil Service". The sociological survey covered a fairly wide range of socio-economic, demographic, sociological and socio-psychological problems concerning various aspects of state regulation of demographic development. The sample size was 670 people. The survey aimed to identify the importance of the family in the system of life values of modern man, to study the motivations for the birth of children, factors of matrimonial behavior of the population.

The evaluation showed poor results. Almost two-thirds of respondents consider state regulation insufficiently effective (30.0%) or practically imperceptible for their own family (26.3%). Regulatory measures are being implemented, but are perceptible only for certain types of families, 16.0% believe and completely deny the availability of any family assistance to 15.5% of the respondents. The survey made it possible to summarize the respondents' position on assessing the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development in Ukraine, with identifying priority areas for its strengthening, namely: solving housing problems, raising wages, introducing monthly financial assistance for child care according to

the living wage .

KEYWORDS: state regulation, demographic development, measures of state influence, housing problems, wages, the role of the state as a leader, financial assistance.

1 INTRODUCTION

Population dynamics affect the spatial development of territories. The development of the territory takes place provided the material and spiritual coherence of the territory and the community is ensured. Material coherence requires social, economic and political structures, and spiritual coherence implies a sense of place, emotional and behavioral attachment to a place, to a certain territory. This is facilitated by demographic behavior and demographic attitudes. Demographic behavior contributes to the formation and reproduction of the institutional structure of a particular place (territory), and demographic relations contribute to economic, social and political development (*Brown, David L., 2019, Gryshova, I.; Shabaturova, T.; Girdzijauskas, S.; Streimikiene, D.; Ciegis, R.; Griesiene, I, 2019*). In such circumstances, scientific research, which takes into account the interrelationship between public policy and demographic change, which is taking place around the world, demography and political science, becomes relevant. Instead, this aspect of social development in the subject area of scientific research has largely shifted to the nonfiction plane and has become the subject of attention of political activists, journalists, which sometimes leads to exaggerated or incorrect interpretations. These exaggerations are based on some of the most politically sensitive and controversial issues: low birth rates, declining population and demographic aging; international migration and more. Also, many governments and non-governmental actors make active use of "strategic demographics", using fertility rate, mortality rate, or migration as tools for domestic or foreign policy. Therefore, scientists should use their knowledge and analytical techniques to better understand such issues in society to prevent excessive manipulation on this topic (*Teitelbaum M.S., 2015, Gryshova, I.; Kyzym, M.; Khaustova, V.; Korneev, V.; Kramarev, H. 2020,).* In recent decades, this topic has been discussed at a high level in most countries and regions of the world. Disputes over demographic policy formation and implementation encourage governments, political elites, international organizations to Act (*Teitelbaum M.S., 2019*)

2 METHODS

General and specific research methods have been used in the study, in particular: systematic and factor analysis and synthesis - to structure the measures of state regulation of demographic development and formulate conclusions to the article; empirical and statistical methods (surveys, focused interviews and questionnaires) - to express public opinion on the assessment and validation of state regulation measures which contribute to the birth rate in the country; graphical and tabular method - to demonstrate the respondents' awareness of the country's demographic situation (level of expertise) and the role of the state as a leader in improving it; method of induction - to extrapolate the results of the survey of respondents to assess the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development in Ukraine with the identification of priority directions of its strengthening.

3 RESULTS

Ukraine is in a demographic crisis. Population decreases, life expectancy decreases, birth

rates do not even guarantee population reproduction (*Libanova E., 2010*). Aging society is the result. In addition, labor emigration takes place (*Gryshova I., Kofman B., Petrenko O., 2019*). As population decline cannot be slowed, every effort should be made to improve the quality of people's life (*Libanova E., 2010*).

One of the most theoretically and methodologically difficult is the problem of evaluating the effectiveness of the planned and implemented regulatory mechanisms of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development, the selection of its criteria and methods. Further reflection on theoretical approaches to the development of mechanisms of state regulation of demographic development, questions of its effectiveness is one of the most important stages in this process (*Gryshova, I.; Demchuk, N.; Koshkalda, I.; Stebliuk, N.; Volosova, N, 2019*).

Assessment of effectiveness in such a complex field as state regulation of demographic development should be integrated, taking into account not only the achievement of the intended goal, but also the wide variety of consequences (short and long-term, demographic and social) for the family, region, country.

This problem logically implies another - the problem of monitoring the results of regulatory impact (*Makarova O.V., 2015, Gryshchenko I. M., 2016*). It should be taken into account that demographic behavior of the population is conditioned by a large number of factors, which makes the regulatory actions of the state as a leader in this field (social protection, health care, housing, etc.) impossible to predict the results. It is necessary to continue to find out the degree of real control over the processes of population reproduction and the speed of response of various components of demographic behavior to the actions of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development of Ukraine.

The difficulty to assess the state's role as a leader in the field of demographic development lies in the fact that such processes are poorly amenable to formalization. The factors that influence the course of these processes can be both qualitative and quantitative. They can be measured on different scales (*Liuds'kyj rozvytok v Ukraini. Modernizatsiia sotsial'noi polityky: rehional'nyj aspekt, 2015*).

Practice shows that one of the effective means of assessing and adjusting the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development to improve its effectiveness are sociological surveys that allow to find out the attitude or perception of the relevant role of the state by the population (*Yerina A.M., 2001*). The surveys were in Kyiv conducted during 2015-2017. The survey was conducted among students of the Academy of Municipal Administration and their families, as well as students of the master's program in the specialty "Civil Service". The sociological survey covered a fairly wide range of socio-economic, demographic, sociological and socio-psychological problems concerning various aspects of state regulation of demographic development. The sample size was 670 people. The survey aimed to identify the importance of the family in the system of life values of modern man, to study the motivations for the birth of children, factors of matrimonial behavior of the population.

The sociological research on family life and family relations was conducted in two directions: group focused interviews and questionnaires. The focused interviews were attended by 132 people grouped by family type - standard, young, single, and large families. 670 people were interviewed by questionnaire. In the course of the survey, the methods of group-focused interviewing and questionnaire survey examined the following issues: attitudes of the population towards the measures of state support for families and motherhood. The questionnaire also raised questions about how the state helps families, and what measures of state influence can contribute to the birth rate in the country. The subjective assessment of the effectiveness of the mechanisms of state regulation of demographic development according to the survey showed that about one third of the respondents consider them either insufficiently effective (30.0%) or practically imperceptible for their own family (26.3%).

16.0% believe that they are implemented, but are only perceptible for certain types of families and 15.5% of the respondents completely deny the availability of any family assistance. If we divide the respondents by age groups, the youngest 16-19-year-old respondents gave the highest rating to the activity of state bodies. The position of people 50 and older is benevolent. People of active reproductive age (25-29 and 30-34-year-olds) who have children declare that they have little or no assistance from their families. Every fifth 20-24 year-old respondent believes that absolutely nothing is being done to help the family (Table 1).

The answers to this question indicate that the mechanisms of state regulation of demographic development are not sufficiently perceptible and that the population is poorly informed about the implementation of regulatory measures.

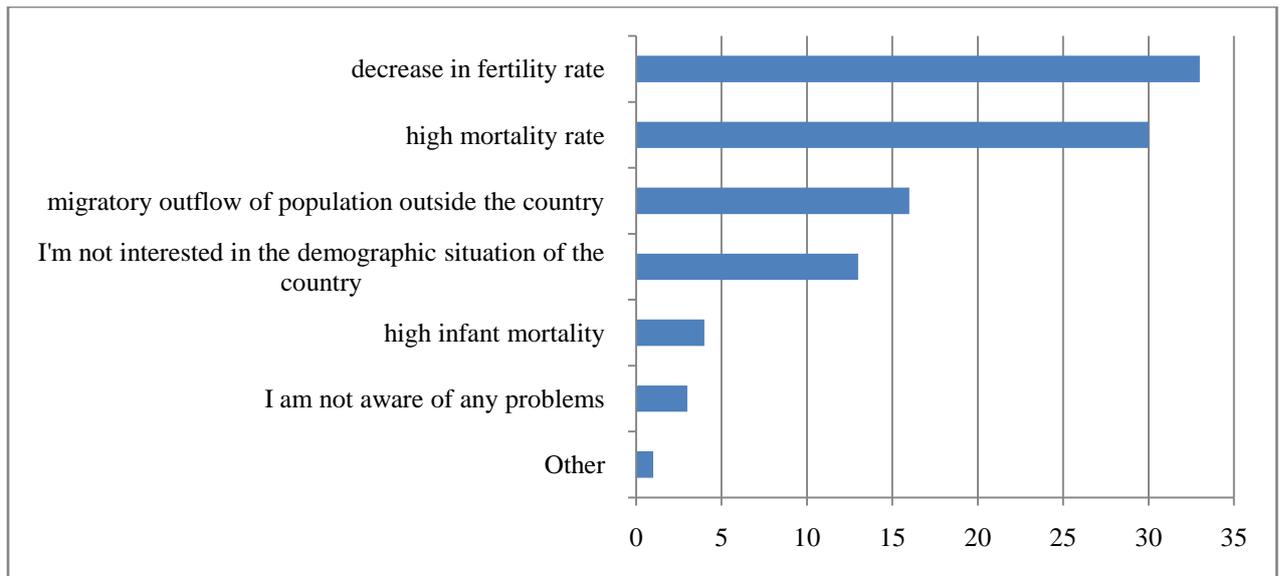
Table 1

How do you assess the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development in Ukraine?

Rating	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	Not mentioned	Total
A lot is being done for the family	16,7	2,9	5,6	4,2	3,7	6,4	4,5	8,4	10,0	5,4
Measures take place, but they are not effective enough	33,3	22,3	25,5	27,1	25,8	29,4	34,5	43,4	30,0	29,9
Activities are conducted, but are only perceptible for certain types of families	33,3	20,4	11,7	13,5	17,9	19,3	14,7	12,7	35,0	15,9
Measures are practically insignificant for my family	16,7	22,3	32,1	35,4	28,9	23,4	22,0	18,7	15,0	26,3
The measures do not provide assistance to the family	0,0	19,4	17,3	15,1	16,8	15,1	17,5	10,2	5,0	15,5
Another	0,0	2,9	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,6	1,8	0,0	0,6
Difficult to answer	0,0	9,7	7,1	4,7	6,8	6,4	6,2	4,8	5,0	6,3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Own results

According to the survey, respondents have some idea of demographic problems in the country. In the ranking of the answers to the relevant question of the questionnaire, the decline in fertility rate is ranked first, the high mortality rate is second, and the migration outflow is third (Fig. 1).



Source: Own results

Fig. 1. What are demographic problems in the country you aware of?

In the course of the questionnaire it was revealed what measures, according to the respondents, are necessary for raising the fertility rate (Table 2). Survey results show that the overwhelming majority of those polled think about the need to return and increase the amount of monthly child care allowance (65%). However, the importance of such an event raises some doubts. Its prevalence in comparison with other measures of state regulation, its estimation by the population as the most essential one, is probably due to the severity of such issue, a decrease in the level of financial support of the family during maternity leave for the care of a child.

Table 2

Measures of state regulation of demographic development which are necessary to increase fertility rate

Conditions	%
Give back and increase the amount of monthly child care assistance	65,0
Increase the amount of one-time assistance at child birth	2,9
Abolish tax on the income of the physical individual for the father if the wife is on child care leave	11,8
Introduce other tax benefits for the family at child birth	14,6
Implement one-time payment from the local budget	5,8
Together	100

Source: Own results

For a long period, the problem of increasing monthly assistance is not fundamentally solved. Although this issue seems to be key to support the reproductive function of the family. Within the framework of discussions of state support measures for family, the focus was on the most needed type of state assistance. Table 3 presents the distribution of answers to this question depending on the focus group.

Table 3
 The most necessary type of state aid

Large families	Complete families	Incomplete families	Teenagers	Those who did not create a family
Accommodation	Accommodation	Accommodation	Accommodation	Accommodation
Kindergartens	Kindergartens	Kindergartens	Kindergartens	Kindergartens
Increase the amount of financial assistance	-			
Awareness	Awareness	Awareness	-	-
Lending	Lending	-	-	-
Prestige of a family with children	Prestige of a family with children	-	-	-
Improve the work of the authorities	Improve the work of the authorities		-	-
-	Development of social amenities	Development of social amenities	-	-
-	Increase the level of wages	Increase the level of wages	-	-
-	Employment	-	-	Employment
Utilities	Utilities	-	-	-

Source: Own results

Respondents' opinions about the regulatory measures of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development were also found out during the questionnaire survey. There is a noticeable differentiation in the answers of the respondents depending on the age (Table 4).

Table 4
 Evaluation of the significance of state regulation measures that help to increase a fertility rate in society, depending on the age of the respondent (average)

Measures of state influence	до 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	over 40 years old
Give back and increase child care allowance to the subsistence level of the amount of monthly	4,85	4,32	4,55	4,58	4,71	4,85
Access to education	4,77	4,26	4,36	4,34	4,59	4,73
Increase the size of aid that offset one-time costs associated with childbirth	4,71	4,43	4,61	4,56	4,62	4,74
Solve unemployment problem	4,69	4,47	4,62	4,57	4,57	4,80
Solve housing problem	4,69	4,69	4,85	4,81	4,84	4,98

Wage increase	4,62	4,74	4,70	4,65	4,81	4,95
Increase the number of kindergartens	4,46	4,33	4,35	4,35	4,44	4,68
Provide special credit conditions to families with children	4,42	4,21	4,51	4,41	4,53	4,69
Improve the quality of medical services	4,36	4,40	4,54	4,46	4,62	4,83
Increase population awareness about government support measures	4,33	4,02	3,89	4,08	4,22	4,59
Reduce the cost of utilities (gas, water, etc.)	4,00	4,31	4,35	4,53	4,63	4,71
Increase the prestige of a family with children	3,92	4,09	4,27	4,18	4,60	4,61

Source: Own results

Respondents with children, as a whole, assess higher of the importance of government measures contributing to the increase in fertility rate (Table 5).

Таблица 5

Evaluation of the significance of state regulation measures that help to increase fertility rate in society, depending on the presence of children in the respondents (average)

Measures of state influence	Presence of kids	Absence of kids	Difference
Solve housing problem	4,86	4,73	0,13
Wage increase	4,79	4,59	0,2
Give back and increase child care allowance to the subsistence level of the amount of monthly	4,72	4,27	0,45
Solve unemployment problem	4,66	4,41	0,25
Increase the size of aid that offset one-time costs associated with childbirth	4,66	4,35	0,31
Improve the quality of medical services	4,57	4,45	0,12
Reduce the cost of utilities (gas, water, etc.)	4,53	4,28	0,25
Provide special credit conditions to families with children	4,53	4,23	0,3
Access to education	4,52	4,19	0,33
Increase the number of kindergartens	4,49	4,15	0,34
Increase the prestige of a family with children	4,35	4,14	0,21
Increase population awareness about government support measures	4,18	3,92	0,26

Source: Own results

Thus, according to the survey participants, government regulation measures can contribute to raising fertility rate by creating favorable conditions for the realization of respondents' reproductive plans. Wage increase, increase of the amount of monthly child care allowance to a minimum, could have the most effective impact on the increase of fertility rate, solving of housing problems.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study of practical experience, the evaluation of the effectiveness and adjustment of the mechanisms of state regulation of demographic development in the region was made on the basis of a sociological survey. This made it possible to assess the role of the state as a leader in the demographic development of Ukraine by appropriate regulatory measures. The evaluation showed poor results. Almost two-thirds of respondents consider state regulation insufficiently effective (30.0%) or practically imperceptible for their own family (26.3%). Regulatory measures are being implemented, but are perceptible only for certain types of families, 16.0% believe and 15.5% of the respondents completely deny the availability of any family assistance. The survey made it possible to summarize the respondents' position on assessing the role of the state as a leader in the field of demographic development in Ukraine with identifying priority directions for its strengthening, namely: solving housing problems, raising wages, introducing monthly child care allowance in line with the subsistence minimum.

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