Tutors´s assessment of the diploma thesis of Aigerim Meldeshova: Differentiation and dynamics of fertility in Kazakhstan during the period of rapid economic growth

The diploma thesis of student Aigerim Meldeshova „Differentiation and dynamics of fertility in Kazakhstan during the period of rapid economic growth" has 108 pages of text including one page of the appendix. The text is divided into nine parts including the introduction plus conclusion, references and the appendix. In addition there are incorporated the lists of tables and figures.

The principal aim of the diploma thesis has been to analyze differentiation of fertility and its development in Kazakhstan. The type of settlement and ethnicity were the main attributes for examining observed differentiation, and the process in question was not analyzed only according to the age of mother but also according to birth parity (in the detail from parity one to parity five and higher).

The work of Aigerim Meldeshova has a solid logical structure; the first quarter of the text is devoted to the introductory and contextual information, remaining three quarters to answering the research questions. In the introductory part, the research problem was defined and subsequently the research objectives and questions were correctly specified. This part of the thesis contains also the outline of basic terminology and literature, relatively extensive conceptual frameworks, as well as a brief discussion of the data and methods used. The core of the thesis starts with an introductory characteristic of economic development of Kazakhstan during past twenty years and is represented namely by the 8th and 9th chapters dealing with description and analysis of fertility process. The principal results of A. Meldeshova diploma research are summarized in the Conclusion.

Aigerim Meldeshova worked on the diploma thesis independently with the use of relevant literature and official statistical data. During her work on the thesis she demonstrated good ability to apply principal demographic approaches and methods on standard statistical data as well as to generalize the obtained results. Her text is well readable without principal formulation and other language insufficiencies.

My remarks to the work are more or less of formal nature.

(a)   Page 7 – missing year/period specification at in the title of table 21
(b)   Page 13 – not unified writing of capital letters in labels
(c)   Page 15 – last row – non-standard quotation
(d)   Page 33 and following – missing specification of mid-year or end of the year stock numbers
(e)   Page 36 - the total population for the year 1989 does not corresponds with the total population in the fig. 4

The submitted text of diploma thesis without no doubt on my side reached the bench mark set for the diploma theses submitted for defense at Charles University, Faculty of Science and its Department of Demography and Geodemography. Therefore I recommend accepting the diploma thesis of Aigerim Meldeshova: Differentiation and dynamics of fertility in Kazakhstan during the period of rapid economic growth, for a defense.

Prague, 20 June 2010

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