

## **Development of population quality and reproduction of human capital in Kazakhstan**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is intended to provide reader with basic information about phenomena of population quality and human capital as scientific terms and necessary factors in the life of society and state, as well as, with basic information about development of human capital and population quality of Kazakhstan from the end of the XIXth and the beginning of the XXI century.

In this paper author will try to research the reproductional model of human capital and population quality in conjunction with institutional factors in transition, such as socio-demographic changes, development and the current level of human capital and population quality of Kazakhstan (the shaping factors, parameters and criteria).

Paper will concentrate on description of the specificity of human capital and population quality in Kazakhstan (stages of development, becoming history, current state, prospects for future development), identification of key factors shaping, forming and developing of human capital and population quality in the society, especially in Kazakhstan, definition the role of society and other social institutions in the building of human capital and population quality, analyzing the policy and strategy for human development, capacity building, human capital and population quality formation in the society.

The main goal of this research is the perceiving socio-demographic changes and the process of a modern level of population quality and human capital establishing in Kazakhstan.

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### **Doctoral Dissertation Detailed Project (draft)**

“Demographic development, the specificity of population quality formation and human capital development of the Kazakhstan in the case of social relations transformation since XIX century”

*Introduction and problem statement:*

The process of the social transformation in Kazakhstan was accompanied by a giant immediate devaluation of the human capital, which was accumulated and generated in the previous socialistic era. This massive depreciation could not but affected the level of productivity in different areas of social life and social relations. The society found itself in a very difficult situation. All previous knowledge, skills and capital turned into almost nothing. In the early 90's the entire country became a huge school class, so-called "Great Relocation of Human Capital". Society started the process of gaining the new knowledge. The old part of human capital came under reevaluation and reconsideration. Since human capital is considered as the main source of development, no wonder that, the value of human capital, by new measures, had declined and caused one of the main reasons of break in development of Kazakhstan in early 90's. And today we should be able to answer what are the key factors of human capital formation, how we came to current situation and where we can go in the future?

Therewith, for a long time among the models of the development of society had been dominating the models which were focused particularly on economic growth. It was believed that economic growth automatically results in the progress and development of human society. But later, the "economic growth" = "human development" was not justified and had resulted in increasing social and political instability and poverty.

Therefore, at the end of the century has become the most attractive concept of human development, the primary objective of which was the realization of the needs and aspirations of the human. In the last decade of the 20th century, experts from international organizations developed the modern concept of human development that puts human at the center of social progress and sees economic growth as a means rather than as the ultimate goal of human development.

As regards to development of theoretical fundamentals of phenomena such human capital and population quality, the situation was not so clear. It is cause; in the world of social science the conceptions of human capital and population quality were not clearly stated. Evolutionary development of society is accompanied by the evolution of the human conception in the society and economic system. There are still rather big misunderstandings on theoretical level concerning issues of human capital and population quality in social science.

Thus and so, the questions of the human in modern world, his role in development, his ability and his future, his capital and qualitative characteristics (such education, health, values, abilities, skills and so on) became one of the most important issues of the modern population studies. However, all we, hypothetically, assume that human capital and population quality are affecting the development in the society. We can barely assert and answer the question what is the exact role of them in the process of development? Where is the exact area of functioning of these phenomena? At any event, we know that population quality and human capital are very significant resources and the guarantees of a stable development, the basis of the national, economic, social and cultural security of the country.

Open discussion in the study of human capital and population quality problems, imperfection of conceptual apparatus, the high practical significance of human capital and population quality regulation **determined the theme** of the dissertation project, object and subject of the study, led to the study objectives, relevance of this research project.

*Goal and objectives:*

The **main goal** of this research is the perceiving socio-demographic changes and the process of establishing a modern level of population quality and human capital in Kazakhstan.

To achieve the goal author will address to the following **objectives**:

- explore basic concepts, approaches and directions in the study of population quality and human capital phenomena (the world's current situation and existing concepts in Kazakhstan);
- develop and scrutinize methods of study the phenomena of human capital and population quality. How human capital and population quality can be researched and studied?
- identify key factors shaping, forming and developing of human capital and population quality in the society, especially in Kazakhstan.
- grasp the main characteristics and components, trends and prerequisites for population quality and human capital formation and its constituents in Kazakhstan;
- describe the specificity of human capital and population quality in Kazakhstan (stages of development, becoming history, current state, prospects for future development).
- define the role (precise, specific and functional) of human capital and population quality in the state of economic, political, social, cultural, scientific, educational development of the society, particularly in development of Kazakhstan.
- define the role of society and other social institutions in the building of human capital and population quality.
- analyze the policy and strategy for human development, capacity building, human capital and population quality formation in the society.

*The object and the subject of the project:*

The **object** of the research is studying of the phenomenon of population quality and human capital as scientific terms and as necessary factors in the life of society and state, as well as, the population of Kazakhstan from the end of 80's of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century.

The **subject** of study is a reproductional model of human capital and population quality in conjunction with institutional factors in transition, such as socio-demographic changes, development and the current level of human capital and population quality of Kazakhstan (the shaping factors, parameters and criteria).

*Theories and methods:*

There are many different **theories and concepts** dealing with human capital and population quality in social science. Author believes that the studying these concepts will be very useful to determine the whole and complete view for the questions of dissertation project. Here some basic theories: the theory of human development, the theory of human capital, Arthur Lewis's "theory of economic growth", the concept of "vicious circle of poverty", the concept of "basic needs", the concept of "redistribution of the results of growth", the concept of "empowerment of human choice", Simon Kuznet's "The Kuznet's curve", the concept of humanitarian expertise, theory of self-organization or synergetics, the theory of demographic and epidemiological transition, conception of bioethics, the theory of Human Capital Development, the theory of sustainable development and others.

It is expected to use combined **method** consisting qualitative and quantitative approaches, which are planned to be used to reveal main questions concerning and coming from target population of the dissertation project. Also the methods of scientific compilation and hypothetico-deductive analysis are going to be used within this project. Besides there are plenty of methods which can be very relevant and useful for several revelation such as: Milman's test "Motivational profile of the human", M. Rokeach's questionnaire of value orientation, Humphrey's method of constructing semantic spaces, Sperling-Hanin questionnaire of personal and situational anxiety, Rosenzweig's projection test of estimation of frustration experience, Pechak's method of social explosion, Jidaryan's method of happy life exposure of the population, Kritsky's method of calculation and estimation of human capital forms and functional conditions and others.

In spite of many existing methods of evaluating of human capital and population quality, all they not always reveal whole image and level of human development in every society. There are still many parts of social life which are not being examined. There are still many parts of social characteristics which would fulfill the image of society, if they are considered in researches of the same issue. Author will make an attempt to offer one more new method and view to this question.

*Scientific and methodological basis and initial hypothesis of the research:*

**Scientific and methodological basis** for research will be provided by theoretical and the practical researches of eminent scientists working in the field of population quality and human capital. The informational base of the research can be:

- the official statistics from 1897 to 2009, on the population dynamics and socio-economic development of Kazakhstan;
- the results of researches on the population of South Kazakhstan region, which are planned to be conducted within 2008 – 2010, as well as other researches which have been conducted on the changes in living conditions, population quality and human capital;
- the materials the Agency for Statistics of Kazakhstan, other state authorities and public bodies;
- official documents of government and international organizations.

All mentioned above objectives reflects the **initial hypothesis of the research**. The existence of these objectives reflects the certain problems and questions which should be examined and solved. For instance, it is needed to explore basic concepts, develop and scrutinize methods, define the role, grasp the main characteristics and components, trends; identify key factors shaping, define the role of society, analyze the policy and strategy. These objectives came from author's presumption that today in the region we do not have the precise understanding of these issues; we do not have specifically relevant methods of research concerning this issue.

*Expected results:*

Examining the theory of human capital and population quality, and empirical data reflecting changes in the dynamics of human capital and population quality **could lead to the following results** containing following scientific novelty elements:

- an attempt to justify integrative possibilities of the social, economic and political sciences in the process of development of theoretical knowledge concerning *factors* of the establishment and the development of human capital and population quality;
- clarification the *concept* of human capital and population quality as phenomena which are resulting from social values and norms, as historically volatile forms of interaction between social actors, which are mediating the qualitative change of population and its capital;
- justification of the *population policy* priority, which is proposing the stimulation of development in the field of population quality and human capital, and providing an algorithm for their development;
- evaluation of the comparative effectiveness of different political, socio-economic *measures* aimed at development of human capital and population quality;
- suggestion a possible *directions* for improving human capital and quality characteristics of the population.

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