Evaluation of Master thesis

Population Ageing and its Consequences on Development of Social Policy in Kazakhstan

presented by

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The presented Master thesis is dealing with an important and not only demographic issue. The basically demographic process, biological in its substance, has far reaching economic and social consequences. The demographic ageing is an unavoidable process in all countries after the process of demographic revolution has been achieved. This is the present situation of Kazakhstan in spite of significant regional differences. The most important interest is devoted to the population ageing in Europe, North America and Japan, where this process is already considered as a certain threat for further development. Kazakhstan will surely follow the most demographically developed countries soon. This underlines the actuality of the treated topic.

The structure of the presented thesis is logical. Author explains it in concise introduction. The uniqueness of Kazakh population has not been shown, however. The situation is similar in other Eastern populations; the large families with a more than one generation living together are similar in other populations of the region. I appreciate the explanation of work's outline in the introduction. One can find the elucidation of used methods and terms in the chapter 2. The overview of literature follows. The author was confronted here with enormous amount of publications dealing with the population ageing. The selection of treated works was done successfully and covers different representatives from various regions in spite of the fact that only publications in Russian and English were used.

The process of demographic ageing is described in chapter 4. After theoretical explanation of the conditions of population ageing, the world situation is described and the specific situation in Kazakhstan elucidated. The chapter brings rich information well structured and concise. The next chapter (5) was devoted fully to the demographic situation and future population prospects of Kazakhstan. The author is using three different sources for population forecasts, UN, UNFPA and official estimates of the Statistical office of Kazakhstan. I am aware that it is difficult to express author's own opinion about the estimations, but it seems to me that the UN one is the best. I appreciate the graphic presentation of results. Next three chapter were devoted to economic consequences of population ageing (6), problems of pension systems (7) and to consequences for the availability of the health care (8). The main traits were mentioned and I do not have comments to them.

All main results of the thesis were repeated concisely in the conclusion (9). As it could be seen from the text above, I do not have critical comments with the exception of one:. Gulzana Kumarbekova should be more self-confident and not to be afraid to express her own opinion, which she surely has. .I consider her work as a very well done and technically well presented (graphs, English); I recommend the thesis for further defense and I am evaluationg it as very good.

Prague 6 October 2009 professor Zdeněk Pavlík