

Oponent's report on diploma thesis

Dinara Ualkenova: One-parent families in the East Kazakhstan region

In recent decades, the phenomenon of one-parent families started to be more frequent in all European countries. Submitted diploma thesis deals with one-parent families in East Kazakhstan region and try to analyze a role of this new phenomenon on population development in the country. Author analyzes all components of demographic behavior which play important role in increasing number of one-parent families: extra marital fertility and family dissolution due to divorce and widowhood.

Thesis consists of four chapters and its extend is 112 pages. First chapter (Introduction) outlines main goals and objectives and the structure of thesis. Chapter number two informs about theoretical framework (literature, definitions, data sources, methods) and author try to give also brief information about historical background of this phenomenon in Kazakhstan society. Chapter number three deals with structure of households generally (international practice) with the respect to one-parent families. Attention is devoted to family transformation from traditional to modern one in Kazakhstan. Chapter number four has first of all demographic character and informs about trends and patterns in one-parent families. Main components of this process – extra marital fertility, divorces, structure of population by marital status, labour force participation and educational level are analyze to estimate their role in one-parent families development. Second part of this chapter is based on adjusted data. In conclusion author briefly summarizes all information and evaluates the possible significance the master thesis for future investigation in this field of study. The list of references is rather numerous and includes all important publications and sources of data.

The submitted diploma thesis represents good base for future more detailed study of one-parent families in Kazakhstan. The structure of study is clear and includes almost all important aspects of this issue. I appreciate good orientation in basic theoretical issues and in literature. Certain limitations of master thesis are probably given by absence of data. For example: information about marital status and educational level are given only for total population (by sex and by age) and there is no information about structure of one-parent families from this point of view (so called heads of one-parent families). There is also no information about proportion of one-parent families headed by women and by men. Statistics on number of children is given for divorces not for one-parent families.

I recommend pay more attention to the so called "technical" requirements. List of literature does not include all information mentioned in the text, sometimes the quotations are not the same as it is given in the text (mainly years of publications), numbers of chapters in the text (see chapter 1.2, page 13) did not fit to their numbers in content. Headlines of tables and graphs sometimes did not include all necessities, the sum of percent is not usually 100 etc. It would be rather long list of such technical mistakes.

The thesis of Dinara Ualkenova *One-parent families in the East Kazakhstan region* meet the basic requirements set for diploma thesis and therefore I recommend to accept this work for the defense.

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