

Abstract

The aim of the thesis is an analysis of main features of population development in developed countries and a question whether there is homogeneity of population development. Demographic revolution is a qualitative change from extensive to intensive character of demographic reproduction and it is a subject to modernization. Countries which are understood not only as demographically developed ones but also as economically developed has been taken as an object of this thesis. These countries finished demographic revolution at the latest in the middle of the 20th century. This period has been used as a starting point for most analysis which has been carried out. Demographic reproduction is a process determined by biological and social factors. Human reproduction takes place in relatively stable limits, which lead to its homogenization. The importance of social conditionality has grown during demographic revolution, social aspects are the cause of their development changes and specific features, same social conditions lead to homogenization.

Presumption of different features of population development as consequence of different conditions in former Eastern and Western countries has been confirmed not only in individual main demographic indexes changes but also in case of cluster analysis. Main trends of population development took place in most western countries first, later on in South European countries and finally in Eastern countries. The later the changes started the faster usually processes were. In most countries long term decrease of birth rate does not achieve replacement level and also mortality rate is decreasing in long term which are factors that have already been set during demographic revolution. Level of both main demographic reproduction processes is after demographic revolution almost balanced; very low natural increase or decrease is achieved. Fertility rate decrease below replacement level and changes in partnership behaviour as well as lifestyle changes are explained by the theory of second demographic transition. Most described changes is took place in majority of developed countries. However, main features do not either differ significantly or are not very new.

Individual countries represented different stages of demographic progress at the beginning of analysed period. Using variation group methods and other elemental statistical indexes of variability no homogenization trend is visible in life expectancy in contrast to total fertility rate. Results of decent different social development are still reflected in population health.

Keywords: population development, demographic revolution, second demographic transition, homogeneity of demographic development