

Oponent's review on doctoral thesis

Kuanysh Nurpeisova: Reproductive behaviour of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia

The main aim of submitted thesis is to study differences and similarities in reproductive behaviour of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs currently living in Mongolia.

The thesis consists of 12 chapters (including introduction and conclusion) and has all requirements needed for good orientation in the text - list of tables, graphics and appendices. The thesis is rather extensive (374 pages), but almost one third of the volume represents appendices. The research consists of two basic parts: so called introductory chapters inform about problem under study from many aspects (historical, theoretical etc.). The core of thesis represents the results of the author's field research on reproductive behaviour of repatriates and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia (number of respondents: 720) conducted in 2009.

The first chapter (Introduction) briefly informs about structure of the thesis, problem under study, aims and objectives of the research and research questions and hypothesis are formulated. The basic terminology used in the research is explained in the second chapter. The overview is rather brief (one page) and is oriented first of all on expressions used in the field research. No basic demographic terminology is mentioned.

Literature overview on the basic problem under study (the influence of migration on fertility) is given in the third chapter. Chapter fourth presents theoretical and conceptual framework of the research and besides sociological and demographic concepts is also devoted to the theory of planned behaviour. In text there are a lot of references on literature and in fact this chapter represents a continuation of previous chapter with the regards of theoretical issue.

Chapter number five represents an introduction to the field research and briefly informs about the social and cultural background and way of life Kazakhs and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia. Historical background and political circumstances of the issue are mentioned in the chapter sixth. The seventh chapter has rather methodological character and gives general information about field research, data sources and methods. The selected characteristics of sample survey are also included.

Following chapters (8 – 10) represent the most important and also most extended part of the thesis. They inform about the results of the field research from several points of view. Reproductive behaviour and the number of children is the main topic of eighth chapter. Family's living standard and its influence on reproductive behaviour is discussed in ninth chapter. Cultural orientation, attitudes, norms and the value of children are the subject of study in chapter tenth. The individual characteristics are described by age groups, place of residence, educational level, marital status, children ever born etc.

The last chapter (11) summarized the results of analysis of reproductive behaviour of repatriates from Mongolia and ethnic Kazakhs in Mongolia. To obtain more detailed information about reproductive behaviour of respondents, the Poissons's regression model was used. Conclusion of the thesis is well-arranged. Author puts research questions and informs about main findings and conclusions of the issue. List of literature is numerous (12 pages) and includes most important titles largely connected with the migration and reproductive behaviour. Appendices (36) well complete text. The structure of the study is clear and includes all important aspects of such problematic issue. The only problem could be too much subchapters (7 pages of content), sometimes not more than one page.

Ethnic Kazakhs (Oralmans in Kazakh language) returned to Kazakhstan after the country's independence and their integration into contemporary communities is a topic of many

discussions at the government, mass media, and public levels in Kazakhstan. From this point of view the subject of doctoral thesis is very topical and could serve as an important base for further larger-scale research on the subject. Successful integration of Oralmans into Kazakhstani society depend on and are related to linguistic, psychological, and cultural adaptation and demographic and social characteristics could serve as one of the important measures.

Author has fulfilled the thesis objectives and there are no serious deficiencies of the thesis. I recommend accept doctoral thesis of Kuanysh Nurpeisova for the defense.

RNDr. Květa Kalibová, CSc.
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