

Opponent's review on master thesis

Aliya Takirova: Reproductive health patterns in post-Soviet Central Asian countries

Presented master thesis analyzes reproductive health patterns in five post-Soviet countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. To find differences and similarities in maternal mortality and reproductive health indicators in the period 1990-2008 was the main aim of the research.

The master thesis consists of seven chapters and Conclusion and its extent is 108 pages. The structure of thesis is clear and has logical order. In chapter 1 author informs about goals objectives and the structure of the study, and puts research questions and hypotheses. Chapter 2 is devoted to the literature overview – in fact only documents of international organizations (UNFPA and World Bank) are presented and discussed here. Chapter 3 has methodological character and includes not only relevant terminology, but author also informs about used analytical methods and data sources. Data validity is discussed using international comparison.

Chapter 4 deals with the level and global trends in maternal mortality from the world perspective; chapter 5 studies this issue in post-Soviet Central Asia countries. Author studies not only trends but informs also about risk factors and main cases of maternal mortality. The core of master thesis represents following chapters. Results of cluster analyses are presented in chapter 6 and country grouping (28 selected European countries) by reproductive health in 1990 and 2008 are performed. Chapter 7 is based on Kazakhstan Demographic and Health Survey. All pregnancy outcomes and first pregnancy outcomes are analysed by ethnicity, education, marital status, place of residence, and by regions. Reproductive decision and characteristics of women are also discussed. Main findings of the research are summarized in Conclusion. List of references is rather numerous and includes not only research titles but also documents of international organizations.

Submitted master thesis has logical structure and includes all necessities for good orientation in text: list of abbreviations, tables, figures; graphic layout is well done. Author proved good orientation in the problem under study; she is able to work with relevant theoretical and methodological tools. Author has fulfilled the master thesis objectives and there are no serious deficiencies of the thesis.

Presented master thesis of Aliya Takirova fulfils demands put on the master thesis and I recommend it for defence.

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December 16, 2012