

ARMENIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC DIPLOMACY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITALIZATION ERA

Tatoul Manasserian

Ph.D., Doctor of Science in Economics, Professor

Key words: demographic challenges, demographic diplomacy, population growth,

Introduction In general, in order to prevent the aggravation of the political, demographic, socio-economic situation of the planet, the world community must find ways to regulate the population. Demographic diplomacy contributes to this process, which means that the state's activity in managing demographic processes is of great importance in modern society¹. Expert studies prove that in the 21st century, as a result of the active processes of globalization, the global problems that concern humanity have intensified [Acemoglu, et al., 2012] this sense, there are many dangers of qualitative regression and physical destruction of people in the further development of states [Banerjee, et al., 2012, 122]. The demographic problem on a global scale is primarily related to the rapid growth of the population. currently it has crossed the 8 billion mark/, with the demographic explosion²: It means high rates of natural growth of humanity. According to scientists' forecasts, the population of the Earth will be approximately ten billion people in the coming decade. The uneven distribution of the population, in turn, has a negative impact on the environment [Tovmasyan, 2013, 15].

Methodology and literature review As for the professional literature on the demographic problems of Artsakh and Armenia and the priorities of the state, it is actually not so rich, in particular, when there is a need to study the events taking place today and the demographic situation formed as a result of them. With the exception of one or two analyses, most Armenian economists are focused on tax reforms, the financial system, agriculture or other specific issues, ignoring the most important, the field of threats to ensure the existence and development of the Armenian man in his cradle. After V. Khojabekyan, there are not so many economists specializing in demography, V. Tov-

¹ Demography studies the laws and social conditions of fertility, mortality, marriage and termination of marriage, the reproduction of married couples and families, the reproduction of the population as a whole as a unity of these processes. It studies changes in the age-sex, marital and family structures of the population, the relationship between demographic processes and structures, as well as the ways in which the general population and families change as a result of the interaction of these phenomena. Demography has as its object a certain sphere of reality that no other science studies. However, such an understanding is not enough for demography. It reflects an important, but only superficial layer of the definition of population as a concept of demographic science, which, in fact, begins its study, which is the starting point of demographic analysis.

² World Population Reaches 8 Billion, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/15/world/world-population-8-billion.html>

masyan (USA), R. Yeganyan (RA) and B. Asatryan (RA). Therefore, it is not even possible to present a simple overview of literature without worrying about the formation and development of the modern Armenian school of demography.

Demographic methods and problems of demographic diplomacy In general, population reproduction is the process of timely renewal of the number and composition of the population as a result of its natural and mechanical movement. The proprietary methods developed by demographers for the analysis of that process are based on the presentation of the population as a special population with common characteristics. They mainly actually include: cohort method, cross-sectional analysis method, demographic coefficient standardization method, demographic modeling method, cartographic method, demographic network method, demographic forecasting method, etc. The migration group is formed when the people included in it change their place of residence [Sachs, , 2005, 37]-52] A marriage group is formed when its members marry. The source event is merged into the cluster. If the initial event is birth, then we get a set of generations, that is, it is a set of individuals born in a certain period. The task of longitudinal analysis is to follow the intensity of the onset of demographic processes, which depends on the periods between the formation of groups and the onset of the demographic event during the life of individuals. A demographic event consists of demographic processes (mortality-death, fertility-birth). Demographic events can be of two types: non-recurring, which can occur once in an individual's lifetime; a recurrent cat may occur several times. Demographic processes can be: from the initial number of processes of separate groups (death, divorce), not excluded. from the individual to the initial size of the group (marriage, birth). The method of cross-sectional analysis (conditional hypothetical generation) is a conditional series of people, the intensity of the demographic process throughout the life at each age corresponds to a given calendar period. Therefore, the demographic indicators calculated for a particular year will depend on the characteristics of the demographic processes of all actual living generations. These indicators will reflect the features of the processes that are typical for the given calendar period. Longitudinal and cross-sectional methods make it possible to compare the reproduction of a number of generations. This is important both for historical demography and for demographic and social projections, so suggestions for social policy development can be made. The method of standardization of demographic coefficients allows determining the impact of structural features of comparison of demographic communities when comparing demographic coefficients. The meaning of this method is that, using the data of a certain year as an example, the demographic coefficients are calculated and taken as a standard, and the index is calculated with respect to the standard, and by multiplying this indicator by the indicators of the standardized demographic coefficients are obtained, which are used to compare demographic aggregates (death rate by social groups, birth rate) (by strata). The method of demographic

modeling is the most common method of forecasting reproductive processes. This method replaces the experimental method, which is not always possible in demography. The demographic modeling method is used to study demographic processes and reproduction in general. The cartographic method is used to make maps of settlements, population density, age structure, population displacement, in particular, allows to compare demographic conditions and processes in different areas. And in the case of using the method of building a demographic network, the network is created using geometric constructions, which makes it possible to obtain different characteristics of demographic processes and analyze their course over time. It allows obtaining the characteristics of demographic processes. The method of demographic forecasting is especially important for us. The most common method of demographic forecasting is the change-by-age method, which is used to calculate future demographic processes, and the method of components, which is used for separate forecasts of birth rates, mortality rates, and migration. These methods make up the content of the demographic forecasting method and make it possible to assess the role of certain components of population change, comparing their effects on the population size and structure in the future. These methods are important for conducting ethnographic diplomacy research and forming professional assessments [Bleier, 2021, 34].

Analysis During the years of independence, the demographic situation in Artsakh and Armenia had different turns. Recently, certain threats have appeared, which need a clear assessment. And in the conditions of an unfinished war, the role of demographic diplomacy aimed at ensuring the demographic security of Armenia is simply vital. The latter may be the most important problems:

- analysis of the impact of state policy on population reproduction,
- analysis of the demographic situation and clarification of prospects for the development of the population of Artsakh and Armenia,
- study of the economic factors affecting the rate of growth of the Armenian people and the national population of Armenia and Artsakh, formulation of problems and consistent steps towards their solution,
- the study of the national and ethnic characteristics of the reproduction of the Armenian population (lifestyle, traditions that affect the level of fertility, mortality and life expectancy),
- development of methods for studying the relationship between demographic phenomena and processes, modeling, forecasting of mortality, marriage, fertility rates,
- study of professional, sociological and psychological factors affecting people's behavior and leading to changes in the demographic situation in the country,
- development of scientific recommendations aimed at increasing the efficiency of the activities of state bodies in social security issues,

- analysis of activities of social protection bodies,
- analysis of migration, unemployment, employment problems,
- analysis of how much the country's population is, in what direction and at what speed the population is changing, how many men and women there are, how the population is distributed among the main age groups, etc.: this knowledge is part of demographic statistics or population statistics,
- clarification of demographic policy priorities in the field of birth rate increase and family strengthening,
- creation of prerequisites for increasing natural growth,
- comprehensive strengthening of the institution of the family as a way of harmonious life of an individual,
- creation of conditions for self-realization of youth,
- provision of targeted social protection for the family, including financial assistance and provision of minimum living conditions at the time of the birth of the child,
- regulation of outflow, inflow, natural growth of national minorities and other issues derived from them,
- population aging and other problems related to it.

In particular, regarding the last issue, it should be noted that today the elderly (65 and older) are the fastest growing age group in the world. For the first time in the world, the number of elderly people has exceeded the number of children under five years of age, and in the future their number will exceed that of teenagers and young people combined (15 to 24 years old). In some regions, such as Europe and East Asia, there is already a serious challenge in supporting and caring for older people. As life expectancy increases, older people are likely to play a larger role in society and the economy. This is also one of the problems of demographic diplomacy, which is the identification of a certain imbalance in the problems listed above, the means of combating them, as well as the group of measures that are between incentives and restrictions. They can also be called social guarantees. that is what ensures the stability, the predictability of the conditions in which people realize and realize their needs.

Demographic policy and the challenges of the Armenian family Overpopulation in the world leads to depletion of resources. This problem is the basis of armed conflicts and wars in the world since time immemorial. The genocidal actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey against Artsakh and Armenia, which also pursue the seizure of new sources of natural resources, which happened, in particular, as a result of the 44-day war and after that, are no exception. Naturally, all this also affects the rates and volumes of reproduction of Armenians and the Armenian species in their homeland. Therefore, it should be noted that there is a clear relationship between socio-economic development, strengthening / weakening of the state's positions and demographic processes, which, by

the way, is called the theory of demographic transition in the professional literature¹. In our case, it should be taken into account that the last two of the four main types of population reproduction presented below and existing are the most characteristic.

- * Traditional, characterized by high mortality and high birth rates;
- * Advanced, characterized by an increase in the birth rate and a decrease in the death rate, which means a significant increase in population;
- * Simple, characterized by low mortality and low birth rates, respectively, in which population growth slows;
- * Narrowed, characterized by a decrease in mortality and a sharp decline in the birth rate, as well as a marked aging of the population.

Also, in our region, especially the neighboring countries, they differ in their socio-economic development and are respectively in different stages of demographic transition. At the same time, two other types of population reproduction are observed.

1. Simple and narrow, typical of developed countries. It is characterized by a low birth and death rate, as well as a significant life span;
2. Extended, characteristic of developing countries. It is characterized by high birth and death rates with a short life span. The 4-stage model of demographic transition is also known². It is obvious that in order to influence the reproductive processes, the state should conduct a targeted demographic policy. We believe that the influence of the state on demographic relations is expressed in the development and implementation of the state's scientifically based and national demographic policy.

Demographic policy, as a rule, should be the targeted activity of state bodies and other social institutions aimed at regulating population reproduction processes, which should provide for the preservation of population structure, dynamics, number, settlement and quality trends or their purposeful change. Therefore, it is important to consider it as an organic part of the social policy of the state, with specific goals and clear methods of achieving them.

Most of the developing countries in the modern world are conducting restrictive policies aimed at reducing the birth rate and reducing the mortality of children (up to 5 years old). In our case, the demographic policy aimed at reducing infant mortality should be combined with clear steps to increase the birth rate. In particular, it is important in the legislation to promote the marriages of not only young, but also older couples, to support not only large families, but also small families, providing them with a number of

¹ Countries with the lowest rates of natural growth. The formula for natural population growth.

<https://podarilove.ru/hy/strany-s-naimenshimi-pokazatelyami-estestvennogo-prirosta/>

² <https://orbeli.am/hy/post/238/2019-06->

19/%20%D4%BA%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%B8%D5%BE%D6%80%D5%A4%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6

privileges [Papriwal, et al., 2019, 21]. Moreover, we need policy tools aimed at ensuring the necessary living conditions for the Armenian family as special means of influencing the social institution for the effective implementation of its economic, reproductive and educational functions, as well as improving the quality of life of the population, which will determine the positive social development of the family, person, and society. development through the creation of appropriate institutional mechanisms.

The role of the state Why can't the mentioned problems be the subject of concern only of the expert community and why? In Armenia with a free economy, democratic problems should not have a "liberal" character or be "self-regulated". International experience proves that in both developing and developed countries, the state has a certain responsibility not only in terms of ensuring demographic security, but also in regulating migration flows related to it. This is evidenced by the demographic strategies of the USA, Israel, all EU member states, as well as China and many post-Soviet countries. It is obvious that the mentioned strategies can remain unimplemented if the keys to achieving the goals are found. The most important of them, we believe, is demographic diplomacy. And the latter, as is known, should be considered part of the regulatory function of the state itself. In the dynamically developing world, the role of the state in the management of demographic processes is particularly important today. It is implemented using certain means and has different directions (economic, social, psychological, etc.).

They require not only studies conducted by the state and with the support of state institutions, supported by clear statistical data, but also continuous monitoring of the situation and targeting of the most vulnerable sub-sectors and the development and implementation of adequate policies. Along with the state bodies, various associations and organizations of the civil society, local self-government bodies and other local and international organizations can make a significant contribution to the improvement of the situation through demographic diplomacy. International experience proves that the consolidation of the interests of social groups and, ultimately, the whole society plays an important role. On the other hand, according to many researchers, such prohibitive measures as complicating the divorce procedure, banning contraception and abortion are completely unacceptable both from a moral and legal point of view, and even more so they are not effective.¹: It is important to highlight the social benefits, which are designed to improve the socio-economic condition of families with children, among the proven effective measures. In fact, only with a practical approach by the state to the population, it will be possible to significantly influence the change in demographic behavior and improve it in a positive direction not only for the state itself, but also for

¹ Prohibitive measures, such as complicating the divorce procedure, banning contraception and abortion, are completely unacceptable from both a moral and legal point of view and less effective.

social groups. Important factors such as fertility, life expectancy and mortality are determined not only by economic indicators, but also by the spiritual state of society, what role the state plays in the development and implementation of effective demographic diplomacy. In terms of demographic diplomacy during the years of independence, one of the main obstacles to the establishment of demographic management processes was the underestimation and neglect of the role of the state not only in the active management of specific demographic processes, but also in the promotion of socio-economic development in the classical sense of the state. At present, depopulation, which has reached alarming proportions, can be overcome by identifying the real causes of the demographic crisis and influencing them, taking into account secondary factors.

Management of demographic processes is one of the most important types of demographic diplomacy from a social point of view, its relatively independent element. Its uniqueness, as a special manifestation of the general, reflects the relative independence of demographic processes, their place in the system of multifaceted relations of social life. In this sense, the management of demographic processes should be considered as an organizational relationship acceptable by society between the level of population reproduction and the development needs of social practice, which is one of the guarantees of ensuring demographic security. Accordingly, demographic security, in turn, should be considered as the basic, most important protection of life, population reproductive processes, from real and potential threats. Thus, it is the reduction of existing problems in reproductive processes and, on the other hand, the neutralization of the causes of their occurrence. It should also be noted that the dangers in this field affect the sustainable development of the country¹: Therefore, demographic diplomacy is not a one-way process, but a two-way interaction. Accordingly, the goal of such interaction is to create an optimal fit in the activities of these relatively independent levels of social life.

Conclusion Thus, it can be noted that the most effective principles of influencing population dynamics through the implementation of effective demographic diplomacy are the active interaction of the state and society in order to improve the demographic situation. Measures to support families with children, as well as the development and implementation of a national program to support raising a healthy generation, can stop the growth of the demographic crisis and create the prerequisites for more active demographic diplomacy. In this sense, the level of assistance provided to families is not sufficient to change reproductive attitudes and raise the profile of several children. In order to improve the situation, society requires adopting and implementing a long-term strategy. Targeted demographic diplomacy for demographic development.

¹ <https://www.aravot.am/2020/04/18/1106873/>

References

1. Acemoglu, D., and J. A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail? The Origins of Power, Prosperity And Poverty*. New York: Crown Publishers.
2. Banerjee, A., and E. Duflo. 2012. *Poor Economics. A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.
3. Bleier, Ronald, Full House? Is lower population growth due to misery? <http://desip.igc.org>
4. Clark, G. 2007: *A Farewell to Alms. A Brief Economic History of the World*. NJ, PUP.
5. Hall, J., and A. Stone. 2010. "Demography and Growth." *Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin*
6. Harris, M. J., and N. Blisard. 2002. "Food-Consumption Patterns Among Elderly Age Groups." *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, March.
7. Kaufmann, E., and M. Duffy. 2012. *Political Demography: How Population Changes Are Reshaping International Security and National Policies*. New York: Oxford University Press.
8. Madsen, E. L. 2012. "Age Structure and Development through a Policy Lens." In J. Goldstone, E. Kaufmann and M. D. Toft (eds.), *Political Demography. How Population Changes are Reshaping International Security and National Politics*. London: Paradigm Publishers.
9. Moreno, C., and J. Vial. 2010. "Emergence of a 'Global Middle Class' Amidst the Transition Towards a New World Economic Order." Unpublished manuscript.
10. Pallares-Miralles, M., C. Romero and E. Whitehouse. 2012. "International Pattern of Pension Provision II. A Worldwide Overview of Facts and Figures." *Social Protection and Labor Discussion Paper 1211*.
11. Sachs, J. D. 2005. *The End of Poverty. Economic Possibilities for our Time*. New York: The Penguin Press.
12. Selfin Vikas Papriwal, Ravi Suri, Yael (2019-07-21). "The Growth Promise Indicators - 2019 report - KPMG |: AE". KPMG (en-US)
13. Tovmasyan Vahagn, Demographic threats of Armenia and its neighboring countries, Los Angeles, 2013.
14. Wilson, E. O. 2002. *The Future of Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Tatoul MANASSERIAN

Armenia's demographic diplomacy and the challenges of the digitalization era

Key words: demographic challenges, demographic diplomacy, population growth

In the years of independence, the ineffective resettlement policy, and in some years, its absence in Artsakh and Armenia, the disproportionate distribution of the population and resources did not allow for effective and balanced development, which only led to the increase in the level of poverty / in Armenia in 2023. 42 percent poverty is predicted at the beginning¹: In this sense, the fact that not all developing countries are conducting a targeted demographic policy is not at all comforting. As for developed countries, there are quite different problems here as well. Basically, their birth rate is low, which means that the population grows slowly, hence the problem of shortage of labor resources. Therefore, the mentioned countries are trying to implement policies aimed at increasing the birth rate: one-time payments to young people, benefits, state support for the birth of a child, monthly child allowance, loans for large families, etc. It is natural that we accept the use of incentives typical of developed countries.

¹ <https://www.aravot.am/2022/10/22/1299705/>