



DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: ETHICAL APPROACHES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract

This article focuses on the ethical foundations of demographic policy and its dynamic nature in the context of globalization. The impact of state policies on human rights and freedoms under global conditions is analyzed, and the compatibility of demographic governance with ethical standards is examined. In particular, ethical and legal issues are addressed within the scope of birth control policies, migration policies, and factors affecting family institutions. Additionally, the compatibility of demographic policies with human rights in different regions is studied through comparative analysis. The article evaluates contemporary directions of demographic policy based on international legal norms and the perspectives of the UN and other international organizations. The findings of the research substantiate the relevance of ethical approaches and the principle of respecting human rights in the implementation of demographic policies.

Keywords: Demographic policy, ethical standards, globalization, human rights, freedoms, reproductive rights, migration policy, social justice, state policy, population policy, cultural diversity, legal norms, gender equality, international organizations, UN conventions.

Introduction

The 21st century is characterized by the acceleration of the globalization process. This process directly affects not only the economic and political spheres, but also one of the most important aspects of social life, demographic policy. Demographic policy is a system of measures developed by the state to influence the number, composition, location and movement of the population. In the implementation of this policy, compliance with ethical principles, human rights and freedoms is of particular importance. In particular, in such sensitive issues as fertility, family life,



migration and reproductive rights, maintaining a balance between demographic management and ethical approaches has become an urgent issue. As globalization intensifies contacts between people, the clash or convergence of different cultures, values and moral views prompts a reconsideration of the essence of demographic policy. While some countries are pursuing policies aimed at stimulating demographic growth, others are adopting strict measures aimed at limiting excess fertility or migration. Such policies may in some cases restrict human rights, especially the right to privacy, freedom to have children, and the right to free movement.

This article analyzes the ethical foundations of demographic policy, its compatibility with international legal norms, and how to respond to new challenges arising in the context of globalization. At the same time, the relationship between demographic policy and human rights is studied on the basis of a comparative analysis based on the experience of different countries. The main goal of the article is to substantiate the relevance of ethical approaches to demographic management, to highlight the theoretical and practical aspects of conducting effective policies with respect for human rights and freedoms.

Within the framework of any demographic policy strategy, the state exercises the right to manage its social processes. At the same time, the state is also responsible for covering the costs of the part of the population that is growing in line with the goals and objectives of the demographic policy being carried out by the state. Such a policy should be maximally differentiated in accordance with the vital interests and values of various socio-demographic groups, territorial and ethnic communities. Only then can the number of people interested in one or another aspect of the demographic program decrease, and the cost-effectiveness of program implementation increase.

Economic reforms aimed at ensuring macroeconomic stability and sustainable economic growth rates are being consistently implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Of course, the role of the country's demographic development in this is great, and in implementing economic goals aimed at social benefits, it is of great importance to study such aspects as the population, its growth, location, demographic composition from the perspective of the period of innovative development of the economy. Because the population is of decisive importance in the development of society as both the main productive force and the consumer.



Today, the socio-economic development of our country is reaching a new stage. The "Uzbekistan - 2030" strategy, developed based on the experience gained in the implementation of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy and the results of public discussions, envisages ensuring the implementation of the following main tasks: achieving a place among the countries with an income above the average through sustainable economic growth; organizing an education, medical and social protection system that fully meets the needs of the population and international standards; creating favorable environmental conditions for the population; building a just and modern state at the service of the people; ensuring the country's sovereignty and security[1].

The fact that the above-mentioned facts require the study of issues of statistical analysis of the state and development of important socio-demographic indicators of the population indicates the relevance of the topic.

MAIN PART

Demographic policy is understood as a system of unified means and a set of ideas adopted at the state level, which provides for the achievement of a certain quality and quantity in the field of population reproduction and dynamics for the current period and long-term prospects. The implementation of demographic policy requires compliance with the following conditions:

- the presence of a concept characterizing the goal of the policy, defining its tasks and time frame;
- the resources that need to be spent on financing all policy measures within the framework of the adopted concept;
- mutually consistent ideas that support the main strategic ideas of the policy being implemented.

It should be noted that economic, administrative-legal and socio-psychological methods are used to implement demographic policy.

The economic method is mainly used in cases where the birth rate cannot ensure population growth. In this method, the state allocates special benefits to pregnant women after giving birth and until their child reaches 2-3 years of age and provides various benefits.

In the administrative-legal method, the population is affected by legislative acts. For example, this method is implemented through legal prohibitions on abortions,



raising the age of marriage, limiting or developing the migration movement of the population, protecting the rights of mothers and children in the event of divorce, protecting the rights of pregnant women when hiring or dismissing them, and other measures.

The socio-psychological method of conducting demographic policy is also called “demographic education” of the population. Through demographic education of the population, the attitude of the younger generation to the family, the expected number of children in the family is formed in accordance with the socio-economic development of the state, and the health of the population. In this case, the family is the main center of education. That is why great attention is paid to the "demographic literacy" of parents. Another important focus of demographic education is influencing the demographic trends of the population through the mass media [2: 265-266].

Demographic policy is a key tool in such important areas of any state as socio-economic development, resource management, and maintaining the standard of living of the population. At the same time, this policy directly affects human life, family decisions, freedom to have children, migration, and personal freedoms such as choosing a place to live. These aspects make it necessary to evaluate demographic policy not only on the basis of statistical or economic indicators, but also from the perspective of moral and legal criteria. In the context of globalization, demographic policy is reaching a new level. On the one hand, population growth, urbanization, and migration processes are accelerating worldwide, and on the other hand, many countries are forced to align their national policies with international organizations, conventions, and global standards. In this process, it is important that state policy is based on ethical and humanitarian principles. Unfortunately, in history and even today, some demographic policies are being implemented based on coercion, control, and restrictions. Such approaches have led to violations of human rights and freedoms, social inequality, discontent, and even violence. In particular, policies aimed at limiting births have raised ethical issues in many countries. For example, in some countries, the policy of forcing families to have only one child has undermined not only demographic indicators, but also the family life, gender equality, and human values of millions of people. Such consequences as the devaluation of girls, forced abortions, gender imbalance, and the lack of enough generations for an aging population are vivid examples of this. These



experiences show how important it is to adhere to ethical criteria in conducting demographic policies. At the same time, migration policies are also becoming an urgent problem in the era of globalization. Millions of people around the world are forced to leave areas under environmental threat for various reasons - in search of work, fleeing wars, or in search of new jobs. In this case, the demographic policies of the countries receiving them, especially the policies on migration management, must be consistent with human rights. However, in some countries, discrimination, restrictions, and legal problems are observed against immigrants. This is one of the factors that violate human freedoms.

Today, there is almost no country in the world that is not trying to regulate the birth rate, concerned about the problem of rapid population growth or decline. All countries trying to regulate the birth rate are divided into two groups, distinguished by diametrically opposed goals and interests. The countries in the first group have not yet completed the demographic transition and have relatively high birth rates, and they are mainly concerned about reducing population growth rates and thereby reducing the demographic pressure on the country's economy and resources. The most active position in this matter is occupied by China and India, which have the largest populations. These countries are trying to stop the sharp increase in population by implementing various, including regressive, measures. The second group includes countries with highly developed industries, but whose birth rate is so low that it cannot even ensure the renewal of generations, often leading to depopulation. All of these countries are fundamentally different from each other in terms of the time of emergence of the depopulation problem, its duration, historical, economic, political and other reasons. Due to this, a clear differentiation is manifested in these countries on a number of important issues. Among the reasons for making a decision to implement a demographic policy or, conversely, to reject it in countries with similar birth rates and types, the following can be distinguished: an assessment of the actual birth rate, its trends and population dynamics, losses among the population as a result of major cataclysms (primarily wars), the need to solve problems of a strategic (economic, geopolitical, political-spiritual) plan. The combination of these reasons is contradictory in some countries. In this sense, two countries that openly reject the need for demographic policies in the field of fertility - the United States and the United Kingdom - are of particular interest.



Despite the fact that the birth rate in these countries is not even able to ensure the reproduction of the population, both countries consider their birth rate to be sufficient to legitimize internal and external views and needs. In both countries, the idea is put forward that “the birth of children is a matter of family and individual, and population growth does not bring economic, environmental and social benefits to the state.” In addition to the USA and Great Britain, Italy, Ireland and several other countries take a moderate position in developing measures to influence the birth rate. These countries consider the regulation of the birth rate to be incompatible with moral and ethnic norms, and no policy is being pursued on this issue on a large scale. The government and society of these countries have a conservative view of marriage and family relations, as well as abortion and contraception.

Demographic policy cannot be separated from an ethical approach. It should not be forgotten that any demographic decision or policy primarily affects human life and freedoms. The person should be at the center of this policy. Determining the number of children a family can have, ensuring their healthy upbringing, creating equal opportunities for young people and women, and treating citizens who are faced with migration with humanity - all this refers to the moral foundations of demographic policy[3]. The state should act in this regard not only as a controller or restrictor, but also as a subject that ensures and protects human freedoms. Also, an ethical approach requires full recognition and protection of reproductive rights. Interfering with a woman's decision to have or not to have children, putting pressure on her, or morally punishing her is a clear violation of human rights. Therefore, demographic policy should be carried out in a way that supports the decisions of women and families, and encourages them socially, economically, and medically. Policies related to reproductive services, the health system, education, and employment should be an integral part of demographic approaches.

An ethical approach also requires respect for cultural diversity in society. Implementing a single, inclusive and fair policy for representatives of different nationalities, religions and races, taking into account their needs, serves demographic stability[4]. In multinational, multicultural societies, it is precisely ethical values - tolerance, solidarity and mutual respect - that increase the effectiveness of policy. Otherwise, policy can lead to conflicts between different social strata. The role of international organizations in this regard also deserves



special attention. Normative documents, conventions and strategies published by structures such as the UN, UNFPA, and the World Health Organization serve as guidelines for the introduction of ethical principles in demographic policy. Their recommendations emphasize that demographic policy is not only about numbers or plans, but also about human dignity, rights, health and well-being.

In conclusion, in the context of globalization, ethical and legal approaches should be a priority in conducting demographic policy. This policy should not violate human rights, but rather protect them. The fact that the policies implemented by states are consistent with international legal norms, fair, and based on the principle of voluntariness will serve the full realization of human potential. Only then can demographic policy be considered not only an effective management tool, but also a socio-mainstay of human development.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the context of globalization, demographic policy is emerging not only as an internal instrument of state governance, but also as an important political direction that is inextricably linked to human rights and moral values. Any policy aimed at managing the size, composition and movement of the population must comply with fundamental human rights - the right to family planning, childbearing, choice of residence, freedom of movement and personal integrity. Studies show that failure to adhere to ethical principles in the implementation of demographic policy can lead to violations of human rights, gender inequality, social injustice and discontent. Therefore, modern demographic policy should be based on voluntariness, human dignity, equality, justice and freedom.

Also, compliance with international legal norms and standards developed by organizations is not only an obligation for states, but also serves as the main guarantee of sustainable demographic development. Demographic policy, combined with ethical approaches, ensures social stability in society and contributes to the full realization of human potential.

Recommendations:

1. Formulating demographic policy on the basis of human rights

States should prioritize human rights and freedoms when managing the number, composition and movement of the population. Any restrictions or regulations

should be in accordance with the principles of voluntariness, equality and human dignity.

2. Introducing an ethical approach

Demographic policy should be developed based on ethical standards and in a manner that respects the essential aspects of human life. It is recommended to abandon coercion and violence in the implementation of the policy and strengthen educational and social support mechanisms.

3. Strengthening international cooperation

In order to develop demographic policy in accordance with international law and the recommendations of international organizations, it is necessary to strengthen interstate cooperation. It is important to ensure compliance with the standards and conventions of the UN and other international bodies.

4. Raising social awareness in society

Raising public awareness of demographic policy, human rights and ethical principles, and widely disseminating knowledge in this area through culture and education should be an integral part of state policy.

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