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**Present Trends Of Birth Rate In Siberia:
An Attempt At Analysis At Macro And Micro Levels
Abstract**

The paper considers birth and marriage rates in Siberia for the 1990-2002 period. The main idea of the analysis is that “Siberian” trends at the macro level (compared with the national average and with their state in other countries) is that the present stage (the late 1990s – the early 2000s) in the region’s demography reflects the objective changes in the structure of human behavior, norms, attitudes and perceptions taking place at the micro level – in family, in individual life.

The Siberian Federal District in the early 21st century is nationally second in birth rate immediately next to the Southern FD. The high birth rate in Siberia is due to practically all Siberian native republics: Altai, Khakasia, Buryatia, Tyva and autonomous areas: Aginski Buryat, Ust-Ordynskii Buryat, Taimyrskii (Dolgano-Nenets), Evenki areas where the summary birth rate makes 15.1-18.4 pro mille (2002). On the other hand, in the Novosibirsk, Omsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk, Chita regions this coefficient is rather low: 9-10 pro mille. Overall, the basic trends in birth and marriage rate generally coincide with the national ones:

- the gradual shift of births from younger to older mother generation;
- increased births in 2002-2004 is the result of the “demographic wave” of the 1980s;
- high percentage of extramarital births. While in 1990-2001 its national increase was from 15% to 29% to all birth, in the Siberian Federal District it was from 19% to 35% and in its rural population from 23% to 41%;
- extramarital births in the population of Siberia, especially among the rural population of the native areas, is much higher than in the European part of the country and in the urban population. Thus, their level in the republic of Tyva in 2001 was 60.4% and in the rural population of this area it was 61.3%. The peoples and ethnic groups where this level is much above the national average include beside the Tyvas also Buryats, Nenets, Evenkis, Chukchas, Koryaks, Khakas, i.e. peoples living in Siberia;

- the increased percentage of extramarital births is not accompanied by an increase in the percentage of single mothers with children: 48% of extramarital births in Russia are “legitimated” by the fathers. This can be explained by the overall spread of illegal marriages (marriage-like) unions;
- in the 1990s the absolute and relative marriage indicators were sweepingly falling down to their bottom value in 1996 for all age groups but particularly so for the youngest ages (as the result of cohabitation practice);
- “ageing” of first marriages: this global tendency is a sign of the second demographic transition;
- the rate of divorce in this period kept its trend to rise;
- in the overall trend to lower marriage rate a rise in the percentage of remarriages is witnessed: from 17% in 1979 to 28% in 1998. Over the last five years the lower percentage of remarriages by two or three percent points is observed, the average age of bride grooms and brides is 32-35 years of age.

In order to study changes at the micro level, in the sphere of private life, special social surveys have been conducted: extramarital motherhood (N=50), cohabitation (N=43 couples), post-divorce parenthood (N=42) as well as mass polls in the Siberian region (2001: N=464, 2002: N=603).

The results of the analysis of Siberian tendencies in birth and marriage rates at macro and micro levels allows us to assume that these tendencies are of a practically irreversible character; they reflect normal transformation of the institutions of marriage and family appropriate to the present state of the Russian society and to the general world demographic processes.