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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**PECULARITIES AND REGULATION OF MARRIAGE AND
DIVORCE IN AZERBAIJAN**

Specialty: 5313.01-Demography

Science area: 53- Economics

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Baku - 2022

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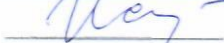
Dissertation Council ED 1.10 operating on the base of Dissertation
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

Relevance and the degree of development of the subject.

Socio-economic reforms and political processes taking place in Azerbaijan in recent decades have led to positive changes in all spheres of public life. Changes in post-industrial society, including the political, social, economic and cultural transformations associated with the crisis during the transition from the Soviet to the post-Soviet period, have led to changes in the social value system of the population, their demographic views and demographic acts. On the whole, this has had a major impact on the family institution, which is of great social importance.

For some reasons - democratization of society, gender policy, existing family and marriage relations, the possibility of divorce, remarriage and civil marriage, etc. the concepts of “selflessness”, for the sake of “parents”, “the family and children” have become a thing of the past.

Family is a system. Its elements are its individual members. The relations that make up the system are the relations of kinship and marriage that exist between them. A family is a small social group. It is within this group that a person acquires certain habits on the basis of spiritual relations with other people. Problems in the family are reflected in society as a whole, which in turn affects the situation of the family. The necessity and importance of studying the socio-economic and demographic aspects of the development of family-marriage relations determines the relevance of the research.

There is a greater need than ever before to study the factors that contribute to the transformation of the modern family institution, to study its development trends, especially to identify and study the peculiarities of marriage and divorce in Azerbaijan on the basis of a comprehensive and systematic approach.

Sociological and economic aspects of family policy, including the urgency of the problems of marriage and divorce in Azerbaijan, make it necessary to conduct a comprehensive and all-round scientific study of these issues. On the other hand, a comparative analysis of the issues under study requires clarification of the situation with

theoretical investigation in the field of scientific research of the problem and making the relevant generalizations.

Although this problem has not been studied systematically and separately, some research has been conducted in the West, Russia and Azerbaijan on specific issues.

Thus, the roots of the tradition of studying family problems go back to the distant past. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle considered the family to be the foundation of society and the state. Later, M. Montaigne, J.J. Rousseau, I. Kant, G. Hegel, L. Feuerbach and others, in their philosophical treatises, noted that “the spirit of society comes from the spirit of attachment to family life”. Different aspects of family problems, as well as features of marriage and divorce have been studied in the fundamental works of A.G. Kharchev, N.A. Yurkevich, N.Y. Solovyov, M.S. Matskovski, Y.B. Ryrnikov, I.S. Golod, Z.V. Yankovskaya, T.A. Gurko and other researchers. These scholars studied the structure, functions and other aspects of the family institution.

The family sociology formed during the Soviet period has been analyzed in the works of A.A. Klepin, R. Albert, I.S. Golod, A.I. Antonov, V.M. Medkov and others. Researchers such as I.M. Korniyak, A.M. Panova, B.V. Rakitski, L.T. Shineleva and Y.I. Feoktistova have studied and researched the family in the process of social transformations. They analyzed the changes in the functions, structure and composition of the family in connection with changes in the financial situation of the family.

The study of its dynamics in the context of the crisis in the family is characteristic of the works of A.I. Antonov, O.N. Dudchenko, A.V. Mytil and S.A. Sorokin. In the works of A.I. Antonov, V.V. Bodrova, D.I. Valentey, A.G. Vishnevski, V.V. Yelizarov, A.Y. Kvasha, V.M. Medkov, A. Sulaberidze and others, research on general issues of socio-demographic and family policy is of special importance and scientific interest.

The results of important scientific research and examinations conducted in connection with the analysis of marriage and divorce in Azerbaijan were also used in our research. There is a lot of scientific research on this subject. However, when reviewing the scientific

literature on the subject of the dissertation, we preferred to use research that can help to study the options for direct solutions of the problem. Thus, works such as “Population Census of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2009, Volume I”¹, “Women and Men in Azerbaijan” Statistical Bulletin², “Demographic Indicators of Azerbaijan”³, “Report on the Results of Statistical Observations on the Study of Causes of Divorce”⁴, “Sh.Muradov’s Human potential: main tendencies, realities, problems”⁵, N.Salmanova’s “Development of family-marriage relations in Azerbaijan”⁶ are important with scientific theoretical and practical values.

Besides, several scientific centers and schools for the study of socio-demographic processes have been established and developed in Azerbaijan. The Institute of Economics of ANAS has a special place among them. In the research of economist-scientists Sh.M.Muradov, R.Sh.Muradov, F.P.Rahmanov, CBGuliyev, AGGozalova, GAAzizova, RCEfendiyev, M.N.Alishanova, T.R.Najafova, S.R.Ahmadova, A.N.Muradov, S.M.Seyidova, F.G.Musayeva, S.T.Shikhaliyeva and others, special attention is paid to the analysis of family and family policy issues, the study of marriage and divorce processes.

Scientists of the Scientific Research and Training Center for Labor and Social Problems under the MLSP, which is of practical importance in the study of demographic processes and in the

¹Azərbaycan Respublikası əhalisinin 2009-cu il siyahıya alınmasının yekunları / tərt. ed. Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Statistika Komitəsi. – I cild. – Bakı: Səda, – 2010. – 629 s.

²Azərbaycanda qadınlar və kişilər. 2021. [Elektron resurs] / – Bakı, 2021. s.232 URL: https://www.stat.gov.az/menu/6/statistical_yearbooks/

³Azərbaycanın demoqrafik göstəriciləri 2021. / tərt. ed. Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Statistika Komitəsi. – Bakı: Səda, – 2021. – 560 s.

⁴Boşanma hallarının səbəblərinin öyrənilməsinə dair” statistik müşahidənin nəticələri haqqında hesabat. tərt. ed. Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Statistika Komitəsi. – Bakı: Səda, – 2021. – 560 s.

⁵Muradov, Ş.M. İnsan potensialı: əsas meyillər, reallıqlar, problemlər: monoqrafiya / Ş.Muradov, – Bakı: Elm, – 2004. – 660 səh.

⁶Salmanova, N.Ə. Azərbaycanda ailə-nikah münasibətlərinin inkişafı. / N.Salmanova. – Bakı: Avropa, –2013. – 178 s.

development of programs for the regulation of socio-demographic policy in Azerbaijan, also at present, scientists M.H.Mammadova, M.A.Mahmudov and others has a special share in this area.

Analysis of the works of specialists conducting some research in this field shows that an in-depth and comprehensive study of the relationship between marriage and divorce, their regulation, as well as economic, social and demographic factors in the study, development and implementation of family policy has not been conducted in Azerbaijan.

From this viewpoint, it is evident that the subject of the dissertation research on the features of marriages and divorces in Azerbaijan, as well as the regulation of these processes in changing conditions is timely and relevant.

Object and subject of the research. The object of the research is the Azerbaijani family, and the subject is the interaction of changes in the marriage and divorce processes.

Goals and objectives of the research. The main purpose of the dissertation is not to analyze and evaluate the changes in the marriage and divorce processes in Azerbaijan, but to develop proposals and recommendations for their regulation.

In order to achieve the goals mentioned in the dissertation, it is planned to perform the following tasks in the following three areas:

First, in terms of theoretical aspects of the study of marriage and divorce:

✓ □ to identify historical and demographic trends related to the development of the institution of family and marriage;

✓ □ to reveal the relationship between the demographic actions of the population and the economic theory of the family;

✓ □ to assess scientific and theoretical views on social support of the family and modern family policy in the world practice.

Secondly, through the analysis of the current situation of marriages and divorces in Azerbaijan:

✓ □ to determine the formation and development trends of state policy in the field of regulation of family and marriage relations;

✓ □ to conduct socio-demographic analysis of changes in marriage and divorce;

✓ □ to assess the level, dynamics and causes of divorce rates.

Third, in the context of socio-economic and demographic aspects of the regulation of the institution of the family and marriage:

✓ □ to study the experience of using socio-economic mechanisms to strengthen the family in developed countries;

✓ □ to determine the main directions and prospects of improving the state policy in the field of family and marriage relations in Azerbaijan;

✓ □ to show the main directions of the state policy in the field of family and marriage relations in the near future;

✓ □ to make proposals and recommendations in the field of regulation of marriage and divorce processes of the population, taking into account the national interests of society.

Methods of research. Such methods as systematic analysis, comparative assessment, examination and analytical-statistical analysis were used during the research of the dissertation subject.

The main provisions of the defense:

1. In the process of developing economic relations, the place and role of the family in society, its composition, functions, as well as its socio-economic status have changed.

2. Uncertainty in demographic indicators, emigration of other nationalities as a result of intensive dissolution of international marriages, etc. is due to the instability of the socio-economic and political situation in the first years of independence.

3. As a result of the demographic actions of the country's population, the average age of first marriages among women has not changed and the first marriages of men continues at a later age.

4. The level of divorce and their different forms are determined by a number of different objective and subjective factors (economic, social, demographic, psychological, socio-biological, etc.).

5. In the past, when divorces were rare, the decision to divorce was often made by men.

6. As in many developed countries, the process of transformation of the family institution has already begun in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Against the background of ensuring gender equality in all spheres of public life, this process is reflected in the qualitative changes in family and marriage relations.

7. The reproductive behavior of young families largely depends on the family type of their parents (urban or rural, large or small family type). Also, the role of ethno-social, religious, socio-economic factors and, of course, the spiritual and moral environment in the young family is undeniable.

Scientific novelty of the research:

- It was found that there is a correlation between the demographic behavior of the population in Azerbaijan and the “economic theory of the family”;

- It is substantiated that the demographic and socio-economic development trends of the modern Azerbaijani family are mostly related to stability, fundamentalism, institutionalism and adaptability;

- It was determined that the forms of family-marriage relations are being modified in Azerbaijan and that the orientation of the Azerbaijani family to the values of the worldview is progressing rapidly;

- It has been shown that as the economic independence of the family increases in Azerbaijan, the number of divorces tends to increase. From this viewpoint, family policy should focus on moral, mental characteristics and cultural aspects;

- It is substantiated that the system of egalitarian relations, including the division of roles in the family, corresponds to modern conditions to the maximum extent and meets the interests of society, the family and the individual. Therefore, it is necessary to direct the growing generation to this type of family-marriage relations.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The research has important theoretical and practical significance in many aspects. Thus, in terms of the use of its materials and scientific results, the following should be emphasized: the conclusions reached in the

dissertation provide a basis for identifying new areas of scientific research on this issue can be used in writing textbooks, teaching aids and programs, monographs on marriage and divorce in Azerbaijan, as well as generalized scientific works on “Demography”, “Family sociology”, “Social statistics”, “Family and household economics”, etc.

The proposals and recommendations mentioned in the dissertation are of special importance in the development of relevant government programs, projects, guidelines, especially the concept of demographic development in the country.

Approbation and application. The main provisions of the dissertation were tested in the author’s speeches at international and national scientific-practical conferences. Thus, the author’s reports at 3 Republican and 1 International Conference (Kazakhstan) were published as scientific articles and theses. Besides, 6 scientific articles (2 abroad - Russia and the Ukraine) were published in scientific journals recommended by the SAC.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out. The dissertation work was carried out at the Institute of Economics of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

The total volume of the dissertation with characters, indicating the volume of the structural units of the dissertation separately. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, 8 paragraphs, 15 tables and 2 graphics, conclusion and references. The total volume of the dissertation is 246 829 characters.

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THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENCE

1. In the process of developing economic relations, the place and situation of the family in society, its composition, functions, as well as its socio-economic status have changed.

In the course of economic theory, the family is considered only as a household function. As a household-economic unit, consisting of one or more individuals, it supplies production resources to the market, earns income from it, and uses this income to meet its needs by maximizing profitability⁷.

However, the concept of family (even if only its economic characteristics are taken as a basis) is not the same as household.

First, it is not only the family that functions as a household: it can be individuals or groups of individuals who are not related to each other. Every family is a household, but not every household is a family.

Second, and most importantly, the household represents only the macroeconomic aspect of family life and has nothing to do directly with microeconomic relations, including housekeeping, family budgeting, household organization, domestic work, care for children and the elderly people. Therefore, although they may seem close in meaning at first glance, the concept of “home management” must be distinguished from the concept of “household”, which is an economic form of home management.

Thus, the subject of the economic theory of the family consists of a complex system of macro and micro-economic relations. The family and family behaviors in this system of relationships are of particular importance.

It is obvious that all aspects and directions of the economic theory of the family are interrelated. They are based on family property and reflect the distribution of roles and responsibilities in the family (leadership, decision-making initiatives, influence on subordinates, division of responsibilities, etc.). The unity of macro and micro-

⁷Кон И. С. Ребенок и общество. М.: Наука, 1988. с.7.

economic relations is especially evident in the family budget and the formation of family income and expenditure.

1. Uncertainty in demographic indicators, emigration of other nationalities as a result of intensive disruption of international marriages, etc. is due to the instability of the socio-economic and political situation in the first years of independence.

In the post-1991 living conditions, the marriage rate declined steadily until 1996, and the number of marriages for per 1.000 people was 5.0. Then, the number of marriages between 2000 and 2013 and the overall marriage rate as a whole increased with some fluctuations (the number of marriages ranged from 39.611 to 86.852 and the number of marriages for per 1.000 people ranged from 5.0 to 9.3). Although there was a slight decrease in the absolute number of marriages and the level of the marriage rate in 2014, no significant changes took place. However, in the following 2015-2019, a sharp decline is observed in these indicators. Thus, the number of marriages in 2015 decreased by 19.1% compared to the previous year. Accordingly, the marriage rate also decreased sharply, from 9.0 ‰ to 7.2 ‰, in other words, it decreased by 20%. The number of marriages in 2016 remained almost at the level of 2015 (decreased by only 2%), but the marriage rate fell significantly (from 7.2 ‰ to 6.9 ‰) dropped to the level of 2003. In 2017 and the next two years, the absolute number of marriages continued to reduce. The marriage rate fell sharply; well below than the 2003 year's level.

With the exception of 2015-2019, the high level of marriage was recorded against the background of increasing divorce rates. The ban on weddings in 2020 due to quarantine measures against the spread of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, which has spread around the world, including in Azerbaijan, has led to the postponement of most planned marriages among the population. As a result, the number of marriages in 2020 fell sharply. Thus, the number of marriages in 2020 was 1.8 times less than in 2019. At the same time, the marriage rate for per 1.000 people fell by 1.8 times. Taken into account that this sharp reduce is due to the pandemic, the 2020 marriage rate should be seen as an exception.

Marriage rates registered by official bodies in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991-2020. Table 1.

Years	Number of marriages	Number of marriages for per thousand of people
1991	74378	10,4
1992	68740	9,5
1993	60028	8,1
1994	47147	6,3
1995	43130	5,7
1996	38572	5,0
1997	46999	6,1
1998	40851	5,2
1999	37382	4,7
2000	39611	5,0
2001	41861	5,2
2002	41661	5,2
2003	56091	6,9
2004	62177	7,6
2005	71643	8,7
2006	79443	9,5
2007	81758	9,7
2008	79964	9,3
2009	78072	8,8
2010	79172	8,9
2011	88145	9,7
2012	79065	8,6
2013	86852	9,3
2014	84912	9,0
2015	68773	7,2
2016	66771	6,9
2017	62923	6,5
2018	62484	6,4
2019	63869	6,4
2020	35348	3,5

Source: Table was compiled on the basis of information of Population of Azerbaijan 2021. Statistical collection. Baku, 2014, p. 140, and from the website <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/>.

2. As a result of the country's demographic behavior, the average age of first marriages of women has not changed and the first marriages of men continue to be concluded at a later age.

In the current context of low- and middle-income family models, the average age of first marriages between men and women has virtually no effect on the number of children in a family, women's reproductive capacity, or the growth rate of the population as a whole.

Early marriages have historically been characteristic of the Azerbaijani population (as noted above, marriages concluded before the age of 18 is considered early marriages).

According to the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the minimum (minimum) age for marriage is 18 years for men and women. It should be noted that in developed countries, according to the law, young people over the age of 18 are allowed to marry. The minimum age for marriage in the Republic of Azerbaijan is specified in the Law on the Rights of the Children, adopted on 19 May 1999. The Convention on the Rights of the Children is guided in determining this limit.

The source of information on the status and level of early marriages is primarily census data. However, in addition to the census data, it is possible to obtain certain necessary information through special surveys, as well as using previous statistical surveys.

At present, there are still early marriages among the female population of the country, and such marriages are almost nought among the male population. The results of the 1999 census show that 12.5% of the female population aged 15-19 was married compared to 2.4% of the male population. Between the 1999 and 2009 censuses, the level of early marriages declined, with the proportion of women in early marriages falling by 4.5% was 8%, while in men it fell by 2.4% and was 0%.

In order to study the reasons for early marriages among women, the survey included in the questionnaire of the above-mentioned statistical survey revealed that 37.4% of all girls married before the age of 18 voluntarily, 25.9% entered into marriage under pressure from their parents, 10.7% - due to the difficult financial situation of

the family, 7.9% - due to the desire to take advantage of the good financial situation of the husband, 6.4% - due to abduction, etc.

Grouping of women in early marriage according to age and level of education. Table 2.

Education level	Total urban and rural areas		Urban areas		Rural areas	
	people	in percent	people	in percent	people	in percent
women married before the age of 18	7285	100,0	2833	38,9	4452	61,1
including: by level of education: first profession	59	0,8	36	1,3	23	0,5
Full secondary education	3885	53,3	1495	52,8	2390	53,9
general secondary education	3181	43,7	1244	43,9	1937	43,2
primary	153	2,1	58	2,0	95	2,1
uneducated	7	0,1	-	-	7	0,2

Source: Table was compiled on the basis of the Report on the results of the statistical survey “On the study of early marriages of girls and births in official marriages”. State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan Baku, 2011, pp.225-277.

According to the survey, 2833 out of 7285 girls married before the age of 18 lived in urban areas and 4452 in rural areas. In other words, 38.9% of early marriages among women fell to the urban

population and 61.1% to the rural population. Statistically, this confirms the fact that the tradition of early marriage is more established in rural areas than in urban areas.

The majority of girls in early marriages surveyed in both urban and rural areas had completed full secondary and general secondary education. In urban areas, 53.3% of girls had completed full secondary education and 43.7% had general secondary education, while in rural areas these figures were 53.9% and 43.2%, respectively. Taken into account the age of women entering early marriage, the country's successful education policy on compulsory secondary education, and the high place of education in their value system the results of the survey are expected to be so.

According to the survey, the education of the fathers of women who entered to early marriage shows that 54.8% of the fathers of these girls have a full secondary education, 12.7% - a secondary vocational, 11.7% - a general secondary education, and 10.8% have a primary level of professional qualification education. In urban areas, these indicators were 44.6%, 17.1%, 8.4% and 18.1%, respectively. In rural areas, the highest percentage falls on fathers with full secondary education - 61.4%. Fathers with general secondary education are 13.7% and those with primary vocational education - 9.9%. Although these indicators differ slightly, they reflect the general situation of the population at the level of education. The majority of the population in our country has a full secondary education.

3. The level of divorce and their different forms are determined by a number of different objective and subjective factors (economic, social, demographic, psychological, socio-biological, etc.).

Economic factors include the level of family income, housing, family relationships, increasing women's economic independence, social norms and standards, etc. Circumstances arising as a result of low family income and material security, the family's minimum living needs are not met or the financial security is not at the desired level, the family income is not distributed fairly among family members, the woman's income exceeds the man's total income, and so on lead to

tensions in the family and, in some cases, to the dissolution of the marriage.

The group of **social factors** influencing divorce includes the level of education of the husband and wife, gender factors, including changes in the status of women in the family and society, customs and traditions that determine family behavior and relationships between individuals (including ethnic and religious), political views, military service of one of the married, education in another city, frequent business trips, imprisonment, difficulties in living with the husband or wife's parents, difficulties in living with children from a previous marriage or other similar difficulties, etc.

The group of **demographic factors** influencing divorce includes urbanization, migration processes, the number of children in the family, the age of the husband and wife and the age difference between them, the duration of the marriage, the age of marriage, and so on.

Psychological factors influencing divorce include differences in the personalities and attitudes of those who marry. If the husband and wife have a normal cultural level that excludes harsh treatment and insults, it is possible to completely overcome such characteristic differences and inconsistencies. If a husband and wife can maintain respect for each other, they can always come to consensus in any matter. For example, views on the upbringing of children, the distribution of the family budget and family responsibilities, loyalty to each other, not allowing or interfering with family life by relatives, and so on.

The group of **socio-biological factors** influencing divorce includes: disability, neurological diseases, drunkenness, AIDS, alcoholism, unfaithfulness, etc. This includes female infertility and male impotence. However, these factors can also lose their influence depending on the cultural level of the husband and wife. However, it should be noted that the number of divorces due to these reasons is likely to decrease in the future and is based on realistic grounds. This is associated with the developing medical achievements and measures taken to improve the reproductive health of the population. It should be noted that families with no children are more likely to break up

under other equal conditions. Numerous sociological and demographic surveys prove this once again.

Indicators of divorces registered by official bodies in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991-2020.

Table 3

Years	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of divorces	5478	5382	5738	6671	6914	8895	7817
Divorce for per 1.000 people	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	1,1	0,9
Years	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of divorces	8340	7933	7784	9061	1074 7	1108 7	11730
Divorce for per 1.000 people	1,0	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,2	1,2	1,3
Years	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of divorces	12088	12764	13114	14514	1485 7	1714 8	14628
Divorce for per 1.000 people	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,7	1,5

Source: Demographic indicators of Azerbaijan. Statistical collection. Baku. 2021, pp. 359-360.

As evident from the table, the number of divorces in 2020 has sharply decreased compared to the previous year, both in absolute and relative terms. However, this reduction cannot be considered a positive development. More precisely, the increase in divorces in the period up to 2020 does not mean that it will be replaced by a downward trend,

and cannot be considered one of the characteristics we have identified for the period under review. Thus, this decrease is an exception due to the sharp decline in marriages in 2020 due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus pandemic. That is, due to the small number of marriages in 2020, the number of divorces per share of those marriages was correspondingly low. This, of course, has led to a decrease in the total number of divorces. Therefore, the divorce rate in 2020 should be considered as an exception, i.e., as a separate case that is not related to the trends in the divorce process in the period under study.

The relative number of divorces, calculated as the number of divorces per 1.000 people, characterizes the intensity of divorce. In the last year of the period we are considering, in 2019, this figure in the Republic of Azerbaijan, i.e., the number of divorces per 1.000 people is equal to 1.7. In general, the dynamics of this indicator for 1991-2019 also shows that there have been fluctuations in the level of divorces. During this period, the difference between the maximum level of divorces (2019 - 1.7 divorces) and the minimum level (1999 - 0.6 divorces) was equal to 1.1 per 1.000. Thus, the maximum divorce rate was 2.8 times higher than the minimum.

4. In the past, when divorces were rare, the decision to divorce was often made by men.

Of course, women's economic condition and social status in the family and society limited women's choice and independence. So they did their best to protect their marriage. But now the situation has changed radically. The fact that many women have their own income, are not burdened with a large number of children, and are confident in their successful future which not only allows them to decide to end their unsuccessful marriage, but also initiate divorce by refusing to be patient, compromiser and tolerant. However, at least for the sake of the children, divorce could be avoided. Table 4 gives an idea about the role of women in divorce decisions.

Division by sex and age groups according to the decision to divorce (by percentage). Table 4

	Divorced total	Including making a divorce decision				
		Himself/herself	ex-wife/husband	Both	parents	others
Total	100.0	39.2	22.3	35.4	2.4	0.7
By age groups						
Up to 18 years	100,0	-	-	-	-	-
At the age of 18-29 years	100,0	40.6	20.2	34.2	4.5	0.5
At the age of 30-49 years	100.0	38.7	22.7	35.8	2.1	0.7
At the age of 50 and older	100.0	39.4	23.7	35.5	0.7	0.7

Source: Report on the results of statistical observations “On the study of the causes of divorce”. Baku, 2012, p.33.

5. As in many developed countries, the process of transformation of the family institution has already begun in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Against the background of ensuring gender equality in all spheres of public life, this process is reflected in the qualitative changes in family and marriage relations.

Among the main directions aimed at improving the state policy in the field of family and marriage relations, birth stimulation and strengthening the family institution in Azerbaijan, it is important to emphasize the following socio-economic priorities:

- Thorough strengthening of the family for the improvement of people’s lives and activities;
- Improving the family’s material well-being, living standards and quality of life;

- Ensuring targeted social protection of the family, as well as providing the necessary financial assistance to the family when a child is born;

- Creation of a precondition for raising the birth rate, including the formation of a system of public and individual values aimed at having a family with two or more children.

Thus, in modern society, where the situation has changed, there is a need for the following:

- Assessment of the family status in our society with new, including approaches from gender position;

- Theoretical re-understanding of the nature of family-marriage relations;

- Formation of a modern concept for solving these issues, based on various scientific fields, responding to today's realities and modern social policy of Azerbaijan.

As a conclusion of the above-said, it should be noted that the creation of conditions for raising the birth rate, protection of mothers and children, strengthening of the family institution are priority socio-demographic goals in Azerbaijan. They are crucial for the present and future of our country and require the systematic, coordinated work of the authorities, society and citizens. In order to achieve the set goal, the work to be done must have common goals and clear criteria.

6. The reproductive behavior of young families largely depends on the family type of their parents (urban or rural, large or small family types). Also, the role of ethno-social, religious, socio-economic factors and, of course, the spiritual and moral environment in the young family is undeniable.

In today's world, it is very difficult to imagine a woman among social activists who not only feeds and clothes her children, but also truly educates them and is able to meet their spiritual needs. But at the same time, the number of families headed by women is increasing as a result of divorce, the death of a husband or out-of-wedlock births. Therefore, it is very important to offer women different options for participation in social production. In this case, a woman's right to free choice should not be restricted, including in changing her work schedule, transition from one form of employment to another, and so

on. This approach will allow women of different professions to pursue their family interests, as well as encourage the implementation of a state-important task - the healthy reproduction of the population. Thus, at the age of childbearing ability, a hard-working woman has a real opportunity to bring her professional interests to conformity with the interests of growing and strengthening of the family.

The current system of state benefits and incentives does not provide adequate material well-being for the majority of families. Especially large families and single mothers are in a more difficult situation. In our opinion, the existing system of benefits should be completely reconsidered and a flexible scale of single family benefits should be developed. It should be based on maternity benefits, as well as benefits for the care of the newborn. According to some economists, it is only possible to increase the amount of partially paid leave benefits at the expense of the new division. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to consider the matter differently: a woman should work less than a man, and if a woman has children or is preparing to have children, her salary should include extra allowances for children. In order for a young family to be free to choose whether or not to have children and how many children to have, it must base its decision on a certain economic basis. At the same time, the issue of economic support of this or that bill to be adopted is very important.

The following suggestions were made for the research conducted in the dissertation:

According to our conclusion, it is expedient to take into account the following socio-economic priorities among the main directions aimed at improving the state policy in the field of family and marriage relations, birth stimulation and strengthening of the family institution in Azerbaijan:

- The determination of the level of unemployment of family heads and their involvement in employment and improvement of the family's material well-being, living standards and quality of life by state;

- The family should be provided with targeted social protection, including the provision of necessary financial assistance when a child is born in that family;
- In order to improve the socio-economic situation of the family, young families, including young people, should be inculcated with business and entrepreneurial activities;
- Regular surveys and examinations should be conducted to identify the causes of divorce and the decrease in the number of children in families;
- The family institution as a form of harmonious individual activity must be comprehensively strengthened;
- A system of public and individual values should be formed to create a precondition for raising the birth rate, including increasing the number of families with two or more children;
- Socio-economic conditions conducive to the birth, care, upbringing and education of children must be created;
- For employees with children, favorable conditions must be created between employment and family responsibilities;
- A development strategy should be developed and implemented to ensure that orphaned and disabled children live in a family environment;
- In order to increase the educational potential of the family, the promotion of family values through the media and other means should be increased.

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The defense of the dissertation will be held on March 30, 2022 at 11.⁰⁰ at the meeting of the Dissertation Council ED 1.10 operating on the base of Dissertation Council BFD 1.10 of the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan attached to the Institute of Economics of ANAS

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The dissertation is available in the library of the Institute of Economics of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and the abstract are posted on the official website of the Institute of Economics of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

The abstract was sent to the necessary addresses on 25 february 2022.

Sent to the press: 22.02. 2022
Paper format: A5
Volume: 31805
Number of printed copies: 20