

PSYCHO-SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND DEMOGRAPHY

Introduction

Aikaterini Divoli MD, PhD

Demography studies the variations and differentiations of human populations. Since individuals are involved it is evident that these might be affected by various factors as environmental, psychosocial and economic. These factors can produce changes in the size and quality of populations. A socioeconomic example taken from the present situation in Greece is a) on one hand the flee of young persons mainly scientists, from Greece to other countries seeking jobs, b) on the other hand the immense entrance of refugees caused by similar reasons as well as avoiding war.

Certainly Greece had accepted refugees several times in the past. The biggest amount as it is referred, was in 1922 and consisted of one million and a half, Greek-Orthodox Christians. But now the situation is different. The arriving people come from various countries, have different cultures, languages, religions.

It would be wishful for those who decide to stay in Greece to be able while keeping their identity to adjust in Greek communities. At the same time we Greeks while we accept the refugees and integrate them to be able to hold our identity our rich language and culture, our precious civilization and religion.

Christian religion teaches LOVE which includes the values of acceptance and solidarity. If practiced properly Christian religion, will help in the above process as well as minimize the problems which will emerge.

Low Birth Rate and Mental Disorder. Is there any Connection?

G. I. Moussas

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The famous French demographer Alfred Sauvy argued that a demographic collapse usually results from an economic or social crisis and suggested that demography is a reliable indicator of progress or decadence of populations.

According to Eurostat the demographic situation remains one of the most worrying developmental issues in Greece where data sources recorded a population reduction by 5.5%, while at the same time Europe experienced a population growth by a mean of 2.2%, in 2012.

A recent study from National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) reported a dramatic decline in fertility rate in Greece with figures far below those considered as replacement rate for a population. Figuratively speaking, since 2009 the country's fertility rate has hit a low range of 1.1 to 1.3 and an increase in the mean age of women at childbirth is observed, meaning that one-fourth of Greek women born in the '70s will be childless.

A literature review of epidemiological studies on fertility rates in people with mental disorders was performed in order to investigate the potential effect of mental disorders on fertility rates.

The famous demographer, Alfred Sauvy, says that even if the demographic collapse result from an economic or social crisis demography is a reliable indicator **Acne** or Decantence

According to Eurostat research the demographic problem remains one of the major problems of the Greek society and according to the data in GREECE has been a reduction of the population by **5.5%** while the population of Europe is growing by **2%**. (2012)

In a recent study (EKKE) fertility is moving at extreme low levels for the renewal of the population. From 2009 Greek women acquire 1.1 to 1.3 children in old age though results a **percentage 25% of women who do not have children.**

In this presentation attempts to investigate the (Incidence – Prevalence) of Mental disorders in the influence on the Rate of Births, International Literature Review.

Psychosocial sequelae of the economic crisis to the demographic problem of Greece

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After 2009, Greece has entered a long period of economic crisis with adverse effects on various aspects of daily life, including the intensification of the demographic problem. Over the six years of the crisis (2009 – 2014), the crude birth rate substantially decreased between 2009 and 2014; from 10.45 per 1,000 population in 2009 to 8.57 in 2014. The 93,429 livebirths in 2014 is the lowest number recorded in Greece since 1955. During the same period (2009 – 2014), the crude mortality rate in Greece increased, from 9.60 per 1,000 population in 2009 to 10.46 in 2014. Moreover, due to the high unemployment rate (it was 27.9% in September 2013 and 24.4% in January 2016), couples are worried and reluctant to get married and give birth to children. The problem is further aggravated by the fact that many young people have immigrated to foreign countries (during 2014, 107,000 have immigrated most of whom were younger than 34 years of age).

Now more than ever, policy makers must recognize and prioritize these issues in order to design and implement policies necessary to protect against the worsening of the demographic problem in Greece.

Balances and Upsets: Institutional Effects of Immigration in Greek Society

Dr. Gregory Katsas

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The goal of this presentation is to explore the effects of immigration on society at large. In relation to what is being said and written in the media, the presentation focuses on potential institutional effects of immigration. Two central societal concerns are investigated: alienation and social solidarity. The easy approach and one that prevails in the media is that for both issues the situation is almost completely negative. A more dispassionate approach, however, shows that things are not as bad nor as simple. The presentation, after a review and explanation of these terms, attempts a critical application in Greek society. The conclusions are twofold: first, that alienation levels change irrespective of immigration flows and, secondly, that solidarity exists, just in a new different form, which society tries to get used to.

World and Greek population *Situations, trends, suggestions*

Nicholaos D. Loizos

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The presentation aims to present the current situation of the global and the Greek population (fertility, mortality, spatial distribution, migration movements) and the trends in the near future and to make some suggestions for at least the Greek demographic reality.

The characteristics of the world population are its constantly increasing trend (recorded population of over 7 billion people), its unequal distribution, the infertility and hyper fertility depending on regions of the world and the intense and diverse migration.

Regarding the Greek population, we can observe a strong unequal distribution respectively, mainly after the 60s, a growing demographic aging of the population since the 70s, infertility since the 80s and migration movements since the 90s.

Migration and acculturation

Livaditis Miltos

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Migration is a stressful life event. The stress of a migrant depends on many factors, such as: the conditions in the country of origin and acceptance as well, the transfer procedure. Psychological corollaries of migration vary between mild anxious or depressive reactions, more serious psychotraumatic or behavioral symptoms, to very intensive depressive or psychotic disorders. Sometimes, psychopathology is expressed by the second generation of migrants.

Acculturation, that is the adjustment of the migrants to the norms of the dominant culture may be a maladaptive procedure (f.e. overadaptation, paranoid isolation, disorganization-deterioration). The creation of support mechanism and the sensitization of the local population contribute to the better adaptation of migrants.

Violence in the Family

Douzenis Athanassios

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From an evolutionary perspective, aggressive behaviour has a specific role in survival, making it vital part of behaviour in most species. In humans, aggressive behaviour becomes an issue when it is directed towards fellow human beings with the aim to harm them. In society, violent behaviour and criminality associated with aggressive behaviour, present major issues in social cohesion and public health.

Social and cultural influences play an important role in the development of aggressive behaviour. However, environmental factors can affect different people in varying ways. As a result, aggressive behaviour can occur as a result of the interaction between environmental and neurobiological factors. Physical violence can be defined as intended physical harm, while verbal violence can include shouting, swearing, threats and verbal humiliation among others. Familial violence, the most silenced crime, can involve and affect men, women and children regardless of age and social class. Familial violence may also include neglect and denial of basic human rights. Moreover, incest which is wrongly categorised as an exclusively sexual act, may also take place. Incest is a complex act which usually also includes violence, dependence and fear of abandonment. In the case of incest, sexual activity against the child, often is the method through which familial disfunction can be expressed. The nature of the

act, the degree of relativeness and the ages of the people involved, are factors that should be considered in cases of incest.

Moral values and demography

Stavros J. Baloyannis MD, PhD

Professor Emeritus

The ongoing demographic diversity in the western societies is tightly connected with the moral crisis of our era. Changes in demographic rates concerning fertility, immigration, refugees, rural-to-urban migration, morbidity, epidemiological transition and the ecological catastrophes are closely related with the decline of the moral values. The dispute of the family principles, the late marriage and the divorce are associated with low natural fertility and increased psychiatric morbidity. The socioeconomic instability, the political crisis and the ecological disasters increase the immigration of thousands of people who search for the amelioration of their living conditions and the respect of their dignity. The increased immigration in the last decades reasonably cause a substantial alteration of the ethnographic pattern in many western societies. In addition civil wars and multiform hostilities and atrocities urge thousands of refugees in searching for freedom, security and dignity in new homelands. The western civilization emphasizes recently, in the spirit of globalization, the importance of the advanced technology for the economic prosperity, without giving a parallel emphasis in the spiritual culture and the moral values, a tragic policy which promoted the individualism, the secularism, the ambitious competition, the bitter contradictions in politics, the social conflicts, the human devaluation, the intense psychological pressure, the social isolation, the despair resulting eventually in the augmentation of the demographic and humanitarian problems.

The respect of the dignity of the human person, the social equity and justice, the culture of the principles of integrity, altruism and solidarity, the high moral standards and moral conduct, the peaceful cooperation between people with simplicity and reciprocal respect, the compassion for the human suffering and the genuine sacrificial love for the humanity shape the bright exit from the somber labyrinth of the demographic problem.