

## Chapter #21

### ATTITUDE OF STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY OF THE RUSSIAN

**Olga Deyneka**

*Saint Petersburg State University, Saint Petersburg, Russia*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Population and its reproduction is necessary attribute of the existence of the state. The process of depopulation generates economic problems, leading to a decrease in the state's geopolitical status. The purpose of this study was to study the attitude of student youth towards demographic policy in modern Russia. The study involved students of universities and colleges of St. Petersburg (N=109+97=206, 68% females; aged about 20 years). Attitudes of students to the demographic policy of the Russian Federation and were assessed by author's multi factorial questionnaires (Deyneka, 2013). Attitude to children as a condition for the reproduction of the population studied using method of ranking associations. The validity and reliability of the methods used were tested. The results showed a generally favorable, but somewhat contradictory attitude to demographic policy and the state. Students believe that measures to stimulate the state fertility are not enough. At the same time, the idea of peoples saving as a national idea of modern Russia received serious support among students. The attitude to the family and children turned out to be more traditional than relying on postmodern values. The material factor plays an important role in the students' plans for their future self-realization as parents.

*Keywords:* attitudes to demographic policy, attitudes to children, attitudes to parenthood, students of universities and colleges, Russia.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Demographic policy is the part of the country's strategic policy. It could be defined as a system of measures aimed at increasing or decreasing the population growth rate. The vector of restrictive politics dominates the global demographic policy. So, the works of the Club of Rome focused on the correction of the world's population in connection with the environmental consequences of production and consumption, as well as the growing scarcity of resources. (Club of Rome is an international non-governmental organization, whose activities are aimed at stimulating the study of global problems. The organization was founded by Italian industrialist Aurelio Peccei (who became its first President) and Director General for science of the OECD Alexander King with the participation of David Rockefeller in April 1968).

It is difficult not to agree that against the background of scientific and technological progress the general tendency of an imbalance between the growing needs of people and limited resources are progressing. For example, according to specialists' forecasts, energy consumption from 2007 to 2035 will increase by 49% (International Energy Outlook, 2010). However, the "concept of superfluous people" is not acceptable in psychology and is dangerous in politics.

Despite the significant decline in the birth rate on the planet in recent decades (Frejka & Gietel-Basten, 2016; The end of high fertility is near, 2017), the ideology of the Club of Rome is dominated by neo-Malthusian views. The authors of the report devoted to the anniversary of the club continue to insist on the need to minimize the birth rate on the planet and note that the Club of Rome thanks the countries that have made a rapid reduction in the reproduction of the population (von Weizsaecker & Wijkman, 2018). Nevertheless, it is impossible to talk about a single population policy of an abstract universal human society. Russia is not threatened with overpopulation, it is threatened with depopulation. Moreover, in Russia and the European Union there are common problems associated with the trend of declining fertility and the preservation of the ethnos, and in modern Europe the tendency of the aging of the nation is aggravated by migration problems.

Demographic globalization poses the greatest danger for Russia, as "the country and for the Russian ethnos. It could disappear and dissolve in a huge mass of growth in other countries" (Konovalova & Yuriev, 2006, p.72). Stressing the contradiction of the demographic processes going on in the world and in Russia, the authors called the situation in which the country was deprived of its main resource - human - by demographic default.

The Australian scientist P. MacDonald emphasizes that from the macroeconomic point of view, an extremely low birth rate in the future will lead to an acute shortage of labor, especially young skilled workers, against the backdrop of an aging population. He believes that the low birth rate is associated with two waves of social change, which over the past 40 years have had a strong influence on the behavior concerning marriage. The rapid growth of social liberalism was in 60-70 years ("reflexive modernization") and fast and sharp transition to deregulation (the "new capitalism") was in the 80-90 years of the last century (McDonald, 2006).

Against the backdrop of the demographic crisis, A.I. Solzhenitsyn, disillusioned with the humanitarian results of the reforms of the 1990s, proposed to build the idea of saving the Russian people as a national idea. "The saving of the people" - both in its very strength and in its physical and moral health - is the highest of all our state tasks. ... All measures to raise the national standard of living - in everyday, food, medical, educational and moral relations - are the essence of the action to save the people. To this goal, the entire atmosphere of life in the country must be set up "(see: Tretyakov, 2006).

In the process of its historical development, the society has developed a unique mechanism for the reproduction of the population - the institution of the family. The well-known Russian demographer, sociologist and economist L.L. Rybakovsky defines the purpose of demographic policy as the creation of prerequisites for increasing the birth rate and the gradual transition from reproductive behavior of families focused on 1-2 children to the type of the average number of children (2.6) and to the comprehensive strengthening of the family as a form of the most rational life of the individual (Rybakovsky, 2003).

In his Address to the Federal Assembly, the President of the Russian Federation stated that due to active support of the family, motherhood, childhood, negative demographic trends were able to reverse. However, in the coming decade, especially in connection with the economic need for the able-bodied population, it is necessary to ensure a steady natural growth in the population of Russia (Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, 2018).

At the same time, some researchers declare that pro-natalist policy did not change significantly both the intentions of Russians and their implementation (e.g. Zakharov, 2016). This politics aimed at increasing the birth rate the main measures of which are financial. The formation of public opinion in favor of increasing the birth rate is an equally important measure. In this regard, it is necessary to study the attitudes and values of citizens of reproductive age as well as the motivation of parenthood.

**The Objective** of this empirical study was to identify features of the student attitudes towards demographic policy in modern Russia, taking into account their motivation of parenthood.

## 2. METHOD

Interdisciplinary, comparative and correlation approach formed the methodological basis for the study.

The empirical research objectives:

- 1) to reveal the components and characteristics of students' attitudes toward the demographic policy in Russia;
- 2) to carry out a comparative analysis of the attitude towards the demographic policy among students of universities and colleges;
- 3) to investigate the relationship between attitudes toward demographic policy and attitudes toward the Russian State;
- 4) to explore the relationship between attitudes toward children as an existential value, and attitudes towards demographic policy.

Interdisciplinary, comparative and correlation approach formed the methodological basis for the study.

### 2.1. Instruments

For the implementation of the objectives the special questionnaire "Attitudes to demographic policy" (ADP) was developed according to our algorithm (Deyneka, 2013). It contains 45 statements, with which the degree of agreement / disagreement on the 7-point Likert scale (where "7" means "totally agree", and "1" - "absolutely disagree") should be expressed. The ADP questionnaire was tested for constructive validity by factor analysis. The data obtained made it possible to verify the design validity of the questionnaire by analyzing the main components. Reliability of the questionnaire was tested by homogeneity using Spearman-Brown formula and was  $K = 0.643$ .

The second method was the "Citizen questionnaire" (eg: Deyneka & Dauksha, 2014). It reflects the aspects of economic and political patriotism, economic optimism, solidarity, time perspective, and assessing the most pressing problems of society.

The third method was aimed at studying the attitude to children and the hidden motivation of parenthood. It was developed by me as a semi-projective method of ranking 15 associations with the concept of "children", which should be arranged in descending order of importance for the subject (according to the instruction, the first place belongs to the most important association). The list of associations includes expectations related to children and fears of expended efforts (financial and psychological) as well as emotional experiences and the results of rational pragmatic decisions. During developing the method, we considered the results of generalizations by other researchers, in particular the classification of motives of the parenting (Petrovskaya & Spivakovskaya, 1983; Spivakovskaya, 1999), types of families in which children have different value for parents (Achildieva, 1990), motives for parenthood (Rabin & Greene, 1968).

## 2.2. Participants

A total amount of 206 students of St.-Petersburg took part in the research attitudes toward the demographic policy of the Russian Federation. 109 respondents were students of universities, 97 respondents were students of colleges. Among the surveyed were 32% male and 68% female. The average age of the respondents was 20 years old.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the study using the "Questionnaire of attitudes to demographic policy" showed, students do not have a clear idea of how to evaluate modern demographic policy in the country, approvingly or not ( $M = 4.06$ ;  $\sigma = 1.72$ ). They also have little idea how to improve it ( $M = 4.07$ ;  $\sigma = 1.85$ ). The average indices of optimism regarding the improvement of the demographic situation in Russia in the next decade have been obtained ( $M = 4.07$ ;  $\sigma = 1.85$ ). Students believe that measures to stimulate the state fertility are still insufficient ( $M = 4.94$ ;  $\sigma = 1.61$ ). At the same time, the degree of agreement with the fact that the policy of peoples saving in our country should be introduced into the national idea rank turned out to be higher than the middle of the scale ( $M = 4.87$ ;  $\sigma = 1.67$ ) and is backed by a high degree of unanimity in the assessment.

The attitude to the family and children in the context of the demographic policy turned out to be more traditional not based on postmodern values. According to R. Inglehart, the pole of traditional values includes religiosity, a respectful attitude towards the family, the motherland, as well as a loyal attitude towards official authority. Emancipatory, postmodern values provide for the primacy of individual freedom over the discipline of the collective, diversity over the conformity of the group norm and the independence of citizens from state power (Inglehart & Welzel, 2005). Students believe that the family is "sacred", the greatest value in the modern world ( $M = 5.90$ ;  $\sigma = 1.67$ ), and it plays a decisive role in the development of the personality ( $M = 6.23$ ;  $\sigma = 1.26$ ). They share the view that the education of children should be based on traditions and culture ( $M = 5.18$ ,  $\sigma = 1.74$ ), and the introduction of some Western values (free love, free-child style or life for oneself) does not contribute to an increase in population ( $M = 5.16$ ,  $\sigma = 1.89$ ). Students value communication with grandparents and believe that it is necessary for the child's harmonious development ( $M = 5.89$ ;  $\sigma = 1.57$ ). Respondents respect and sympathize with large families, although few of them see themselves as the creator of such families in the future.

The results thus confirm the opinion of P. McDonald, who argues that, no matter how attractive new alternatives seem, the values associated with family life have not been completely swept away by the growing waves of reflexive materialism and new capitalism (McDonald, 2006). Family values are very tenacious and resilient.

At the same time, the material factor plays a very big role in the respondents' self-realization plans as parents, in particular, the need to "get on their feet", before starting their children. The majority of students consider that it is necessary to become financially independent ( $M = 5.58$ ,  $\sigma = 1.72$ ), take place as a professional ( $M = 5.24$ ,  $\sigma = 1.91$ ) and have their own housing ( $M = 5.12$ ;  $\sigma = 2.05$ ) before having children. The majority of respondents connect the number of children in the family with the material factor ( $M = 4.91$ ,  $\sigma = 1.89$ ). The general tendency for the Russian and European countries to delay the birth of children in connection with the plans for self-realization and the material factor from the standpoint of the general demographic situation is not harmless. According to McDonald, the delay in the realization of the reproductive function of each individual means a very low birth rate in society as a whole (McDonald, 2006). Accusing the governments that they played a key role

in creating the conditions that led to the emergence of low birth rates in our country and European countries, the author is convinced that it is the authorities that must take the initiative to ensure that the youth have a greater sense of stability and confidence in the future.

*Table 1.*  
*Intergroup comparisons of the attitudes towards demographic policy among students of universities and colleges.*

Statement	students of colleges		students of universities		P
	M	$\sigma$	M	$\sigma$	
I am confident that the demographic situation in Russia will improve in the next 10 years	<b>3.88</b>	1.59	1.53	1.54	0.004**
The state must provide everyone with free education	<b>6.85</b>	1.32	5.67	1.74	0.002**
Demographic policy in our country should be introduced into the rank of the national idea	4.63	1.62	<b>5.29</b>	1.69	0.006**
The state should not push women to the birth of several children	<b>5.40</b>	1.87	4.91	2.00	0.037*
I am sure that the time for taking care of the child must be included in the work experience (seniority)	<b>5.11</b>	2.12	4.40	2.22	0.030*
Every young man (girl) should have an idea of contraception	<b>6.71</b>	0.92	6.41	1.28	0.028*

A comparative analysis of data in the groups of university and college students showed both the general characteristics of the attitude to demographic policy and statistically significant differences (Table 1). The ideological aspect of the problem was more affected by university students who had higher agreement ( $p < 0.01$ ) with the fact that people's saving in our country should be introduced into the national idea.

The students of colleges showed higher optimism for the improvement of the demographic situation in Russia in the next decade ( $p < 0.01$ ). Among them there are also more those who are interested in free education and inclusion into labor length of time of the care of the child ( $p < 0.01$ ). Students in colleges, somewhat more than university students, are focused on "planning" the family (the groups are similar in age). They are more likely to share the view that the government should not push for the birth of several children, and that young people should be aware of contraception.

According to the one of the positions on the principles of demographic policy, fertility is a citizen's personal matter, and governments should as much as possible, avoid interference (van de Kaa, 2002). At the same time, the situation of very low fertility contributes to the support of another scientific position, according to which it is important to focus on the perceived interests of the country as a whole, regardless of the desires of couples, and to stimulate attitudes that will lead to an "acceptable" level of fertility (Toulemon, 2011). This position is justified for countries (or continents) in which the avoidance of demographic responsibility in people of childbearing age threatens society.

Comparison of the data of the ADP questionnaire in groups of university students and colleges showed that the level of education did not affect the fertility of students. University students have shown a more mature position than students of colleges in relation to demographic policy. Approving the human capital savings as a national idea and allowing forms of indirect coercion - for example, in the USSR there was a tax on childlessness, which was abolished after the collapse of the country, and now it exists in the form of smaller deductions of personal income tax from citizens with children.

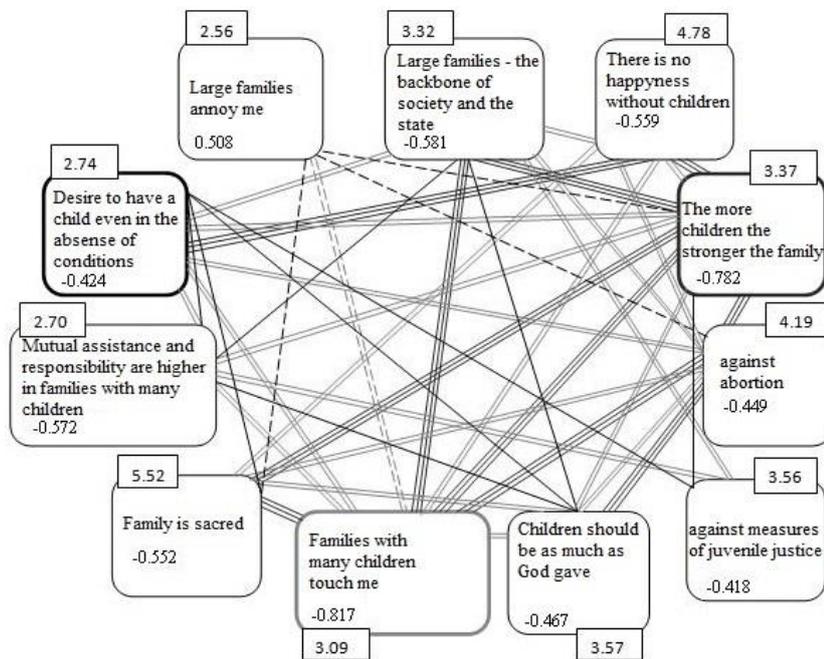
Table 2.  
Intergroup comparisons of the attitudes towards demographic policy among male and female

Statements	Female (N=138)		Male (N=68)		P
	M	σ	M	σ	
Demographic policy in our country should be introduced into the rank of the national idea	<b>6.85</b>	1.32	5.67	1.74	0.037**
I have ideas on how to improve the demographic situation in Russia	3.76	1.76	<b>4.62</b>	1.83	0.002**
Regardless of my financial situation, I would prefer to stay in my cultural environment.	<b>4.04</b>	1.59	3.48	2.04	0.039*
Every young man (girl) should have an idea of contraception	<b>6.80</b>	0.66	6.22	1.44	0.000***

The results of gender comparative analysis (table. 2) showed a more active position of male in the field of demographic policy because they have ideas about how to improve the demographic situation in Russia. It turned out that young women showed more traditionalism than young men, as well as a demand for a system of measures to preserve human capital. Female tend to be more cautious about family planning.

The results of the exploratory factor analysis of the “Questionnaire of attitudes to demographic policy” data made it possible to distinguish six factors. The first two factors are illustrated in the figures below.

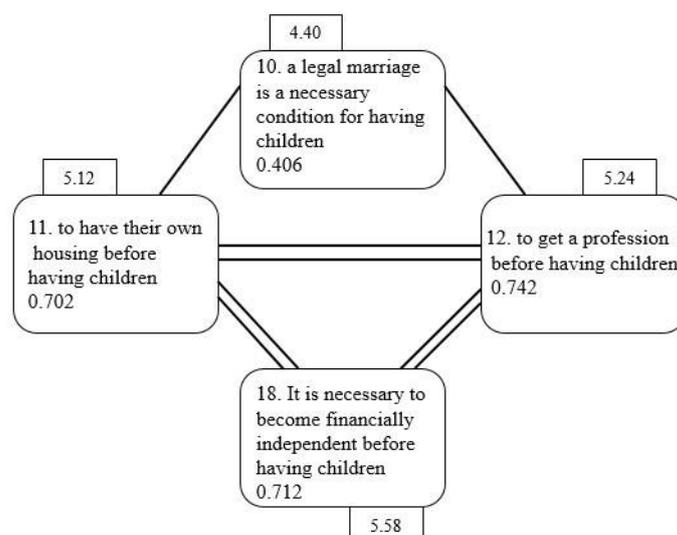
Figure 1.  
The factor of family values and cultural traditions.



Note: Factor loads listed next to a brief formulation of the factor characteristic; in small rectangles, the mean values of the degree of agreement with the statements of the questionnaire are given; correlation links between the characteristics of the factor are denoted by single lines at  $p \leq 0.05$ , double lines at  $p \leq 0.01$ , triple lines at  $p \leq 0.001$ . The dashed lines indicate negative correlations between the signs of the factor

The most significant factor was "the factor of family values and cultural traditions" (Figure 1). It included degrees of agreement with all statements concerning the family as a value for a particular person and society, attitudes toward large families and their role in society, the value of a child's life.

*Figure 2.*  
*The factor of conditions for the birth of children in young families.*



The next second factor (Figure 2) called "the factor of conditions for the birth of children in young families," was formed by reflecting conditions that contribute to the decision of the birth of a child (material independence, self-realization in the profession, housing and registration of legal marriage). If you pay attention to the average indicators for those statements, the consent with which formed the second factor, it is clear that in the minds of respondents the absence of a legal marriage is the lesser obstacle to meeting the need to have children than material problems. This result is consistent with the result of a sociological survey (Smirnov, 2010), which did not show much difference in the availability of the need for children in women with different marital status.

The third factor, called "the factor of pragmatic orientations in family planning", highlights the material side of motherhood and fatherhood, connects the increase in the family exclusively with the maternal capital, and the number of children in the family - with the family income.

The fourth factor called "the factor of responsibility for the upbringing of children." It reflects the responsibility of the State to ensure favorable conditions for the birth and upbringing of children, as well as the responsibility of society to support the image of large families, a positive attitude towards them as a unit of society, mutual assistance and responsibility of citizens.

Two other factors called “the factor of the preservation of human capital as a national idea” and “the factor of state’s responsibility area”. They demonstrate the requirements to the state in connection with the provision of a normal standard of living and the quality of human capital.

The results of the "Citizen's questionnaire" showed respondents do not reflect the policy in Russia as enabling long-term planning. They demonstrated high optimism connected with the country's development in the global world, high civic pride but they showed low economic optimism. According to students, the main problems in Russia are corruption, strong stratification and the possible increase in retirement age (consequences of the demographic crisis).

The results of the correlation analysis of the “Questionnaire of attitudes to demographic policy” and the “Citizens' Questionnaire” data have shown the higher the citizen's pride, the higher the family's value and demographic responsibility, as well as the understanding of the demographic problem and its importance for the country, both economically and geopolitically, strategically.

The results of the semi-projective test "Ranking of associations with the concept of "children" are reflected in Table 3.

*Table 3.  
Descriptive statistics of the ranking test (associations with the concept of "children.").*

<b>Associations with the concept of "children"</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>M</b>	<b><math>\sigma</math></b>
procreation	1	3.81	3.61
meaning of life	2	4.10	4.33
the sense of responsibility	3	5.07	2.83
the joy of being	4	5.10	3.74
the help in old age	5	7.02	3.71
the way to strengthen marriage	7	8.29	3.68
self-realization	6	8.11	3.64
interesting leisure	8	8.54	3.34
material costs	12/13	10.03	3.29
long-term capital	12/13	10.03	3.91
creativity	9	8.66	3.12
respect from other people	11	9.14	3.43
salvation from loneliness	10	8.91	3.42
an obstacle in career	14	11.10	3.64
infringement of freedom	15	11.73	4.07

Associations of students with the concept of "Children" embody in the first place the unconditional value of life (procreation, the joy of being, the meaning of life), and at the same time a sense of responsibility. To a lesser extent, children are represented in the mind as a way of realizing pragmatic social goals (the way to strengthen marriage, interesting leisure, creativity, respect from other people, salvation from loneliness) and are associated with the costs (material costs and obstacles in self-fulfillment). Thus, a favorable picture obtained.

Table 4.  
Factor matrix of the data of the ranking test of associations with the concept of "children".

№	Factor weights	The name and signs of the factor	Factor loads		Signs of the factor
1	14.4	<b>Positives and negatives of Maternity and Paternity</b>			
		joy of being	-0.520		
		procreation	-0.486		
		meaning of life	-0.484		
				0.729	infringement of freedom
				0.675	an obstacle in career
				0.655	material costs
2	10.4	<b>Romantic / pragmatic attitudes towards children</b>			
		creativity	0.662		
		interesting leisure	0.509		
		the joy of being	0.458		
				-0.691	way to strengthen marriage
				-0.424	procreation
3	9.2	<b>Time factor</b>			
		self-realization	0.759		
				-0.662	the help in old age
				-0.601	salvation from loneliness
4	6.3	<b>Social assessments of parenthood</b>			
		meaning of life	0.456		
		the sense of responsibility	0.405		
				-0.761	respect from other people

The factor matrix of the ranking test contains 4 factors (Table 4): "Positives and negatives of Maternity and Paternity", "Romantic / pragmatic attitudes towards children", "Time factor" and "Social assessments of parenthood."

Factors clearly show the contrast between different motives and attitudes in relation to the value of children in the picture of the subject's world. Thus, the first factor divides young people on the basis of their choice into those who primarily see the existential positives of parenthood, and those who are fixed on restrictions in freedom, self-realization and material encumbrances. The second factor shows the contrast between creative, emotional attitude to parenting and pragmatic one, connected with the need to strengthen marriage through children. The third factor contrasts self-realization with the help of children, on the one hand, and the expectation of help in old age, salvation from loneliness, on the other hand. In the fourth factor, the internal meaning-life motivators of parenthood (meaning of life, sense of responsibility) and external, evaluative, associated with conformal social attitudes and norms (respect from the surrounding people) are opposed.

The semi-projective test "Ranking of associations with the concept of "children" developed by us is consistent with other classifications of parenting motives. So, Spivakovskaya (1999) divided all the motives of parenthood and education into three groups: implementing value attitude to the child, social and instrumental. The motive realizing the need in the sense of life is the most important motive of parenthood. The social motives of parenthood include the motive of duty and the motive of social self-assertion (prestige). The

third group combines the instrumental motives of parenthood, in this case, the child is a means of realization of other needs of parents.

The correlation analysis of the data of the basic ADP questionnaire and the ranking test of associations with the concept of "children" confirmed that the orientation toward traditional values promotes the formation of reproductive responsibility. The correlation analysis also showed that students with high pragmatic attitude towards children presented more claims to the government ( $p < 0.01$ ) and its demographic policy.

#### **4. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS**

Despite the fact that most students have demonstrated traditional values of attitude to family and children, the process of education and training of young people requires taking into account the demographic consequences of manifestations of cultural trauma in Russia (Zhuravlev & Yurevich, 2009) as well as psychomanipulations through video production (Gostev, 2017) which are able to form a negative image of mother, parenthood and large families.

We plan to develop a special development program for students taking into account the specifics of the motivation of parenthood in the future. We consider the subsequent implementation of such a development program in the context of demographic policy in Russia as a perspective of our research.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The study showed the existence of socio-psychological prerequisites for adequate reproductive behavior among students. In general, the students showed adherence to the traditions and values of the culture of their country. In particular, they believe that the family should engage in the upbringing of children relying on traditional values and culture. In addition, students are confident that communication with grandparents is useful for the harmonious development of children. The majority of respondents showed a rejection of a lifestyle, alien to family values (free love, free-child style).

In general, students of universities and colleges see in children the happiness and meaning of life which generates the desire to have a child under any circumstances. Showing the understanding that large families are the backbone of society and the state, students, nevertheless, do not want in the majority, to create such families.

The results of the correlation and factor analysis showed that problems in the field of health care, education and social protection are identified as obstacles to the policy of peoples saving. Most of the respondents are oriented to a delay in meeting their reproductive needs to meet their career ambitions and achieve material prosperity. Thus, the government's choice of a pro-natalist demographic policy, in which financial measures are the main stimulus for increasing the birth rate, is justified. At the same time, it is important to increase the value of the family, children in the minds of citizens, which will increase the reproduction of the population.

The study reflected the social request of young people in connection with their right to reproduction, which largely met the response in the recent extension of the maternity capital program and the provision of other long-term measures for the demographic development of the Russian Federation.

Comparison of the results of the study in groups of students at higher and secondary special educational institutions showed that, in relation to demographic policy, university students showed a more mature position than the students of colleges, more in favor of

national saving as a national idea and allowing various forms of mediated birth control. Personal fertility attitudes and plans were similar in both groups of young people.

The study has a number of limitations. The main one is related to the existing disadvantages along with the advantages of the method of multifactor questionnaires (Deyneka, 2013). Such questionnaires do not give the researcher a single indicator of the studied reality in accordance with the key, as is the case in psychological tests. Here the researchers are dealing with structures in the mass consciousness, which can be changed under the influence of the socio-economic situation. At the same time, multivariate questionnaires do a good job of studying the dynamics of mass consciousness. Another limitation is that the study was performed only on Russian students.

## REFERENCES

- Achildieva, E. (1990). *Methodical aspects of studying the stability of marriage*. M.: Higher education.
- Deyneka, O.S. (2013). Multifactorial questionnaire in the diagnosis of socio-economic consciousness. *Psychology. Economy. Law*. (2), 23-26.
- Deyneka, O.S., & Dauksha, V. (2014). The image of the Belarusian State in students' consciousness during the recent financial crisis. In C. Pracana (Ed.), *Psychology Applications & Development*. (pp. 264-272). Lisbon: inScience Press.
- Frejka, T., & Gietel-Basten, S. (2016). Fertility and Family Policies in Central and Eastern Europe after 1990. *Comparative Population Studies*, 41(1), 3-56.
- Gostev, A. A. (2017). *Global psychomanipulation: psychological and spiritual aspects*. Moscow: Institute of psychology RAS.
- Inglehart, R. & Welzel, C. (2005). *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy. The Human Development Sequence*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- International Energy Outlook. (2010). *U.S. Energy Information Administration Office of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting. U.S. Department of Energy. Washington, DC 20585*. Retrieved from [http://www.eia.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484\(2010\).pdf](http://www.eia.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484(2010).pdf)
- van de Kaa, D. J. (2002, January). *The Idea of a Second Demographic Transition in Industrialized Countries*. Paper presented at the Sixth Welfare Policy Seminar of the National Institute of Population and Social Security, Tokyo, Japan. Retrieved from [http://virtualpostgrads.unisabana.edu.co/pluginfile.php/163483/mod\\_resource/content/5/kaa\(1\)%20second%20demographic%20transition.pdf](http://virtualpostgrads.unisabana.edu.co/pluginfile.php/163483/mod_resource/content/5/kaa(1)%20second%20demographic%20transition.pdf)
- Konovalova, M. A., & Yuriev, A. I. (2006). Mechanisms of the influence of globalization on man and society. In A. I. Yuriev (Ed.), *Strategic psychology of globalization (psychology of human capital)* (pp.67-88). St.-Petersburg: Logos.
- McDonald, P. (2006). Low fertility and the state: The efficacy of policy. *Population and Development Review*, 32(3), 485–510.
- Petrovskaya L. A., Spivakovskaya A. S. (1983). Education as communication is a dialogue. *Questions of psychology*, 2, 85-89.
- Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly (2018, March 1). President of Russia (*President's website sections*. Events). Retrieved from <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56957>
- Rabin, A. I., & Greene, R. J. (1968). Assessing motivation for parenthood. *The Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied*, 69(1), 39-46.
- Rybakovsky, L. (2003). *Demographic conceptual dictionary*. Moscow: Center for social forecasting.
- Smirnov, Ya.O. (2010). Pronatalistic demographic policy in modern Russia: differences in the reaction of social groups. *Bulletin of the Nizhny Novgorod University. N.I. Lobachevsky. Series Social Sciences*, 4(20). 97-103.
- Spivakovskaya A.S. (1999). *Psychotherapy: game, childhood, family*. Moscow: Exmo press.

- The end of high fertility is near. (2017). Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division. *Population Facts*. (3). United Nations. N-Y. Retrieved from [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/PopFacts\\_2017-3\\_The-end-of-high-fertility.pdf](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/PopFacts_2017-3_The-end-of-high-fertility.pdf)
- Toulemon, L. (2011). Should governments in Europe be more aggressive in pushing for gender equality to raise fertility? The first "YES". *Demographic Research*, 24(7), 179-200. Retrieved from <http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol24/7/> DOI: 10.4054/DemRes.2011.24.7
- Tretyakov, V. (2006). Alexander Solzhenitsyn: "The saving of the people is the highest of all our State tasks." *Religion and the media*. Retrieved from [http://www.religare.ru/2\\_29003.html](http://www.religare.ru/2_29003.html)
- von Weizsaecker, E., Wijkman, A. (2018). *Come On! Capitalism, Short-termism, Population and the Destruction of the Planet*. NY: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-7419-1
- Zakharov, S. (2016). Modest results of the pro-natalist policy against the background of the long-term evolution of the birth rate in Russia. Part 1. *Demographic Review*, 3, 6-38.
- Zhuravlev, A.L., & Yurevich A.V. (Eds.). (2009). *Macropsychology of modern Russian society*. Moscow: Institute of Psychology of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The investigation was supported by FSFEE HE «Sankt-Petersburg State University», grant № 26520757.

I wish to acknowledge students P. Liang who helped me to collect empirical data.

## AUTHOR INFORMATION

**Full name:** Deyneka Olga Sergeevna

**Institutional affiliation:** Saint-Petersburg State University (Department of Psychology).

**Institutional address:** 7/9 Universitetskaya emb., St. Petersburg, 199034, Russia

**Short biographical sketch:** Dr (psychology), full professor, acting head of the Department of Political Psychology of St. Petersburg State University, leading expert in the field of economic psychology and political psychology of transition in Russia. Creator of methods to study the dynamics of everyday consciousness, the developer of master's program "Economic Psychology". Deyneka (Deineka) graduated Leningrad State University in 1975, PhD since 1983, Doctor of Psychology since 2000, author of 196 scientific publications including monographs and handbooks. Member of dissertation councils. Deyneka has participated in educational programs for psychologists and economists in Russia regions, Estonia, Ukraine, Kirgizia, Germany and Italy. Participant of analytic programs on television and radio. Editor of the journals "Bulletin of Political Psychology" and the international journal "Psychology & Economics", member of the editorial board of the journal "Psychology in economics and management".