



Arctic Territories: Demographic and Socio-Economic Problems (on the example of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia))

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ABSTRACT

The paper analyzes the demographic situation in the Arctic, a region with indigenous northern peoples on the example of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). The problems of the modern social and economic situation of the indigenous peoples of the North connected with the development of the traditional Northern branches are considered. Measures on improvements of the state policy towards the indigenous numerically small people of the North are proposed.

Keywords: scientific researches, Arctic zone, demographic safety, indigenous peoples of the North, economic activity, traditional branches of the North.

The Arctic is that macroregion where the vector of Russian history is actively directed today. Sources of such orientation are obvious. This is the most powerful natural resource potential, which is possessed by the Arctic zone. And this is geopolitical significance of region, which acts as an outpost of preservation of territorial integrity of country.

Occupying only 18% of territory of the Russian Federation, the Arctic accumulates more than 90% of nickel and cobalt, 60% copper, more than 96% of platinum metals, about 80% of gas and 60% of oil of Russia are extracted [1].

It is not accidental the Arctic zone is a special object of state policy of Russia. There were adopted Principles of state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic for the period till 2020 and a further perspective approved by the President of the Russian Federation D.A. Medvedev on 18 September 2008 № Pr-1969, the Strategy of Development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and safeguarding of national security till 2020 approved by the President of the Russian Federation on 8 February 2013 № Pr-232. There is the Decree of the Russian President of 02 May 2014 № 296 "On the land territories of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation."

The Arctic zone of Russia includes territories administratively attributed to different subjects of the Russian Federation, including to the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). At the same



time, in the structure of the latter in the republic only the territories of 5 districts are included - Allaikhovsky, Anabarsky, Bulunsky, Nizhnekolymsky and Ust-Yansky districts.

Recent years have been noted by strengthening of attention to the problems of socio-economic development of the Arctic territories. The necessity of improvement of normative basis for the state Arctic policy is due to the fact that the situation in the Arctic region remains extremely tense. A transition to market relations was painfully reflected on the social situation in the Arctic regions of Russia. The quality of life of majority of population has sharply deteriorated, which have had an impact on the state of health and life expectancy. Migration processes have become unmanageable.

The level of real incomes of the main social groups went down. And demographic indicators significantly deteriorated. A migration outflow of population from the Arctic Circle continues, since the work in the Arctic is unfortunately no longer as economically attractive as in former years.

Demographic aspects of sustainable development of macroregion are some of key aspects. Demographic safety is one of components of national security. This aspect is particularly topical for the Arctic, which is significant in terms of geopolitics. Many Arctic territories already now represent spaces depopulated enough. Demographic potential is only supported by the local population, in the first place by indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North where quite clearly designated problems of preservation of demographic security are present. Practice shows that the demographic problems for the northern territories not only retain their significance, but are aggravated too.

This is clearly demonstrated by the example of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the biggest in terms of territory entity of the Russian Federation.

In the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) a tendency of demographic development is a reduction of population size, which began since 1991.

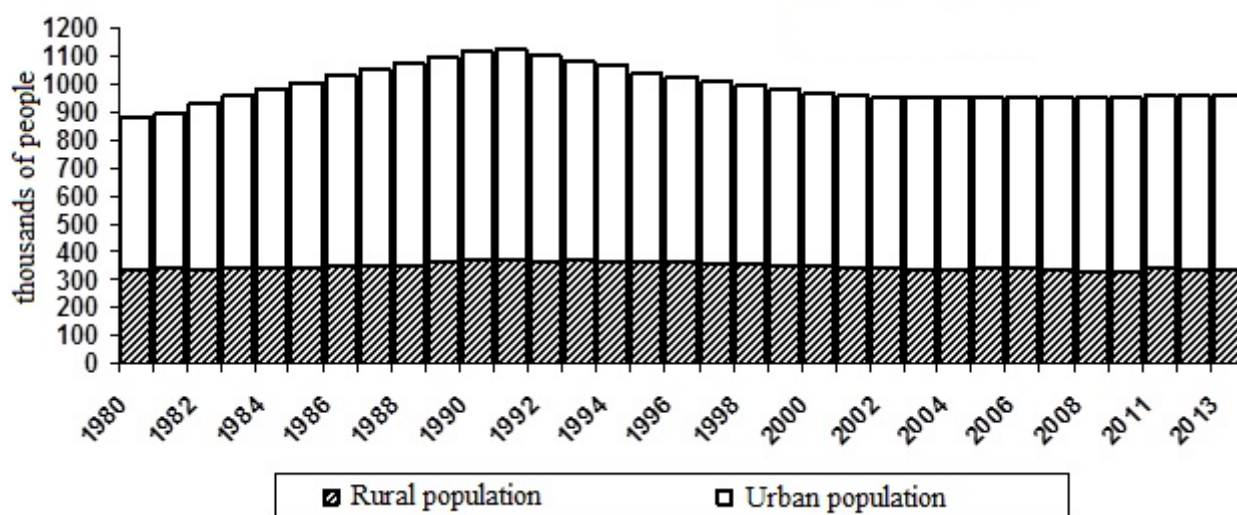


Fig. 1. Dynamics of population size of Yakutia for 1980-2013

A curtailment of town-forming mining production led to the migration from unpromising settlements and respectively to the intensive migratory outflow. In formation of population of region a change of components of its growth happened – the migratory factor ceased to play the dominant role, which had been characteristic for the previous period (fig. 2).

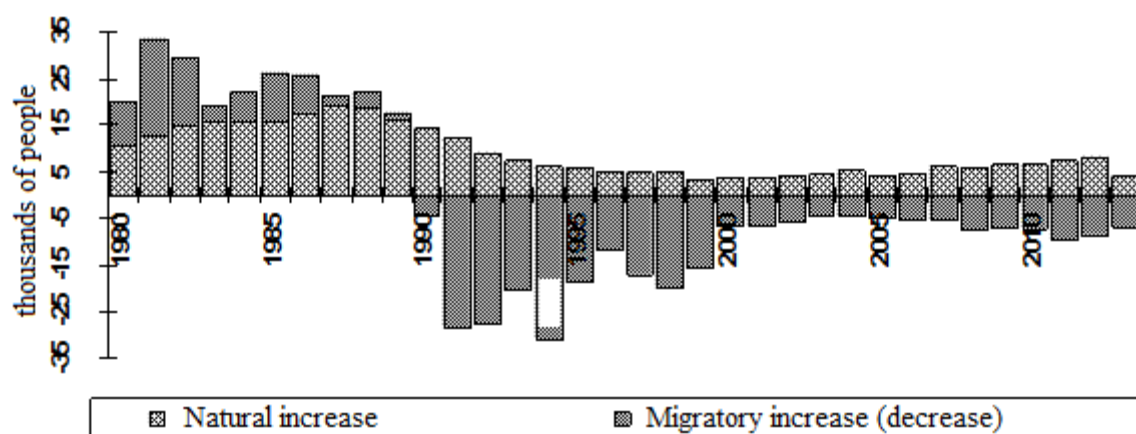


Fig. 2. Relation of natural and migratory increase in population of Yakutia, 1980-2013

The outflow of population outside of the republic is not compensated by the natural increase, which still has a positive quantity. In 2000 it was 3.9‰, in 2006 - 4,7‰, in 2011 - 7,8‰ (tab. 1).

Table 1

Dynamics of coefficients of natural increase of population of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)

for 2000-2013

Years	the Russian Federation	the Far Eastern Federal District	the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
2000	-6,6	-3,5	4,0
2001	-6,6	-3,5	3,7
2002	-6,5	-3,3	4,4
2003	-6,2	-3,3	4,9
2004	-5,6	-3,1	5,3
2005	-5,9	-3,8	4,1
2006	-4,8	-2,5	4,7
2007	-3,3	-1,2	6,4
2008	-2,5	-1,0	6,1
2010	-1,7	-0,6	7,0
2011	-0,9	-0,3	7,8
2012	0,0	0,9	8,5
2013	0,2	1,3	8,8

In the demographic development a transition to a modern, so-called rational type of population reproduction happens. A decline in fertility and growth of mortality of population became the main tendencies of this period of demographic development. The result of this interaction becomes a decline in the natural population increase.



With respect to the fertility as the first component of natural reproduction the dynamics of recent years was marked by positive developments: this is the increase in the absolute number of births and the overall fertility coefficient (tab. 2).

Table 2

Dynamics of total fertility coefficients for 2000 -2013 (‰)

Years	the Russian Federation	the Far Eastern Federal District	the Republic Sakha (Yakutia)	Difference of coefficients	
				RS (Y) / RF	RS (Y) / FEFD
2000	8,7	9,7	13,7	1,57	1,41
2001	9,0	10,3	13,9	1,54	1,35
2002	9,7	11,0	14,6	1,51	1,33
2003	10,2	11,6	15,0	1,47	1,29
2004	10,4	11,9	15,5	1,49	1,30
2005	10,2	11,5	14,3	1,40	1,24
2006	10,4	11,5	14,4	1,38	1,25
2007	11,3	12,3	16,1	1,42	1,31
2008	12,1	12,6	16,2	1,34	1,29
2009	12,4	13,0	16,8	1,35	1,29
2010	12,5	13,2	16,8	1,34	1,27
2011	12,6	13,2	17,1	1,36	1,30
2012	13,3	14,0	17,8	1,330	1,27
2013	13,2	13,9	17,5	1,32	1,26
2013/2000	151,72	143,29	127,73	x	x
2013/2006	126,92	120,86	121,52	x	x



In 2011 according to the total fertility coefficient Yakutia took the 1st place in the Far Eastern Federal District and the 6th place in the Russian Federation (17,1‰). According to the results of 10 months of 2012 Yakutia having the total fertility coefficient 17,5‰ is located on the 7th place after the Republic of Tuva (26,7‰), the Chechen Republic (26,3‰), the Altai Republic (22,8‰), the Republic of Ingushetia (22,5‰), the Republic of Dagestan (18,7‰), and the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug – Yugra (17,7‰). Nevertheless, the total fertility coefficient indicates the long-term tendency of decline in fertility.

Compared with the Russian Federation as a whole and the Far Eastern Federal District Yakutia nevertheless stands out by higher values of total fertility coefficient being almost at the level of simple reproduction of population (tab. 3).

Table 3

Dynamics of total fertility coefficient of population of the Russian Federation and Far Eastern Federal District

(the average number of children per 1 woman)

Years	the Russian Federation	the Far Eastern Federal District	the Republic Sakha (Yakutia)
2000	1,195	1,256	1,77
2001	1,223	1,322	1,78
2002	1,286	1,392	1,85
2003	1,319	1,443	1,87
2004	1,340	1,466	1,91
2005	1,287	1,404	1,74
2006	1,296	1,392	1,73
2007	1,406	1,487	1,92
2008	1,366	1,524	1,94
2009	1,537	1,575	2,01
2010	1,567	1,625	1,998
2011	1,582	1,657	2,057
2012	1,691	1,780	2,166
2013	1,707

A different demographic sphere is characterized by a considerably larger range of problems – the mortality of population.

An overall indicator in the sphere of mortality is the life expectancy at birth. In the early 60s the life expectancy at birth in the Russian Federation was significantly higher than in the countries of the so-called third world. Russian women lived 17 years longer than women of



Turkey, almost 20 years longer than Chinese women. In men indices of life expectancy were higher by 13 and 16 years, respectively [2]. Russian men lagged behind by only 3.4 years from the men who lived in the US or Japan. The Russian women had a probability to live almost till the same age as Japanese women, and only 2.5 years less than American women. In other words, Russia had the life expectancy, which was not much different from the developed countries of the West.

Currently the situation in the sphere of mortality cardinally changed. Low indices of life expectancy - this is the proof of not only poor health state, but also social problems in the country as a whole. In recent years the duration of life exceeds the level of 70 years, which was recommended by WHO, only for the female population [3]. In the structure of causes of death the considerable specific weight of deaths from accidents, poisonings and injuries is retained for a long time, the mortality as a result of alcohol intoxication is especially considerable. Supermortality of men is the essential characteristic of modern processes of mortality. It continues to retain the excess of coefficients of mortality in men as compared with the analogous indices in women, particularly in a working age group [4].

A considerable role in the formation of population of the Arctic and northern territories is played by the migration. The Far East region as opposed to the federation as a whole has been losing its population through the past 2 decades, although a negative coefficient of migration balance slightly decreased. An even more difficult situation is observed in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Although in the recent years the coefficient of migration outflow is reduced but nevertheless it remains twice as much than according to the Far Eastern Federal District as a whole [5].

The presented results allow to judge that in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) substantial transformational processes happen in the reproduction of population that makes actual the elaboration of new approaches to the content and mechanisms of implementation of demographic policy [6].

One of distinctive features of the Arctic zone is not only the wealth of its natural resource potential. The Arctic is the territory of settlement of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North (hereinafter - ISPN).

It seems that in the sustainable development of the Arctic this should also be given a worthy place too. The peoples of the North have a small size. Hence, measures of state support should separately be described in detail.



There are many enough problems in the sphere of ISPN. This is a low level of life, and problems in relationships with a business community, and a drop of national identity, and many other things.

The total number of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), according to preliminary data of All-Russian census of 2010 amounted to 40.2 thousand people, including the Evenki - 26.1 thousand people, the Evens - 9.8 thousand people, the Dolgans - 1.9 thousand people, the Yukagirs - 1.3 thousand people, and the Chukchi - 0.6 thousand people. As compared with 2002 the number of small-numbered peoples of the North increased by 21% (tab. 4).

Table 4

Population dynamics of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) for 1989-2010

	According to data of census of 1989 (thousands of people)	According to data of census of 2002 (thousands of people)	According to data of census of 2010 (thousands of people)	Change of quantity by 2010 as compared with 1989, %
the Evenki	15,9	18,2	26,1	164,2
the Evens	10,6	11,7	9,8	92,4
the Yukagirs	0,8	1,1	1,3	162,5
the Chukchi	0,5	0,6	0,6	120,0
the Dolgans	0,5	1,3	1,9	380,0
Total	28,2	32,9	40,2	142,6

The indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North live on the territory of 21 municipal districts of the Republic. The small-numbered peoples of the North are less than 6% in these districts. 70 villages of 21 uluses (districts) of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) enter into the List of places of traditional residence and traditional economic activity of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the Russian Federation.

A presence and worsening of demographic problems was mentioned as far back as at the end of the last century. Thus, F. S. Donskoy asserted about the reduction of natural increase of population for 1990-2003 by a factor of 3.6, including the Evenki - 9.4 times, the Dolgans - 10.4 times, the Selkups - 39 times, the Eskimos, the Khanty, the Mansi, the Evens - 3-4 times [7].

The economic situation of peoples of the North is related with the development of economic sectors in places of their traditional residence. The main kinds of economic activity of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North remain such traditional sectors of economy as reindeer breeding, hunting and fishing. Currently one has to state that the material basis of



existence of indigenous population of the North, the Arctic is undermined - the traditional industries. A reindeer population decreased by 2.5 times, production volumes of fish and trade furs sharply decreased as well as wild hoofed animals, game birds, harvesting of wild berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants, and technical raw materials. It is intensively reduced and deepens degradation of reindeer pastures, pollution of water bodies and air space, disturbance of soil cover, a habitat of animals changes, species composition is depleted, their numbers are reduced.

Currently, nomadic tribal communities must support an ethnoforming role of reindeer breeding as a form of self-organization and self-employment of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North designed to preserve the traditional economic activity and a lifestyle of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North.

The health status of indigenous population of the North acts as one of essential elements of social position of these peoples. Lower indicators of health are typical for the small-numbered peoples of the North of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Indicators of development of health infrastructure are also low in the regions of compact residence of peoples of the North.

A reduction of health care resources is to a large extent related to standards in the sphere of health care, which completely ignore the specific of the North (settlement dispersion, absence of constant transport connection, and so on).

A shutdown of preschool institutions and part of schools because of ungradeness became one of results of the transition to a market economy.

Thus, there are well-defined problem points in the modern socio-economic state of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North. These can include threats to the demographic potential of these peoples, rather high unemployment figures, low per capita income, which in turn is related to predominant employment in traditional sectors of the North (reindeer breeding and trades), where ones of the lowest figures of wages are observed.

The conclusions, which can be drawn from the above-stated, are obvious. The Arctic increasingly becomes an actual center of economic gravity. The indigenous peoples of the North should find their place in modern life; they should not remain an isolated civilizational enclave.

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