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**Diversity of Age and Gender Patterns of Life Paths in Belarus in International Context**

The First Demographic Transitions in European countries characterized population changes in the 18th-19th centuries as a general decline in fertility and mortality; nevertheless, in most of the developing countries, the population maintained its demographic balance. After the Second World War and the baby boom that followed, a fairly steady of the new stage of fertility decline began, which Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa defined as the Second Demographic Transition to characterize a new demographic reality, in particular, by fertility below the population reproduction level; a variety of partnerships other than “traditional” marriage; loss of a stable connection between the institution of marriage and the process of procreation; as well as the lack of stable dynamics of population growth [1].

Within the framework of the Second Demographic Transition, an individual's life path can also be considered, on the one hand, as a sequence of key events in the field of the respondent's exit from the parental family, graduation from education, as well as the beginning of a temporary or permanent professional activity; on the other hand, various relationships with parents and partners, events of cohabitation / non-residence of partners, registration of marriage and the birth of the first child can also be studied [2].

Another new demographic phenomenon may be that even after entering into an official marriage, a certain number of couples may live separately, or with their parents' families. This phenomenon in the demography and sociology of the family is called LAT (Living, Apart, Together - a couple living apart). These include individuals who are in marriage and partnerships, but live not together with a partner in one household. In particular, studies of such phenomena may include:

- analysis of the spread of de facto marriages in the general structure of marriage and partnership relations;

- study of socio-demographic characteristics of respondents living in de facto marriages;

- comparison of the characteristics of household organization and satisfaction with relationships in actual marriages with the dominant form of close relationships in Belarus - officially registered marriages. Therefore, the emphasis in our research will be on de facto marriages in view of their very poor knowledge in the Belarusian realities.

Belarus, like all European countries, is undergoing Second Demographic Transition during the second half of the twentieth century, the key characteristics of which - an increase in life expectancy and a decrease in the birth rate - are well known. GGS studies provide a deeper understanding of intergenerational shifts in reproductive behavior that lead to demographic behavior.

One of the characteristic tendencies of changes in the institution of the family in modern conditions is the growth of the diversity of trajectories of the life path. Partners do not always enter into an official marriage and often prefer to live together without official registration of the union. In modern conditions of dynamic societal changes, where success is associated with professional achievements, and the values of personal freedom and individual self-realization become attractive, individuals view marriage and family mainly as part of an “individual project”. To designate unions in which partners live together, but are not officially registered, today there is no well-established definition. As interchangeable synonyms are used such as: cohabitation; actual marriage; civil marriage; unregistered union; consensual union. In the study carried out, it was precisely the fact of cohabitation that preceded a registered marriage that was recorded [3].

Reproductive behavior is another complex phenomenon, the understanding of which also includes normative ideas about the desired number of children in a family, and plans for the birth of children, as well as contraceptive and abortive behavior. Here, the most important characteristics of a couple are the actual number of children; the age at which the decision is made and the children appear, as well as the duration of the intervals between the births of children, if there are several of them.

Of particular interest is also a comparative analysis of the sequences of such vital events as leaving the parental family, completion of education; first and current place of work, as well as his absence; having a partner; joint or separate residence of partners; the onset of pregnancy and childbirth. An important area of data analysis is also the comparison of the life paths of generations distinguished by age and gender.

The performed analysis showed that all age cohorts, without exception, represent a modern type of reproduction, which is formed after the demographic transition, therefore, sharp differences in reproductive behavior between them cannot be expected, and we can only talk about minimal deviations. At the same time, the gender peculiarities of the paths deserve special attention.

For the study and comparative analysis of the life paths of generations, we use the data of the first stage of the Belarusian research "Generations and Gender Survey" (BelGGS-2017), first obtained in Belarus in 2017 (sample size is 9,996 respondents). It is assumed that the second stage of this study will be carried out in 2022, and will make it possible to analyze the changes occurring with age-related life strategies and methods of their implementation using longitudinal methods.

**References**

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