

Research paper / Оригинальная статья

<https://doi.org/10.51176/1997-9967-2023-1-196-209>

MPHTI: 05.21.39

JEL: : B41, J13, J18

Social Policy Model for Improving the Demographic Situation in Kazakhstan

Dana M. Kangalakova^{a*}, Assel Ilyas^b, Sharbanu K. Turdalina^a

^a *Institute of Economics CS MSHE RK, 28 Shevchenko Str., A25K1B0, Almaty, Kazakhstan;* ^b *Almaty Technological University, 100 Tole bi Str., 050012, Almaty, Kazakhstan*

For citation: Kangalakova, D. M., Ilyas, A. & Turdalina, Sh. K. (2023). Social Policy Model for Improving the Demographic Situation In Kazakhstan. *Economics: the Strategy and Practice*, 18(1), 196-209, <https://doi.org/10.51176/1997-9967-2023-1-196-209>

ABSTRACT

Among the long-term factors in developing the country's economy and its regions is the development of human capital. However, the country's human capital has a different level of physical and mental development. In this regard, the study of social policy is most relevant to improve the demographic situation in the country. The article considers the main tasks of the demographic development of Kazakhstan in recent years in connection with the level of social policy development. The issue of the effectiveness of social policy is particularly important for Kazakhstan, which is associated with the inevitability of population aging and the rapid increase in the burden on the able-bodied population, as well as a decrease in the number of young people and the number of women at the peak of fertility. This entails a decrease in the population in the future. The purpose of this article is to develop social policy mechanisms to improve the demographic situation in the country. The development of social infrastructure—education, healthcare, culture, sports, and other similar systems—could improve the demographic situation in Kazakhstan. The research method is a systematic and integrated approach that can develop recommendations in social policy to increase the population. The results of the study cover recommendations for social services and the development of social infrastructure. The theoretical significance of the study lies in the use of this material in textbooks, and the practical significance lies in the use of recommendations by authorities.

KEYWORDS: Economics, Social Policy, Social Infrastructure, Social Services, Strategy, Kazakhstan

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: the authors declare that there is no conflict of interest

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: the study was conducted within the framework of program-targeted funding by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (BR10965247 «Study of factors, features, and dynamics of demographic processes, migration, urbanization in Kazakhstan, development of digital maps and forecasts»)

Article history:

Received 19 January 2023

Accepted 28 February 2023

Published 30 March 2023

***Corresponding author: Kangalakova D.M.** – Ph.D., Institute of Economics CS MSHE RK, RK, 28 Shevchenko Str., A25K1B0, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 87016277060, e-mail: dmuratbekovna@mail.ru

Қазақстандағы демографиялық жағдайды жақсартуға арналған әлеуметтік саясат моделі

Кангалакова Д.М.^{a*}, Ильяс А.^b, Турдалина Ш.К.^a

^a ҚР ҒЖБМ ҒК Экономика институты, көш. Шевченко 28, А25К1В0, Алматы, Қазақстан; ^b Алматы технологиялық университеті, көш.Төле би 100, 050012, Алматы, Қазақстан

Дәйексөз үшін: Кангалакова Д.М., Ильяс А., Турдалина Ш.К. (2023). Қазақстандағы демографиялық жағдайды жақсартуға арналған әлеуметтік саясат моделі. Экономика: стратегия және практика, 18(1), 196-209, <https://doi.org/10.51176/1997-9967-2023-1-196-209>

ТҮЙІН

Ел экономикасы мен оның өңірлерінің дамуының ұзақ мерзімді факторларының бірі адами капиталды дамыту болып табылады. Алайда, елдің адами капиталы физикалық және ақыл-ой дамудың әртүрлі деңгейіне ие. Осыған байланысты елдегі демографиялық жағдайды жақсарту мақсатында әлеуметтік саясатты зерттеу ең өзекті мәселе болып табылады. Мақалада әлеуметтік саясаттың даму деңгейіне байланысты Қазақстанның соңғы жылдардағы демографиялық дамуының негізгі міндеттері қарастырылады. Әлеуметтік саясаттың тиімділік мәселесі Қазақстан үшін ерекше маңызды, бұл халықтың қартаюының еріксіз жүзеге асыуымен, еңбекке қабілетті халыққа жүктеменің тез артуымен, сондай-ақ туу шыңында жастар мен әйелдер санының азаюымен байланысты. Бұл болашақта халық санының азаюына әкеледі. Бұл мақаланың мақсаты - елдегі демографиялық жағдайды жақсарту үшін әлеуметтік саясат тетіктерін әзірлеу. Әлеуметтік инфрақұрылымды — білім беруді, денсаулық сақтауды, мәдениетті, спортты және басқа да осындай жүйелерді дамыту Қазақстандағы демографиялық жағдайды жақсартуға алар еді. Зерттеу әдісі — бұл халықты көбейту мақсатында әлеуметтік саясат саласында ұсыныстар жасауға мүмкіндік беретін жүйелі және кешенді тәсіл. Зерттеу нәтижелері әлеуметтік қызметтер мен әлеуметтік инфрақұрылымды дамыту бойынша ұсыныстарды қамтиды. Зерттеудің теориялық маңыздылығы — бұл материалды оқулықтарда қолдану, ал практикалық маңыздылығы - билік органдары ұсыныстарда қолдана алады.

ТҮЙІН СӨЗДЕР: экономика, әлеуметтік саясат, әлеуметтік инфрақұрылым, әлеуметтік қызметтер, стратегия, Қазақстан

МҮДДЕЛЕР ҚАҚТЫҒЫСЫ: авторлар мүдделер қақтығысының жоқтығын мәлімдейді

ҚАРЖЫЛАНДЫРУ: зерттеу Қазақстан Республикасы Білім және ғылым министрлігінің Ғылым комитеті бағдарламалық-нысаналы қаржыландыру шеңберінде жүргізілді (BR10965247 «Қазақстандағы демографиялық процестердің, көші-қон, урбанизация ерекшеліктері мен динамикасын, факторларын зерттеу, цифрлық карталар мен болжамдарды әзірлеу»)

Мақала тарихы:

Редакцияға түсті 19 Қаңтар 2023

Жариялау туралы шешім қабылданды 28 Ақпан 2023

Жарияланды 30 Наурыз 2023

*Хат-хабаршы авторы: Кангалакова Д.М. — PhD, ҚР ҒЖБМ ҒК Экономика институты, көш.Шевченко 28, А25К1В0, Алматы, Қазақстан, 87016277060, e-mail: dmuratbekovna@mail.ru

Модель социальной политики для улучшения демографической ситуации в Казахстане

Кангалакова Д.М.^{а*}, Ильяс А.^б, Турдалина Ш.К.^а

^а Институт экономики КН МНВО РК, ул. Шевченко 28, А25К1В0, Алматы, Казахстан; ^б Алматинский технологический университет, ул. Толе би 100, 050012 Алматы, Казахстан

Для цитирования: Кангалакова Д.М., Ильяс А., Турдалина Ш.К. (2023). Модель социальной политики для улучшения демографической ситуации в Казахстане. Экономика: стратегия и практика, 18(1), 196-209, <https://doi.org/10.51176/1997-9967-2023-1-196-209>

АННОТАЦИЯ

Одним из долгосрочных факторов развития экономики страны и ее регионов является развитие человеческого капитала. Однако человеческий капитал страны имеет разный уровень физического и умственного развития. В связи с этим изучение социальной политики наиболее актуально с целью улучшения демографической ситуации в стране. В статье рассматриваются основные задачи демографического развития Казахстана за последние годы в связи с уровнем развития социальной политики. Вопрос эффективности социальной политики особенно важен для Казахстана, что связано с неизбежностью старения населения и стремительным увеличением нагрузки на трудоспособное население, а также снижением численности молодежи и числа женщин на пике рождаемости. Это влечет за собой сокращение численности населения в будущем. Целью данной статьи является разработка механизмов социальной политики для улучшения демографической ситуации в стране. Развитие социальной инфраструктуры — образования, здравоохранения, культуры, спорта и других подобных систем — могло бы улучшить демографическую ситуацию в Казахстане. Метод исследования представляет собой системный и комплексный подход, который позволяет разрабатывать рекомендации в области социальной политики с целью увеличения численности населения. Результаты исследования охватывают рекомендации по социальным услугам и развитию социальной инфраструктуры. Теоретическая значимость исследования заключается в использовании этого материала в учебниках, а практическая значимость заключается в использовании рекомендаций органами власти.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: экономика, социальная политика, социальная инфраструктура, социальные услуги стратегия, Казахстан

КОНФЛИКТ ИНТЕРЕСОВ: авторы заявляют об отсутствии конфликта интересов.

ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЕ: исследование проведено в рамках грантового финансирования Комитета науки Министерства науки и высшего образования Республики Казахстан проекта BR10965247 «Исследование особенностей и динамики, факторов демографических процессов, миграции, урбанизации в Казахстане, разработка цифровых карт и прогнозов».

История статьи:

Получено 19 января 2023

Принято 28 февраля 2023

Опубликовано 30 марта 2023

*Корреспондирующий автор: Кангалакова Д.М. — PhD, Институт экономики КН МНВО РК, ул. Шевченко 28, А25К1В0, г. Алматы, Казахстан, 87016277060, e-mail: dmuratbekovna@mail.ru

Introduction

The social situation of a country is a vulnerable part of any country on the way to economic and social development. The demographic case in Kazakhstan demonstrates a high sensitivity to social policy. The current demographic situation indicates the need to improve people's level and quality of life in most regions of Kazakhstan.

To create an effective demographic policy, three vectors should be distinguished: economic groups (monetary benefits, pensions, superannuation, etc.), administrative and legal groups (separation of property, marriage, etc.), and socio-psychological groups (social policy, social infrastructure, social services, etc.). The article aims to develop a model of social policies to improve the demographic situation in Kazakhstan.

There is an increase in the socially vulnerable segment of the population in the country, thereby putting a more significant burden on social policy, internal social infrastructure, and social services, which include the development of health systems, education, culture, and others. Financing of the social policy increases the availability of social infrastructure and social services for the population, thereby creating new opportunities for demographic behaviour, understood as a result of the interaction of physiological and psychological characteristics of an individual, his living conditions, as well as spiritual norms and values of the surrounding social groups and society as a whole. The study of the demographic state and parameters of demographic change in this period of the country's development is relevant due to their continuous transformation. Reproductive behaviour (generative, procreative), as part of the concept of "demographic behaviour," includes actions and relationships related to the implementation of the complete reproductive cycle, as well as what prevents the onset of each link of the reproductive cycle. The ratio of the standard of living to the level of need for children impacts reproductive behaviour. Criteria for assessing living conditions vary based on people's attitudes, including national and religious ones.

The size of the population and its age structure are significant demographic factors affecting social infrastructure. The current demographic situation indicates the need to improve people's level and quality of life in most regions of Kazakhstan. By increasing the level and quality of life of the population, the demographic leap increases, which leads to the modernization of current social policy, the improvement of social infrastructure, and the renewal of

social services according to the requirements of modern development in the world. An essential condition for reproducing a healthy, highly educated population is the development of the spheres of health, education, culture, physical culture, and sports. All this determines the development of the leading resource of any territory—human capital. The country's human capital is being transformed thanks to the activities of medical, educational, cultural, and leisure institutions. The totality of these areas forces us to turn to the concept of "social infrastructure," which is the foundation for improving the demographic situation. The level of social infrastructure development largely determines the processes of population reproduction, the choice of residence, life expectancy, and other demographic characteristics.

Another undivided part of social policy is social services. One of the signs of a civilized society is the ability to use a system of social services, such as information, transportation, cultural, educational, medical, etc. In our community, social services have the character of providing social services to a socially unprotected society the population. Furthermore, in other post-industrial countries, social services are essential not only for the poorest segments of the population but for the majority of society. The purpose of social services is to promote or provide a person with a decent life and free development. In addition, social services have the function of ensuring the maximum possible well-being for all family members, which the family itself cannot make up for.

However, in addition to the positive aspects of social policy, the negative side can also be noted. The abundant supply of social services and improved social infrastructure lead to social dependency. According to the demographic situation in the country, social policy is necessary since the demographic crisis, although it has a positive trend, has yet to have a demographic boom.

Literature review

Scientific research in the field of social policy in Kazakhstan is still in its initial stages. There is thoroughness to this topic about the social development of Kazakhstan. The lack of scientific results and guidelines in the presence of political miscalculations in social policy over the past decade is today a decisive destabilizing factor that slows down the demographic growth of the population. It is impossible to solve the

problem of social protection forever; it reproduces, changes, and requires non-standard approaches. Absolute security, that is, the guarantee of the safety of social rights in any circumstance under real-world conditions, is impossible. This destroys the link between existing economic opportunities and social protection (Grigorieva, 2003).

There is an early study of this issue abroad. Duckett explores the relationship between neoliberalism, social policy, and authoritarian politics in modern China. The article describes the economic policy that leads to an increase in the population's standard of living. This was reflected in the accrual of minimum cash benefits to the people for old-age social insurance and medical insurance for specific population segments. This policy has contributed to reducing the difference in living standards between residents of urban and rural settlements. However, there were negative aspects of this policy, but the authoritarian regime of government was held by factors that could increase the differences between living standards in different cities and villages; thus, the study provides positive aspects of social policy for the development of society as a whole. Earlier studies of social policy issues noted that social policy is a component of democracy, which characterizes various types of state intervention in market relations between the population and the state to influence the distribution of resources in society and the resulting social stratification (Esping-Andersen, 1990; Kaufmann, 1997). According to his "social security regime" approach, various ideal types of social security regimes can be distinguished: liberal, conservative, and social democratic (Esping-Andersen, 1990). The basic tenet of social policy is that the government and the population must support each other to achieve the same goal: the economic and sustainable development of the country (Etzerodt & Eriksen, 2017; Hall & Gingerich, 2009; Schröder, 2019).

In the 1990s, many European countries began introducing social programs aimed at improving the well-being of children (Knijn, T. & Kremer, M. 1997). The research supports trends in the development of social infrastructure and social services. According to research, in the early 1990s, it was more popular to put forward the idea of a family model with two breadwinners than a conservative model, where a family with one breadwinner was supported. This trend was partly due to the conceptual shift from the citizen

as a family member to the citizen as a person in society, even if the concept of the citizen as a family member is still relevant in many welfare states (Frericks & Hoppner, 2019).

Research on social infrastructure dates back to the 2000s. Urbanists raised this problem. Urban geographers have long been interested in how neighbourhoods are arranged and how a certain urban environment allows people to thrive and distribute available opportunities and resources (Simone, 2004; Simone, 2021). Generally speaking, there are four ways to use the concept of social infrastructure. The first relates to the argument that people are infrastructure - relationships between people. When there is no physical relationship in the form of water distribution, energy supply, telecommunications, or transport, a different relationship is formed between people. It is an approach to social infrastructure that is interested in how social energy and effort can function as an infrastructure without infrastructural provision. Physical relationships characterize the second approach; people create an environment for maintaining life (MacFarlane & Silver, 2017).

Further, in the third approach, social infrastructure includes facilities such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and mental health services—facilities that provide a wide range of specific functions but are understood as collectively providing care for several vulnerable people. It was important for this work to understand how much of the work in these types of services is performed by women and is often underpaid and underestimated (Hall & Sarah, 2020; Strauss & Kendra, 2020). In the fourth approach, social infrastructure is understood as the accessibility of the population to sidewalks, churches, shops, cafes, and parks. In urban geographic studies, social infrastructure is considered critically important for cities' public life (Latham & Layton, 2019) and represents spaces vulnerable to underfunding and neglect (Penny, 2020; Shaw, 2019). Table 1 presents the main essence of previous studies with their contribution.

Table 1 – The main essence of previous studies

Author	Contribution of the study
Esping-Andersen & Gøsta (1990); Kaufmann (1997)	Social policy is a component of democracy, the relationship between the population and the state to influence the distribution of resources in society and the resulting social stratification.
Knijn & Kremer (1997)	Social policy should be aimed at improving the welfare of children.
Simone (2004)	The social infrastructure allows people to thrive and distribute available opportunities and resources.
McFarlane & Silver, 2016; 2017	The social infrastructure consists of physical infrastructure, people create an environment to support life.
Latham & Layton, (2019), Penny (2020); Shaw (2019)	Social infrastructure is critical to the public life of cities and represents spaces vulnerable to underfunding and neglect.
Duckett (2020)	The relationship between neoliberalism, social policy, and authoritarian politics.

Methodology

In this study, we proceeded from the scientific assumption that to improve the demographic situation in Kazakhstan, the country’s social policy should be improved by considering social infrastructure and social services. The research methods used in this article include the analysis of the literature review and comparison and analogy with other

countries, and this study is based on an integrated approach to identify identifyingl recommendations for improving social policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

It is proposed to consider a logically constructed method of conducting scientific research, which will create prerequisites for the exact achievement of the article’s purpose in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Stages of the study

Note: compiled by authors

Thus, the research process will be divided into three important phases, including several steps.

The first stage, selection, and definition is theoretical or conceptual and is based on a literature review.

In the second stage, the structure of social policy is identified, including social infrastructure and social services.

In the third stage, the development of recommendations to improve the demographic situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The main part

The social policy of the state is the highest degree of statehood, which seeks not only economic growth by supporting human capital but also the development of civilization. The

state's social policy makes it possible to ensure the maximum possible uniform distribution of material benefits and to level the starting conditions of all citizens to a certain extent, thereby contributing to the preservation of social stability in society. The high level of social policy implementation determines the level of trust and mutual understanding between the

state and society. A highly civilized society creates opportunities for population growth, leading to a demographic increase in people.

In this regard, the current social policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan should be considered.

Table 2 shows the state programs and national projects that contribute to the effective implementation of the State social policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Table 2 - State programs and national projects included in the social system of the Republic of Kazakhstan

State programs and national projects					
Employment-2020	Affordable housing-2020	«Nurly Zhol»	National Plan «Active Longevity» 2025	National project «Quality Education « Educated Nation»	National project «Quality and affordable healthcare for every citizen «Healthy Nation»
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD					
2011- 2020	2012 - 2020	2015 - 2019	2021-2025	2021-2025	2021-2025
Involvement of the self-employed, unemployed, and persons from the target population groups in productive employment. Development of human resources for the implementation of the state programs. Improvement of the social assistance system	Comprehensive solution to development problems housing construction that provides further increase in housing affordability for population level	Modernization (reconstruction and construction) of housing and communal services infrastructure and heating, water supply and sanitation systems and development of education infrastructure	The Action Plan provides for 38 activities in 9 areas.	Ensuring access and equality in education; Creating an enabling environment for learning; Improving the quality of education; Improving the efficiency of management and financing of education	Improving the availability and quality of medical services; Developing human resources and scientific medicine; Creating a healthy lifestyle
389 billion tenge	2 trillion tenge	7.6 trillion tenge	0	1.9 trillion tenge	3.6 trillion tenge
Note: compiled by authors					

In 2008, there was a financial crisis all over the world. This situation affected developed not only countries but also affected the economies of developing countries. The post-crisis period worsened the quality of life of the population worldwide, Kazakhstan was no exception. Due to the deterioration of the social situation in the country, since 2010, state programs have been actively developed to stimulate the improvement of the social life of the population. All state programs cover the social policy of Kazakhstan. In 2011, the state program “Employment 2020” was adopted. This program has set itself a social goal: involvement of self-employed, unemployed, and persons from the target population groups in productive employment and development of

human resources for the implementation of the state programs and improvement of the social assistance system. The budget for this program was 389 billion tenge with a subsequent increase. In this regard, let's look at Table 3, which shows the indicators of the labor market and employment. In 2010, the unemployment rate was 5.8%, and in 2021 it was 4.9%. The number of employed people has increased from 8114.2 thousand people to 8807.113 thousand people over the past ten years. The employed population increased by 692.9 thousand people. The effectiveness of the state program is estimated on average at about 70%. According to the state Employment 2020 program, 1 million people are supposed to be provided with work.

Table 3 – Social indicators of the population of Kazakhstan for 2010-2021

Indicator	2010	2015	2019	2020	2021
Employed population, thousand people	8114.2	8433.3	8780,829	8732.04	8807,113
Unemployed population, thousands of people	496.5	454.2	440.652	448.805	449.644
The unemployment rate, %	5.8	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.9
Number of recipients of targeted social assistance, people	196266	38244	2177176	936189	990539
The monthly amount of targeted social assistance, tenge	1183.7	2179	12188	6602,522	6736,233
Minimum size pensions, tenge	12344	23692	36108	40441	43272.01
The average monthly amount of assigned pensions, tenge	21238.09	38932.5	57622.39	63936.92	67432.5
Note: compiled by authors					

The Affordable Housing program aims to comprehensively solve the problems of housing construction development, ensuring a further increase in housing affordability for the population. The program “Affordable Housing 2020”, provides for the construction of 69050 thousand square meters of housing by 2020 and several areas of housing construction: 1. Through Zhilstroysberbank, it is planned to increase the volume of housing construction to 530 thousand square meters of housing by 2015; 2. Construction of rental housing through the Kazakhstan Mortgage Company to 530 thousand square meters per year; 3. Construction of rental housing for waiting lists, from 2014. to build 275 thousand square meters of housing. However, this program indirectly influenced the increase in housing in the secondary and primary housing markets. The Nurly Zhol program aims 2020-2025 to improve the condition by 95% by 2025. As part of these works, by the end of 2020, the condition of the local network has been improved to 75%. In 2021, the total amount of financing for developing the local network from the republican budget and considering the local budget at funding parity is 301 billion tenge. 3 billion tenges for roads of regional and district significance and 138 billion tenges for the cities of republican significance Astana, Almaty, and Shymkent.

After retirement, the older generation has a lack of communication, and loss of active social ties, while educational needs in most cases do not decrease, and sometimes they increase. Based on this, there is a need to develop a system of educational and socio-cultural rehabilitation of elderly citizens through the preservation and development of their physical, creative, and intellectual potential, allowing feeling needed and attractive to others. The Action Plan provides

for 38 events in 9 areas. The document includes such areas as “Respect for the rights and dignity of older citizens”, “Financial situation of older citizens”, “Increasing employment of older citizens”, “Support for families with the elderly”, etc.

The national project “Quality Education” Educated Nation” aims to improve students’ education quality at all levels of education. Also, this project aims to achieve the following indicators. Investments in fixed assets in the education sector -174.8%, in the education sector – 4,830,498.43 million tenge, the number of jobs created due to construction (extensions)/ opening of educational facilities by 2025 – 103,905. The amount of funding for the total period of the project is 1.9 trillion tenge.

The national project “Quality and Affordable Healthcare for every Citizen “Healthy Nation” aims to provide quality and affordable healthcare for every citizen. The expected social effect of the project is to increase the life expectancy of citizens from 71.37 years in 2020 to 75 years in 2025 and also to increase the population’s satisfaction level with the quality of medical services from 53.3% in 2020 to 80% in 2025.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that since 2010, social policy has contributed to improving the population’s quality of life. The Nurly Zhol-2020 program received more support. Further, the state pays more attention to the healthcare system. Since Independence, the fixed capital and the central fund for medical equipment and instruments have not been thoroughly updated, and the research devices and equipment are old. Covid-19 showed that the health care system is the weakest social policy system. Further, the state solves housing and educational problems. However, the field of education is like an investment project. The central core of the social policy system should be the education system.

Figure 2 presents the dynamics of the growth of social assistance indicators.

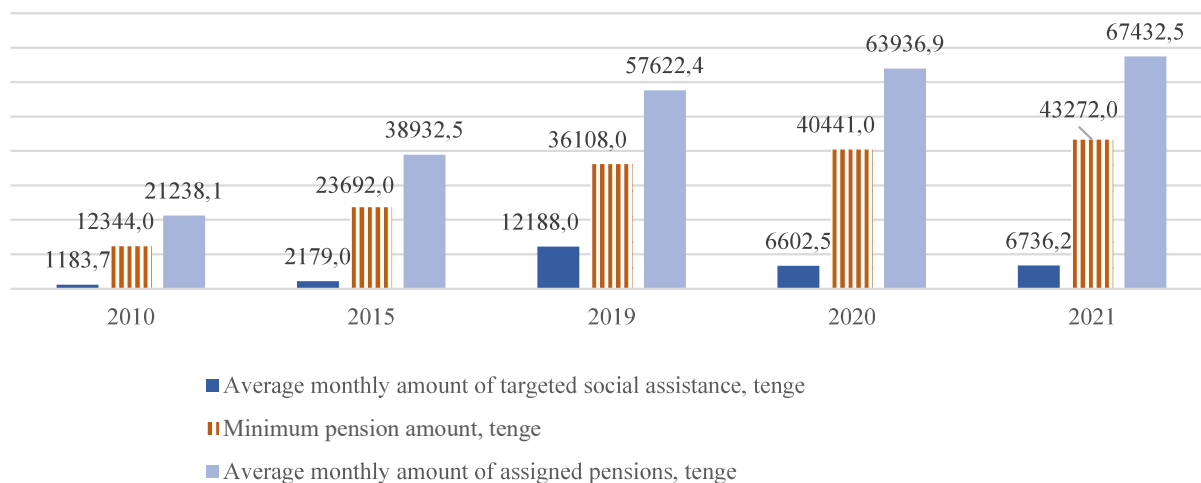


Figure 2 – Indicators of social assistance of Kazakhstan for 2010-2021

Note: compiled by authors

In 2010, the average monthly amount of targeted social assistance was 1183.7 tenge, in 2021, it increased by 5.6 times to 6736.233 tenge. The minimum pension in 2010 was 12344 tenge, by 2021 it increased by 350% and amounted to 43272.01 tenge. The average monthly amount of assigned pensions in 2010 was 21238.09 tenge, in 2021 it became 67432.5, increasing by 317% over the past ten years.

Summing up the analysis of the current situation of social policy, it can be concluded that over the past ten years, the state has made a significant contribution to improving the social life of the population. The labor market, education and healthcare, housing, and road infrastructure of social life were covered. Conceptually, all spheres of social life were covered, but the time has come when it is necessary to consider and support social spheres in the country in more detail.

There are different models of social policy in the world. Some pursue conservative views, where the state does not help average statistical families care for children and elderly family members. There are also models where the state and society strive to support each other to create a more advanced social society. Concerning Kazakhstan, the state’s social policy is compromised, and the most acceptable of all models is a public or social democratic model of a social state. In this model, the state ensures a decent level of quality and accessibility of all social services and social infrastructure. At the same

time, it always adheres to the principles of solidarity and “social citizenship.” The state is an operator that ensures equality in the field of social protection for absolutely all citizens. Next, consider Figure 3.

The authors proposed a universal model for developing social policy in a democratic state. The model includes two priority areas: social infrastructure and social utility services.

Social infrastructure creates social connections that create and support access to social infrastructure and have real material benefits and consequences. Access to the social infrastructure should be open and universal. With the inaccessibility and non-functioning of social infrastructure, there will be a lack of public confidence in state bodies, a lack of civility in society, and a degradation of society. To fully understand social infrastructure, it should be considered from the point of view of physical infrastructure and cultural and leisure infrastructure. Infrastructure data provides a comprehensive understanding of social infrastructure. The physical infrastructure includes networks of water supply, electricity, heat supply, housing, transport, and the first needs of people. The physical infrastructure is aimed at creating comfortable conditions, which makes it possible to form a shift in demography, increase the level of education, ensure optimal housing and living conditions for human life, etc.

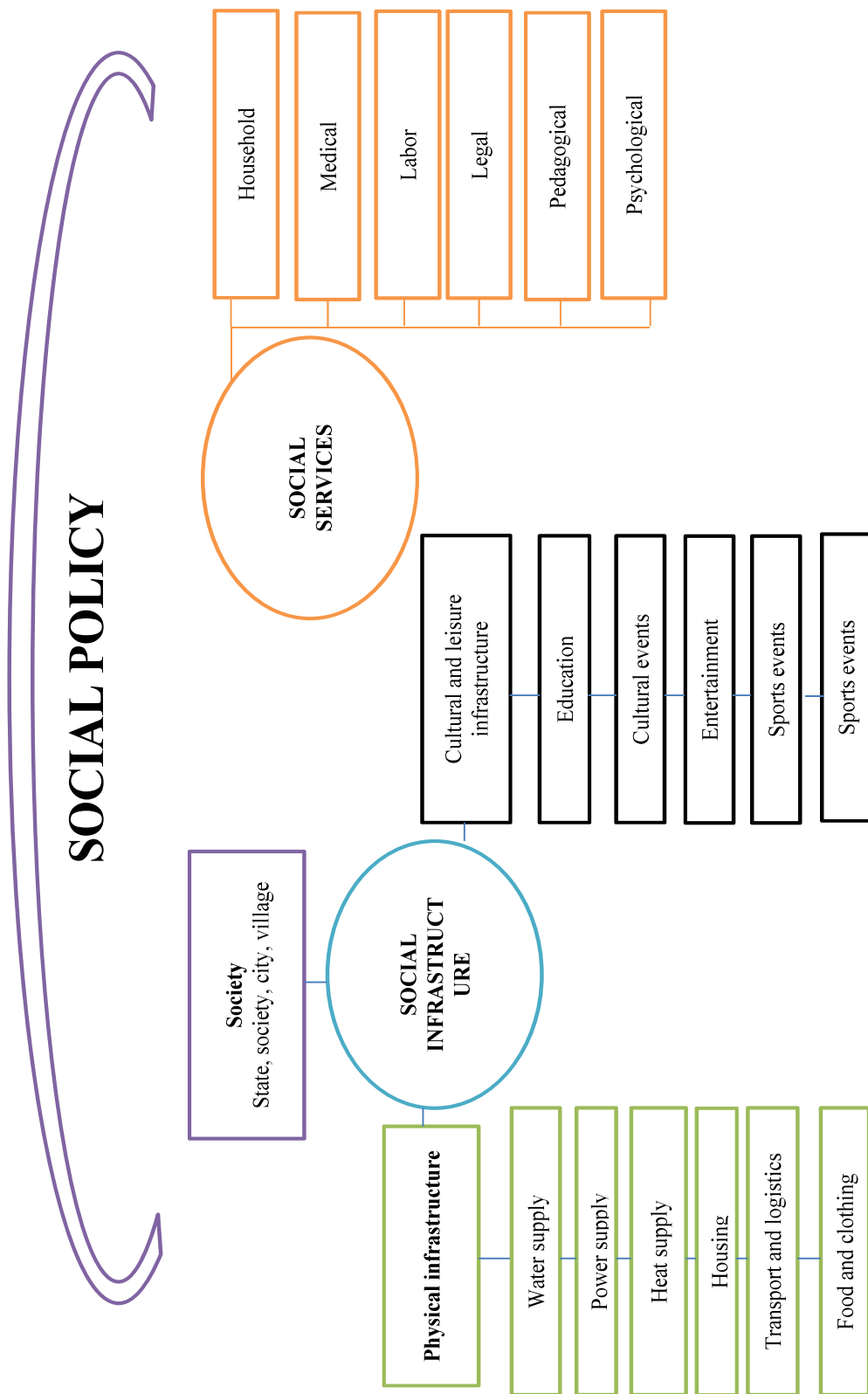


Figure 3 — A model of Kazakhstan's social policy to improve the demographic situation

Note: compiled by authors

The physical infrastructure allows a person to make his life easier and creates conditions for rest; rest contributes to human capital development. In this regard, while social infrastructure improves the physical and psychological health of the population, physical infrastructure creates conditions for increasing the population. The possibilities of social infrastructure in creating comfortable conditions depend on the capacity of the country's economic potential. The main component element of the economic potential of social infrastructure is fixed assets (buildings and structures, communications (roads, communication lines, etc.), technical equipment of buildings, structures, and communications). The cost of fixed assets in social infrastructure is more than a third of the cost of fixed assets in the economy. The primary purpose of the functioning of social infrastructure facilities is the complete and comprehensive development of a person by satisfying his domestic, spiritual, and cultural needs.

By the end of 2021, access to water supply services in the country amounted to 96%, including 98.1% in cities and 93% in villages. According to MIIR data for the last year, there are 6302 villages in the country, 4759 of them have access to water supply, and 4128 villages have access to the central one. To ensure access to water, according to the minister, 215 billion tenge was provided from the republican budget in 2022, including 120 billion tenge in cities and 95 billion tenge in villages. However, the water supply of settlements is not carried out everywhere as initially planned. To create a developed and civilized society, 100% support for water supply is required, in addition, the problem lies in the obsolescence of water supply pipes, which do not give full access to water.

Concerning heat supply, 37 thermal power plants of various forms of ownership operate in Kazakhstan. Of these, 22 are privately owned - 59%, 15 - in the state. 28 CHP plants have been in operation for over 50 years - 76%, and the remaining 9 CHP plants have a service life of over 30 years - 24%. The main problem of heat supply is the wear of the leading equipment of the CHP, which averages 66%. At the same time, the wear of the power equipment of the thermal power plants of the cities of Uralsk, Taraz, Kentau, Kyzylorda, and Stepnogorsk exceeds 80%.

The length of highways of regional and district significance in the Republic of Kazakhstan is 71.6 thousand km. By the end of 2020, 71% will be in good and satisfactory technical condition. The situation with the state of regional

and district roads in the context of regions is uneven.

In the structure of social infrastructure, there is a cultural and leisure infrastructure aimed at developing human capital and the intellectual potential of the country's population. Human capital development leads to an increase in demographics in various aspects, such as conscious parenthood, prevention of risks during childbirth, quality treatment, and prolongation of children's lives, etc.

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year, there were 7,6 thousand schools in the country. Of these, 2,3 thousand are located in urban areas and 5,3 thousand in rural areas. 3,6 million people study there - 3,3% more than a year earlier. 2,1 million students go to school in cities, 1,5 million in villages. There is still a shortage of places in schools. The condition of existing schools and their emergency condition, which is unsafe for children to study, also remains a problem.

According to the Bureau of National Statistics, in 2021, the number of hospital organizations in Kazakhstan amounted to 773 units, and the number of doctors of all categories was 78,227 people. The number of beds is designed for 125 thousand places. However, this area of the country's social life also has problems. The primary fund and medical equipment are outdated, there are not enough doctors in the villages. There is a practice of the absence of doctors in villages. Cultural and leisure infrastructure includes lifestyle, cultural events, entertainment, and recreation. In addition, there are cultural events that have a positive impact on the demographic situation in the country. Cultural events allow the state to develop the public education system, finance culture, meet the population's minimum needs for medical care, provide social protection for citizens, and increase their social security. Budget expenditures on social and cultural events have not only social but also economic significance. Being the financial basis for the exercise of social rights—for education, medical care, social protection, etc.—these expenses simultaneously indirectly affect social production, contributing to improving the quality of the workforce and creating conditions for increasing labor productivity based on the use of scientific achievements and accelerating scientific and technological progress.

There is a trend toward a healthy lifestyle in Kazakhstan. Sports events are created for adults and children to maintain and improve the population's physical health. By the end of 2021,

6,534,919 people will be systematically engaged in physical education and sports in the republic, which is 34.28% of the country's population. Of these, 2,048,284 are engaged in physical education and sports in rural areas. Compared to 2020, the number of people involved in sports has increased by 581,084 people. One of them is the ART-Sport program, which was launched last year. Its coverage is for children all over the country, from 4 to 17 years old. All of them could study for free in sports clubs and various sections. However, the share of 34.28% is tiny to maintain the entire nation's physical health, and this area requires more attention.

Due to the deterioration of the world's environmental situation, the population's health is deteriorating, and the number of people in need of social assistance and support is increasing. Consequently, this situation led the state to rethink social policy in the country and create social services. The objective need of the population has led to the creation of a network of state institutions designed to provide specialized services for a given number of the population. The base of social services in Kazakhstan should undergo serious modernization. Increasing the number of groups in the social structure of society requires both modernization and optimization of the entire system of social services, as well as the introduction of new technologies and models of social mechanisms. Also, social services can be considered part of social services. Social services have similar functions to social infrastructure. The structure of social services includes, as indicated in Figure 1, household, medical, legal, pedagogical, and psychological social services. Also, in some models, care for the elderly is singled out separately. Social support for the elderly puts an additional burden on the economic and budgetary state of the country. Thus, a universal social policy will be able to improve the demographic situation in Kazakhstan.

Conclusions

First, it should be noted that there is a positive relationship between social policy and the demographic situation in the country. Social policy is the practical implementation of the tasks assigned to the state within the framework of a demographic increase in the population. The mechanism for directly solving these tasks implies the formation of special state programs to control the quality of public services and improve the quality of life. However, we observe the current situation in which there is

no such state program, and the direct practical implementation of tasks is entrusted to several already existing bodies and programs.

To improve the demographic situation, the following mechanisms should be identified when drawing up social policy in Kazakhstan:

- economic mechanisms (increase paid parental leave up to three years; loans, credits, tax, and housing benefits—to increase the birth rate; provision of land plots; benefits for large families to increase fertility; the introduction of a direct or indirect tax on childlessness or something like its analogue - to stimulate the birth rate and increase it, etc.

- administrative and legal mechanisms (family code; legislative protection of a woman in labor; the property status of the mother and children during the dissolution of marriage; working women's work regime.

However, according to recent studies in demographic science, experts believe that developing demographic policy is unnecessary and that social policy measures are sufficient to improve the demographic situation.

In addition to those identified by the mechanism, Kazakhstan's social policy should consider other tasks that can preserve and improve the current demographic situation. Such tasks include reducing the mortality rate of citizens, reducing maternal and infant mortality, strengthening the reproductive health of the population, the health of children and adolescents, preserving and strengthening the health of the population, increasing the duration of active life, creating conditions and motivation for a healthy lifestyle, strengthening the institution of the family, reviving and preserving the spiritual and moral traditions of family relations, regulating internal and external migration, etc.

Thus, to improve the demographic situation in the country, it is necessary to focus on the social policy which is aimed at women and children. In addition, the state should allocate priorities of budget funds in favor of the social policy. We know that Kazakhstan allocates a large share of funding for developing innovation, digitalization, and raw materials industries and social policy remains for a long time. The advantages of the correct conduct of social policy will lead to, firstly, the expansion of access to education and health care, ensuring the accumulation of human and social capital. Secondly, significantly improving employment conditions and increasing wages will be possible. Thirdly, by raising

wages, the state, as the largest employer, gives an impetus to the overall strengthening of the position of skilled labor in the labor market, including outside the budget sector. Thus, mechanisms will be launched to gradually overcome the social crisis, restore public confidence in the state and create prerequisites for normal civilized development.

References

1. Duckett, J. (2020). Neoliberalism, authoritarian politics and social policy in China. *Development and Change*, 51(2), 523-539. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dech.12568>
2. Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*. New Jersey, Princeton University Press.
3. Etzerodt, S. F., & Eriksen, J. (2017). Varieties of capitalism and varieties of welfare state capitalism: An empirical assessment of economic growth. https://vbn.aau.dk/ws/files/263372910/Varieties_of_Capitalism_and_Varieties_of_Welfare_State_Capitalism.pdf
4. Frericks, P., & Höppner, J. (2019). Self-responsibility readdressed: Shifts in financial responsibility for social security between the public realm, the individual, and the family in Europe. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 63(1), 65-84.
5. Grigorieva, I. A. (2003). Social policy: basic concepts. *Journal of Social Policy Research*, 1(1), 29-44.
6. Hall, P. A., & Gingerich, D. W. (2009). Varieties of capitalism and institutional complementarities in the political economy: An empirical analysis. *British journal of political science*, 39(3), 449-482. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123409000672>
7. Hall, S. M. (2020). Social reproduction as social infrastructure. *Soundings*, 76(76), 82-94. <https://doi.org/10.3898/SOUN.76.06.2020>
8. Kaufmann, F. X. (1997). *Herausforderungen des Sozialstaates*. Suhrkamp.
9. Knijn, T., & Kremer, M. (1997). Gender and the caring dimension of welfare states: toward inclusive citizenship. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 4(3), 328-361. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.sp.a034270>
10. Latham, A., & Layton, J. (2019). Social infrastructure and the public life of cities: Studying urban sociality and public spaces. *Geography Compass*, 13(7), e12444. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12444>
11. McFarlane, C., & Silver, J. (2017). The political city: "Seeing sanitation" and making the urban political in Cape Town. *Antipode*, 49(1), 125-148. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12264>
12. McFarlane, C., & Silver, J. (2017). Navigating the city: Dialectics of everyday urbanism. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 42(3), 458-471. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12175>
13. Penny, J. (2020). 'Defend the Ten': Everyday dissensus against the slow spoiling of Lambeth's libraries. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 38(5), 923-940. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775819893685>
14. Schröder, M. (2019). Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare Regime Theories: Assumptions, Accomplishments, and the Need for Different Methods. *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie & Sozialpsychologie*, 71, 53-73 <https://doi.org/10.1007/S11577-019-00609-7>
15. Shaw, I. G. (2019). Worlding austerity: The spatial violence of poverty. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 37(6), 971-989. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775819857102>
16. Simone, A. (2004). People as Infrastructure: Intersecting fragments in Johannesburg. *Public Culture*, 16(3), 407-429. <https://doi.org/10.1215/08992363-16-3-407>
17. Simone, A. (2021). Ritornello: "people as infrastructure". *Urban Geography*, 42(9), 1341-1348. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2021.1894397>
18. Strauss, K. (2020). Labour geography III: Precarity, racial capitalisms and infrastructure. *Progress in Human Geography*, 44(6), 1212-1224. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132519895308>

Список литературы (транслитерация)

1. Duckett, J. (2020). Neoliberalism, authoritarian politics and social policy in China. *Development and Change*, 51(2), 523-539. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dech.12568>
2. Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
3. Etzerodt, S. F., & Eriksen, J. (2017). Varieties of capitalism and varieties of welfare state capitalism: An empirical assessment of economic growth.
4. Frericks, P., & Höppner, J. (2019). Self-responsibility readdressed: Shifts in financial responsibility for social security between the public realm, the individual, and the family in Europe. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 63(1), 65-84.
5. Grigorieva, I. A. (2003). Social policy: basic concepts. *Journal of Social Policy Research*, [Zhurnal issledovaniy social'noj politiki], 1(1), 29-44. (In Russ.)
6. Hall, P. A., & Gingerich, D. W. (2009). Varieties of capitalism and institutional complementarities in the political economy: An empirical analysis. *British journal of political science*, 39(3), 449-482. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123409000672>
7. Hall, S. M. (2020). Social reproduction as social infrastructure. *Soundings*, 76(76), 82-94. <https://doi.org/10.3898/SOUN.76.06.2020>

8. Kaufmann, F. X. (1997). *Herausforderungen des Sozialstaates*. Suhrkamp.
9. Knijn, T., & Kremer, M. (1997). Gender and the caring dimension of welfare states: toward inclusive citizenship. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 4(3), 328-361. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.sp.a034270>
10. Latham, A., & Layton, J. (2019). Social infrastructure and the public life of cities: Studying urban sociality and public spaces. *Geography Compass*, 13(7), e12444. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12444>
11. McFarlane, C., & Silver, J. (2017). The poolitical city: “Seeing sanitation” and making the urban political in Cape Town. *Antipode*, 49(1), 125-148. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12264>
12. McFarlane, C., & Silver, J. (2017). Navigating the city: Dialectics of everyday urbanism. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 42(3), 458-471. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12175>
13. Penny, J. (2020). ‘Defend the Ten’: Everyday dissensus against the slow spoiling of Lambeth’s libraries. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 38(5), 923-940. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775819893685>
14. Schröder, M. (2019). Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare Regime Theories: Assumptions, Accomplishments, and the Need for Different Methods. *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie & Sozialpsychologie*, 71, 53-73 <https://doi.org/10.1007/S11577-019-00609-7>
15. Shaw, I. G. (2019). Worlding austerity: The spatial violence of poverty. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 37(6), 971-989. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775819857102>
16. Simone, A. (2004). People as infrastructure: Intersecting fragments in Johannesburg. *Public culture*, 16(3), 407-429. <https://doi.org/10.1215/08992363-16-3-407>
17. Simone, A. (2021). Ritornello: “people as infrastructure”. *Urban Geography*, 42(9), 1341-1348. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2021.1894397>
18. Strauss, K. (2020). Labour geography III: Precarity, racial capitalisms and infrastructure. *Progress in Human Geography*, 44(6), 1212-1224. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132519895308>

Information about the authors

- ***Dana M. Kangalakova** – Ph.D., Institute of Economics CS MSHE RK, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: dmuratbekovna@mail.ru, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8388-8559>
- Assel Pyas** - Candidate of Economic Sciences, Senior Lecturer, Almaty Technological University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, email: asselilyas26@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1368-1429>
- Sharbanu K. Turdalina** – Ph.D. candidate, Institute of Economics CS MSHE RK, Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: shturdalina@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9291-6144>

Авторлар туралы мәліметтер

- ***Қангалакова Д.М.** – PhD, ҚР БҒМ ҒК Экономика институты, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: dmuratbekovna@mail.ru, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8388-8559>
- Ильяс А.А.** – э.ғ.к., аға оқытушы, доцент, Алматы технологиялық университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: asselilyas26@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1368-1429>
- Турдалина Ш.** – PhD докторант, ғылыми қызметкер, ҚР БҒМ ҒК Экономика институты, Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: shturdalina@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9291-6144>

Сведения об авторах

- ***Қангалакова Д.М.** - PhD, Институт экономики КН МНВО РК, ул. Щевченко 28, А25К1В0, г. Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: dmuratbekovna@mail.ru, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8388-8559>
- Ильяс А.А.** – к.э.н., старший преподаватель, Алматинский технологический университет, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: asselilyas26@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1368-1429>
- Турдалина Ш.** – PhD докторант, ғылыми қызметкер, Институт экономики КН МНВО РК, Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: shturdalina@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9291-6144>