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Gender analysis of census data: lessons learned from the 2010 round of censuses

Gender Statistics in Azerbaijan and Brief Analysis of the 2009 Population Census

Note by the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan¹

Summary

The paper presents key developments in gender statistics in Azerbaijan, including a set of gender statistics indicators. It also includes the analysis of the 2009 census data on gender, age, educational attainment and sources of income.

I. Background

1. **Gender statistics** is an essential instrument for devising sound social and demographic policies and implementing the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.
2. In Azerbaijan, equal rights and opportunities for women and men are guaranteed by the Constitution.
3. In 1998, Azerbaijan saw the establishment of the State Committee on Women's Affairs and the adoption of the Presidential Decree 'On measures to strengthen women's role in Azerbaijan' as a national policy priority.

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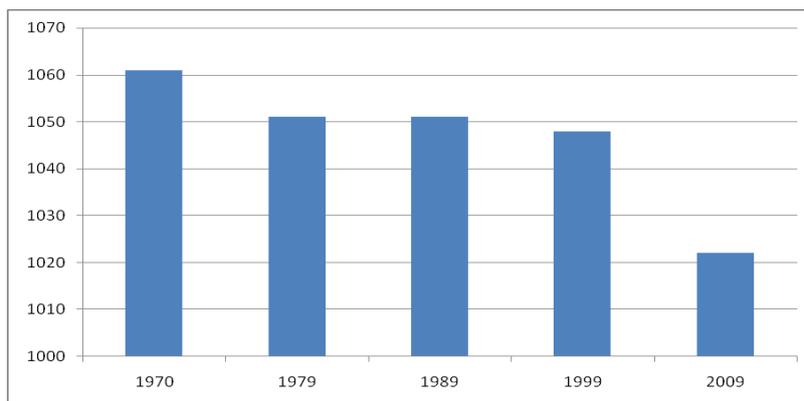
4. In our country the developments in gender statistics started after Azerbaijan joined the Platform for Actions of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995.
5. An important step in developing gender statistics was a joint international cooperation project 'Enhancement of Gender Statistics in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia in 1998-2000' involving statistical offices of South Caucasus countries and the Statistics Sweden (SCB). The project assisted statistical offices in staff training and producing statistics.
6. To coordinate gender statistics activities a **Working Group** of 6 persons was established in the State Statistical Committee by the Board decision dated 28 October 1998. The group was chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the Committee and its members were department heads. Due to staff changes the membership of the Working Group was changed and approved by the Order of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) dated 10 May 2012. In addition to the SSC's activities in this area the Working Group also established contacts with data users to identify their needs in gender statistics.
7. Azerbaijan has been annually issuing, since 1999, a statistical yearbook 'Women and Men in Azerbaijan'.
8. The SSC activities in this area were focused on enhancing the **set of gender statistics indicators**.
9. The sources of gender statistics include:
 - ministries, agencies and their regional offices;
 - results of population censuses, statistical measurements, current and sample surveys;
 - legal entities and individuals as well as households.
10. To date Azerbaijan has prepared the third improved **set of gender statistics indicators** which includes 310 indicators. It includes both the information available with SSC and other ministries and agencies which enables having a comprehensive view on various dimensions of the subject matter. The set is developed based on the international practice, specifically, of the Statistics Sweden.
11. All indicators in the set are grouped into eleven sections covering different aspects of women's and men's participation in social and economic life:
 1. Population census
 2. Currently compiled population statistics
 3. Households
 4. Health care
 5. Social security
 6. Education
 7. Science
 8. Time use
 9. Employment and unemployment
 10. Fisheries and forestry
 11. Offences.
12. Any new SSC statistical reports are gender mainstreamed. Azeri statisticians annually carry out surveys on important issues of social and economic life and each of such surveys also has a gender perspective.

13. The statistical yearbook 'Women and Men in Azerbaijan' issued by SSC includes all new and interesting gender related information. Such yearbook is published on the SSC website.
14. In May 2010, Baku hosted, with the support of the Azeri Government and the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Equality between women and men on 'Gender equality: bridging the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* equality'.
15. One of the global issues faced by the humanity is the issue of **violence against a person**. In 1988-1993 the Azeris residing in Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh, which is a part of Azerbaijan, as well as residents of 7 districts surrounding Nagornyi Karabakh faced horrifying acts of violence. In addition to numerous victims and hostages military aggression from Armenia has resulted in about a million of refugees and displaced persons, over a half of whom were elder people and children. Fifty four per cent of these migrants are women.

II. Overview of the 2009 Population Census

16. As it is known, population census for a number of important issues is the main, and for some issues, the only source of statistics for gender analysis. A census provides a unique opportunity to carry out comprehensive analysis of gender parameters in various areas of social and economic activities. It allows gathering, at regular intervals, the data on population at the national and local levels.
17. Sex and age of the population are essential population characteristics measured in modern population censuses worldwide. These parameters characterize reproduction of the population and existing population situation.
18. By the nature of population processes in the intercensal period Azerbaijan was among the countries where **the population increased** in the reference period, mainly through natural population growth.

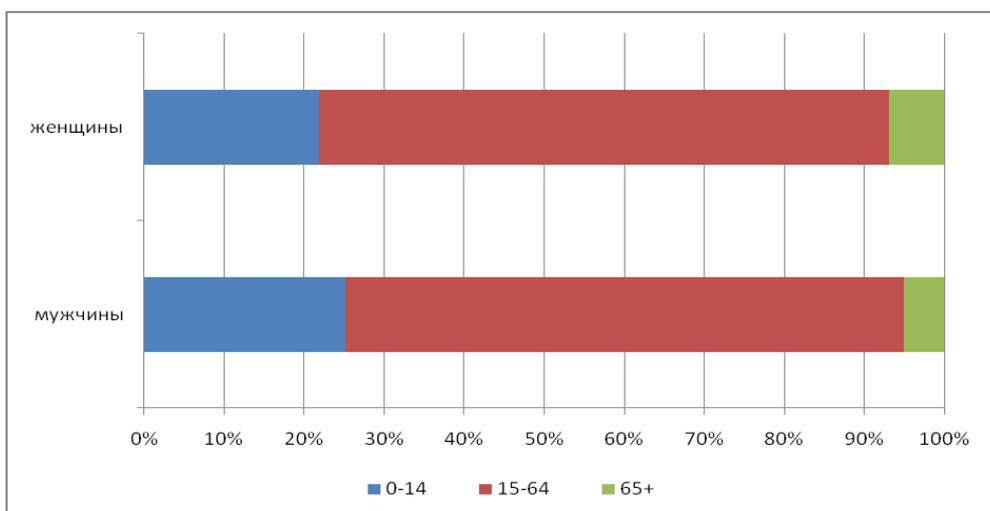
Figure 1
Women per 1,000 men



19. As the Figure demonstrates, though there is a downward trend, women have numerical superiority over men; such superiority appears in the age group of 29–30 years and increases in elder age groups. Thus, in the age group of 65 years and over there are 1.4 times more women than men.

20. The data of population censuses and current statistics demonstrate that the proportion of elder people is increasing in the population and such ageing process is more noticeable among women.

Figure 2
Men and women by age groups
 (% of population of relevant sex)



- 21. Life expectancy has also increased in the reference period.
- 22. The census data on **educational attainment** is the source of information to evaluate government policies for the spread of knowledge among the population and the availability of qualified staff to meet the needs of economy.
- 23. Education is one of the key factors which determine the quality of life and from a gender perspective it is one of the preconditions for bridging the gap between starting opportunities of women and men in employment and professional careers.
- 24. Census data help to see the differences in the educational attainment of persons of different sexes, age, urban vs. rural, etc. and are important indicators of a country's potential in economic and social development. Furthermore, such data also enable

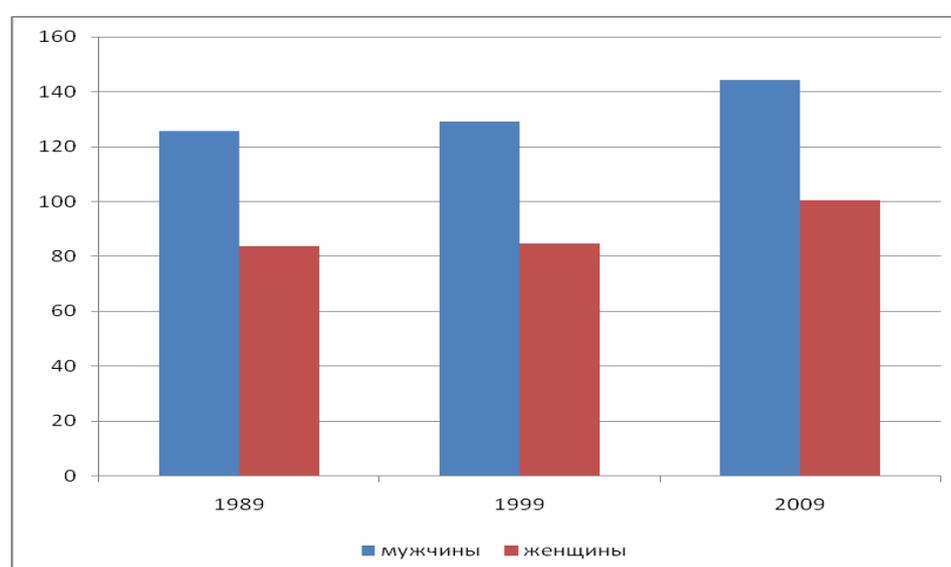
comparing the level and nature of education acquired by adult men and women with the labour market requirements. Census is the only source of information on population literacy, including among men and women.

25. Education plays an important role in a person's individual development and socialization, economic growth and strengthening of social relations. At the same time, education is an important poverty eradication enabler and a basis for sustainable development.
26. Improved pre-school education coverage will promote higher levels of economic activities of women and labour market participation.
27. The census data have demonstrated that the educational attainment is rising, both among men and women.

Figure 3

Women and men aged 15 years and over with tertiary education

(per 1,000 population of a relevant group)



28. Census data provide ample opportunities to analyse indicators of gender quality at **the labour market**. In addition to conventional indicators on the number of men and women participating in the labour market, the census output tables contain data on age groups of employed men and women, their marital status, educational attainment, occupations by age groups and educational attainment, employment status and residence.
29. The census results in Azerbaijan demonstrated higher participation rate among men than among women. Employed men account for 57% of all men in Azerbaijan, employed women are 43%. There is 67% of women among the unemployed in Azerbaijan.
30. One of the determinants of a person's wellbeing is the availability of permanent **sources of income**. The census programme included questions on main source of income and the number of available additional sources.

Table 1

Men and women by main source of income

(aged 15 years and over, % of total number)

	Women	Men
Total population	100	100
<i>including by main source of income:</i>		

employment income	45.3	70.4
educational allowance	0.7	0.9
pension (excl. disability pension)	13.9	7.1
allowances and other benefits	3.3	3.1
property income, savings	0.1	0.1
dependence	35.3	16.4
other and unspecified sources of income	1.4	2.0

31. This table reveals considerable disparities among men and women in the distribution by sources of income. For the majority of men employment is a main source of income whereas a considerable number of women aged 15 years and over depend on other household members.

32. The Azeri Statistical Committee regularly publishes gender segregated statistics in yearbooks on education and science, labour market, health care, living standards, etc. In addition, it provides information to policy-makers, the mass media, academia, representatives of business entities, international organizations and the public. Most of the data is published at the Committee's website to ensure wider usage.
