

Fertility of Muslim Minorities in Russia: Individual vs. Community Effects

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The paper deals with fertility of those Muslim minority peoples of Russia whose main residence is North Caucasus. Some of them (especially from the North East part of the region – Dagestan, Chechnya and Ingushetia) currently have fertility considerably higher and mean mother's age at birth of the 1st and 2nd parities considerably lower than the country level. We organized a demographic survey in 2 republics (one from the North East and one from the North West part of the region). As our survey of women of reproductive age conducted in the region in 2016 has shown, their fertility is related to some socio-cultural parameters, including woman's education, her religiosity, her family traditionalism (there were several proxies for their estimation). Also we discovered that village communities of North Caucasus differ considerably on these parameters (e.g. on proportion of woman with post-school education, of arranged marriages). Using Poisson regression models, we compared significance of the individual and community variables for the number of children ever born by a woman. The two types of variables varied in relative significance with respect to generations.