

ENGLISH ONLY

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics
Organized in cooperation with UNDP-UNFPA-WHO
(Geneva, 18-20 October 2004)

Session 2– Supporting paper

STATE OF GENDER STATISTICS IN AZERBAIJAN

Submitted by State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan *

I. Organization of collection and dissemination of statistical data

1. *Gender statistics* are the most important instrument on working out the optimal social-demographic policy of the society, realization of principles of equal rights and possibilities for women and men.

2. After Azerbaijan joined the “Stage of actions” of IV World Conference on situation of women, which were held in Peking on September 1995, gender statistics in our country had obtained its wide development.

3. The main step in the organization of gender statistics was the joint project, “Improvement of gender statistics in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia in 1998-2000”, which was worked out in the framework of international cooperation between statistical services of South-Caucasus countries and Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) Sweden. This project has also rendered support to statistical bodies for training of the specialists and formation of statistical information.

4. Cooperation with CSB Sweden was not causal. Work on gender statistics is being conducted there since 1983 and it has wide public resonance. According to draft Programme, an organized meeting of representatives of statistical services of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and CSB Sweden was held in 1998 in Stockholm, with the purpose of introducing and studying of issues of gender statistics. Participants of the meeting were

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acquainted with the process of gender statistics data collection and processing, as well as the recommendations on publication of statistical yearbook were received.

5. As a result of the meeting, intensive work began in the Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan. For coordination of statistical works on gender statistics issues, by decree of Executive Board, a working group of 6 persons in SSC Azerbaijan was organized. Manager of the group is Deputy Head of the Committee and the rest of the members are heads of departments. Along with conducted work in SSC in this direction, the group is also occupied with the organization of contacts with data users regarding their requirements in gender statistics.

6. The First yearbook on gender statistics was issued by SSC Azerbaijan on March 1999 – “Women and men in Azerbaijan” (edition - 300 copies), which has had great demand from users of state and non-state organizations.

With the purpose of closer contacts with gender statistics users and definition of system of more characteristic indicators, a special seminar, with the participation of interested organizations and experts from CSB Sweden, was held on May 1999 in SSC Azerbaijan.

7. Taking into account users requests as well as CSB Sweden experts recommendations, the second yearbook “Women and men in Azerbaijan” (edition – 1000 copies) was issued, which was updated with data for 1998 and additional tables.

8. Moreover, the working group had worked out the System of Statistical indicators on gender statistics. The project was coordinated with corresponding ministries, departments and non-state organizations. Taking into account their proposals and remarks the System of Statistical indicators on gender statistics of Azerbaijan was completed, approved, published and disseminated among the interested users.

9. On June 1999 in the training centre of Nakhabino, Moscow the specialists of SSC Azerbaijan had been trained on the booklet model on gender statistics and technical construction of graphics and tables.

10. Then, the working group prepared the project of the third issue of the yearbook “Women and men in Azerbaijan”. Along with that the working group conducted the work on studying of users demand for third yearbook “Women and men in Azerbaijan”. The typography was selected by tender way and the third yearbook (3500 copies) was published. At the final seminar in Kutaisi (Georgia) as the result of project “Improvement of gender statistics in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia in 1998-2000”, the third yearbook was presented in the national language as well as English.

11. Further work of SSC Azerbaijan was focused on improvement of approved System of indicators on gender statistics and its addition with new indicators.

Information sources are:

Ministries, departments and their subdivisions;

Results of population censuses, statistical observations, current and sample surveys;

Juridical and natural persons as well as households.

12. System of indicators on gender statistics represents integration of already existing indicators. It includes not only the information of SSC, but also other ministries and departments that fully describe that or other aspects of the studied problem. The system was formed taking into consideration international experience in this field, in particular the materials of CSB Sweden.

13. All indicators of the System are grouped in nine sections reflecting several aspects of participation of women and men in the socio-economic life of the society:

1. Population
2. Households
3. Healthcare
4. Social security
5. Education
6. Science
7. Time use
8. Employment and unemployment
9. Crime

14. SSC Azerbaijan is responsible for the quality of the statistical information. All newly inputted statistical reports of SSC contain gender sections without fail. Annually Azerbaijan statisticians conduct surveys on the actual problems of socio-economic life of the country. Each of these surveys also contains gender themes.

All new and interesting information from a gender perspective is necessarily included in the statistical yearbook "Women and men in Azerbaijan" issued by SSC.

II. Violence against women: indicators and statistical sources

15. One of global problems confronted in humanity is the problem of violence, which as philosophical category penetrates all public relations.

And violence with respect to women – is a universal problem that has no geographical borders. Physical violence of women is more painful form of neglectful relation to woman. Life of many women is saddened also with threat of this violence. Sometimes it is reflected in rape. Statistics on violence and attempts to violations, the victims of which are mainly women, are collected by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), that annually presents this information to SSC of the country.

16. The Azerbaijanians, residents of Armenia, Daghlig Garabagh, that is an integral part of Azerbaijan, as well as residents of 7 regions situated around Daghlig Garabagh, were confronted with horrific acts of violence during the period of 1988-1993. Military aggression of neighbouring state were brought to Azerbaijan, along with numerous sacrifices and hostages, more than half of which were aged people and children. More than a million refugees and forced migrants, of which a significant part still live in tents and inhabitable places. 54 per cent of this category of migrants is women.

17. Improvement of the situation of women in Azerbaijan defines the general strategy and priority directions of the state policy regarding women. In 1995 Azerbaijan ratified the Convention on liquidation of all forms of discriminations as well as main documents on human rights.

18. On 1998 in the country there was established the State Committee on Women Problems, which develop the tasks and aims of gender in the framework of national policy and corresponding state planning.

19. As I have mentioned, the main government department responsible for data collection on violence is the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) that recognizes data collection on victims of

crimes in gender section since 2001. There are data on victims of the following types of crimes: premeditated murder, attempts to murder, grievous body injuries, kidnapping.

20. However the official statistics of MIA do not reflect the full picture of the problem of violence, particularly violence at home, as women rarely appeal to law-enforcement authorities and even to medical institutions suffering from proclaim of family wrangling. Information sources in such cases could be sociological surveys.

III. Social situation and gender equality

21. During the modern historical stage, it is most important for the country to provide for a transition to a stable social development. Social strategies directed to the creation of conditions for stable development of Azerbaijan include gender policy, as the social relations between women and men stand as one of main problems of XXI century.

22. Gender equality implies a new view on interrelations in the society between women and men. Today the new mechanisms of providing of gender equality are formed in Azerbaijan. They include state management structures in legislative, executive authority, sector of public unions and non-commercial organizations engaged in solving women's socio-economic problems. A package of normative-legal documents that regulates the processes of sex discrimination banning was accepted. Meetings, conferences and seminars on issues of rights equality and improvement of the socio-economic situation of women are held.

23. The real equality of rights and freedom could be obtained only based on recognition of value of each individual, creation of stable conditions for self-development of human intelligence, more full realization of his/her creative potential and creative abilities, comprehensive disclosure of essential forces and talents that will allow to provide valuable contribution of each individual in the development of the society. The transition of most countries to an information-oriented society – the society of intelligence, knowledge and thinking - creates basic possibilities for self-development and self-realization for every person. Due to social and cultural features and traditions, women were in a more difficult situation than men.

24. For realization of gender strategy it is required regularly to conduct research, including sociological monitoring, using of methods of modelling and forecasting, with the purpose of studying self-organizing and social processes, exposure of gender discrimination and reasons of its generation as well as development of purposes on harmonization of gender relations. First of all, gender-oriented *economic policies* are necessary. The effectiveness of the management in the field of state economic policy is defined by the support level, which is rendered for self-development in the field of economy, which considers the gender differences and warn the appearance of such negative phenomenon as sex discrimination in the field of employment, production and income distribution.

25. *Quality and living standards of the country population*, the political and social stability, trust of people in government and prestige of our country in world community opinion, directly depend on to what extent the government and civil society responsibly and operatively react to dynamics of changes in the field of gender relations, warning the appearance and extension of negative tendencies and stimulating the development of gender solidarity.

26. Effectiveness of the state policy and level of its social responsibility is mainly predetermined by the character and volume of long-term investments to "human capital", which

arises from personal abilities, knowledge and skills demanded by the society. The base of this capital makes the spiritual, cultural, psychological and physical health of women and men, and an important role in its reproduction plays birth and bringing up of children. The main functions of the state policy are the protection of maternity and childhood, increasing of social status of women/mothers who combine family duties with work, education, public work and civil activity. The main problem *in the filed of healthcare* is the providing of health protection of women and men during all life cycle.

27. For the beginning of 2004, there are 4,207,000 residents of our country, of which 51 per cent are female (... per cent reside in urban localities). The age structure of women of Azerbaijan is characterized by the following data: 25 per cent of women are at age under 15 years, 67 per cent – 15-64 years, 8 per cent – 65 years and over.

28. The share of women in the reproductive age groups, i.e. women aged 15-49 years, is 59 pre cent. On average, there are 2 children per woman. Last year, 46 per cent of infants born in our country were girls.

29. The activities conducted in the sphere of maternity health protection that are the priority directions in the field of healthcare, have been also continued in 2003. So as a result of the program on “Reproductive health and family planning” 24 centers were established. At the same time the program “Safe maternity and childcare” was also implemented. As a result of implementing the current program during last years the indicators characterizing medical services rendered to mothers and children have significantly improved. The program “Breastfeeding and people’s health” is also successfully realized. In the framework of this program, 29 district maternity hospitals had already received the status of “Clinic of benevolent attitude to newborns”. On May 2003 the legislation on “Nutrition of infants and children of early ages” was accepted by Parliament.

30. Women practically work in all fields of economy of the country and their share among employed population makes 48 per cent. In the country a track on providing of equal possibilities of receiving education for girls and boys has been consecutively conducted. Annually on average 140 thousand of first-class pupils enter to the country schools, of which each second is a girl. In general at educational schools there is almost no recorded demonstration of gender differences. For the beginning of 2003-2004 academic years 1680 thousand pupils were educated in day general educational schools, of which 806 thousand are girls. 48 girls and 52 boys are per 100 educated children. However there is another situation in secondary specialized educational institutions. Here girls are mainly anxious for receiving of secondary pedagogical and secondary medical education, where 70 per cent of enrollees were girls and 30 per cent boys. For the beginning of 2003/2004 academic years were educated 37 thousand girls and 15 thousand boys were educated in secondary specialized educational institutions.

31. In higher educational institutions the share of girls-students makes 40 per cent for several decades. For the beginning of 2003/2004 academic years 56 thousand women were educated in higher educational institutions of state and non-state sectors. Gender differences in the institutes of higher education are insignificant –42 pre cent of the enrollees are women and 58 per cent men.

32. Education enlarges women’s possibilities to participate in social life and improve quality of their life. Annually 250-350 female-post-graduate students improve the quality of their

education. Over many decades this makes more than a quarter of all post-graduate students in our country. In 2003 1178 post-graduate students or 27 per cent were women.

Pedagogical activity is always one of the first professions available for women. Women-teachers are always the main example of aspiration for education of girls. In state day general educational schools and secondary specialized educational institutions, two thirds of teachers on the staff are women, in higher educational institutions – 47 per cent.

33. A considerable role in the development of science of the republic also belongs to women. 52 per cent of the 17,190 of staff members engaged in research activities and development in 2003 made women. Scientific potential of our country has in its structure 10 women-members-correspondents and two women-academicians.
