

Theory of Civilization Waves, Position and Future Of Family in Slovakia

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Abstract

The contemporary demographic research dedicates great attention to formation and disintegration of family. Knowledge of such characteristic features of family, which affect reproduction process, is prioritised. The decisive part of reproduction during the historical development in Slovakia was bound to family environment. Family behaviour of inhabitants is the result of long-term development and reflects the effects of many economic, cultural, demographic and other factors. Contribution is attempt at interpretation of the family behaviour changes by the help of the civilization waves theory. The First civilization wave characterise agricultural production and multi-generation family (household). The dominant type, so-called nuclear family is typical for the Second civilization wave. It is created by two parents and there children. The Third civilization wave (information society) – social improvement base on the development and extension knowledge and information. For the significant factors are considered an increased level of education of the woman's part of population, higher women's employment rate, which is assuring their economic independence, high effectiveness of the applied methods of the birth-control together with liberalization of the abortion laws. These changes is the transition from the uniform family, to the broad-diversified forms of family and households. Informal unions (cohabitation) become massively widened within majority of the post-industrialized states. Family behaviour in Slovakia change and slowly obtain some fetures typical for the society in the Third wave.

Key words: civilization waves, family types, demographic behaviour, cohabitation, singles households, extramarital births

1. Introduction

Family - as an elementary population community – is at the focus of attention of several science discipline and it right to receive the attention of many social practice institutions. Traditionally, family is given a lot of attention in demographic research, with main orientation on the knowledge of the processes involved in the formation and destruction of the family, with respect to the population reproduction processes.

Despite strong tradition the demographic behaviour of the population in Slovakia has been shifting. These changes are represented by certain long-term trends that have been marked by certain acceleration over the last 15-20 years. Some of these changes are similar to those that occurred in the western European populations since the 1960s and are considered characteristic features of demographic behaviour in the period of 2nd demographic transition (Van de Kaa D. J. 1987, Lesthaeghe R. 1983, Pastor J. 2002, Mládek J. 1998, Mládek J., Širočková J. 2003, Marenčáková J. 2006).

Family behaviour in the period of 2nd demographic transition is strongly marked by individualism and personal freedom, replacing certain collective, community thinking and actions, characteristic for the previous development period.

Authors, who focus on the research and explanation of these changes in the family patterns, often present short-term observations. However, there is a wider view, that could enable to explain the changes of family behaviour over the long run and in the context of the general social development. The theoretical basis for such intentions can be provided by the theory of civilization waves. In our paper we will attempt to present the general principles of this theory, focusing on the areas that are related to family. Some of these principles will be confronted with the development of family behaviour in Slovakia.

2. Theory of civilization waves with special focus on family formation, functions and forms

The ambitions attempting to interpret the most general development trends in the society have been largely fulfilled by several prognostics (futurologist), especially A. and H. Toffler 1980, 1990, 1992, 1996. Aside from the general features of the theory of civilization waves, we will discuss especially the knowledge and conceptions on the development of family behaviour during individual development waves, about the forms and functions of the family. To a large extent, the issues of family behaviour are presented by the authors – Naisbit J., Aburden 1992, Naisbit, J. 1982, Fukuyama F. 2005.

In 1970 A. Toffler published his publication – Future Shock, in which the author divided the human race development into three civilization waves: the first wave – agrarian revolution, the second wave – industrial revolution, the third wave – information revolution (age).

The First Wave civilization is marked by development of agriculture, soil tillage. The soil has represented a production basis of economy, way of life, culture. The economy was decentralized; every community produced most of what it needed. The power was strictly authoritarian. This has led to spatial stability of the population, foundation of the towns. The first wave began about 8,000 years B.C. and lasted until about 1650-1750. Its manifestations and development are still present especially in agricultural and less developed regions of the world (Toffler A., Toffler H. 1996).

The form of a family, or household, can be derived from the method of economy. Numerous population groups – as multi-generation households – lived as a single production-economic unit. Their main objective was to provide for their living, defence against enemies, and their reproduction in the conditions of complicated family and inter-generation relations.

At the territory of present Slovakia, in the time of Middle Ages, the dominant form of family was the extended family (household) sometimes in the form of a kinship group. The unit consisted of blood-related members and can be characterized as a property, production, consumer and residential community. The rights and duties of individual members were determined on the basis of age and gender. The kinship group was lead by its oldest member - reeve, who was usually the founder of the community.

The beginning of the *Second Wave civilization* began to appear at the end of the 17th century, together with the start of the industrial revolution in Europe and later in the North America. This development was related to the expansion of science, especially engineering (use of steam engine). The development was supported by factory production, the system of mass production, mass consumption, mass education, mass media. The concentration of production required large labour force resulting in intense urbanization. The technological nature of the Second Wave implied adequate changes in the society, such as reinforcement of individual rights, secularization, and democratization of the society government (election of authorities). The conflicts between the subjects of the First and the Second Wave were often very dramatic and the conflicts between the industrial and the agrarian powers were often resolved by wars.

Over the 300 years of development, the dominant sings of the Second Wave civilization have developed mainly in the countries of the North America, Europe, South-East Asia and Australia. The Second Wave Civilization was indicated by Toffler A. 1980 to cover about ¼ of the Earth population. At the end of the last century Toffler A.1992 estimated, that up to 70% of the world population still lives in an environment where the main economic activity is the agriculture accompanied by other major elements of the First Wave.

Similar to other areas of the social system, the form and function of a family is changing during the period of the Second Wave. Large multi-generation households and production-economic communities are not optimal for the new system. The ties of families to their soil are becoming weaker and links to industry are becoming important. This has enabled an increased mobility of the population and family (moving to cities). Some of the previously family functions are shifted to specialized institutions – upbringing of children in schools, health care provided by hospitals. A large multi-generation household, with strong internal ties, is falling apart. A nuclear family consisting of the father, mother and their children is becoming the new model of a standard family. The economic needs of the family are provided for by the father, the mother is taking care of the household and upbringing of children. This type – nuclear family has assumed a major position in the developed countries of the world for a long time.

The last development stage is represented by the *Third Wave of Civilization*. From the many names used for this era (information age, electronic era, space age, technotronic age, post-industrial society, scientific-technological revolution, super-industrial society), a reinforcement of the dominant attributes and development forces can be deduced. The appropriate label for the moving force of the Third Wave could be the information revolution. The development and propagation of the knowledge and information is considered to be the major source of the growth of the productivity and social development.

The Third Wave is proposed to have started in the 1950s (in the USA the number of people working in the services exceeded the number of people working in production). Gradually also the remaining developed countries successfully integrate the computers and computer technology in the production process, education, the information and innovation have major impact on financial services, health care, military defence, management of the society. The mass production – a typical feature of the Second Wave is replaced by highly-specialized, small-series production.

Demassification is a process that affects the production but also many aspects of the life of the society – culture, education, mass media and others. The homogeneity of the Second Wave is gradually being replaced by the heterogeneity of the Third Wave (Toffler A. 1996).

The Third Wave is spreading much faster than the previous two waves. However, the withdrawal of some of the elements of the Second Wave is not entirely voluntary. Education, information technology, knowledge based economy; all of this requires great capital investments, the deficit of which may aid in the development and preservation of many elements of the Second Wave for some time. In 1966 Tofflers maintained, that the “transition from the Second Wave brute force economy to the intelligent economy of the Third Wave has not been completed anywhere yet“ (page 33).

The Third Wave, with its characteristic changes, also affects the demographic and family behaviour. The universal model of nuclear family is subject to demassification and there are other forms of families and households developing – most commonly families with a single parent, childless families, single households, common law marriage (informal cohabitation) and others. Many of these new forms of families and households result from the changed function (economic and social) position of the nuclear family. The main factor is the changed position of women. In the economic sense a woman is becoming a major player in the economic process and may become an irreplaceable source of economic improvement for the family. At the same time, individual interests of a woman are becoming very important as a part of the emancipation process. The growth of the education level of women as well as their self-confidence is reflected in their effort to apply their own life ambition in extra familial interests. If this process forms certain economic independence between men and women in the family, it also implies the changes of various demographic processes and formation of the population structures.

The efforts to achieve the economic independence of both partners in the family, to improve their education level, to achieve certain professional position at their jobs often lead to postponement of marriage and especially to the postponement of the first child. This development is reflected in the increase of the average marriage age and the age of women giving birth to their first child. As a consequence this leads to reduced rate of marriage but especially to the reduction of birth rate and fertility and to reduced population growth.

A different view – one that is much more dramatic – is applied to the development trends of the 2nd half of the 20th century by author Fukuyama F. 2005. In the title of his book - “The Great Disruption” – the author has expressed his critical view and significant concerns. The transition from industrial to the information society is associated with a sequence of adverse events in the social and moral life (increase in criminality, social unrest, destruction of family relations, etc.). According to Fukuyama, the trend is not without a way out. The disrupted social order always has a tendency towards repair on a new relations basis and to generate a new moral-legislative platform.

With respect to the reproductive and family behaviour, Fukuyama F. 2005 points out the consequences of “The Great Disruption” – reduced birth rate in the European countries and in Japan. The birth rate does not even provide for simple reproduction and without mass immigration, many countries would begin to depopulate. This adverse development brings about the reduced number of marriages, increased divorce rate and increased extramarital births. The development of individualism has “eroded virtually all forms of authority and weakened the ties that held together the family, neighbourhood and state” (page 17).

3. The Third Wave and the family behaviour of the population in Slovakia

The social development in Slovakia has numerous aspects remaining of the Third Wave of civilization (informatization, increased education level, improved services, efforts to implement knowledge-based economy, etc.). However, this process has only been started and many of these new elements have to contest the strong position of the characteristic features of the Second Wave (development of certain industrial segments). Similarly – also in family behaviour – there are trends to change certain traditional aspects which are modified or replaced by new ones. These changes are related to the size and structure of the family and household, increasing number of single-member households, increased number of co-habitations, increasing extramarital birth rate. In the reproduction process this has led to the decreased natural population growth and its stabilization at about zero level.

3.1 Reduced marriage rate, increased average marriage age and models of family formation

The period of reduced marriage rate has started in 1980. From 42,000 – 44,000 marriages per year (gross marriage rate of 8 - 9‰) the number has dropped to a historical minimum in 2001 (23,000, 4.4‰). The rate of marriage is a parameter that directly reacts to the changes of social conditions and thus the major reduction of the marriage rate was observed at the very beginning of the transformation process in the period of 1991 - 1994.

The reduction of the marriage rate is most often explained by the tendency to postpone the marriage to later age. Traditional distribution of the age of first marriage has shown a major peak in the age category of 20 – 24 for both genders. In men, this maximum has begun to shift to the age category 25 – 29 at the end of the 1990s, in women this shift can be observed only in recent years. At the same time, there is a quite significant reduction of the marriage rate in the younger age categories. Increased marriage rate in both sexes is observed in the age group above 30 (figs 1, 2). This is confirmed by the growth of the average marriage age and the average age of the first marriage (fig. 3).

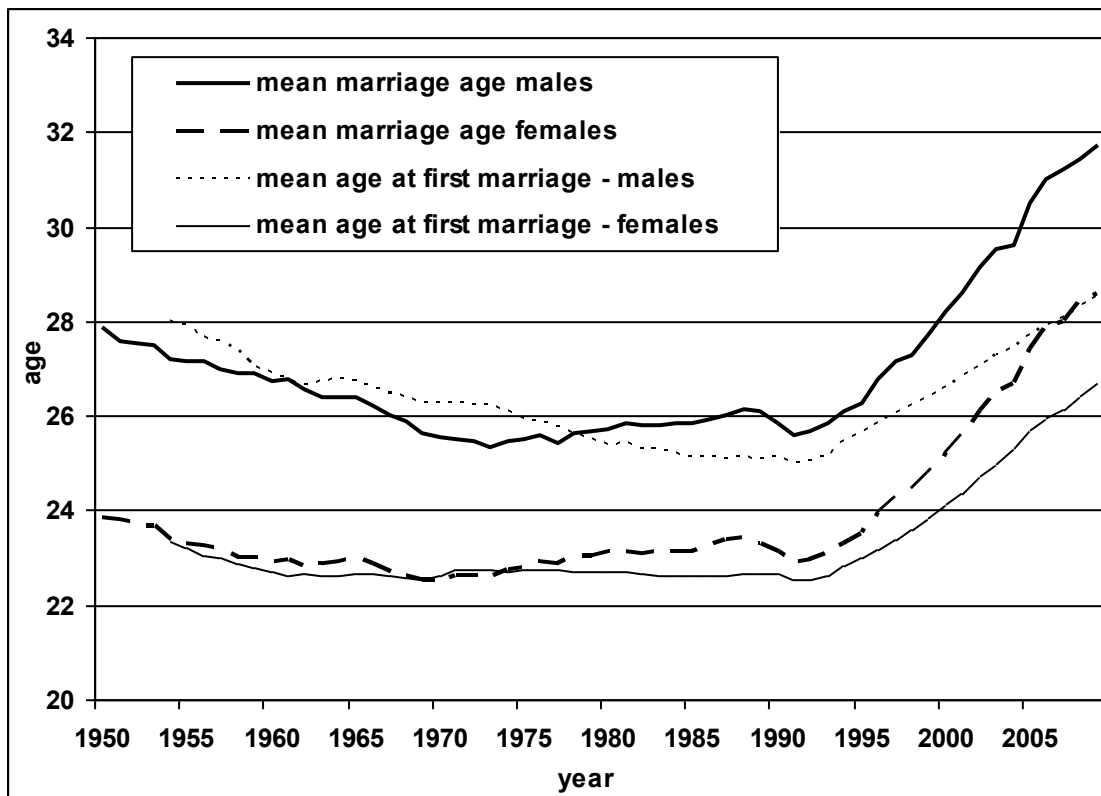


Figure 3 Mean age at marriage

Specific geographical features related to the rate of marriage in Slovakia depend mainly on the cultural, historical, social and economic parameters of this territory.

There are many aspects that have major or lesser impact on the marriage rate. Among the most important factors are the age structure of the population – mainly the number and proportion of the population at the marriage age, the proportion of urban population, religiosity of the population, education level, social and economic parameters. A synthetic view of the marriage in individual regions of Slovakia is presented by the results of the factor and cluster analysis (Mládek J., Širočková J. 2004b). The input data consisted of 9 marriage parameters, grouped into two factors using factor analysis: the first is the factor of the marriage age – characterized by the average age at 1st marriage, average age at marriage, the proportion of first marriages separately for men and women. The second factor is the factor of intensity of marriage, represented by the crude rate of marriage, total number of marriages of men and women.

The cluster analysis was based on the score of these two factors. The spatial differentiation of the marriage behaviour is expressed through 5 clusters (fig.4).

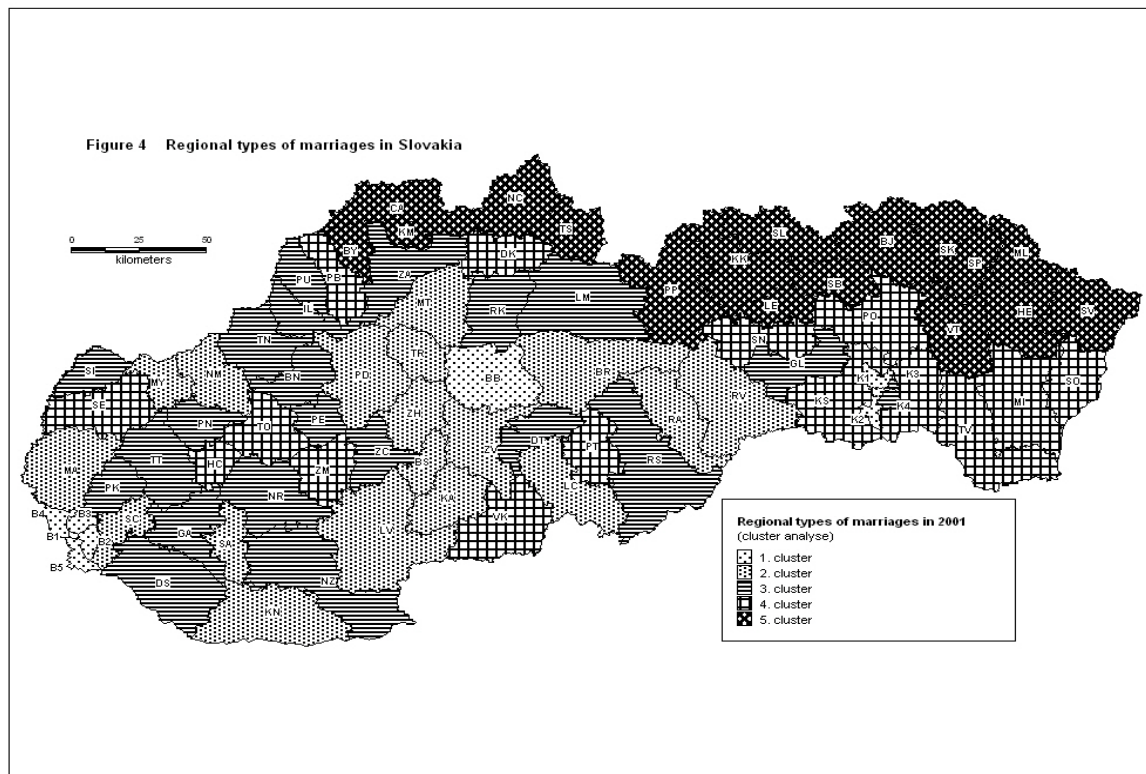


Figure 4 Regional types of marriages in Slovakia

Cluster 1 – Very late marriage type – characteristic for 8 districts with typically higher urbanization (Bratislava, Košice I, Košice II districts and Banská Bystrica district).

This cluster achieved the highest factor of the marriage age – the highest average age at the first marriage, highest average age at marriage and the lowest proportion of the first marriages. Low marriage rate resulting from the typically urban environment is characterized by higher individualism, more education and business opportunities, etc. On the other hand – especially thanks to the younger age structure of the population – the marriage potential of the population is higher in these regions.

Cluster 2 – Late marriage type – mostly the districts in the central, south Slovakia and several districts in the west of Slovakia.

The characteristic feature of this type is the lowest crude marriage rate and total marriage rate. Many of these districts have lower marriage potential of the population, resulting from ageing of the population. The marriage age factor is on par with average.

Cluster 3 – Transitional type – this is the largest cluster – made up of 22 districts in the western Slovakia, central and upper Váh region and several districts in the Eastern Slovakia.

The intensity of marriage is at the average level. The age at marriage is average or lower than average.

Cluster 4 – Early marriage type – 14 districts in the Eastern Slovakia and several districts in the central and Western Slovakia.

These districts are represented by a relatively low marriage age. There is a higher rate of first marriages. The intensity of marriage is significantly higher. The influence of traditional values and standards, tightly bound to cultural and religious traditions, is very visible.

Cluster 5 – Very early marriage type – 17 districts in the north of Slovakia with the lowest age of marriage, lowest age at first marriage and the highest rate of first marriage. The characteristic feature of this cluster is the highest intensity of marriage. These regions are less developed and have a very high influence of traditional values and standards in relation to reproduction and family behaviour.

3.2 Household and family size and structure

Certain information on changes of the family behaviour of the population can be acquired from the population census results – the information on the number, size and structure of the census households. The trend in the period between 1961 – 2001 is characterized by a relatively rapid reduction of the size of the Slovak households. (from 3.53 persons in 1961 to 2.66 persons per census household in 2001 – table 1). In parallel with this trend, a reduction of the number of households with the greatest number of members can be observed. While the number of households with 2 members remained stable, the greatest change was observed in relation to households with a single person – from 9.3% to 30%.

Most of the population in the SR lives in complete families, although the proportion is continuously dropping (table 2). While in 1961 complete families amounted to 81.2% of all census households, in 2001 the proportion was reduced to 56.4%.

Table 1 Census households by size in period 1961-2001

	1961		1970		1980		1991		2001	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total:	1 183 316	100	1 344 687	100	1 660 477	100	1 832 484	100	2 071 743	100
Persons:										
1	109 692	9,30	160 802	11,9	328 188	19,8	399 288	21,79	622 023	30,0
2	281 416	23,80	317 175	23,6	384 931	23,1	438 827	23,95	481 628	23,2
3	251 085	21,20	276 534	20,6	316 917	19,1	336 692	18,37	370 966	17,9
4	247 157	20,90	294 501	21,9	374 926	22,6	421 569	23,01	404 046	19,6
5	153 657	13,00	166 997	12,4	168 021	10,1	168 523	9,20	134 617	6,5
6	74 549	6,30	72 119	5,4	55 090	3,3	67 585	3,69	58 463	2,8
7	65 760	5,50	30 208	2,2	18 272	1,1	*	*	*	*
8 and more	*	*	26 351	2,0	14 132	0,9	*	*	*	*
Average number of persons	3,53		3,37		3,01		2,88		2,66	

Source: Slovenský štatistický úrad 1961, 1970, 1980, 1991, Štatistický úrad SR 2003

Table 2 Census households by kind in period 1961-2001

kind of household	1961		1970		1980		1991		2001	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Complete families	960 348	81,2	1 055 744	78,5	1 171 976	70,6	1 234 473	67,4	1 168 023	56,4
without children	396 875	33,5	461 652	34,3	535 644	32,3	472 137	25,8	524 020	25,3
with children	563 473	47,6	594 092	44,2	636 332	38,3	762 336	41,6	644 103	31,1
Incomplete families	99 612	8,4	115 050	8,6	136 360	8,2	190 931	10,4	246 358	11,9
without children	*	*	*	*	76 500	4,6	91 785	5,0	108 029	5,2
with children	*	*	*	*	59 860	3,6	99 146	5,4	138 329	6,7
Non-familie houtholds	13 664	1,1	13 091	1,0	23 953	1,4	7 792	0,4	35 339	1,7
One-person houtholds	109 692	9,3	160 802	11,9	328 188	19,8	399 288	21,8	622 023	30,0
Total	1 183 316	100	1 344 687	100	1 660 477	100	1 832 484	100	2 071 743	100

Source: Slovenský štatistický úrad 1961, 1970, 1980, 1991, Štatistický úrad SR 2003

An opposite trend was observed in relation to incomplete families, with the proportion in 1961 at 8.4% increasing to 11.9% by 2001. The causes can be linked to increased divorce rates or to the increased number of single mothers.

3. 3 Singles (census) households

A specific feature of the family behaviour of the population is the increase in the number of singles households. Their permanent or temporary life plans lack the institute of marriage, establishment of a family and upbringing of children. This form of behaviour reached its peak in the 2nd half of the 20th century, especially in the developed European countries – as a consequence of several demographic and social factors, such as the process of urbanization, improved material conditions of the population (including the housing conditions and housing services) increasing level of education, especially in women. At the same time there is the continuing process of secularization, sexual liberalization. Increased divorce rate also increases the number of singles households. Very important is the acceptance by the society of the single men and women, including their professional career.

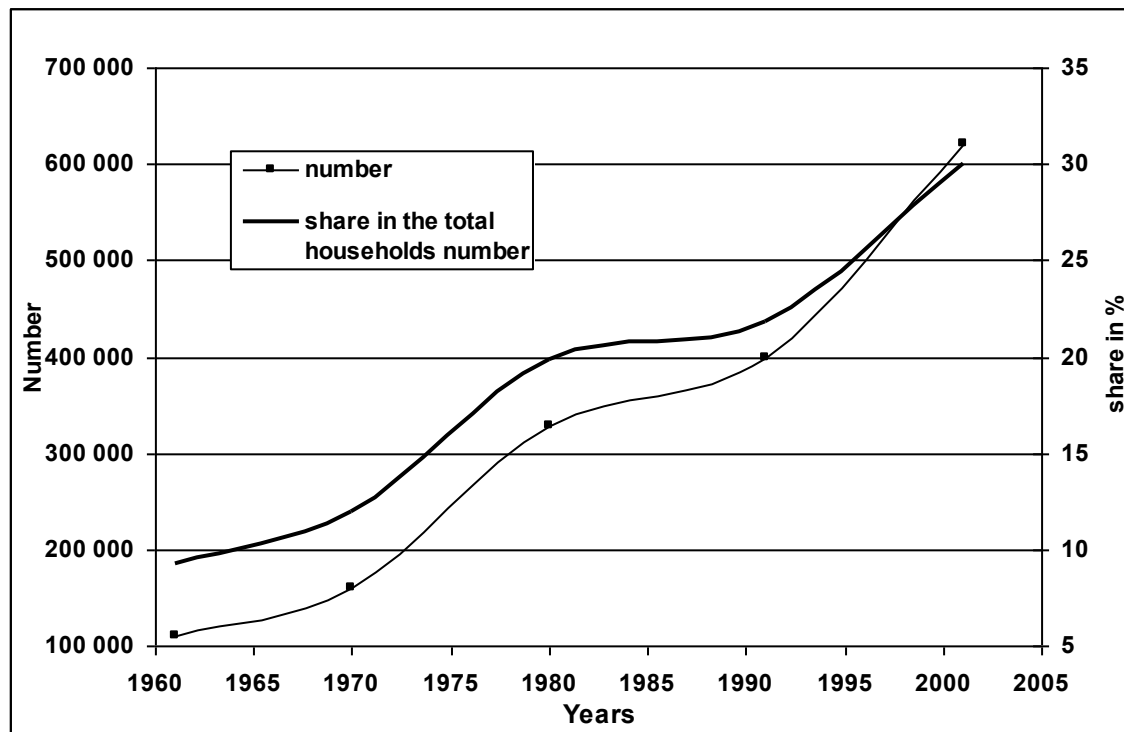


Figure 5 Development of the single households in Slovakia

Similar trends in the family behaviour can be observed in Slovakia as well. In 1961 there were almost 110,000 singles households, i.e. 9.3% of all households. By 2001 this number increased to almost 622,000 amounting to 30% of all census households (fig.5). In 2001 every 6th adult person lived alone.

When analyzing the increase in the number of singles households, it is necessary to consider the structure of these individuals by age and marital status (fig.6). In 2001 only less than 2/5 of all population was in the reproductive age, i.e. 3/5 of the population had no impact on the reproduction processes. Almost 1/3 of the population was older than 70 years and up to 41% of this population were women. With respect to marital status, many of the men were unmarried (45%). In case of women, 24% were unmarried. High percentage is made up of widowed women (57%) especially in the category of 70 and older (86%).

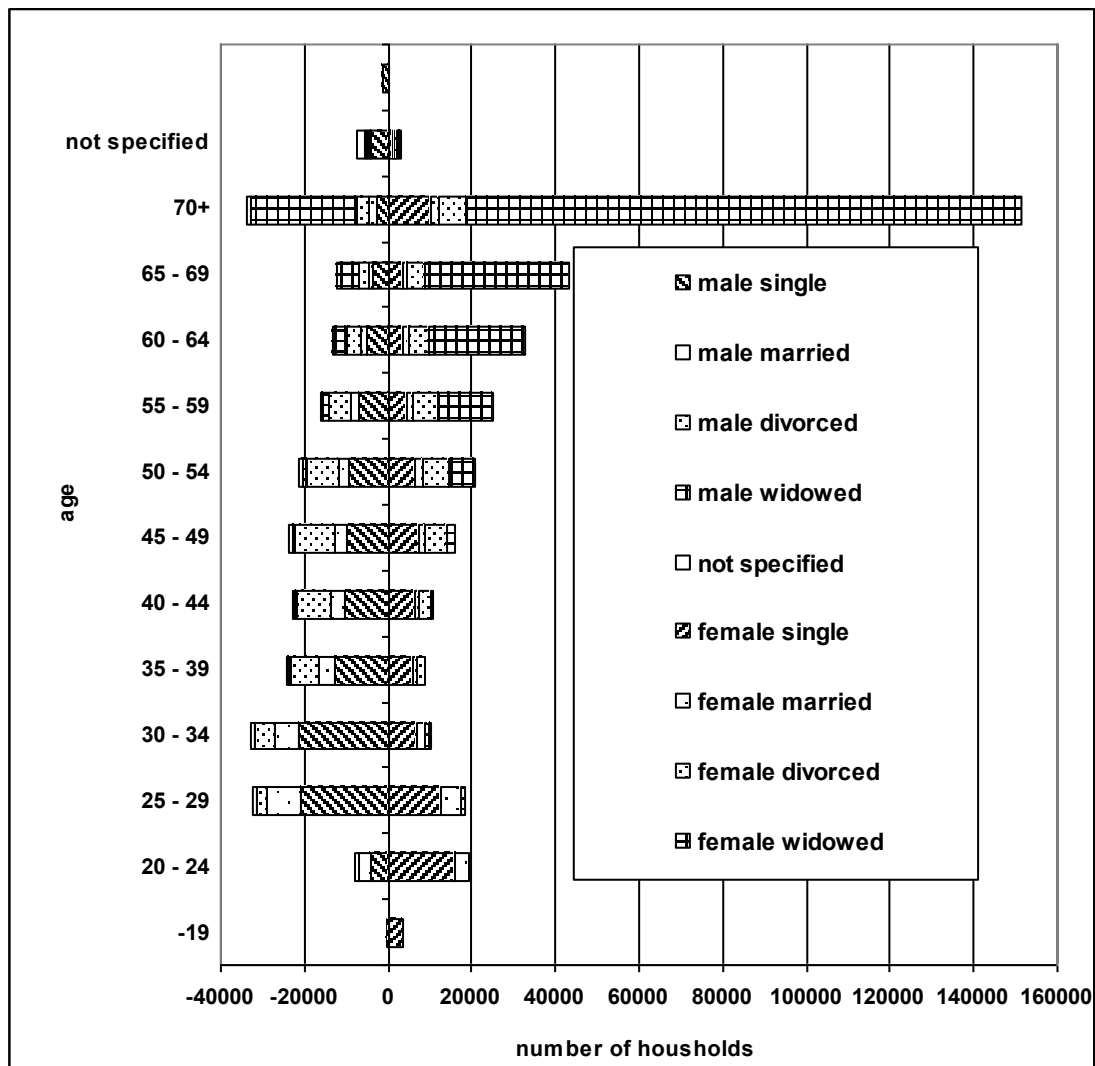


Figure 6 Single households by age, sex and marital status in 2001

The increase in the number of “singles” households in Slovakia is the consequence of the growing preference to this lifestyle especially in younger and unmarried categories of the population. In 1961, 29,000 unmarried individuals were living in singles households, by the year of 2001 this number increased seven-fold (200,000) and the proportion increased to 32%. In the category of elderly, the most frequent cause of living in the “single household” is the divorce or the loss of the previous partner (widowing). With increasing mean life expectancy the number of individuals for whom living in single household is an inevitable outcome will continue to increase.

3.4 Cohabitation (common-law marriage)

Cohabitation is the form of coexistence of two adult partners of different genders, living together as a man and a woman for an extended time period who live and manage in a common household outside of a wedlock. Children of one or both of the partners may live in such an arrangement.

Together with increasing number of cohabitations, many forms of this type of arrangements arose (Král'ová 1995, Klein, Lengere, Uzelac 2002, Coleman 1988, Rabušic 2001).

Over the last 40 years the informal partnership arrangements, cohabitations have seen massive expansion in most post-industrial states and became a common form of partnership arrangement. Increased education level of women, their higher employment rate enabling their economic independence, highly efficient contraception and liberal abortion laws are considered to be the major factors contributing to the increasing number and intensity of cohabitations.

The statistical surveys in Slovakia, as part of the population census, also collect data on cohabitation couples. At the time of the 1991 population census there were 20,864 cohabitations in Slovakia and by 2001 this number increased to 30,466. The intensity of cohabitations is not great. In 1991 there were 1.65 cohabitation individuals per 100 married individuals. In 2001 this figure increased to 2.68.

With respect to the age structure of the cohabitants in Slovakia, the figures for women and men differ by age categories. The number of female cohabitants is quickly growing with age and the peak number is observed in the category of 25-30 years old. The second peak is not so significant, high numbers are observed in the category of 35-45 year old. Similarly the number of male cohabitants is rapidly growing with age and the first peak can be observed in the category of 25-30. However, a distinct maximum is observed in the category 45-50.

With respect to the marital status most cohabitants are single unmarried individuals of both genders. Relatively high figures can be observed in the category of divorced individuals living in cohabitations (Mládek, Širočková 2004).

3.5 Extramarital births

In the absence of the complete and reliable data on the number of informal family (marriage, partnership) arrangements in the inter-census period, auxiliary data is often used, such as the data on extramarital fertility – assuming that increasing number of partners choose to remain in informal cohabitation and their children remain in this form of arrangement.

In Slovakia the number of extramarital births was traditionally low, especially in comparison to western European countries. In 1950, 5.5% of children were born out of wedlock and by the 2001 the number of children born outside of wedlock increased to 19.7% and in 2009 this figure grew to 31.6%. (fig.7). From the chart it can be seen that the curves, representing the total number of births and the number of children born to married couples is decreasing significantly – especially in the 1990s. Growing trend can be observed only in the curves representing the numbers and proportions of children born out of wedlock.

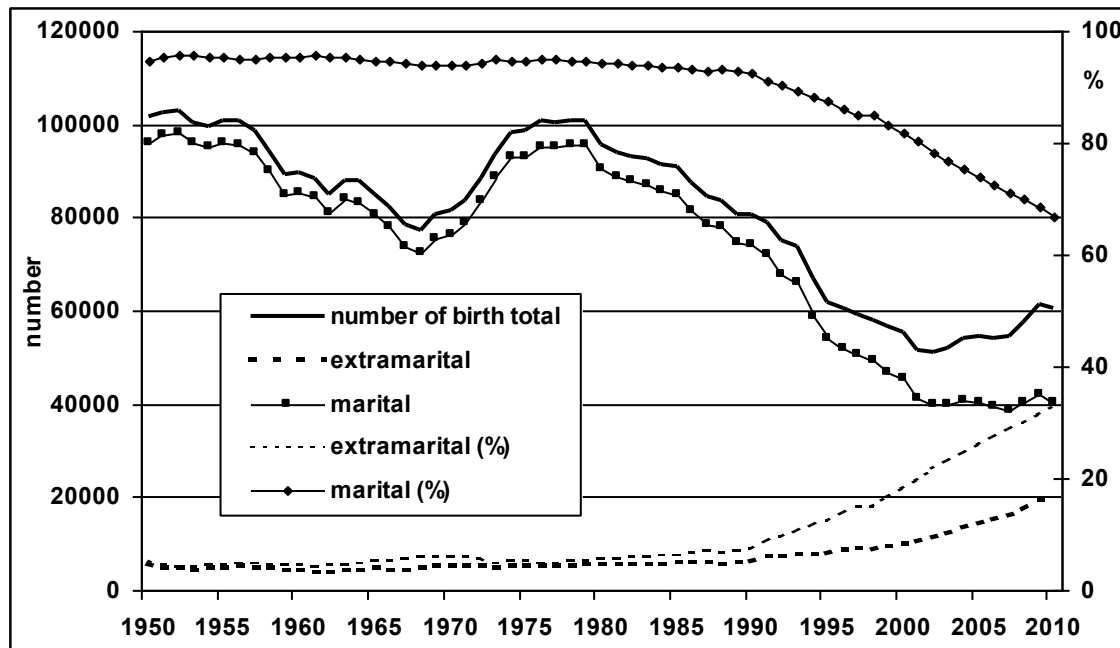


Figure 7 Development of the marital and extramarital natality in Slovakia

3.6 Increasing divorce

Divorce, as one of the forms of legal termination of marriage, is a negative demographic occurrence with respect to formation of family as well as with respect to the reproduction of population. At the same time, it is also a serious social phenomenon, affecting many social, legal and economic factors.

Historically, the divorce has been low in Slovakia – confirming the notion of the stability of family and certain conservative aspects in the family behaviour. This had been true until the end of the 2nd World War. Since the 1950s, with growing liberalization of the divorce legislation, the divorce has been growing more rapidly. The crude rate of divorce was increased from 0.5‰ in 1950 to 2.3‰ in 2009. The number of divorces was increasing and in 2009 it reached 12,671. These figures rank Slovakia among European states with average rate of divorce. In 1990 there were 22 divorces per 100 marriages and by 2009 this index rose to 48.1%. This is also a consequence of the rapid decrease in the number of marriages in this period.

Distribution of divorce rate according to the length of marriage is not uniform and subject to gradual shift. The trends demonstrate that the average duration of marriage is gradually growing. In 1991 the average duration of marriage was 11.0 and in 2007 it was 14.2.

Worthy of attention is also the trend of divorce rate in association with the number of children. With the growing number of children the divorce rate is dropping, children are the stabilizing element of marriage and family. Divorce shows a certain spatial differentiation in Slovakia (fig. 8). In an effort to present a more complex view of the spatial differentiation, the regionalization of divorce has been worked out. Three types of regions were identified in Slovakia: regions with high level of divorce, regions with the mean level of divorce, and regions with low level of divorce. Classification of the individual districts into the specified types of regions was realized on the basis of their incidence within the extremely high, or low divorce indicator levels (crude divorce rate, divorce index).

The region with high level of divorce largely includes the districts situated in the middle and south of Slovakia, in addition two independent regional units – the districts of Bratislava and Košice. In these districts, it is manifested by the reduced natality, changes in the family structure, low numbers of families with more children, and above-average numbers of families with one child.

The region with the mean level of divorce consisted of three regional units: the region of almost all western Slovakia, northern Slovakia and southeastern Slovakia.

The region with a low level of divorce consists of two regional units: northern and eastern Slovakia. These regions were less developed in the past, and also today are prevailing economically underdeveloped. The demographic behaviour of the population is relatively strongly affected by religiousness, which is also reflected in the marriage and family behaviour. Divorce is an acceptable solution of the matrimonial causes only in extreme cases.

Figure 8 Divorce regions in Slovakia

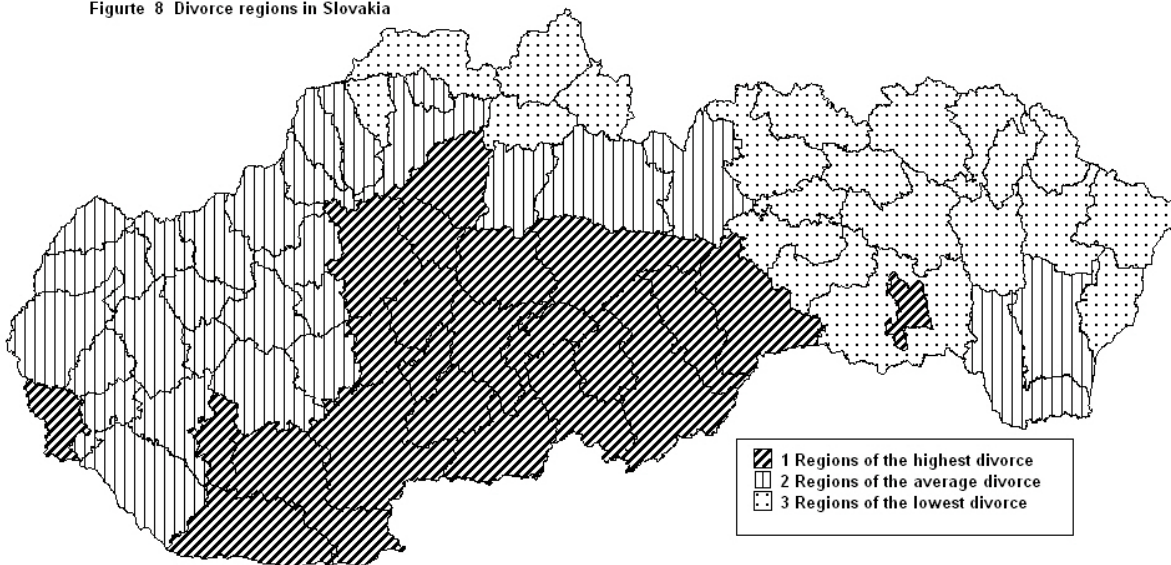


Figure 8 Divorce regions in Slovakia

4. Conclusion

Family is often considered to be one of the “eternal” institutions of society. In various modifications it occurs in all historical periods and in all cultures. It is not a static institution; changes affect its form, size and structure of interpersonal relations, as well as various functions including the reproductive function.

In the Second Wave of civilization, nuclear family has acquired a dominant position. Its form and role best fit the particular social conditions and social development. In the countries with forming features of the Third wave of civilization, the unequivocal dominance of the nuclear family is gradually diminishing. There is a growing number of childless families, incomplete families and non-family households begin to appear as well as a significant number of singles households. These development trends can be considered a part of the process of demassification of the global social development (politics, art, education, housing, business, etc.).

The recent period of development of new forms of family, households and cohabitation is relatively short. Also this process is taking place in a relatively small space. Therefore it is possible to assume its continuation in time and extension to other regions of the world where the Third Wave civilization will form. It is also probable that new forms of family and household will arise, increasing the diversity. Formation of special interest-based groups of elderly can be expected, as well as increase in the number of aggregate families (members from divorced families), grouping of several families for the purpose of common cohabitation, work, upbringing of small children, etc.

The development of demographic behaviour - including the family behaviour - in Slovakia is not isolated – it is subject to the generally applicable rules of demographic development. Specific effects of regional factors always play an important role. At this very early phase of the development of the characteristic features of the Third Wave of civilization, the diversity of family and household forms in Slovakia is already on the rise.

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