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## ANALYSIS OF THE PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PILOT POPULATION CENSUS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN 2021

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### ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the program and forms of questionnaires used during the pilot population census in November 2021 year in the territories of the Khojaabad district of Andijan region, Yurkichirchik district of Tashkent region, in the city of Khiva Khorezm region and Yashnabad district of Tashkent city in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 11, 2020 №710 On measures for organizing and conducting the population census of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as relevant proposals for improving the forms of surveys for the population census are given, which will be held at the republican level in the future.

### KEYWORDS

Pilot population census, program of population census, forms of questionnaire of population census, form on individual questions, certain category of the population, respondent, households.

### INTRODUCTION

Demographic processes play an important role in the socio-economic development of every country, and the scientific study of population growth, location, demographic composition and other important aspects is important. The population has a decisive role in the development of society as both a productive

force and a consumer. The demographic situation is at the center of economic reforms aimed at forming a stable and efficient economy in the republic.

A unique demographic situation has arisen in Uzbekistan, which is characterized by an increase in the population growth rate, an increase in the birth rate, a

decrease in the death rate, and at the same time, the number of the population of working age is reflected in its increase.

In the speech to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan on December 20, 2022, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the country's population exceeded 36 million last years, and 900,000 new generations are entering every year. We are trying to create the necessary conditions for each member of the big and friendly family called Uzbekistan to live a peaceful and prosperous life. People ask us to build new schools, kindergartens and hospitals, improve the quality of education and medicine, solve problems related to drinking water and electricity, roads and transport, increase the number of jobs, entrepreneurship. they expect us to create new opportunities for them, to ensure justice, to eliminate red tape, bureaucracy and corruption. Therefore, the principle of "First - the individual, then - the society and the state" serves as the basis for the transformation of the new Uzbekistan.

The most accurate and convincing information about the population is collected through the census, and they have their own characteristics. The census is a special scientifically based statistical practice, the purpose of which is to obtain information about the number and composition of the population. The census makes it possible to collect data of a demographic nature about the absolute entire population of the country, study these processes and systematize them,

serves as the basis for the development of population and composition forecasts, as well as other demographic forecasts.

Based on the results of the census, it will be possible to make feedback and reflections on the past and present, as well as forecast the future.

In a number of cases, the census serves as the only source of information about the age, gender, national composition, level of education, marital status, employment and other descriptions of the population. The census is a large-scale nationwide event that allows you to take a "photo" of the population of the country at a certain time, and is a reliable source of information about the population.

Based on the above, regulatory and legal documents regulating the field of population registration, including the Law "On Census" in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to prepare and conduct Population Registration in the Republic of Uzbekistan, is a historical normative document that is being adopted for the first time, laid the base for the regulation of relations related to the holding of a census event, which has not been held for many years. In obtaining reliable and accurate information about the population during the census, the form of the census questionnaire, that is, the questions that make up the questionnaire, their content, place and order of questions and the design of the questionnaires are

important. is important and has a direct impact on the analysis of the final results of the census.

ANALYSIS THEMATIC LITERATURES

Based on the above, scientists from foreign countries such as N.Kachanova, N.A.Smirnova, Ye.A.Gataulina, G.S.Solodova, S.A.Smirnov, B.Edmonston, Ch.Schulz, Constance F.Sitro and the others are interested in researching the problems of the Census, its program and the development of forms of the questionnaire.

Scientific, methodological and practical aspects of the population census, the history of the population census are partially reflected in the scientific works of the national scientists such like I.K. Gulyamov, N.B. Tula and others.

METHODS

In the process of research conducted on the analysis of the form of the census questionnaire and the adaptation of the questionnaires to the recommendations of international organizations were

widely used methods such like statistical tables and graphs, induction and deduction, statistical grouping, working in groups, interviews, analysis and synthesis, etc.

The forms of the census questionnaire used during the pilot population census in November 2021 were selected as the object of our research.

The purpose of conducting our research is to develop proposals for improving the forms of the pilot population census that allows to obtain effective results of the population census.

The world experience of the population census and the development of questionnaire forms shows that all countries that have held this event have been using several questionnaire forms for the purpose of registering the population and housing stock. Questions in questionnaire forms should be close to each other in terms of content and quantity to allow mutual comparison [6].

Table 1

Information on the number of questions included in the census questionnaire for the CIS countries [7]

	Total number of questions	Questionnaire by place of residence and household members	Personal questionnaire	Migration (temporary residents)	Questionnaire on special institutions	Questionnaire for agricultural activity
Russian Federation	53	16	30	7	-	-
Republic of Belarus	76	15	38	12	5	6

	Total number of questions	Questionnaire by place of residence and household members	Personal questionnaire	Migration (temporary residents)	Questionnaire on special institutions	Questionnaire for agricultural activity
Republic of Kazakhstan	75	18	45	12	-	-
Republic of Tajikistan	62	15	38	9	-	-
Republic of Kyrgyzstan	47	16	31	-	-	-
Republic of Azerbaijan	53	9	44	-	-	-

**Source:** The table was formed by the author as a result of the analysis of the questionnaire forms of the population census conducted in the CIS countries.

As can be seen from the table above, the questions in the questionnaire forms of the 2019 population census of the Republic of Belarus are the questionnaires with the most questions among the CIS countries. In addition to the population census, these questionnaires also included questions related to agriculture, from households living in courtyards to statistics of Belarus. The rest of the time, registration in the agricultural sector is carried out using a separate questionnaire form.

If we analyze by the types of questionnaire forms, the number of questions in the form of a satellite questionnaire for the place of residence and household members is almost the same. According to the form of the personal questionnaire, the number of questions is relatively higher in the Republics of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. This is justified by the inclusion of questions about disabilities in this questionnaire form, which are

not included in other countries. Also, questions about the monthly income of the population, which are not found in other countries, have been added in the questionnaire form of the population census questionnaire of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It should be noted that this type of question is not reflected in the recommendations of the Economic Commission for Europe of the UN and the Intergovernmental Statistical Committee of the CIS. The inclusion of this type of question in the questionnaire means that the government needs this type of information.

In the above table, in the questionnaires of the Republics of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, the questions are considered to be the main question, and the sub-questions and clarifying questions have a relatively smaller share.

In accordance with the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of

the Republic of Uzbekistan on November 1-25, 2021, a pilot population census was held in Khojaabad District of Andijan region, Yukori Chirchik District of Tashkent region, Khiva City of Khorezm region and Yashnabad district of Tashkent.

In these processes, the pilot census program, approved by the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 710 of November 11, 2020 on measures to prepare and conduct a census in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as forms of questionnaire developed on the basis of this program, are filled out on the basis of a survey among the population.

The pilot census program consists of 11 sections, divided into 11 sections according to relevance, each section is dedicated to specific “topics”. Including: [2]

1. Questions related to basic demographic indicators;
2. Questions related to the mechanical movement and migration of the population;
3. National characteristics of the population, questions related to citizenship;
4. Questions related to the level of education of the population;
5. Questions related to the economic status of household members;
6. Questions related to the employment of the population;
7. Questions about the number of children;
8. Questions related to housing characteristics;

9. Questions related to the healthy lifestyle of household members;
10. Questions on the collection of personal information about citizens of foreign countries and stateless persons who have temporarily arrived in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
11. Questions about certain categories of the population.

The pilot population census program covers all layers of the population and allows to collect complete information about the population. This, in turn, creates the basis for the formation of accurate information about the number of unemployed in which region of the republic, the level of provision of kindergartens, schools, sports facilities, living conditions of the population, and the state of internal and external migration of the regions.

The pilot population census forms based on the above-mentioned questions of the population census program consist of 5 forms [4]:

1-shakl “Characteristics of the dwelling and the list of residents”: This form consists of 3 sections; each section is designed to receive certain types of information. In particular, section 1 of this form is called “Dwelling characteristics” and includes the type of ownership of the respondent’s place of residence, its type, the total living area of the residence, the number of living rooms and their area, the time of construction, the materials of the external walls, available at the place of residence they answer questions about

amenities, including sanitary and hygienic conditions. Section 2 reflects the provision of long-term equipment by household members. In section 3, all household members living in the residence are included in the list of the number of households and household members living in this place. In this, the kinship relations of the residents to each other, where each of them lives at the time of the population census, whether they live permanently or temporarily, and if there is a temporary absence, the reason and duration are recorded.

2-shakl “Personal Questionnaire” is filled out for each person from 1-shakl “Characteristics of the dwelling and the list of residents” and everyone listed as household members in section 3 of the questionnaire form. This questionnaire consists of 23 main questions. It should be noted that these questions are divided into logical blocks. In particular, questions are asked within the framework of topics such as basic demographic indicators, migration indicators, respondents' marital status, education level, health of the population and mothers, children, employment and unemployment rate, economic situation. It should be noted that there are age-gender limits for the questions. This is of great importance in the establishment of appropriate logical controls when entering information about the population into the database.

3-shakl “Questionnaire for foreign citizens who have temporarily arrived in the Republic of Uzbekistan” is filled out for persons who live abroad permanently, but

come to the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the time of the population census and are temporarily living or staying in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and cause inconvenience to them. This questionnaire consists of 6 questions in order not to bother and take up a lot of their time.

4-shakl “Questionnaire on the collection of personal data for certain categories of the population”: This questionnaire form is for those who live permanently in special institutions listed in Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Population Census” is formed for the purpose of census, the name of the institution, the type and the total number of respondents in this institution are formed. 2-shakl “Personal Questionnaire” is also filled out for each registered respondent[3].

5-shakl “Control sheet for citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan and stateless persons according to their place of temporary residence”: when citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan are temporarily staying in a place other than their permanent residence, the number of inhabitants is registered at both these addresses. A control sheet was developed in order to prevent it from being exceeded, i.e. adding one person to the population twice. This checklist consists of 3 sections. In section 1, the respondent's temporary residence address is filled in completely, in section 2, the respondent's permanent residence address is filled in completely. Section 3 is filled in by the staff of the census department. The control sheet and the

completed Form 2 for this respondent will be sent to the census department at the permanent address of the respondent. In this process, the control sheet and Form 2 will be checked by the officer in charge of the census department from which the Form 2 was received and the completed Form 2 will be left based on the respondent's own words. and the second copy will be destroyed in the prescribed manner.

### ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

During the pilot population census which held in November 2021 on the implementation of the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 710 of November 11, 2020 “On measures to prepare and conduct a census in the Republic of Uzbekistan”, the forms of the pilot population census sheet were filled out approved by this decision. In this process, a number of misunderstandings arose from the respondents in answering the questions in the forms of the questionnaire. In addition, further improvement of the questions and their placement in the forms of the questionnaire will make it more convenient for both the registrants and the respondents.

In particular, it is necessary to clarify the terms and concepts related to the registration of households, houses and families.

Clear instructions are required for the registration of groups of people living in “temporary accommodation” and collective households.

Respondents had difficulties, misunderstandings and inconveniences in answering questions 5, 7, 14, 18.

When analyzing the results of the survey process for filling out questionnaire forms with the population in the census, a number of questions that cause unclear or negative attitudes and misunderstandings among the population, including household members is advisable to exclude from the forms of the questionnaire (e.g., providing long-term use of tools by family members, monthly income of household members, sports activities of household members, refugee status) also, depending on the goals of studying these topics, it allows to organize special surveys for in-depth study of each topic, to further increase the coverage and quality of data.

In addition, the forms of the questionnaire, the concepts and terms used in the guidelines, such as household, family, population categories that should be registered should be clearly defined.

When answering questions in the form of a questionnaire, should be clearly to select only one answer option (male/female, yes/no) or several answer options (types of washing facilities, water supply) determining the possibility of setting also leads to difficulties. In this regard, in questions with the possibility of specifying several answer options, it would be more convenient for the registrants if these answer options were made round instead of square.

Answer codes should be standardized so that answers to questions on paper questionnaires can be easily

checked, these values need to be entered later. Values must conform to a standardized data format. For example, the answer options for questions about water supply or toilet facilities are segmented (1.1, 1.2) and other answer options are given as whole numbers (2, 3).

Based on the above, it is recommended to review the following questions and make changes if necessary:

- Marital status of respondents
- Refugee status;
- Other languages that can be spoken;
- Playing sports;
- Sources of income for living;
- Amount of turnover in one month.

Below, we will analyze the form of the 2-shakl "Personal Questionnaire" of the pilot population census in the question section.

3.1. In the question "Indicate the number of your father or mother", the answer option should allow to indicate two persons, or the serial number of one person should be indicated in the question. In addition, as a result of this question, in order to identify those who have lost their breadwinners or orphans, it is necessary to distinguish by age. In particular, this question should be answered by persons under 18 years of age.

It is recommended to add the word "permanent" to the question "5 Have you lived in this settlement since you were born?" and change it to "Have you lived permanently in this settlement since you were born" If the respondent was born in another country, i.e. if the

answer option "other country" was selected in question 4 "Place of birth", then this question should be skipped.

The questionnaire would be easier to use and easier to digitize (for data entry, editing, and tabulation) if the additional, auxiliary numbers on the questionnaire forms were not used. For example, it would be appropriate to renumber questions 5, 5.1, and 5.2 as questions 5, 6, and 7.

In the question "6.4 Why did you leave the Republic of Uzbekistan?" the reasons for the respondent's departure from the Republic of Uzbekistan were filled with wider answer options, the respondents would have been given more options. In particular, in part III of the form 1 shakl Characteristics of the dwelling and the list of residents, it would be appropriate if the number of households living in this place and the reasons for temporary non-residence of the respondents in the list of household members are the same.

"Are you married?" Respondents to this question may have doubts about whether their marriage is registered or sharia marriage and may not answer the question correctly. It is also recommended to ask one question about the marital status of the respondents and add the answer option "unmarried/single".

Alternatively, the current wording of the question likely does not include widows or divorcees, as such persons would answer "no" to the first part of the question and be directed to question 8.



“How many children have you given birth to?” the question was asked to women aged 15 years and older, and answers were obtained about the total number of children born and the number of live births. Some respondents refused to answer about the number of children born, especially the number of stillbirths, because this type of answer caused them great inconvenience. In this regard, it is appropriate to ask only the total number of children born in this question. “Your citizenship?”. In the current version of the question, the following answers can be given: 1. Citizen of Uzbekistan 2. Stateless person 3. Citizen of another state and the registrar must indicate which country the respondent is a citizen of. In order to indicate all stateless persons, it is appropriate to add the answer option “citizenship unknown”. This answer can be used by those who do not know whether they have citizenship or not (persons whose citizenship has not been determined) or those who do not have actual citizenship (de jure stateless, etc.). As stateless persons are one of the most difficult groups to enumerate, registrars should read all the answers to this question and, if necessary, explain to respondents what citizenship and non-citizenship mean. Details on this issue and topic should be included in the instructions for filling out the census forms.

Sub-question 9.1 of Question 9, asked whether respondents were forcibly displaced or had refugee status. This sub-question in the current version of the questionnaire form is asked to all respondents,

including citizens of Uzbekistan, and it has often been met with a negative response from respondents. If the sub-question on refugees in paragraph 9.1 does not include persons with the citizenship of Uzbekistan, and if this answer option is selected (“1. Republic of Uzbekistan”), instructions will be put to go to the next question will be appropriate.

The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines refugees as persons who are outside their citizenship or place of permanent residence. They also have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, national origin, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and are unable to avail themselves of state protection or are unwilling to return there for fear of persecution. According to the norms of international law, a citizen of Uzbekistan cannot be a refugee in his country (the Republic of Uzbekistan), so it is appropriate to ask the question sub question 9.1 only to foreign citizens and stateless persons. Iadi This approach also reduces the registrar's workload.

In the question about the respondents “native language”, if the respondents do not speak a language other than the one in the given answer options, simply add the “other” answer option. It should also be emphasized that collecting this information will be more useful in creating special programs for people who speak other languages, for example, TV shows, educational materials, etc.

To the question of other languages that respondents can talk about, before that, respondents who answered “Uzbek” in their question about the native language of the respondents cannot again choose the answer option “Uzbek”. Therefore, so that both questions do not have the same answer, it is appropriate to include an answer option that means “does not talk in a language other than the native language” or “does not talk in any other language” as an answer to this question.

Questions 13, 13.1, 13.2 related to sports are very indeterminate, i.e. what is meant by professional practice of sports, what are the criteria for practicing sports, and whether simply doing physical exercises by the respondents is also considered practicing sports. It is understood that this question is subjective and answers to questions 1.1 and 13.2 must be multiple choice. Finally, how is this data used? If there are organizations based on that data, what can they learn from that data?, these questions are not very clear for the eyes in the development of state programs. In this regard, it is recommended to carry these questions on a questionnaire. If the decision is made to leave the question in the questionnaire, the procedure for asking the question will be changed to “Do you do physical education exercises?”

It should be clear that the question about your source of income for living is multiple-choice. If the respondent has chosen two or more sources of income, it is of great importance to determine which

income is the “main source of income” among the selected incomes by what factor, that is, the source that brings the most money or the source that spends the main time, and this should be shown as a comment in the form of a questionnaire.

In addition, it is appropriate to include several more answer options in this question. In particular, a married woman may be completely dependent on her husband's income and may not have other independent sources of personal life. Also, since this question is asked to everyone regardless of age, it is appropriate to include a separate answer option for children who are under the care of their parents. In this case, it is recommended to divide or expand answer option 15 of this question (“under someone’s care, sponsorship, alimony”) into several answer options as suggested above.

In the question about household income, enumerators asked respondents to indicate the exact amount of their income, not a range. The instructions on this matter should be much clearer.

In addition, respondents did not want to answer this question because they were afraid that the information would be provided to the tax authorities. In addition, some enumerators did not read out the answer options to the respondents and the respondent was asked for the exact amount, after which the enumerators assigned the answer to the appropriate answer option. As a result, this question caused a lot of objections among the respondents, and

in many cases, the answers given by the respondents were wrong. In this regard, it is recommended to exclude this question from the forms of the census questionnaire.

If this question is not removed from the questionnaires as part of the population census, then the “other” answer option should be removed and the lower and upper income limits should be added.

### CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it can be said that, the pilot population census was conducted on the basis of methodological documents developed on the basis of international recommendations.

Nevertheless, it was also determined that the pilot population census program and the processes of surveying questions in the forms of the population census caused misunderstandings and objections among the population.

Based on this, this scientific proposal and practical recommendations on improving the forms of the pilot census questionnaire, in addition, based on the above conclusion, the population census in the future population census We suggest the following suggestions regarding the contents of the questions and answer options contained in the 2-shakl “Personal Questionnaire”:

1. according to the results of the research, it is proposed to exclude questions that are not the subject of the population census and conduct special surveys

or other types of surveys within the framework of these topics;

2. In order to obtain high-quality information, it is suggested to improve the text of the questions and to simplify the form of the questions in order to ensure that the questions in the questionnaire are understandable to the population during the survey.

3. If the answer options in the question on the status of “Citizenship” in the form of this questionnaire are revised and changed to the following form, it will significantly simplify data processing, editing and tabulation.

Your citizen

1. the Republic of Uzbekistan go to the next question

2. stateless person

3. citizen of another country \_\_\_\_\_ (specify the name of the country)

4. The existing answer options in the question about respondents’ income of this questionnaire form should be replaced with the answer options shown on the right, and it is recommended to enter the following answer options:

1. Below 679,000 soums

2. From 679,000 soums to 1,358,000 soums

3. From 1,358,000 soums to 3,396,000 soums

4. From 3,396,000 soums to 6,790,000 soums

5. From 6,790,000 soums to 10,189,000 soums

6. From 10,189,000 soums to 13,586,000 soums

7. More than 13,586,000 soums.

5. A common method of data collection is to ask individuals 15 years of age and older a simple question, “What is your marital status?” and it is appropriate to apply with the following standard answer options:

“Your Marital Status”

1. not married/single
2. in an official marriage
3. in an unregistered marriage
4. widow, widower
5. divorced (legal)
6. not divorced, lives separately

As a result, the development of state programs based on the data of the population census serves as a basis for the implementation of future demographic forecasts.

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