

Demographic Transition in Kosovo- Challenges and Opportunities

Fertility Level in Kosovo (gender perspective)

Dr. Mimoza DUSHI

Prishtina, 03.11.2011

Content:

- Introduction (Theory of demographic transition and Second demographic transition)
- Demographic Transition in Kosovo
- Change of level of natality
- Readiness of women of Kosovo society to plan their families
- Conclusion

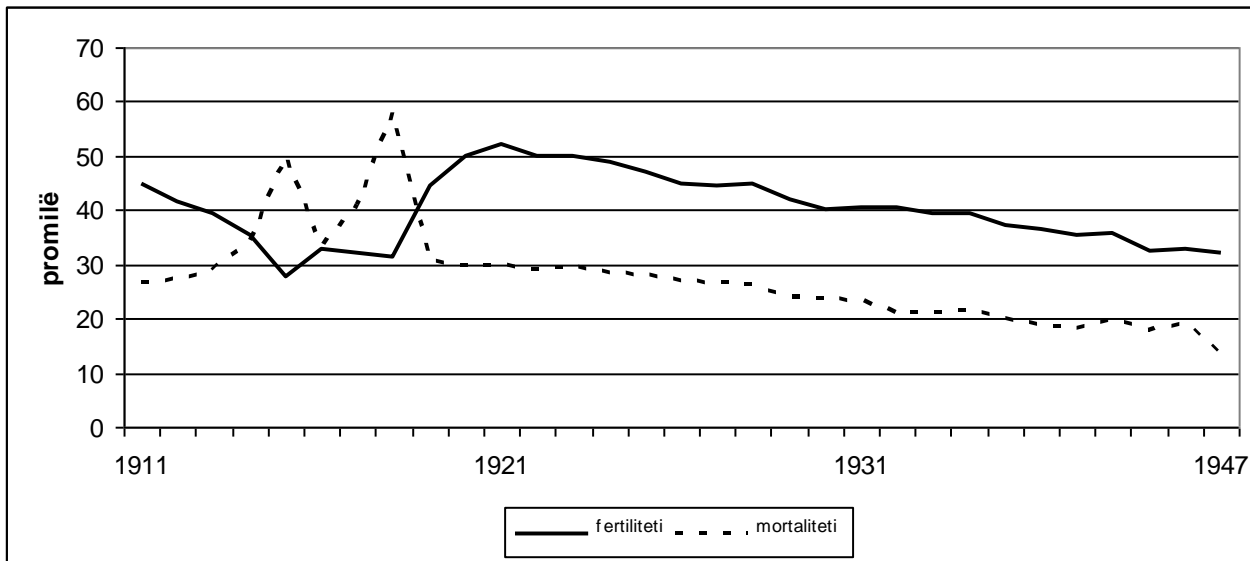
Introduction

- Socio-economic changes cause transformations in demographic development, in particular in determinates of natural movements
- Theory of Demographic Transition - balance between mortality level (under 30/1000) and natality (under 30/1000
 - fertility in the replacement level
 - marriage
 - traditional methods for family planning
- Second Demographic Transition (Van de Kaa, 1988)
 - fertility under replacement level
 - cohabitation
 - modern methods of family planning

Demographic Transition in Kosovo

- In Kosovar society demographic flow marks a transformation, transition from para-transitional society into transitional
- In the para-transitional society
 - fertility level was very high
 - main fields of economy were agriculture and farming ,
 - Requesting increase of labor force(including children)
 - Woman should have given birth constantly

- level of mortality falls under 30/1000 during 20's



Change of fertility level

- After Second World War –immediate changes were unnoticed
 - Kosova still had the highest natality level in Europe approximately on average 50 per 1000
 - Approximately eight children per woman
- Kosovar society continued to remain agricultural
- Patriarchal family norms and traditional society were preserved

Change of fertility level

Economic investments (heavy industry)

- need for male labor force

processes

- insufficient inclusion of woman in economical

household

- continuing isolation of women within the

- enough time to give birth and raise the children

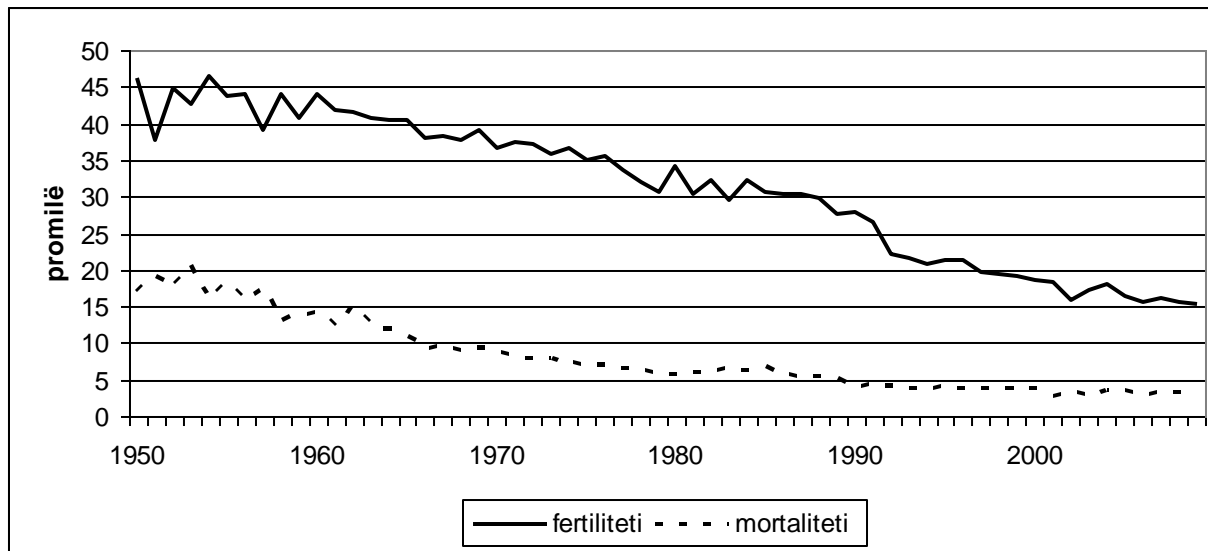
giving birth

- she remains tied to her biological function,

Change of fertility level

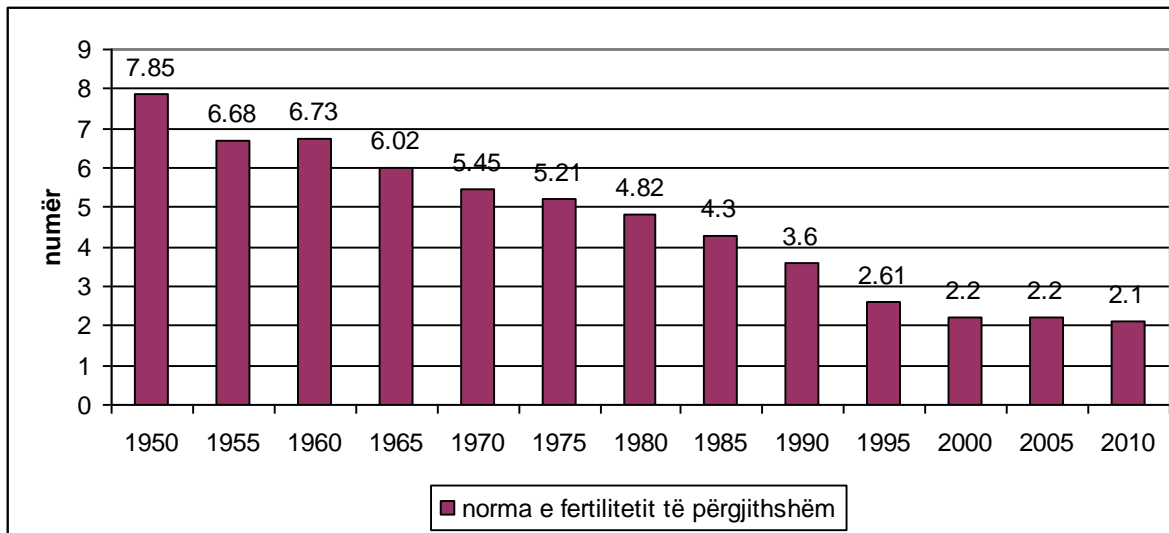
- after 60's
 - start investments in economy (light industry)
 - Possibilities for women to engage in socio-economic processes
- however, large number of deliveries shows that there are no big changes in economy and demography
 - the only improvement is decrease of infant mortality, as long as fertility rate remains unchanged
 - This period marks the biggest natural growth for Albanian population in Kosovo

- Fertility level under 30/1000 in the second half of XX Century



- Real changes toward birth and number of descendants start only after year 2000
 - Rural-urban migration (in particular after 1999 conflict)
 - change of country's urban structure
 - change of economy
 - primary sectors replaced with tertiary sector
- Creation of better condition for woman employment
 - has reached a certain level of individual and economic independence
 - her main objective is not anymore birth and child-bearing, but advancement of her career and use of free time
- increased demand for qualified labor force
 - removal of children from work

- this situation spontaneously imposes need for family planning
 - late marriages
 - small number of children
 - use of different methods for prevention of pregnancies



Readiness of Kosovo women to plan their families

- concept is linked with two categories of questions, those for
 - family planning
 - Ability of women for decision making
- Analyzed based on
 - demographic variables
 - age and marriage status
 - Socio-economic variable
 - level of education, employment, level of income and type of residence

- Family Planning –
 - In economical aspect – enables planning of number of children in accordance with family income
 - In social aspect – is preventive method in unplanned births especially in avoiding abortions
 - In medical aspect – represents curative methods in treatment of sterility
- Abortion – method for interruption of pregnancy
- Contraceptive methods – method for prevention of unplanned pregnancies

Demographic variables

- marriage status and its time frame has more impact on women use of contraceptives
 - family planning is used more by elderly women who are married than younger and single
 - younger women might have uncertainties regarding their future pregnancies
 - Elderly women have reached preferred number of children

Socio-economic variables

- educated and employed women who have managed to secure economic ground
 - actively participate in the family planning issue
 - coordinate time spend at work and with their families
- Uneducated and unemployed have lower social status, mainly live in rural settlements and large families
 - Without clear stands on reproductive behavior
 - Their families are “planned” by their husbands
 - they hinder their wife's to use contraceptive methods

- Educated and employed women mainly in urban settlements
- Analysis shows the importance of labor status and level of monthly incomes
 - senior position at work + higher monthly income = lower number of children

Conclusion

- reproductive behavior of kosovar women is changing
 - depending on the woman's position in the society
- Individual change of reproductive behavior imminently reflect on the social level
 - Women determination for lower number of children slowly will change total fertility rate
- bigger transformation of overall society is needed
 - current level of women education in Kosovar society looks insufficient in changing massively the overall stances on fertility
 - Housewife and parenthood will continue to remain the main women professions

Thank you!