

# Ecological anthropology of positive eugenics of the peoples of the East

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**Abstract.** This article explores human ecology as a condition for high-quality demography, regulation of the social foundations of the society of modern Central Asia, which arose the problem of improving the human race. Eugenics from Plato to F. Galton has gone through an evolutionary path of searching for the fulfilment of a social order to improve social life as a living social organism. The development of the ideology of eugenics has a negative and positive character - two opposite parallels associated with Nazi barbarism and the ethno-confessional way of family life. Based on religious and national traditions and values, the author analyses the problems of improving the quality of the population, aimed at developing a harmoniously developed generation on the example of the great ancestors of the Middle Ages. According to the author, in the traditions of the peoples of Central Asia, targeted program approaches have still been preserved to improve the quality of the population by strengthening the family and marriage, which prevents celibacy, incest, sexual lack of culture, and an increase in the number of illegitimate children. In this regard, the author puts forward the Muslim demographic development programs as a condition for the spiritual and moral stability of social life, strengthening the family and marriage as a guarantor of social progress. Modern eugenics research is research conducted to strengthen the family and marriage, to raise a physically and spiritually worthy generation. The problems and prospects of the national demographic development program in the republic should be considered in the context of the ethno-confessional organization of family and marriage life, taking into account the transformation of social trends in medical education, and the obvious problem in preventing the growth of divorces, hereditary diseases, spiritual and moral deviations in the new generation of young people.

## 1 Introduction

Ecological anthropology is a new field of science about nature and man, the rational interaction of nature and society, the struggle to preserve the ecological purity of nature and

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man himself. In the last years of the New Age, there was an urgent need to protect natural resources, flora and fauna, as a condition for the prospect of the life of man himself. Thus, ecological anthropology as a human culture is taught in the universities of some CIS countries in the aspects of the interaction "Man-environment-culture" for the formation of a special ecological culture of the individual [12]. Here, under the environment is perceived the totality of natural resources, thanks to which a person lives. The existing literature considers the factors of environmental pollution of nature. However, one of the main problems of modern ecology has become the growth of the demographic burden on nature, since man already inhabits the entire world, mastering all the natural resources of the world. In a word, today there is no place left where no human foot has stepped [3-18].

At the head of T.K. Fedotova, the Research Institute of Anthropology of Moscow State University conducts scientific research on the problem of anthrozoology, where the team achieved extensive monitoring of the ethnoterritorial groups of the population of the CIS of the phenomenon of longevity in order to develop the concept of adaptive types to the natural environment, age-related orthomorphic status as a sanitary well-being of the population, an individual health criterion, as well as the specifics of the growth processes of children in a metropolis [20-22]. Anthrozoology, according to experts, explores health problems in the context of socio-economic and technological progress and its impact on the health of future generations, the state of the population of people, improving their health and the possibility of self-realization of the individual. The priority of ethnoecological monitoring is the control of changes in life activity and the levels of morbidity of people under the influence of natural conditions. Thus, improving the gene pool of the peoples of the world is an urgent global problem of our time. According to Russian scientists, «anthropoecology believes that “it mainly focuses on the spiritual component of the relationship of man with everything that exists» [23].

Scientific articles, monographic studies of the periodicity in the development of the scientific thought of eugenics rarely appear in the literature. According to eugenics studies, there are disagreements among scientists about socio-political features that can be grouped in the following order: a) the priority of human rights and freedoms at the global level and the fetishization of equality, which scares all researchers away from the problems of eugenics as a branch of science [20, 24-26]; b) it is difficult to perceive the problem of selecting people, delivering people from genetic diseases that pass from generation to generation; c) ensuring the dynamics of the quality of the demographic growth of the population, based on the interests of strengthening the national gene pool [27, 28]. The father of Russian eugenics, N. K. Koltsov, most successfully defines the essence of eugenics as follows: “... the science of improving the human race, usually called eugenics, can also be called anthropotechnics ...” [6]

Another immediate factor in the need to study eugenics is due to the revival of ethno-confessional traditions and norms of youth socialization to strengthen family and marriage life, prevent an increase in family breakups, marital relations among close relatives, ensuring the improvement of the physical and spiritual quality of offspring [1]. Thus, the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan proclaimed the health of the nation as the goal of social policy. Thus, 2021 is called the "Year of Support for Youth and Improving the Health of the Population".

It should also be noted that the peoples of the Muslim part of the East retained elements of remnants in the form of “viriculture”, mentioned by F. Galton, that when creating a family, special layers such as “sayyid”, “hoji”, “ishan”, “tours”, “mirza”, “din” choose brides from suitable families. At the same time, the origin of the family lineage, the physical and spiritual maturity of the parents, and then the health of the bride and upbringing in the spirit of a good housewife are carefully studied. Practice has shown that

among the population of the Ferghana Valley there are settlements, the inhabitants of which do not marry daughters from "Sayyids" or "Khojas" to men of another caste.

In the demographic traditions of Islam, the norms of family and marriage, the foundations for improving the offspring of Muslims, were regulated in detail. This is a set of peculiar norms of prohibitions. These include illegitimate births and incest among close relatives. Many folk tales can serve as an example, here is one of them: The ruler of one of the cities of Mesopotamia successfully bought a beautiful horse at the bazaar, and then asked to reveal his weaknesses and why he was sold cheaply. The seller said that the mother of the horse had a habit of stopping at the wrong time. The ruler went out hunting, which was successful, shot a deer, but to catch it, he had to chase prey. The wounded deer barely moved, almost caught up with the deer, but the horse stopped abruptly. In the same place, he decided to divorce his fourth wife, whose mother was a frivolous person who desecrated her honor.

It can be called a paradox that, with such care, the material security of young people is alienated from public life, education, educational policy has become ineffective, which deputies are sounding the alarm about. The media reports on violence and selfishness, an increase in juvenile delinquency, an epidemic of "school pregnancy", rampant informal movements, a penchant for "mass culture" and religious radicalism, the struggle for independence from "parental control". Thus, there was a need for high-quality demography of the population, which determines the fate of modern civilization in the next century.

Modern political competition requires constant improvement not only of socio-economic resources, but also of human potential to ensure the security of the country and the sustainable development of public life. Society is undergoing a transformation from conservative to liberal principles of arrangement of social relations that contradict centuries-old ethno-confessional norms and cultural values. One of the directions is the appeal to the problem of social genetics of the population, the formation of the idea of eugenic education. On this basis, especially the combination of strengthening the national gene pool, it will be possible for both the physical and spiritually healthy generation to degenerate.

## **2 Methods and materials**

The main theoretical principle of the study was the historical and cultural approach to the demographic growth of the population of the peoples of Central Asia: the transformation of family and marriage relations, the transition from a traditional multi-nuclear family to a single-nucleus, i.e. from complex to nuclear family. The modern family has undergone modernization, that the study of the demographic development of the population formed new values and traditions. The method of studying the traditional family cannot be the subject of a modern youth family, in which the autonomy of rights and freedoms from parents, who have already ceased to dominate the social life of their children's families. Gender analysis also caused serious changes in family life, which does not allow newlyweds to know each other, biosocial similarity, interests and social orientations of future spouses. Thus, the empirical base of this article was the sociological research conducted in 2010-2021. in the regions of the Ferghana Valley. Thus, the static data of the media served as the basis of scientific research.

## **3 Results. Eugenics: the genesis of the concept**

Throughout the history of the peoples of the world, they have been worried about the continuation of the family, the preservation of a worthy generation, continuing the work of

their fathers and grandfathers. The primitive society has historically proven that celibacy or polygamy is a threat to the health and combat effectiveness of the tribe, developed a taboo against celibacy, declared sexual intimacy among members of the same tribe a sin. This was the first attempt to improve the quality of the population, the education of family morality, ensuring the physical health of the tribe's hunter. Subsequent stages in the life of peoples established the rules of family life, norms and traditions of marriage, improving the quality of the population. However, with the technology of humanitarian analysis of this phenomenon, one should turn to two extremes: positive and negative, that the second involved the destruction of mentally, physically or racially handicapped people to renew the "pure gene pool" as a condition for social progress. The practice of negative eugenics was carried out by the Nazis in the 40s of the last centuries, that they killed people with hereditary diseases to "purify" and "improve" the German people [9]. Proceeding from this strengthening of the family, marriage, marital fidelity arose as a condition for the physical health of the population, that marriages and other intimate relationships are observed among close relatives, that children born from them are disabled or have hereditary diseases.

The father of eugenics was the English scientist Francis Galton, from the family of the great Charles Darwin. Biological selection of flora and fauna is recognized as the most important factor in improving crop varieties and livestock breeds, based on the natural laws of selection and the emergence of new viable species. In modern science, the following approaches to eugenics have been formed: social and humanitarian sciences - anthropology and biology, medicine - genetics, social geography - demography, historical sciences - ethnology. However, eugenics most fully reflects its subject in genetics, as the selection of biological quality breeds and varieties of plants and animals, the preservation and multiplication of fertile varieties and breeds. This idea can be argued by the research of Russian doctors [27].

**Table 1.** The devaluation of the family and marriage.

№	Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
1	marriages (ppm)	186,1 thousand /8	176,1 thousand/7,4	192,7 thousa / 8	196 thousand /8	194,9 thousand/7,8	206,7 thousand/7,9	197 thousand /7,4
2	Divorces (ppm)	21,8 thousand/0,9	22,2 thousand /0,9	23,6 thousand /1	23,8 thousand/1	23,6 thousand/0,9	29 thousand /1,1	34,4 thousand/1,4

Source: According to the Agency of Statistics, 48,734 divorces were registered in Uzbekistan in 2022. In Tashkent, the number of registered marriage terminations was 5,901. The divorce rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 1.4 ppm. 2023, and the first 9 months of 2022, the number of marriages in Uzbekistan decreased by 4.7% compared to the same period last year, and the number of divorces increased by 18.7%. At the same time, the stability of marriages in macro families, the stability of the spiritual and moral climate in a traditional family than in modern ones, the level of education is higher among Sayyids and Khojas than other strata (strata) of societ (According to the Agency of Statistics // <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2022/10/14/weddings-divorces/>).

Here you can see the devaluation of the family and marriage, which decreases the number of marriages, parallel to the increase in the number of divorces, i.e. falling ecoanthropological quality of the population (Table 1). The flourishing of eugenics is observed in the first quarter of the twentieth century in the countries of Central Europe and the United States in the leadership of social policy, which has lost its value due to the racial policy of fascism in Germany. The founder of eugenics, F. Galton, published the book "Inheritance of Talent", dedicated to improving the hereditary qualities of human offspring, after which, in 1883, he introduced the term "viriculture" into scientific use, which he replaced by "eugenics" as a science that studies the innate generic qualities of the human species [23]. Eugenics found wide support in the United States in the state social policy to improve the gene pool.

However, the health of the nation, the selection of children existed in the ancient Greek cities of Athens and Sparta, pursuing the goals of educating brave warriors. All children

were selected for the weak and the sick were thrown off the cliff. According to A. Dovatur, the Greek poet Theognid "... developed the idea that an unholy deed subsequently gives rise to beautiful children" [3]. In his poems, he pointed out the reasons for the deterioration in the status of the people with mixing with the base in people. The antithesis of the ancient Greek approach of eugenics to the Islamic principles of population is noticeable. In ancient Greek policies, brave warriors were born, by means of polygamy of strong warriors, which Plato mentions as follows: "All the wives of these people should be common, and separately let none cohabit with anyone. And children should also be common, and let the father not know which child is his, and the child is his father" [13].

Eugenics research has been the subject of many scientists who have explored the history of ancient societies and philosophical understanding of the idea of spiritual and physical improvement of man [3, 17, 26, 29]. The analyzes carried out showed that eugenics was used to justify the ideology of fascism in Germany, and positive eugenics was demonstrated by Soviet specialists in genetic engineering [5, 15]. In this regard, we are in solidarity with the position of Yu. V. Khen that "the application of zootechnical methods to the human race has given rise to a number of ethical problems, the main of which is related to the issue of the "chief breeder", ... Another unpleasant question is the fate of culled individuals: should they be treated like the unpromising offspring of breeding cattle ..." and asks the question: "Are there other criteria?" [26].

In 2021, the population of Uzbekistan will increase by 504,167 people and at the end of the year will be 34,227,696 people. Natural population growth will be positive and will amount to 549,694 people. It should also be noted that in Islam, eugenics is a special form and tradition of positively solving population problems, preserving and increasing the positive characteristics of Muslims, which prohibits a number of family and marriage relations in preserving the gene pool of Muslim civilization. Questions about the merits in the regulation of marriage have existed since ancient times among the peoples of Central Asia, which was a test of strength and courage for men at weddings.

According to the statement of the most respected Muhammad Sadiq Muhammad Yusuf, "... the result of the deeds to which the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi vassalam) commanded may manifest itself in the grandchildren of the person who performs them, or in subsequent generations" [11]. Thus, this article analyzes the ethno-confessional eugenics of the peoples of the Muslim East, an established model in the centuries-old traditions of demographic development. The authors drew attention to the influence of positive eugenics on the stability of the social life of the family, marital relations, and the high human nature of generations. Islam, in its essence, proclaims all Muslims to be descendants of the Muslim community of the "ummah" of the great prophet Muhammad, which imposes on each a peculiar program of eugenics.

The relevance of the development of this problem, in our opinion, is due not only to preventing the growth of divorces in families, the abolition of marriages, but also to the increase in the number of young people with physical disabilities and health problems. According to the data of the UN Population Division, one of the causes of deaths worldwide is premature pregnancy of girls, the death rate of adolescents from accidents, violence and suicides is stable [Teenagers]. The dynamics of teenage pregnancy persists among young people in Central Asia, which is one of the signs of heredity passing from generation to generation.

The methodological basis of this study was the Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which provides for work to preserve the health of the younger generation, improve the spiritual and physical gene pool of the Uzbek people. In preparing this article, methods of observation, analysis and synthesis, inductive and deductive approaches to the problem of social anthropology were used.

The most important determinant of the study of "Uzbek eugenics" is caused by the realities and challenges of the modern world, the division of the peoples of the world into two poles: producers and consumers on a global scale. The problems of survival and achievement of a worthy place in the world community sets the tasks of a high-quality healthy generation at the pace of demography, strengthening the gene pool of the people, i.e. "heritability of intelligence" [24].

## 4 Discussion

From the point of view of eugenics, the spiritual and physical health of Muslims is the main goal of the social life of the peoples of the countries of the East, which is manifested by the traditional complex family, in which the authority of older parents is still preserved. The social regulation of a harmoniously healthy generation legalized the prohibition of marriages between close relatives - between parents and children, on the one hand, brothers and sisters on the other, which is the most important condition for the social life of society. In addition, there is still a negative attitude towards extramarital sexual relations and pregnancies, family ties with the Sayyid and Khoja caste with people from other segments of the population.

The national model of eugenics, in our opinion, is based on the priority of the following principles: the continuity of ethno-confessional norms and traditions in the reproduction of the population, which implies: a) the physical and spiritual health of generations; c) loyalty to one's "caste", i.e. fulfillment of the requirements of family life, i.e. respect for parents when entering into family and marriage life, the traditional way of life and life; c) the strictness and prohibition of cohabitation and illegitimate children; e) dominance in the public consciousness of faith in the inheritance of the encyclopedic mind and giftedness of the thinkers of the Middle Ages.

The merit of Islamic civilization is manifested in the regulation and systematization of family and marriage relations on the basis of Sharia, which has a humanistic impact on the life and life of people. Another eugenic factor may be the achievement of the girls' marriageable age, suitable for marriage. In turn, Islam forbids monasticism, the rejection of marriage, allowing celibacy only for eunuchs and inferior men. In particular, the Qur'an gives the directive of positive eugenics, that "And let those who, if they leave weak offspring behind them, fear for them" [7].

In recent years, cases of Uzbek women marrying Korean citizens have been spreading, pursuing plans and programs for the improvement of the nation, which is non-standard for the social anthropology of Uzbek women. It should also be noted that scientific and technological progress has seriously changed the traditions of family and marriage relations, in which the role of parents has been eliminated, and the independence of the young in choosing future spouses. Currently, young people are developing eugenic approaches based on pragmatism, i.e. monetization of marriage from wealthy families, that the health, activity, upbringing and education of girls have ceased to be the most important indicators of family and marriage.

The Uzbek people pays special attention to the health of mother and child as a decisive norm of social life. Therefore, it is envisaged that children and pregnant women will receive seven types of vitamins and medicines for parasitic diseases for free, for which 17 million soums have been allocated in 2021, and 100 billion soums in 2022. Along with this, it is planned to provide women and children with iodine, iron, folic acid, vitamins and antiparasitic drugs free of charge, which will seriously reduce the incidence of the population. The organization of the activities of medical teams is radically improving, and a system of guaranteed provision of the population with free medical services and medicines has been gradually established. In addition, it is planned to open 315 points of family

doctors and 85 family polyclinics for the most complete coverage of the population. Within the framework of the Rural Doctor program, more than a thousand doctors will receive material assistance in the amount of 30 million soums and will be provided with official housing. Thus, the authority and status of mid-level medical workers - nurses and paramedics, who play a decisive role in improving the health of the population, are increasing.

It should be noted that more than 12 thousand citizens of the country suffer from leukemia and severe hereditary hematological diseases, for the treatment of which 250 billion soums are allocated for complex diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the field of oncohematology and intractable diseases, special departments are being created for the diagnosis and treatment of endocrine diseases. Thus, the problem of alienation of generations has arisen in demographic development, which is a serious problem of the ecological anthropology of society [10].

The social policy of the republic sets the task of popularizing physical culture and sports as a factor in improving the demographic quality of population growth, which is planned to allocate 100 billion soums to equip educational institutions and mass sports with sports equipment. All this will lay the foundation for the development of the Olympic movement among boys and girls. It should also be noted that there are certain national traditions that regulate the quality of each generation, the careful selection of candidates for marriage for the benefit of society.

## **5 Conclusion**

This article attempts to discuss the problem of demographic development, strengthening the health of the population through the establishment of family and marriage relations. The fact is that under the conditions of information technology, family and marriage identification of people is difficult, which is a direct threat to the health of the future generation, adultery has become the norm in many countries and societies, which is contrary to the traditional way of life and the values of family life. Thus, gender policy also negatively affects the strengthening of the foundations of the marriage family, which resulted in an urgent need for personal identification during marriage. Thus, the positive policy of eugenics is the most important condition for the demographic culture of the peoples of the world, the preservation of the moral culture of the human race.

The article outlines the subject of eugenics, key approaches to improving the birth of new talented generations of the Uzbek people, it is shown that the desire to ensure a healthy generation is most fully consistent with the social policy of the population of the republic. According to statistics in the republic, at the end of 2020, the population of Uzbekistan was 33,723,529 people. In 2020, the population of Uzbekistan increased by approximately 496,740 people. Given this, the population of Uzbekistan at the beginning of the year was estimated at 33,226,789 people, the annual increase was 1.49% [Population of Uzbekistan for 2020].

The Uzbek people are characterized by a close connection with their ancestors, loyalty to national traditions, love for their native land, a desire to know their ancestors and ask God to bless them. The family, as the basis of the clan, unites all relatives in the same territory at the place of residence, which the elders control. The peculiarity of the social anthropology of the peoples of the region lies in the fact that it focuses on the social requirements of the family and marriage relations of the Muslim society, the establishment of a healthy, energetic and active generation as a condition for social progress. Scientists put forward a number of arguments characterizing the negative and positive sides of eugenics, which is being established in the name of meeting the needs of national interests to strengthen the gene pool of the Uzbek people.

Modern eugenics research is research conducted to strengthen the family and marriage, aimed at heredity and natural selection, raising a physically and spiritually developed generation to take its place in the world community. In recent years, not only a massive increase in hereditary and oncological diseases, but also spiritual and moral decay in public life has become more and more common: child pregnancy, criminal offenses with newborns, prostitution and drug addiction.

Our concept assumes that positive eugenics is the development of the idea of strengthening national genetics, the health of the population, in which human rights and freedoms prevail. One of the priorities of the government's social policy is to create a reliable system of measures to develop high-quality demographic growth, prevent the transmission of hereditary diseases, improve the health of those who marry, and revive national traditions of family lifestyle. Such scientific guidelines fit well with the general concept of social policy and socio-anthropological knowledge.

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