

HUMAN CAPITAL OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS IN THE AGEING SOCIETY

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Russia nowadays faces new transformations and tendencies of development of social phenomenon and processes. One of such tendencies is the “ageing” of population, that influence the functioning and development of society and determining it’s content and potential. Phenomenon “the ageing of population” is characterized by longevity, enlargement of borders of social expectations, lowering of birth rate and mortality. Such factors led to quantitative correlation between age groups, high percent of elderly people in general structure of population and increase of absolute number of elderly people. Form the other hand the modernization and urbanization led to qualitative changes in the way and level of life of different generations, so the process of “age segregation” was started and turn elderly people to be “social outcasts”. Segregation of generations and consequences of modernization against elderly people became the common destiny for majority of countries of the Western world.

At present Russia faces with modern aftereffects of the ageing: social and economic consequences connected with growing parasitical burden for working population (requires for necessity of redistribution of social expenses); necessity of transformation of pension system (change for mechanism of social provision); change of policy, establishment of “older” pension age; low adaptation potential of society to social and economic changes in conditions of transitional period (requires for the increasing of innovational potential of elderly people through retraining working stuff); reformation of social sphere, especially – social protection of elderly people; necessity of improvement of people’s health; social and economic expenses for elderly generation became the factor of stratification of the society and escalating of social tensivity.

So, the society in condition of economic crisis and budget deficit should pay a considerable part of resources to solve problems of elderly and senile people. As a result the situation became far worse, forms negative relations between young, middle age population and elderly people. For example, a number of researches (Johnson J., Bytheway B.¹), argue that young and middle age people have gerontophobia because the destruction of existing system of values basing on respect for human at whole and for elderly person in particular. Russia nowadays faces a value “chaos”, low morality, individualization and egoization of population.

¹ Jonson J., Bytheway B. Ageism: concept and definition // *Aging and Later Life* / Ed. By J. Jonson, R. Slater. – L., 1999. – P. 200-206.

All these require from social science, social policy and social practice adequate measures for comprehensive study of this process, its prevention and compensating. In these conditions ordinary people should find a way how to live in transforming society and have a notion about the own changing role because of the new threats for demographic structure of society.

In 2012 - 2013 scientific group of the Altai State University realized a complex sociological study of demographic security in bordering regions of Russia in the context of growing demographic, migration and ageing threats to society. The given research included semi-structured interviewing of experts (n = 80) – representatives of executive and legislative bodies, scientific and pedagogic community, local authorities and non commercial organizations in four bordering regions of Russia (Altaisky kray (n = 20), Omskaya oblast (n = 20), Buryatiya Republic (n = 20) and Zabaykalsky krai (n = 20). Regions were selected by criteria of geographic location, historical peculiarities of settling, ethnic composition, level of economic development, condition of labor market and employment, development of social infrastructure, and other factors. Criteria for expert sampling – sphere of activity – not only a direct connection with processes of demography, ageing and migration, but the ability to present full evaluation of studying processes.

Expert were asked to evaluate the role of different age groups in conditions of ageing society – elderly people, people of the middle age, teenagers and the youth. Further we'll present results of analysis of expert evaluations.

The most demanded social characteristic of elderly people in the ageing society is their experience of professional activity. It is the most valuable for the young generation as an opportunity to study and obtain shortest way to adult and professional life. Elderly generation acts as a storage of historical memory, experience of co-existence of people of different nationalities and ideological positions. That is why they should “translate history” to future generations.

Second important role of elderly generation is the realization of the institute of mentorship, educating of teenagers. Role of elder people solves problems with nursery schools, furthermore, they can educate better by demonstrating “stable orienteers of moral and spiritual life that are free from consuming ideology and cult of money”.

Third direction of use of potential of the elderly generations is a social sphere of society, non-commercial sector: “they can be successful in social activity, they have many things to translate, effective in propaganda, ideology, culture and educating”. Also the elderly people can be one of the best social workers, but, at present social initiatives are not well-developed in modern Russia. A niche of elderly people in social sphere – organization of groups of mutual support, especially

– for lonely pensioners. Pensioners should “jointly study” to adopt for the new style of life and find social niches “on forces”.

In general, in contemporary society the role of elder age groups is not enough evaluated mainly because of economic factors – they “should vacate labor places for younger generation and give them opportunity for work, earn of money, birth of children and education”. But in condition of the ageing society the elderly people will face mainly with labor workload.

Role of persons of the middle age should solve two important tasks:

economic function (“earn of money to support families, including the elderly relatives, pay taxes and, as a result, to produce national product”). By participating in economy, adult population provides the existence of pensioners.

reproductive function and the natural reproduction of the population (“they should cultivate the culture of family, culture of large families, preserve and translate experience of reproduction to the youth and teenagers”).

One of the most important problems here – “inadequate understanding by adults of they own role in social reproduction”. Adults are not able “understand the society as a system, the necessity of intergenerational transactions and the necessity of common well-being, positive and comfort contribution into the common future”. So they are not effective nowadays in the role of the “bridge” between elderly and younger generation, in the role of “cultural builder”. Some experts suppose the low sense of patriotism of adult population enforce them to act as “predators” against older people.

Role of the youth and teenagers is determined by experts as not so evident. Summarizing their opinions, the role of young generation is active perception of accumulated experience of elder generation, “adopting” of instructions of adults, self-development and absorbing all-human, civilian, family and other values and their preservation. The most valuable here is the innovational potential of the young people in multiplying of social capital, it’s adaptation to realities of modernity.