

Moral Status of Russian Society as the Base for Social and Economic Systems Development

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Abstract: The article describes main causes of Russian population's decreasing moral and reviews the consequences of this phenomenon. The article well describes the correlation between the moral and social and economic development.

Key words: Moral • Social and economic development

INTRODUCTION

Social and economic systems development depends predominantly on resource base status. However, nowadays land, labor and capital are necessary but insufficient for qualitative long-term economic growth [1-4]. Presently, social and economic development analysis focuses on additional factors which are complementary factors in the resource base in classic point of view [5].

Article Body: One of the main complementary factors is difficult-to-analyze moral criterion. The moral is integrating factor in forming of economic agents of all levels from family and enterprise to national economy. While the capital is important quasienergetic component of the system and the information about system ends and means is important too, the moral is still the factor that joins single agents in the uniform system with one purpose. Family tie, corporate honor, patriotism and duty are necessary for the formation and stable functioning of any level economic structures and their purpose. Emerson, Hegel, Helvetius, Holbach have formulated definitions of the moral which include this integrating function for social networks and economic systems.

Under conditions of fast transition to market relations, Russian people found themselves in strangle life and focused on financial support of their families. The family institution could be pillar of society no more and the younger generation found itself unattended. Post-industrial development and availability of previously unavailable goods worsened the situation. All these facts

together with increased psychic and emotional stress and rapid pace of life formed the generation that thinks they can get all that they want without any effort, always relies on their parents, lives and acts as animal stock and has no opinion. A cruelty propaganda in mass media led to rise in juvenile and teenage crime and the substantial increase in child homelessness threatens the public peace [6]. In 1920s, after the Revolution of 1917, All-Russian Extraordinary Commission takes care of homeless children because it understand the importance of the rising generation to the future development of Russia.

E. Nikolaeva, head of Public Chamber Commission for Social and Demographic Policy, says that according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs the child homelessness grows up and it is now 2.17% i. e. 2 of 100 Russian children are homeless. She says that such homelessness has only one precedent that was after Civil war and the homelessness was much less even after the Great Patriotic War because the society took care of orphans, educated them etc.

She says that existing child custody system is oriented to implement finances rather than children. According to General Procurator's Office juvenile crime have increased by 11%. In 2005, the number of crimes committed by non-adults was 154 thousand including 58 thousand grave crimes and 6.5 thousand especially grave crimes including 1.5 thousand murders. Every year, children under 14 commit 100 thousand crimes and these crimes are not listed in any statistics. Deputy General Prosecutor S. Fridinsky says that the nation will meet serious problems if this situation doesn't change in next two generations.

Table 1: Statistics and demographics of criminals [7]

	1990	1991	2000	2001	2005	2008	2011
Russian population, million of people	147,7	148,3		146,3	143,5	142	143,0
Number of general education students, thousand people	20851		20493	19843	15559	13752	13446
Juvenile crimes in Russia	162718	173375	195426	185379	154734	116090	71900
Registered crimes per 100 thousand people in Russia	1243	1461	2028	2033	2484	2261	2110
Unemployed criminals, thousand people	151,5		954,2	905,9	781,8	763,7	690,9

G. Stroeve, lead researcher of scientific and research institute of Federal Penitentiary Service of Department of Justice says interviewer from «Gazeta.Ru» that about 40% of condemned juvenile persons and non-adult prisoners are unable to understand the text they have read so they are functionally illiterate.

This situation is resulted from lack of public attention to youth problems, social and economic changes, availability of new opportunities due to involvement of Russia to world community, lack of leisure activities for the youth and lack of value guidemarks in 1990s. Resulted void starts to be filled with various subcultures that often propagandize cruelty, partly prohibited life style, etc. It resulted in family institution destruction and moral regression, rise in crime by 44.4% per 100 thousand people as compared to 1991. And decrease in juvenile crime isn't optimistic because unemployed crime increased more than 5-fold in 2008 as compared to 1990 (Table 1) [7].

Any human, nation or country is like a tree where leaves are future, tree body is present and roots are past. The tree can live without leaves and trunk and it can sprout new ones but the roots are vital. Strong nation is only that which remembers its roots and Russia has very deep historical roots. And these roots support national identity now but they were damaged by the social and economic changes in the country. Moral principles, individual and public moral are roots too.

Currently, the society is obsessed by market relations, economic instability, political difficulties that destroy the social relations and moral principles and result in intolerance and exasperation, the inner world collapse.

Pythagoras said that the main thing is to define the stance on good and evil. Brilliant antique sophist Aristoteles in its Politics wrote that lawmakers should pay exclusive attention to the youth education, otherwise the political system could be damaged.

L. Tolstoy said: «The most important thing which the man should know is how he can do little harm and much good».

The word «moral» derives from Latin «moralis» and means the references and standards for human behavior and daily activity. Moral isn't constant and it relies on population's habits and public attitudes rather than legal notices.

L. Grigorovich defines moral as personal attribute that combines qualities and properties such as kindness, respectability, discipline, collectivity [8].

I. Marienko defines moral as integral part of personality that allows to voluntarily follow all existing norms and rules regarding to behavior. He says that moral is embodied in personal stance on homeland, society, individuals, oneself, work, etc [9].

Moral standards define the behavior in each possible situation, they can encourage or prohibit some actions.

According to I. Kharlamov moral contains the following:

- The stance on homeland (patriotism) – love for country, its history, traditions and language, will to defend it if needed.
- The stance on work (industry) – need for constructive labor, work skills and need for improving these skills.
- The stance on society (collectivism) – ability to coordinate own wishes/efforts with the wishes/efforts of others, obey and lead.
- The stance on oneself – self-respect and respect for others, *нăăŷ řðè óăăæăîèèăđóăèð, âűňîêîă nîçîăîèă îăűăňðăăîíîăî âîêăă*, honesty, moral purity, modesty.
- Philanthropy or humanism [10].

Moral education of modern youth is the key to rescue Russia from economic and mental crises. Shortage of a manpower is resulted from not only demographic problems but from loss of mental guidemarks in whole generation. Even under demographic crisis, the shortage of manpower can be get over due to the education of youth as full citizens of Russia for traditionalism, piety, industry.

Mankind has understood the importance of moral for existence and development of society a long ago. Even Mo-Tzu tractate describe ethics as key component for ideal society: «Universal benefit and universal love bring great advantage to the Homeland». Mohism set up an important issue about the correlation between public and individual interests: «Universal love doesn't prohibit to love oneself it is necessary to love oneself and the others equally».

National security concept approved by Decree No. 1300 d/d December 17, 1997 of the President of the Russian Federation (repealed by Decree 537 d/d May 12, 2009 of the President of the Russian Federation) notes that deep social crisis resulted in sharp decline in birth rate and reduction in average life expectancy, demographic and social population structure deformation, loss of labor resources needed for production development, extinction of sense of family as fundament of the society, decrease in mental, moral and creative potential.

So the government understands the issues of moral education and life in harmony with oneself, the others and whole society. The causes are listed below.

- Increased technical power – technical systems created by human became powerful as natural factors.
- Sharp increase in individual technical equipment – each member of society obtained the hardware and individual freedom of use it.
- Information vulnerability of modern civilization – information technologies are increasingly used in daily life (cellphones, lifts, navigators).
- Local and global mankind globalization.
- Personality individualization, increase in the individual creative potential.

However, it is difficult to discuss the moral when the population partly is forced to survive. As they speak, the well-fed cannot understand the hungry.

L. Melnik in «Economy of development» says: «Individual is more likely to take care of future generations if this individual hasn't been hanging between death and life» [11]. According to the statistics (Table 2), there was more 17% of population with per capita income less than RUB 6000 in 2009 in Russia. In 4th quarter of 2010, minimum living wage was RUB 5902 per capita countrywide according to the government regulation signed by the prime minister of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Putin. According to this document, minimum living wage in 4th quarter was RUB 6367 for working population, 4683 for the elderly and 5709 for children.

Minimum living wage in 3rd quarter of 2010 was RUB 5707 per capita countrywide. Minimum living wage in 3rd quarter was RUB 6159 for working population, 4532 for the elderly and 5709 for children [12].

Total financial income distribution by 20 percent groups of population didn't change significantly from 2006 to 2009 (Table 3).

Gini index is virtually constant from 2006 and it is 0,422 indicating quite high income differentiation i.e. high stratification. According to the OECD classification economy can have very low (Gini index of 20-22%), low (24-26%), average (29- 31%) and high (33-35%) inequality.

Decile index is the relation between per capita incomes (expenses) of 10% of high-income and 10% of low-income population. For Russia, this index has grown a little from 2006 to 2009 amounting to 16,7 in 2009 i.e. the difference between income of abovementioned social groups has grown more than 16-fold. Experts say that decile index of more than 10 is create conditions for civil commotion. The least decile index of 3 through 4 among the developed countries is in Denmark, Finland and Switzerland. In Austria, Germany and France, decile index is 5–7. In USA, it is 10–12 due to the features of an American psychology.

Size of population with income less than minimum living wage (Table 4) has decreased from 21.5 million people in 2006 to 18.5 million people in 2009 and its percentage has decreased by 2 points to 13.1 %.

Financial income deficiency has grown from 2006 by RUB 80.3 million to RUB 356.9 million in 2009 but its percentage of total population income has decreased by 0.3%.

Insufficient means of living doesn't allow to act according to the moral guidemarks and results in worsening of intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts.

But the mankind hasn't the way other from following the moral code. The sustainable harmonious development is impossible in immoral society especially if the society has modern and unprecedentedly powerful instruments of environmental impact [13].

So the government must pay extreme attention to moral education issues and simultaneously decrease population dependence in material goods for life support and decrease in stratification [14-16].

Table 2: Population by financial income per capita (expressed as percentage) [7]

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Whole population	100	100	100	100
With the financial income of, RUB				
Less than 4000,0	20.5	14.3	9.9	7.4
4000,1-6000,0	17.7	14.8	12.2	10.3
6000,1-8000,0	14.7	13.6	12.3	11.1
8000,1-10000,0	11.2	11.3	10.9	10.4
10000,1-15000,0	17.1	19.1	20.2	20.4
15000,1-20000,0	8.4	10.6	12.3	13.3
20000,1-30000,0	10.4	9.6	12.2	14.1
More than 30000,0	...	6.7	10.0	13.0

Table 3: Total financial income distribution by 20 percent groups of population [7]

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total financial income percentage	100	100	100	100
By 20 percent groups of population:				
1 st (minimum income)	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1
2 nd	9.9	9.7	9.8	9.8
3 rd	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.8
4 th	22.6	22.5	22.5	22.5
5 th (maximum income)	47.3	47.9	47.8	47.8
10% of population with the highest income from 5 th group	30.6	31.1	31.1	31.0
Gini index	0.416	0.423	0.422	0.422
Fund index, times	16.0	16.8	16.8	16.7
Decile index, times	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.5

Table 4: Size of population with income less than minimum living wage. Financial income deficiency [7]

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Size of population with income less than minimum living wage				
Mln people	21.5	18.7	18.9	18.5
Percentage of total population size	15.2	13.3	13.4	13.1
Percentage of last-year value	85.3	87.0	101.1	97.9
Financial income deficiency				
Bln rubles	276.6	270.3	325.3	356.9
Percentage of total population income	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3

Moral education is the universal concept involved in all human activities. Hence prominent modern educationist V.A. Sukhomlinsky considers the moral education as backbone of education system for all-round development of the individual.

In 2012–2013 in Russia, there are several infrastructure projects being implemented including those focused on socially oriented youth development involved in public life [17].

There are laws being introduced that limit deviant behavior (public smoking or drinking) or make punishment for it more stringent.

Russian government realizes the importance of moral education as backbone of the development and aims to increase the role of moral and ethic code in public life.

CONCLUSIONS

The future prosperity depends on present human actions and relies on individual ethic codes and ability of individuals to strike a happy medium between egoism and care of future generations.

Otherwise, if individual without moral guidemarks or forced to survive receives the authority, he will abuse the

authority disserving the interests of society and nation. The first ones are for example officials, the second ones are teachers and doctors.

It underlies black economy, corruption, moral regression.

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