Some Aspects of the Monitoring of Ethnic Relations and Religious Situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Abstract: The approaches of the Kazakhstan state and not-governmental scientific organizations to monitoring the interethnic relations and religious situation in Republic of Kazakhstan are analyzed. Their difference from classical scientific researches in the field of monitoring is shown. The author proves the necessity to use both quantitative and qualitative researches at realization of monitoring. Conducted by various organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan under the various projects sociological studies of ethnic relations rather be called measurements of public opinion, but not monitoring, since monitoring - the systematic, planned and carried out in a specific pattern to study a particular piece of social reality, directed, if necessary, to change his or correction. Monitoring in the full sense of the word includes not only strictly thoughtful active data collection on the nature of social processes occurring and analytical processing of the data, but also to establish the causes of negative changes (if they are found), guidance on the implementation of systemic changes. Monitoring itself can not be the goal, but only one of the ways to achieve it, since monitoring should be clearly understood - how results will be used.

Key words: Republic of Kazakhstan • Interethnic and interfaith relations • Monitoring • Non-governmental organizations

INTRODUCTION

After gaining independence, Kazakhstan has entered a new historical stage in the development of profound the political transformations on the background of growth of national and religious identity, due to multiethnic Kazakh society, established during the Soviet period and multiconfessional formed in the course of democratic reforms.

Sophisticated management policies aimed at preserving the country's political stability and to correctly identify the main objectives and the selection of appropriate strategies, including: national security, political stability and consolidation of society, which are highlighted in the Strategy «Kazakhstan-2030» as a long-term development priorities of Kazakhstan [1].

Given the cultural pluralism of Kazakh society, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev said in his speeches consistently urged citizens to religious and ethnic tolerance. President considers unacceptable infringement of citizens on grounds of nationality or language, including, for public service. He noted that in the unity of the people - the strength and future of the country, stressing the importance in maintaining peace not only his policies, but also the efforts of all people of Kazakhstan [2]. This leadership position appeals to people of Kazakhstan, regardless of nationality and religious affiliation.

However, multicultural society, which is Kazakhstan, representing ethnically and culturally heterogeneous environment is not harmonious, by definition. So, recently stated an increase the activity of certain extremist groups, the loss of trust relationships between individual religious groups and the government. For the spread of religious radicalism and extremism are corruption, violation of social justice, ignorance young people moral and social ideas

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contained in the teachings of the founders of world religions. So advocates of extremist trends can quite easily masquerade as the defenders of true doctrine.

It is difficult not to agree with the existing opinion in which it really should be present in society. Monitoring is ... just the way and information channel by which ... the new requirements can be transmitted to the governing bodies [3].

Since the issue, clarifying the scientific and methodological basis for monitoring, has not been resolved to this day, consider it necessary to reproduce some of the approaches to its implementation, presented at the conference known analysts. B. Sultanov identified the following parameters, which were the scientists intend to use the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies in conducting monitoring studies of ethnic tension:

- Demographic status, including migration processes;
- Changes in the economic and social spheres;
- Position in the field of culture and education;
- Position in the media;
- Interethnic contacts at regional and country as a whole;
- Form of ethnic mobilization is closely related to national movements;
- Ethnic stereotypes;
- Power-political relations - primarily ethnic representation in public administration at central and local scales, the existence of political parties, etc.;
- Transformation of ethnic identity;
- Clarification of the ethno-political responses to the phenomenon of the national state-building;
- Religious processes;
- External events.

The Monitoring Methodology Ethnic and Religious Relations in Kazakhstan: First problems of scientific and methodological support in sufficient detail monitoring scientists and analysts discussing 23-24 May 2001’th at the international seminar «Monitoring inter-ethnic relations in Kazakhstan: experience, efficiency and prospects» held in Almaty, the Executive Secretariat of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan jointly with the office OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. In workshop was clarifying the question of scientific and methodological basis for monitoring inter-ethnic relations, especially as at the VIII session of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed the need to create a real and systematic monitoring of the situation in international relations. As imagined monitoring High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel, clear from his words made at the above conference. He said: «Monitoring plays a very important role in tracking exactly how the principle of equality is observed fully and unreservedly in different regions of this vast country like Kazakhstan. Monitoring of this kind can serve as a signal and as a source of information, what measures should be taken to ensure that this principle has been applied in full and in a way in which it really should be present in society. Monitoring is ... just the way and information channel by which ... the new requirements can be transmitted to the governing bodies» [3].

S. Zhusupov, recognizing the impact of these indicators, called guided in determining the dynamic inter-ethnic tensions and structural factors, in particular, such as:

- The place of ethnic identity among its other species;
- The impact of policies on neighboring countries interethnic situation in Kazakhstan;
- Introduction into public life of the Kazakh language;
- The consequences of migration processes;
- Coverage of interethnic relations in the media;
- The degree of intra consolidation among non-Kazakhs ethnic group;
- The presence or absence in the public mind of negative ethnic stereotypes;
• Representation of ethnic groups in governance bodies;
• Use of ethnicity for political purposes (elections);
• Place the Kazakh ethnic group in the state building;
• Place of Kazakh history and culture in arrayed state ideology;
• The standard of living of different ethnic groups.

As can be seen, despite the apparent coincidence of some items analysts accents in these monitoring studies are biased.

An interesting approach to the study of inter-ethnic relations briefed the participants of the conference Russian researcher O. Nechyporenko. Monitoring studies of inter-ethnic interaction between the peoples of Siberia conducted by the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as part of the Russian program «Peoples of Russia: the revival and development». The subject of this study is a specific form of adaptation multiethnic local communities to modern modernization processes. As indicators are the following:

• Interaction of traditional, commercial and industrial, commercial complex development of the region;
• Employment, migration, social movements;
• Adaptation to socio-economic reforms;
• Ethnic and cultural specificity of the region's development;
• A system of national and territorial governments and pair it with a system of government;
• Socio-political situation in the region;
• The ratio of central state authority and traditional power structures.

Important issue of the debate was the question of the authorities' response monitoring. It turned out that both in Kazakhstan and Russia - as countries in transition from totalitarianism to democracy - some authorities not entirely true understanding of the purpose of monitoring, seeing it as a means of loosening rather than strengthening state foundations. The authors of the textbook «Human Rights Monitoring» M. Nowicki and C. Fialova write: «In a stable democratic state ... obviously monitoring is conducted in accordance with the law, with the assistance of and sometimes at the request of government agencies. Acting in the public interest, we aim to improve the functioning of the state in specific areas and at the same time recognize its political system and greatly accept the legal system» [4].

To be clarified about the objectivity and analytical estimates given by experts. During monitoring analysts considering the judgments and positions, opinions and estimates of public figures and practical politicians, scientists and bureaucratic nomenclature, ethnic and religious communities, etc., on the basis of these opinions formulate their own vision and assessment processes taking place in society [5]. We can assume that the grounds on which this or that facts and events attached to the causal importance is nothing like its own regulatory analyst estimates installation. Therefore, obtained by different researchers analytical products can vary greatly.

M. Nowicki and Z. Fialova raise the question of the need to distinguish the classic research in the social sciences and the actual monitoring. They are the following fundamental differences between them:

• If the purpose of scientific applied research - scientific results and the development of scientific advice that it is desirable to carry on the social phenomenon, the research carried out under the monitoring - a catalyst for change, to change the situation;
• One of the main rules of social research - the preservation of public order, the monitoring can also be action in the public interest (to change the situation can affect even notice any instances of monitoring);
• If the research sample reflects the statistical structure of the society in accordance with the characteristics that, according to the scientist, may affect the results of the study, the monitoring deliberately limited to that population, where occurring or expected most important events;
• During monitoring methods are used not only research but also investigative techniques that complement each other and provide obtain the most complete and reliable information;
• In research sources are usually anonymous, when monitoring is needed documented information [4].

All these conditions must be borne in mind when monitoring interethnic and interfaith relations. Controversial is the question of preference use in monitoring methods of sociology. According to some researchers, handling prevailing in the survey estimates obtained using quantitative methods of sociology (questioning), should not prevail in the analysis of the situation in the sphere of interethnic interactions. N.P. Kosmartskaya most productive here are qualitative
research methods. «Details same polls, primarily their «closed» part - she writes - are helpful, but an auxiliary tool, giving an initial idea about the state of mass consciousness and benchmarks for subsequent checking and corrections directly and not fettered questionnaire dealing with people» [6]. Researcher puts forward a number of arguments against the widespread use of quantitative methods, some of which is hard to disagree. In particular, there is no doubt the validity of its approval that the questionnaire method may be dangerous to the objectivity of the study because it can be used for introduction into the mass consciousness of clichés that are constructed by politicians, activists 'ethnic' organizations and researchers engaged by a subsequent presentation their audience as «the people's opinion» [6]. Meanwhile, the media often give reason to believe that under the headings «Public Opinion» published this kind imposed on respondents clichés that have nothing to do with the opinion of most people [7].

Activities of Organizations in the Monitoring of Ethnic and Religious Sphere in Kazakhstan: Currently, monitoring of ethnic and religious sphere in the Republic of Kazakhstan is carried out as a scientific government agencies and non-governmental organizations. Thus, the non-governmental organization the Institute of Political Solutions (IPR) since 2011 implements monitoring of interethnic relations, nation-building, the religious situation through Expert Evaluations importance reflected in the media of events that may affect the scope of ethnic and confessional. Monitoring of inter-ethnic relations and religious situation continues to 1998 to carry out the office and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. If IPR implements quantitative approach to the assessment of events, the independent monitors in VC OSCE project analyzed the situation in the ethnic and religious sphere, using qualitative research methods such as in-depth and expert interviews, observation. In preparing policy briefs that provided by the public authorities of Kazakhstan also analyzed various documents, media materials.

Among government agencies, leading monitoring ethnic relations can be identified such as the Institute of Philosophy and Political Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Kazakhstan, Republican state enterprise on the right of business «House of Friendship - Center for Research on inter-ethnic relations».

Imperative study processes occurring in the ethnic sphere, was the problem of synthesis of axiological and functional approach, the instrumental-utilitarian and philosophical-cultural understanding of the national policy, overcoming extreme technocratic reductionism and abstract humanistic rhetoric. So, in the monograph «The Role of Media in the consolidation of the Kazakh society» on the basis of empirical sociological research and monitoring of the national media shows the role of the media in the development of a democratic political culture Kazakhs in promoting and approving the values in the mass consciousness of public consent, the spiritual and cultural unity peoples of Kazakhstan, the principles of humanism and tolerance [8].

As for the study of ethnic and religious spheres in monitoring mode, they are carried out within the project «Monitoring of inter-ethnic relations and religious situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan» in 2002-2005’th and 2007-2009’th and are now being held. To prepare analytical reports used both quantitative and qualitative methods of collecting social information.

Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of RK Research pays considerable attention to ethnic and religious sphere. The site of this organization (http://www.kisi.kz/img/docs/5194.pdf) posted a bibliography of publications KISR (1993-2010 yy.), which implies that the ethnic and inter-confessional relations experts considered this organization with side effects such as foreign policy factors and political processes occurring. KISR also held a number of major international conferences inviting foreign experts, which discussed issues of interethnic and interreligious harmony in modern Kazakhstan [9].

Several years monitored ethnic and religious sphere through the preparation of various projects of the Republican State Enterprise on the right of business «House of Friendship - Center for Research on inter-ethnic relations». Feature of his activity was the preparation with the help of experienced experts of analytical reports on various topical issues of interethnic relations. Among them we can emphasize the «Conducting a comprehensive study the effectiveness of the executive authorities on the harmonization of interethnic relations», «Role of civil society in the harmonization of interethnic relations», «Ethnic identity and tolerance in a multi-ethnic Kazakhs environment», «Formation of the language environment as a factor in the development of inter-ethnic relations», «balanced system of indicators in the field of harmonization of interethnic relations» etc.
CONCLUSION

In our opinion, for the analysis of social analysts should use the information obtained using both quantitative and qualitative methods of sociology, because for external well, you can view the negative trends.

Experience of socio-economic reforms in our country demonstrates unwillingness (or inability) of individual reformers guided by the principles of scientific management of social processes. Insufficient competence affects subjects reform - primarily hardware employees of state and regional (local) control - in modern methods of political control, including social engineering.

From the standpoint of the modern understanding of the bases of political rationality is impossible to claim the knowledge of procedures which will only correct solution corresponding to some absolute standard. Administrative authority has a tendency to move to self-programming, the growth of its independence from society. «Unlimited discourse of free and equal citizens is the basis of the legitimacy of institutions and norms of a democratic society: the institutions are legitimate insofar as they establish the organizational structure of the free public discussion, the rules are legitimate to the extent that they are the result of this discussion» [10].

In summary, we note that the monitoring of ethnic relations and religious situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan with the aim of optimizing the management of ethnic and religious sphere processes should become obligatory control political processes in our country.

REFERENCES

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7. According to D. Satpayev Kazakh feature information space is that our media structure is closely related to the business and journalists in this system are not independent figures.