

Typology of the family in the analysis of poverty in Russia

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The issue of poverty in Russia is actually because poverty covers a large proportion of the population. According to researches of scientists together with class characteristics, such as socio-professional status, the living standards of Russians is influenced by non-class, mostly socio-demographic, features including type of households.

Based on materials of three INTAS projects devoted to the problems of poverty and social policy (1995-2006) the report provides the results of analyses of empiric data including:

- Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey, panel research, 2005-2007 (more than 12 000 respondents every year);
- three pan-Russian surveys (2006, 2008 and 2009) (nearly 2 000 respondents each of them).

According to the results of the research:

- The item for analyzing poverty in Russia is not a person itself but the household because of the particularities of gender and generations' relations in households;
- While in developed countries major socio-demographic factors of inequality are race and gender, in Russia racial inequality is not so relevant, and gender inequality is not so acute, and therefore inequality based on socio-demographic parameters in Russia are often generated by characteristics of households;
- Analyzes of different aspects needs different typologies of households (due to roles distribution, numbers of generations, etc.). The most informative typology of households for studying poverty and its nature is classification due to dependency load as in Russia this factor is not compensated enough by social policies;
- The risk of falling into poverty is increased even not by dependency load itself (the number and proportion of dependents), but by its character (who is dependent);
- The nature of dependency load not only determines the level and parameters of household's consumption, but also influences the working positions of other members who take care of dependents;
- The greatest risk of poverty exists for households with non-working pensioners and chronically sick people without disabilities with low level of human capital. The lowest standard of living is shown by households of pensioners and families with more than two children and single-parent families;

- In terms of stability and economic growth pensioners provide greater risk of poverty for households than minor children;
- During crisis the minors load increases most of all as households with little children have risks of unemployment and incomes decline in conditions of pensions (as guaranteed income) absence and absence of opportunity to cut other expenditures, because while disabled persons or retiree are ready to give up new clothes and even some food for the sake of drugs, children's requirements can't be decreased.

Thus, the type of households is one of the key factors of poverty in Russia today. That is why adequate typology of households in the analysis of these issues in the social sciences can provide interesting scientific results which can be useful in the development of social policies. This report demonstrates that the typology of households due to the nature of dependency load is very informative in analyzing poverty in Russia.

Keywords: types of families, poverty, socio-demographic characteristics, dependency load