**Abstract**

**RS-226**

Title: «On the development of socialization programs for orphans»

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**The object of the study** is families with children.

1. **Goal of research:** Study of barriers and difficulties in the process of secondary socialization of orphans related to obtaining housing and adaptation to adult life in the context of education and change of residence.
2. **Methodology:** the analyses of open data of Federal State Statistic Service; the analyses of the federal and regional regulatory framework, the analysis of qualitative sociological data from in-depth interviews with experts and graduates of orphanages.
3. **Empirical base of research:** the data of Federal State Statistic Service, texts of the normative legal acts of the federal and regional level, the in-depth interviews with experts and graduates of orphanages.
4. **Results of the research:**

The starting point of the study was the notion that program for the secondary socialization of orphans through their property support in Russia, firstly, provides orphans with amenities very slowly, secondly, it is under increasing pressure from the demand for housing for orphans accumulated over previous years, and, thirdly, it generates negative results even when formally the obligations on the housing rights of orphans are considered fulfilled (for example, by populating large groups of orphans in the entrances to other poor people, which leads to the ghettoization of Russian cities). The study was aimed at, on the one hand, understanding why the orphan queue for comfortable separate housing is constantly growing, and, on the other hand, finding out why a separate apartment does not guarantee a full-fledged social life for a Russian orphan.

The task of the study was to comprehensively investigate the failures in property support for orphans in Russia. For this, an analysis of the world experience of social support for orphans and regulatory documents governing the distribution of specialized social housing to orphans was made. After that, in-depth and expert interviews were conducted in three Russian regions: with orphans who are on the waiting list for housing or have such experience in the past; with representatives of the guardianship authorities, social workers, representatives of care institutions, representatives of nonprofit organizations that care about the social adaptation of orphans; with employees of the housing sector who have experience in accompanying orphans in obtaining social housing. The analysis of interview data was carried out taking into account the media context on how the system of providing orphans with housing for the sake of their better adaptation functions in Russia. The analysis focused on the question of under what conditions the property support of orphans by the state will be converted with greater success into their economic security and adaptability to social life after graduation from orphanages and boarding schools.

In general, the study indicates that in its current form, the Program of property support for orphans aimed at their adaptation in Russian society is not able to compensate for failures in their primary socialization, which significantly reduces the return on this Program in terms of the social integration of orphans in Russia. The root cause of all troubles is in the persistent negative effects that institutionalized orphanhood produces in terms of the socialization of a child without parents and family. In this sense, the positive results of the study are related to empirical observations of how the institution of adoption is developing in Russia, how institutions for orphans are reorganized in the family type and begin to route orphans from dysfunctional families to prosperous ones.

One can also positively assess the work of the system of providing orphans with separate comfortable housing in certain cities and regions of Russia, where it is possible to form reserve and flexible housing stocks for orphans, where the ratio of supply and demand for social housing, as well as the implementation of social guarantees, can be traced through a digitized, electronic document flow. However, the general conclusion of the study is that, so far, best practices in terms of providing orphans with housing and converting this asset into their social adaptation in Russia are rare and do not spread. There are three groups of reasons for this. The first one links the effectiveness of the Program with structural conditions, primarily with the shortage of suitable housing stock in the country. The second group of reasons describes areas of normative regulation, the development of which will increase its effectiveness. And, the third group of reasons, which the study brought out, reveals the fact that property support for orphans by the state works as a factor of the social integration of an orphan only when, as calculated by the program, housing is provided to an adult. At the same time, the fact of growing up is regulated in the legislation through the age variable. However, growing up in the artificial environment of an institution is slower than in a family. And in fact, after graduating from an orphanage or boarding school, an 18-year-old teenager enters housing rights in Russia, once removed from a dysfunctional family (social orphans prevail in Russia), with a special social stigma of an orphan, with a low quality of knowledge and skills, with a sense of learned helplessness, a tendency to dependency, a habit of receiving handouts for the image of a contented child in front of benefactors. This teenager is completely unsuited to independent living in separate housing. And from a sociological point of view, refining the design of the Program for providing orphans with housing, taking into account the fact that orphans are a group with special socio-psychological characteristics, is no less important than stimulating the construction of social housing in the country and adjusting the regulatory mechanisms for implementing the Program. In order for orphans to be able to settle down in separate comfortable housing, it is important to take care both to facilitate access to social housing for orphans, and that they are sufficiently brought up and educated in order to convert their housing asset into economic sustainability and new life chances. So far, the programs for raising Russian orphans in institutions, the educational and labor trajectories outlined for them, do not provide such an opportunity.

1. **Level of implementation, recommendations on implementation or outcomes of the implementation of the results:** the results and the recommendations formulated upon the resume of the study could be used for public authorities consultations and for improvement the current or developing legislation in the field of orphans in order to increase their effectiveness; for developing programs to support orphans, for decisions making regarding the housing stock provided to orphans after the end of their stay in state and non-state institutions for orphans or in foster families.