**Abstract**

**RS-24**

Title: «Manifestations and determinants of well-being and disadvantage of various population groups in modern Russia»

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**The object** **of this study** is different socio-economic and demographic groups of the population and households in modern Russia. **The subject** is represented by the origines of the well-being and the disadvantage of these groups associated with the structure of Russian society and the flows of social mobility, situation in the labor market, consumer opportunities, social ties, and with the digitalization of society and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Aim of the research** is to explore the manifestations and the determinants of the well-being and the disadvantage in different contexts, including international comparisons and dynamics, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

**Methodology.** The study is interdisciplinary and is based on theoretical approaches and methodology of sociology, social anthropology and economics; the research team has used desk research methods, theoretical and methodological analysis of Russian and foreign publications, analysis of regulatory documents, descriptive and multivariate statistical and econometric analysis, microsimulation, socio-anthropological methods of field research and analysis of qualitative data, etc.

**The empirical base of research includes** data from the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey of the National Research University Higher School of Economics (RLMS NRU HSE), surveys of the Institute of Sociology of the Federal Scientific Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), the European Social Survey (ESS), sample surveys on income, wealth and expenditure conducted by the Russian Federal State Statistics service. This is the first project in the HSE Basic Research Program using the Russian National Study of the Older Generation (NSOG) data on various aspects of the life and behavior of older people (50 years and older), collected in the fall of 2021. The NSOG carried out within the framework and according to the methodology of the The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE).

**Results of research:**

The analysis of consumer attitudes of poor population indicates that the poor and wealthy groups of the population differ in their consumer attitudes. Poor people are more focused on price, experience and company policy, while othes groups of population prioritize product features and focus on fashion and brands. At the same time, it was shown the group of poor people is heterogeneous in the consumption sphere - 4 classes of poor consumers are identified, whose typical sets of purchases can be characterized as consumption of: (1) the minimum set, (2) the basic set, (3) investments in the health and human capital of children, (4) the maximum set.

An assessment of the property security of social support measures’ recipients in Russia showed that the endowment of non-financial assets, including basic shelter, other residential real estate, non-residential buildings, land and vehicles, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, is on average lower in low-income households, than in households with higher incomes. Such properties as cars and additional housing suitable for year-round using are the most differentiated in terms of quality are.

It was analyzed the duration of stay in poverty and persistent poverty, and it was shown that the most typical is a short-term stay in poverty of 1-year duration. However, almost a tenth of those who become poor remain in poverty for 5 or more years and face risks of marginalization. Number of children in family is a key factor that increases the length of stay in poverty in Russia, and the total number of years in poverty is positively correlated with living in rural area.

The study of subjective and objective measures of inequality and poverty in 22 countries included in the ISSP data set concluded that Russia is characterized by the largest bias towards low subjective assessments of the position in society, although the level of GDP and poverty levels according to national and international lines are far from the most low scores in the sample. Another characteristic is the assessment of inequality as high, at the same time it was found rather low level of “population anger” towards it.

An analysis of super-wealth in Russia showed that the composition of the group of 200 richest Russian businessmen, representing "noticeable" super-wealth, is reproduced annually on more than 90%. For the period 2011–2021 years more than 60% of its representatives retained their positions in this group. 2/3 of these businessmen own corporations related to the fuel and energy complex, as well as to finance and industry. 2/3 of these businessmen own corporations related to the fuel and energy complex, as well as to finance and industry. Growth in the number of businessmen whose business is related to the field of computer technology, IT and communications is the key industry change of the last decade. But it is still difficult to judge about the stability of this situation.

The results of assessing the intergenerational mobility of subjective well-being and the characteristics that contribute to the mobility of well-being in Russia allow us to confidently speak about the existence of intergenerational mobility of subjective well-being with a higher level of mobility between mothers and daughters compared to sons.

Analysis of the role that welfare state fiscal policies played in reducing inequality and poverty in eight post-Soviet countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine) in the mid-2010s, and assessing their effectiveness according to the methodology of «The Commitment to Equality» (CEQ) reveals trends that are common to the countries studied, such as a sharp increase in poverty and inequality in the 1990s, economic growth and poverty reduction in the 2000s, not necessarily accompanied by a reduction in inequality. In all countries except Kyrgyzstan, tax systems are regressive due to a single personal income tax rate and a high share of income from indirect taxes. All countries included in this study have an opportunity to increase the redistributive impact of their tax and transfer systems by increasing government revenue and spending. Variants of fiscal policy reform increasing the redistributive impact of the welfare state include: (1) increasing spending on direct nonpension transfers, with benefits gradually decreasing as household incomes rise to avoid reducing employment incentives; (2) raising the retirement age; (3) improving the access of low-income groups of the population to higher education; (4) expanding the coverage of personal income tax and implementation of progressive income tax rate structures; (5) reducing regressive tax credits; and (6) greater using of property taxes.

It was analized the non-standard forms of employment, which became widespread after the economic crisis of 2008, and which were stimulated by the technological development of economic sectors and determined the decrease in the social stability of employment in Russia. The results of this analysis made it possible to identify the factors provoking the employee's involvement in such forms of employment. The chances of standard employment largely depend on such components of human potential as the level of education and health status, and on structural factors - the form of ownership of the enterprise and the type of settlement in the place of residence. For standard employment, which implies the highest degree of protection of workers’ labor rights and the stability of their employment, it is necessary to have a professional education, good health, age from 30 to 50 years, as well as living in cities, especially large ones, where there is a sufficient number of state-owned enterprises and organizations. As a result, young people and people living in rural areas are initially in unfavorable conditions in the labor market.

Based on the theoretical work in the framework of the project it was developed the concepts that characterize different aspects of disadvantage in old age - from the already well-established poverty and social exclusion to the new and less conceptualized ideas of vulnerability, insecurity and precarity. Just as researches on well-being and inequality gradually expand the scope including non-monetary aspects, researchers on disadvantage try to develop approaches to describe and evaluate risks for older people wich are not or not necessarily related to their level of income.

It was constructed the measurement of the older people’s life quality drawing on the example of approbation of the CASP Quality of Life Scale on Russian data as a result of methodological work on the analysis of the older people’s life quality. The average value of the CASP-8 scale for Russia was 15.6, the modal and median values were 15.0 and 16.0, respectively. The distribution of scale values can be considered as normal, and the studied population - the Russian population aged 50 years and older - is homogeneous in terms of quality of life, measured on the basis of CASP‑8.

Empirical analysis of well-being in older age showed that it is associated (but not unambiguously) with receiving help from close ones. Receiving financial assistance from children was positively associated with the level of life satisfaction of older adults, but receiving instrumental assistance from children was negatively associated with the subjective well-being of older people.

The analysis of the financial behavior of the older generation indicated that the share of people who have savings increases as the age of the respondents increases. The regression analysis showed that the accumulation of savings is closely and positively associated with subjective assessments of the financial situation and with the older age of the respondent (70 years and older). Older people with high skill levels in their current or last job are more likely to have savings. Individuals with good or even satisfactory digital skills also have high chances to have savings. These characteristics are associated both with human capital and, probably, with the ability to better plan one's future, and, most likely, with higher wages (currently or in the past), which allows (allowed) to generate savings.

The results of studies about the impact of digitalization on the older people’s quality of life show that this technological process can affect the access of older people to work and distant medical care. According to the results of the regression analysis of the status and conditions of employment, developed digital skills significantly increase the likelihood of employment, while poor ones reduce it; high self-rated digital skills have a positive effect on wages.

The regression analysis of the older people’s readiness to use telemedicine partly confirmed the ideas in the sociology of medicine about the prerequisites for the acceptance of telemedicine and the willingness to use it, as well as the fact that for the older generation telemedicine is rathe addition to traditional forms of medical care than a full-fledged substitute. Such components of expected efforts as experience in using digital technologies and ability to pay for Internet access have the strongest influence on the older people’s intentions to receive telemedicine consultations come. An unexpected result was a greater willingness of people with disabilities in everyday life (in terms of hearing, cognitive abilities and the general set of instrumental activities of daily life (IADL)) to use telemedicine.

An analysis of gender differences in career mobility patterns in the UK (the results of which are also applicable in Russia) showed that family responsibilities seriously limit women's mobility. Women with family responsibilities are less able to take advantage of career opportunities and often have to put up with loss in wages when they change employers for family reasons.

The results of a socio-anthropological study of motherhood and childcare of migrant women from Central Asian countries in Russia demonstrate that a migrant woman is constantly looking for the best solution to combine motherhood with life in migration. Transnational motherhood (care for children at a distance) is one of the most common strategies during the first years of life in Russia. The second strategy that mothers choose is to live together with a child or with several children in migration. The interviews show that in conditions of uncertainty about the future, the absence of social programs for migrants, the problems they have to face in everyday life, families are in constant motion.

The expertise carried out in the framework of the project revealed that the crisis phenomena in demographic development in the vast majority of regions of the Russian Federation reached significant levels in the period 2013-2022. At the same time, reproductive health issues are poorly taken into account in the framework of the set of demographic policy measures implemented since 2007 year. In the development of state regulation measures in the field of demographic security of the state and its subjects, qualitative indicators are practically not used. Qualitative indicators characterize manageable risk factors for reducing the demographic potential, in particular, assessments of the population level of reproductive health and motivation for childbearing, gender imbalance (ratio of boys and girls among newborns), as well as the birth of children with disabilities (having mental and functional developmental disorders), which also have a pronounced tendency to increase, which significantly affects the quality and stability of demographic processes.

**Level of implementation, recommendations on implementation, or outcomes of the implementation of the results:** The results of the research were presented at scientific and scientific-practical events, including international - in Russia, Norway, Tajikistan. Based on the research results, 13 scientific publications were prepared, including 9 articles in journals indexed in WoS and Scopus. Some study results were used to prepare analytical notes and expert opinions sent to the Russian Government and federal executive authorities in 2022.

**Application area:** The results of this research can be used for consultation of public authorities and improving existing or developing legislation in the fields of social, tax, and economics policies and evaluation of their effectiveness, particularly in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Russian Federation, the Ministry of Economic Development of Russian Federation, the Ministry of Finance of Russian Federation, the Ministry of Health of Russian Federation, the Accounts Chamber of Russian Federation and the Federal State Statistics Service of Russian Federation.