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**SOCIAL JUSTICE PERCEIVED BY RUSSIAN YOUTH ON THE  
EXAMPLE OF CHECHNYA**

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**Abstract**

The growing intensity of crisis phenomena in modern Russian society, their spread to almost all spheres of life of the society raised the issues of generational continuity. The notions of “social justice” or “injustice” are the elements of individual and social evaluation of social relations already in force. They help shape people’s requirements to the social environment. In Russia, the concept of justice and social justice over the past two decades has repeatedly become the topic of socio-philosophical and sociological analysis. The assessment of relationships that are fair or unfair given by a person or social group may depend on a particular type of comparison, as well as the various options for combining them. Youth are the most important social institution of the social communities that make up the structure of society. Young people act as an active social actor aimed at the requirements of justice and a fair way of life, being an active and social entrepreneurial community motivated to achieve the appropriate (proper) level of socialization, realizing the need to implement the principles of justice.. Young people associate the perceptions of equity with the need to assess the level, conditions of their existence and all events of reality affecting direct interests, and to determine the degree of justice. The paper analyzes some relevant aspects of the study of ideas about social justice among the Russian youth.

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## 1. Introduction

In modern scientific literature, the genesis of social justice as an axiological concept was studied in the works of domestic authors: Mantatov (1998), Rozov (1998), Stepin (2011), Ursul (2016), as well as famous Western theorists of the problem of justice: Rawls (1995), Nozick (2008), Dvorkin (2003), Höffe (1994).

At the same time, a special approach was formed to study the process of transforming the ideas about social justice of various social communities, which is present in the publications of such authors as Zaslavskaya (2002), Kolody (1991), Rogovin (1993), Argunova (2005), Rimashevskaya (1991) and others.

Young people react sensitively to all social transformations. The study of this group can identify those social changes that have not yet found a clear form, have not been embodied in reality, but are present in the minds of young people.

Socio-philosophical and sociological analysis of justice in the system of values of the population allows comparing the forms of \ social, political, economic, spiritual systems of the society. Practice has shown that the comparison of the desired and actual in the perception of young people follows the means of polar indicators, such as “justice” and “injustice”, “positive” and “negative”, “presence” and “absence”, “satisfaction” and “dissatisfaction”, etc. Public opinion on the processes of reality is a criterion for achieving a certain quality of life for the population, which reflects a certain stereotype of thinking and behavior.

The traditional understanding of justice deeply rooted in mass consciousness is not always associated in the perception of young people as an actual model of justice, moreover, as the axiological concept of value causes alienation. The assessment of relationships that are fair or unfair given by a person or social group may depend on a particular type of comparison, as well as the various options for combining them.

Parsons (2000) states that individuals themselves have an interest in those objects and methods of behavior that bring them satisfaction. Self-esteem is a very important component of satisfaction. Since moral norms are indeed embedded in the structure of an individual, it is precisely the degree of compliance with these norms that will depend on the satisfaction that the individual experiences. Definitely, a person associates social recognition with self-respect.

The result of the assessment of reality in fairness can certainly affect the level of socialization of the younger generation through a sense of self-respect, and, accordingly, satisfaction with personal social situation.

Practice has shown that young people’s perceptions of social status are assessed according to the following criteria:

- material security;
- access to and use of various types of public resources;
- social identification, comparison by a person of his own social situation with the position of other people, using individual perception, using estimates emanating from others.

These components have the characteristic of the general relation of a subject to the system, and for them it is necessary to evenly lay out the costs that are associated with its setup. If these costs are

disproportionately higher for some, social justice cannot be achieved, even though all people benefit equally from an exchange and distribution system.

## **2. Problem Statement**

Considering social justice in socio-economic relations as a complex and large-scale phenomenon, we drew attention to the need for its state regulation through flexible social policies, which should be based not only on the interests of individuals, various social groups and communities, but also on their permanent study.

First of all, it is necessary to develop appropriate rules that should be scientifically sound, taking into account the ethno-historical characteristics of multinational Russia, the peculiarities of the mentality of its population. Clearly, for the practical realization of the principle of social justice it is important not only to identify and set standards of justice (in legislation, rules and customs), but also to create a mechanism for their observance.

Spiritual and moral relations are connected with the belonging of a person to a certain environment, as well as to a social group, and thus force a person to present spiritual values and ideals in a certain system. Social justice is an important incentive for human activity in various fields of activity.

“Employment” and “unemployment” may be considered as evaluation criteria within the characteristics of a certain state of society. The assessment takes place within the framework of the issue of social justice. Answering the question about the percentage of unemployment, we strive to characterize the ratio of justice and injustice in this society.

Justice arises when the question of proportionality between the rights and obligations of young people in society arises. This issue is included in the problem of political, legal, economic and moral regulation of relations between individuals, social groups, communities, the state, their specific interests. But such notions of justice are not neutral. Thus, in the current political arena, we see how the representatives of different political forces, turning to justice, touch upon the grievances and deprivations of certain social groups, strengthening their expectations and increasing discontent.

Another pattern is the objective social need to develop a youth policy strategy as an autonomous construct of state policy, which determines the effectiveness and success of the socialization of an individual as the basis of a healthy society. The modern society is facing an urgent need to create mechanisms to take into account the interests and needs of various, including the poorest, social strata in order to better reflect them in state, regional and municipal social policies and make appropriate decisions.

In the difficult conditions of the modern social situation, this type of policy allows directing the activities of the institutions of power aimed at resolving a number of contradictions of social development to identify priorities of realizing the needs and interests of young people as the basis of social justice.

## **3. Research Questions**

The results of recent sociological monitoring indicate the priority of the concept of raising the standard of living in the youth environment, naturally, which includes not only material status. When

asked what respondents expect first from the country's authorities, 56 % indicated an increase in living standards (Report of the All-Russia Public ...).

1. In analyzing the level of socialization of young people in modern Russian society it is important to study this problem at the regional level, since significant differences in the forms of organization of social space are observed not only between different regions, but also within the same region.
2. In the context of modern realities, the question of the social protection of vulnerable categories of the population in the conditions of digitalization of various spheres of society becomes relevant. Today, economists, politicians, and most ordinary workers believe that the transition to digitalization of the economy is irreversible and has actually been implemented.

It is already becoming clear that this process is complex and painful and is not only caused by organizational obstacles. Young people as the most active social community looking into the future imagine that the real state of the social structure is the presence of a huge number of people of retirement age, disabled, people with low qualifications.

All this makes the issue of social protection of the population in the process of modernization relevant. This is an important part of ensuring real social justice that exists in a civilized society. Based on this, such a direction can and should be considered as a factor capable of mitigating conflicts and contradictions.

Justice is a value that is connected with material, social, political, legal situation, as well as the well-being of people.

#### **4. Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the paper is to try to find an answer to the following questions: what encourages a young person to immerse himself in the process of assessing reality for justice and what priorities are to satisfy social needs and interests in the representations of young people.

#### **5. Research Methods**

Recent studies on youth issues – monitoring based on the all-Russian sampling and regional studies – give a motley picture of the needs, interests, and expectations of young people. They show that social stratification has become a noticeable phenomenon in the youth environment, primarily in terms of economics. This differentiating feature is superimposed by differentiation of age, region, subculture, etc. The diverse needs and interests of young people reveal their real socio-economic situation.

The annual sociological survey on the study of ideas about the justice of young people in the Chechen Republic on the topic “Perception of the concept of social justice by Chechen youth in modern reality” revealed topical aspects of the process of socialization of students. 1,550 respondents were interviewed – students of three state universities of the Chechen Republic (GSOTU, ChSU, ChSPU). Quota sampling with probabilistic selection of respondents presenting the socio-age group by sex, age and education included students of 1–4 years of study of humanitarian, technical and natural profiles, living in

different regions of the Chechen Republic, the cities of Argun, Shali, Grozny (Social justice in the perception of Chechen youth).

## 6. Findings

Today, there are problems that are expressed in the form of social conflicts, and they are associated with violations not so much of the principles of justice, but with the manifestation of stereotypes that have developed in the minds of individuals. According to the study, the stereotypes of social justice related to moral and ethical values and legal norms adopted in the society are priority for student youth. When asked what they see as a manifestation of social justice, the majority of respondents answered: "Following everyone's moral and ethical standards" – 23.3 %; "Legal equality of all citizens before" – 31 %. The "lack of differences in living standards and well-being" was noted by 15.7 % of respondents, and equality of opportunity to realize their abilities is even less – only 10 %. (Social justice in the perception of Chechen youth).

However, one cannot identify the stereotypes of the representations of individuals at the cognitive (personal) and ontological (real) levels, and here the problem in turn is based on the factor of differences in the level of socialization of individuals. Evaluation depends not only on the ordinary level, but also on the nature and content of the justice model, which is declared in various social networks. Justifying equity as a criterion for decision-making in social policy we set an important research task that needs to be understood not only theoretically, but also needs to be correlated with the results of empirical research. The relevance of this problem depends on the fact that justice serves a means of legitimizing social relations and change reflecting universal, group and personal interests.

## 7. Conclusion

The formation and implementation of youth policy is based on objective and subjective factors. An objective factor in youth policy is the public need for it, expressing the need to resolve a number of contradictions in social development. In the context of a transforming Russian society, this need is associated, first of all, with significant violations (at some points – destruction) in the functioning of traditional institutions of socialization of young generations – family, education, peer community, etc.

The results of sociological studies of young people's perceptions of justice suggest that this concept of due diligence contains the requirement of correspondence between the practical role of young individuals in the life of the society and their social position, between their rights and obligations, work and remuneration, merit and public recognition, crime and punishment.

The study of the objective factors of youth policy requires that the needs and interests of young people themselves be attributed to them.

The implementation of principles that relate to social justice in the society is not an easy attempt to follow the needs of young people. This implementation has pragmatic goals – justice is a necessary requirement and a condition for the normal reproduction of human resources in the society. Modern state policy is designed to harmonize existing relations in the society, it should strive to prevent the emergence and development of acute conflicts.

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