

## **Sociocultural Adaptation of Migrant Refugees in Contemporary Russian Society: the Development of Social Partnership System Focused on Work with Refugees**

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**Abstract:** The study presents the results of the study of the issue of socio-cultural adaptation of migrant refugees. The practice of the Russian Federation in the use of voluntary work with refugees through active involvement of civil society institutions, business structures in the social partnership system may be applied also on the territory of Western Europe the countries of which nowadays experience significant migrant load on the society.

**Key words:** Socio-Cultural adaptation of refugees, migration, tolerance, social partnership, voluntary work, civil society, social institutions

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Intensive ongoing processes of migration of population from disadvantaged regions are a severe socio-cultural problem. Broadly speaking, migration is the process of spacious movement of people between settlements, regions, and countries. In a narrower sense, migration means the entirety of migrations of people related to changes in the place of residence for a permanent or rather long period (Shostak, 2005). This is not only mechanical displacement of groups of persons but rather complex processes affecting all aspects of human life: social, economic, political, ethnic, moral, psychological, religious-spiritual. Today, the main vector exercising direct effect on intensification of migration flows making migration more large-scale, diverse and continuous is enhancement of violence practices on the global scale: the war in Libya, Syria, armed conflicts in Ukraine.

By solving some issues, migration promotes to origination of a number of social risks overcoming and prevention of which becomes a 'hot' trend of the social policy of a state. In our opinion, one of such topical social issues is the issue of socio-cultural adaptation of migrant refugees in the host society. Creation of favorable conditions for socio-cultural adaptation of migrants that implies the joint, bilateral movement of migrants and natives towards each other in order to maintain the civil peace is a complex multi-directional task (Mukomel, 2014).

However, a state enjoying many powers and authorities cannot always cope with the situation to the fullest extent and within a short time; therefore,

involvement of various civil society institutions may be rather efficient in terms of solving this issue. The ideology of humanism supported today all over the world motivates parties to public relations to change the entire system of social institutions towards creation of necessary conditions for implementation of partnership relations within the society in general, vs the ideology of social confrontation (Frank and Smith, 2000).

Also in the modern world a huge number of socio-cultural crisis phenomena may be managed by means of social partnership. As Komarovskiy (2000) writes, 'in Russia social partnership, its model that is being formed acts as kind of softener of social tension'. This is why, the current social processes justify transfer of some powers from governmental institutions of the social protection of population to non-governmental entities. Now a days assistance to migrant refugees is one of the topical trends of interaction between the state, business structures and public associations (Waddock, 1998; Wilson and Charlton, 1998).

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Main part:** According to the official figures of the Directorate of the Federal Migration Service of Russia as of the end of August 2015, there are 733 thousand citizens of Ukraine on the territory of Russia that arrived to our country due to the challenging situation in their native country. About 78 thousand persons applied for recognition of their refugee status and granting temporary shelter, 66 of 85 entities among all federal districts of Russia accommodated refugees from the Southern-Eastern regions of Ukraine at temporary housing areas.

Today around 52 thousand persons are accommodated within temporary housing areas in different regions of Russia.

Under such conditions the state cannot provide sufficient social protection for incoming population and the citizens of Russia take reasonable participation in the refugees' life by providing in-kind aid and accommodation. This determines large-scale development of such kind of activities as voluntary work involving religious organizations, cultural and social welfare institutions, judicial and other social institutions; as well as actualizes the dialogue between the state and society through development of the social partnership system focused on work with refugees. Today, the dialogic and tolerant approach to solution of many social issues is the imperative of our era. Provision of assistance to other people, free work of a volunteer takes various forms: this is not only sacrificing personal time, physical effort but also any other activities based on human and social resources to the benefit of people requiring external help. Here, historical experience of our country might be very useful.

It should be noted that the Russian historical socio-cultural past is seamlessly associated with the religious (first of all, Christian) culture. If we refer to the social sphere, we would see that the Christian culture was the foundation for the national paradigm of social assistance: one has only to think about the periods of public charity and public assistance in the world social history. It is the Christian Church as bearer of the religious culture that takes first steps in organization of voluntary activities, charity institutions, lays the basis for provision of necessary aid and assistance to vulnerable social groups the refugees are.

Therefore, today the social activity of the Russian Orthodox Church takes on significance like never before as the forms and methods of the merciful confession activity have been time-proven and proved their value within various ethnic and social communities. The distinctive feature of the confessional community service is the fact that its sound basis relies on special understanding and explanation of mercy and charity considering love for one's neighbor as implementation of the God's commandments, service to those in need as service of God. One should bear in mind that 'a volunteer of labor' is based on the traditions that are known to the history of science and rely on the religious values of Christianity such as 'labor of love' according to the commandment 'Help thy neighbor' that is peculiar to the Christian communities, in particular, to peasant communities in the Czarist Russia. Here, this labor is based on the deep-seated tradition of altruistic

volunteering, first of all, on the level of a family, dynasty, tribe. The key of it is the emotions of love, compassion, kinship and in the communities also the aspect of economic feasibility in terms of solving the community issues on the basis of self-organization without mobilizing extra resources is added.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Within the frameworks of the Concept of the State Migration Policy for the period until 2025 approved by the President of the Russian Federation on June 8, 2012, vigorous efforts aimed at socio-cultural adaptation of migrant refugees involving various civil society institutions are taken in Russia. The comprehensive plan incorporating a course of Russian language classes, history of Russia, legislation of the Russian Federation, excursions across the regions receiving migrant refugees has been designed by joint efforts of the autonomous non-profit organizations, Federal Migration Service, higher educational institutions of various specializations. This program is, first of all, meant for foreign citizens willing to get the Russian domicile and willing to be promptly incorporated in the social and cultural environment of the Russian society by means of mastering the skills and knowledge of the Russian language, fundamentals of the Russian legislation, history, culture and traditions of the people of Russia and the public code of conduct.

Also, classes at the faith-outreach centers of the Russian Orthodox Church operating across the country are organized for students.

The cultural institutions clubs, libraries and museums offer to the foreign citizens the integrative actions aimed at raising awareness about the culture and traditions of the people of Russia, public code of conduct. During the cultural-mass events the cultural workers direct attention of the guests, especially the youth, to the multi-national pattern of our state and zero tolerance to inter-ethnic conflicts and spread of extremism.

The book fairs, information stands, reference booths are placed, the Days of Information are held ('Procedure and rules for migrants staying in Russia', 'Residence registration', 'Becoming a citizen of the Russian Federation', 'Granting temporary shelter on the territory of the Russian Federation', 'Foreign citizens: rules of employment', etc.).

In the legal assistance centers, libraries information about public services and contact details of institutions and organizations providing granting protection of the migrant refugees' rights is provided.

Upon completion of the integration course the final testing of the Foreign citizens is performed for the purposes of analysis and estimation of efficiency of the program for education and adaptation applied.

**Summary:** Today, the role of civil society organizations is pretty much appreciated and the trend of the state's transfer of a part of its functions of social protection and support of population to independent organizations becomes quite clear. Volunteering appears to be the main kind of labor constituting the civil society, accumulating its distinctive features. The modern global socio-political situation in the world echoed the set of economic, socio-cultural, legal issues related to the influx of refugees: the issues of the migration legislation, degradation of the crime situation in the receiving Russian regions, imbalance of the labor market, overcrowdedness of housing facilities, educational institution of pre-school and secondary level education, etc. This necessitates realization of voluntary work with refugees through active involvement of the civil society institutions, business structures in the social partnership system.

### CONCLUSION

Intensive processes of the population migration affecting all aspects of the human life become the topical trend of the government social policy. One of such urgent social issues is the issue of the socio-cultural adaptation of the migrant refugees to the host society that can be

solved only through interaction of the state, business structures and public associations on the basis of the social partnership.

Today, a great number of social institutions of the civil society are involved in the process of the socio-cultural adaptation of migrant refugees in Russia; along with the government agencies this work involves higher educational institutions, business communities, institutions of culture, social protection, human rights groups, and religious community.

The practice of the Russian Federation in the use of voluntary work with refugees through active involvement of civil society institutions, business structures in the social partnership system may be applied also on the territory of Western Europe the countries of which nowadays experience significant migrant load on the society.

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