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Cooperation Of Rural Population In The Republic Of Tatarstan: Local Peculiarities

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Abstract

The territory of his/her living in its social dimension determines variation of social resources constituting social capital of rural areas of the Republic of Tatarstan and providing normal routine of a rural resident. The results of the empiric research held in 2 municipal areas of the Republic of Tatarstan by Family and demography scientific-research center (the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan) in 2013 showed that the strongest social resource of rural areas of the Republic of Tatarstan was the phenomenon of cooperation of population.

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Introduction

Perspective development of a rural society is inseparable from the appraisal of community cooperation. Federal social rural development programs are based on research work of social sciences that reflect actual trends in consciousness, life activity, intellectual, moral, physical state of rural population. It is important to study rural cooperation because it affects the efficiency of social institutes work, economic development, level of crime and other social problems in a rural area. Social cooperation characterizes ability of rural population to form uniform community and work together on the territory of their area in order to reach the common goal – public wealth. It is important to study how rural cooperation causes correlation between reserves of social capital and the efficiency of

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the work of social institutes, economic development, the level of crime and other social problems in a rural area.

Municipal area as a unit of analysis in the study of rural cooperation of the Republic of Tatarstan gives an opportunity to trace distinctive characteristics of social and economic phenomenon and processes typical for the territory of Tatarstan with its social-geographic peculiarities on the local level. The aim of the scientific work was to analyze rural cooperation of two rural areas – Pestrechinsky and Kukmorsky from a rural demographic development perspective on macro and micro levels. It was examined in 2013 by a survey (sample – 2000 rural citizens), ethnographic case study.

Rural cooperation of a municipal area consists of relations of a rural resident with social surrounding which determines the content and trajectory of rural everyday life. The phenomenon of cooperation of population is the strongest social resource of a rural development. The results of the empiric research held in 2 municipal areas of the Republic of Tatarstan by Family and demography scientific-research center in 2013 showed that the strongest social resource of rural areas of the Republic of Tatarstan was the phenomenon of cooperation of population. It was revealed that sustainable functioning of Kukmorsky and Pestrechinsky rural areas was based on such qualities of population as unity, solidarity and trust.

Social capital of a rural area facilitates collective actions; such type of social action is mostly typical to local than to global communities. Activity on development, maintenance and increase of community’s social capital is a local phenomenon. And social capital itself is an indispensable feature of a rural community. Paradox found in the process of the analysis of respondents’ answers consisted in presence of collective public activity for the sake of the development of a rural area while absence of everyday help of one rural area residents to each other. Life activity of Pestrechinsky area residents is concentrated on public wealth development [Geodemograficheskaja infrastruktura sela: lokal'noe izmerenie. Pestrechinskij municipal'nyj rajon Respubliki Tatarstan (sociologicheskij analiz) //Edited by. F.A. Il'darhanova] while in Kukmorsky area [Naselenie i infrastruktura Kukmorskogo municipal'nogo rajona Respubliki Tatarstan: konstruirovanie lokal'nogo sociuma // Edited by Il'darhanova F.A.] it is focused on personal wealth. None of the strategies can be considered as the proper one because personal well being of every rural resident contributes into social capital of the whole area.

Comparative inactivity of population of Kukmorsky area, from one side, serves as a guarantee of sustainability of available people resources, from another, it prevents the rise of the level of social capital of the area in general. Taking into consideration absence of mass orientation of population to leave the area as a place of living and very low share of population aimed at the work in the city, Kukmorsky area administration has possibilities to activate social behavior of population in order to increase social capital of the area.

Rural population projective trajectories for the development of rural life

Kukmorsky and Pestrechinsky municipal areas population mentioned the necessity to raise salary, first of all. Further interview with rural residents added new distinctive colors to the portrait of a typical citizen of a definite municipal area of the Republic. The group of people who didn’t know what to do to improve life conditions in a village was rather high in Kukmorsky area compared to Pestrechinsky area residents. Pestrechinsky area population proved itself as hardworking and willing to work. The second most frequent suggestion in this area was ‘to give a possibility to earn good money’. Kukmorsky area residents tend to divide their responsibility for rural development with the authorities. It is confirmed by a big quantity of attitudes not only towards themselves personally but to institutional structures as well. Population of Kukmorsky area told that it was necessary to work in order to improve life of their families and their village while Pestrechinsky area residents actually worked at that time. General background claims of Kukmorsky area population are reduced to speculative mood; there could be found alternatives (among answers to the question ‘What should be done to raise the level of life in your area?’) not typical for Kukmorsky area residents, like: ‘to raise children welfare benefits’, ‘to have more rest and get more treatment’, ‘a desire’, ‘to reduce prices’, ‘help and support of mass media’, ‘peace on Earth’, etc. Rural residents showed quite a brightly expressed local identity – closeness feeling, unity with residents of the settlement demonstrated 73% of respondents. 40% of residents have never lived on the territory of any other settlement of the rural area.

The attitude to continue rural lifestyle or to change it to urban society with its specific culture is founded in a family. Case-studies on the analysis of family farms in the republic of Tatarstan as a factor of social and
demographic sustainability of a rural area revealed parents’ readiness to make long-term investments into the future of their children on the territory of the native rural ground in a form of building a new house, making a family business, etc.

The main results of the comparative empiric study of rural cooperation of Pestrechinsky and Kukmorsky municipal areas were:

1. Rural cooperation facilitates collective actions. Such type of social action is more typical for local than to global communities. Activity on its development, support and increase is a local phenomenon. Rural cooperation is an integral feature of a local society.

2. Specifics of a demographic portrait of Pestrechinsky area population reflected on making conveniences inside the house, while provision of necessary facilities in Kykmorsky area was connected with economic needs outside the house.

3. Rural residents working on family farms showed high level of contentment with realization of their reproductive potential.

4. The paradox was discovered in the process of the analysis of rural residents answers – there was found the phenomenon of collective public activity for the sake of the development of a rural area but it was discovered at the same time that residents of one settlement rarely help each other in everyday life. Social network in Pestrechinsky area was concentrated basically on macro level and in Kukmorsky area on micro level.

5. Such form of interaction of rural residents as blaming residents of one and the same settlement for not taking part in the development of the rural area was fixed.

6. Life activity of Pestrechinsky area population was concentrated around public welfare while in Kukmorsky area it was connected with personal welfare. None of the strategies can be considered as the best for the development of the rural area as personal well being of every rural resident contributes into the social capital of the whole area.

The scientific study of the phenomenon of rural cooperation will be studied in other municipal areas of the Republic of Tatarstan and a comparative analysis will be done.

References