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SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Abstract: This article deals with a significant problem of the modern society, the social inequality, which is typical not only for Russia, but also for any other country. This problem has become extremely important recently. The article gives the analysis of statistical data for the last years and studies the problem of social inequality not only between people, but also at the level of Federal districts, and also considers proposals to improve the situation.

Keywords: social inequality, social stratification, differentiation of the population, subsidies, income gap.

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СОЦИАЛЬНОЕ НЕРАВЕНСТВО В РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается значимая проблема современного общества – социальное неравенство, которая характерна не только для России, но и для любых других стран. Данная проблема стала особенно актуальна в последнее время. В статье представлен анализ статистических данных за последние годы, выявлена степень социального неравенства среди людей. Статья изучает проблему социального неравенства не только между людьми, но и на уровне федеральных округов, а также рассматриваются предложения по улучшению ситуации.

Ключевые слова: социальное неравенство, социальная стратификация, дифференциация населения, субсидии, разрыв в доходах.

Social inequality is the division of people into poor and rich according to the level of their income and the degree of their rights and obligations. The problem of social inequality has always existed, but it has become particularly evident nowadays. As the head of Rosstat of the Russian Federation, Alexander Surinov, states: «There has never been social inequality in Russia similar to the current one».

Table 1 below gives the statistics on the distribution of total cash income, it can be seen that the first group with the lowest incomes gradually grows and is 5.4% in 2017, the fifth group with the highest incomes decreases and in 2017 is 46.8% which is 1% less than the average income of the second, the third and the fourth groups together. From the presented data it is clear that there is a social stratification of society in the country.

Table 1 – The distribution of total cash income and the characteristics of the differentiation of money incomes of the population

Year	Cash income (total)	including by 20% population groups, in%:				
		first (with the lowest income)	the second	the third	the fourth	fifth (with the highest income)
2014	100	5,2	9,9	14,9	22,6	47,4
2015	100	5,3	10,0	15,0	22,6	47,1
2016	100	5,3	10,1	15,0	22,6	47,0
2017	100	5,4	10,1	15,1	22,6	46,8

In the conditions of today's high social differentiation in the Russian Federation, there is not only social inequality between people, but also between the districts of the country. Table 2 shows that the socio-economic development in the regions of the Russian Federation is different. It is also clear that according to different characteristics, the district occupies a different position. According to the presented characteristics, the Central district ranks first in all indicators, except for the average monthly nominal wage. This suggests that the region is the most developed. We can also talk about stable development in the Ural Federal district. It takes the place in the middle, which indicates a good

development of the district. The last place can be given to the North Caucasus district, which takes the last places almost by all characteristics. As for the far Eastern Federal district, it is in the last place by 3 criteria, while the other 3 occupy a fairly high place. Thus, we can say that the districts are developing unequally. Consequently, people living in different districts will have different incomes, which also affects inequality in the country.

Table 2 – Socio-economic characteristics of districts

Federal District	Number of population on January 1 2017, thousand people	Average number employed, thousand people	Per capita cash income (per month), rub.	Average consumer consumption per capita (per month)	Average monthly nominal accrued wages of employees of organizations, rub.	Gross regional product in 2015, mln. rub.
Central	39209,6	21181,9	39365	28851	45943	22713911,1
Privolzhsky	29636,5	14116,2	25737	18940	27265	9916064,2
Sibirskiy	19326,2	8783,8	23720	16428	31569	6751925,9
Far Eastern	6182,7	3203,4	36414	24968	45786	3549618, 5
North Caucasus	9775,8	3778,9	23431	17763	22963	1704330,8
Urals	12345,8	6347,1	32565	23137	41464	8980445,7
Northwestern	13899,3	7251,1	33212	23608	41076	6790148,1
Southern	16428,5	7402,8	26308	21104	26964	4590595,0

To overcome social inequality between the districts, the federal budget of Russia provides annual subsidies to the subjects of the Russian Federation. Grants are intended to equalize the budgetary security of the subjects and are provided for any direction of expenditure, while subsidies are a donation of funds for a specific purpose, for example, for repairing the roads.

Thus, social inequality, both among people and among regions, is one of the most significant problems in modern Russia. The income gap between the poorest and the richest people and the Federal districts has long been a concern of the current authorities. This significant issue will not be resolved in the nearest future, as no real solutions have been found, but this problem is one of the main tasks prescribed in the Plan of development of Russia until the 20th year. Therefore, the search for a solution to such a significant problem continues daily.

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