

Specific Character of Life of Modern Urals Monotown

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Abstract: In the article all definitions of such phenomenon as "town" are summarized in systematic form; its classifications accordingly to different sources are given. Phenomenon of forming of mono-profile towns is investigated. In particular, status and position of mono-profile town in Russia and Urals Federative District is defined. Specific character of Urals mono-profile town is analyzed, which is defined by its industriality, its regional specific character and provinciality. Conditions and factors which provide for keeping of life pattern of Urals monotown are investigated. On the basis of performed in 2010 research object of which was Urals family living in middle-sized monotown (town of Serov, Sverdlovsk Region) the author gives characteristics of present state of a mono-profile town. The author comes to conclusion that the inhabitants of Urals monotowns whose labour activity is either connected or not with its major town-forming enterprise, live in the area of increased social risk: stability of the major enterprise determines all sides of living of mono-profile town. The data that characterize some sides of social reality of a modern Urals monotown are given which makes the author believe that social tonus of inhabitants of a city of such type is lowered.

Key words: Town % Cooperation % Mono-profile town % Regional specific character % Provinciality % Industriality (industrial features) % Major town-forming enterprise

INTRODUCTION

In different epochs and in different countries by "towns" they meant phenomena with different contents and different key features - it is no surprise that the researchers define town in very diversified manner. First of all we should admit that by now there is no single whole definition of town, its subsystems in modern science. It was the result of not finding general basis of division of town into subsystems. Most often the researchers pay their attention to the infrastructural formations within a town - apartments, transport, communications, energy supply and so on. Sometimes aspects of town life are taken – economic, political, educational, cultural and so on.

Sociological approach to the category of town was developed in the works of M. Weber [1] who understood the history of modern civilization in a new way and presented it as history of forming of town-like way of life. A town in the framework of a such approach is considered as new form (in terms of quality) of uniting people on the basis of social relations [2].

Economic base of a town implies separation of labour in an intensive way. This thesis was proposed and proved by E. Durkheim. In his work "About social division of labour" he wrote: "Every town with its surroundings positioned close to it form a group in which labour is divided. Individuals are grouped here not in accordance with its origin of birth but in accordance with special character of social activity to which they devote themselves. Their natural and necessary environment is not their native environment any more but professional one. The position of everyone is marked not by false or real consanguinity, but by the function performed by him" [3]. In economical terms in regard to modern Russian middle-sized and small towns we can use the fair term "slobodization (from Russian word "sloboda": a large village often inhabited by free non-serf peasants), proposed by well-known Russian urbanist V. Glazychev.

Separation of labour inevitably leads to cooperation. The base for cooperation is an economic monopoly historically formed on this territory. Historically monotowns are formed in different countries and we see

that some of them exist quite happily while the others after having exhausted the potential of resistance to external challenges fall into decay [4].

In the Urals mining and smelting branch of economy became the base for formation of monotowns. The life of population was organized around the interests of such production. Investments, development of infrastructure of the territory was aimed first of all to increase profit, but not to meet the interests of inhabitants of this territory. L.Melford made this conclusion while studying urbanization of USA since 1850 to 1980: "Idea that the aim of towns was other than to attract trade, increase price for land, achieve the growth of capital could come into mind of someone like Witmen (american poet-Romanist of the end of 19th century who viewed towns as space for development of a person, where "world citizen" can appear), but it never conquered the minds of our people" [5].

Objects of analysis of this article are middle-sized mono-profile towns of the Urals. Minregion of RF refers monotown to a populated place when not more than 1/4 of its employees work at one enterprise (which is understood from description of status of major town-forming enterprise formulated in the Federal Law "About bankruptcy") or if not less than 50% production of the town can be related with one industry (this criteria was used by the author of this article) [6].

With regard to the level of urbanization the Urals Federal District is on the 3rd place in Russia, but more than 1/3 of population of UrFD live in small and middle-sized towns having population of up to 100 000. With regard to general number of monotowns Sverdlovsk Region is on the 5th place among Russian regions. A modern middle-sized Urals town is a mono-functional, mono-specialized mining or smelting industrial center.

Modern middle-sized Urals town has a set of unique features which define its specific character. Such as its industriality (having industrial features), regional character and provinciality.

The base of life of middle-sized Ural town is availability of highly efficient competitive production. Nowadays not everybody realizes historically increasing value of enterprises making material well-being as end product. Of course, both economists and sociologists point out to broadening of sphere of services in the the most broad meaning of the word. In highly developed countries more than 70% of population is engaged in service industry of any kind: utilities, transport, catering, education, sport, art, entertainment etc. But all these employees must be fed, provided with clothes and everything needed.

Compact organization of monotown with its core as major town-forming enterprise will form special attitude of an inhabitant of monotown towards outside world - through the prism of primary character of production and secondary character of a person which must serve this production. In a family of workers of major enterprise it is usual to orientate to this enterprise only - this leads to easily forecasted choice of a person and in the same time the enterprise has a lot of "recruits" with different qualifications. The main characteristic of inhabitants of monotowns is single-line perception of outside world, which to author's mind, can be explained by formed mono-consciousness and mono-behavior of this type of person, who has kept traditional thinking and values of patriarchal mining culture. It is necessary to point out that industrial modernization which took place in the Urals in the second half of 20th century have formed a special type of factory and plant culture, the best representatives of which strived to get quality education and decent status (these were the opportunity provided by Soviet system).

One more specific feature of middle-sized industrial Urals town is its provinciality - or specific town location with regard to the biggest city. Provinciality does not refer to "retrograde" status (lagged behind) of a town but probably to its distance from federal and regional centers. By provinciality author understands socio-cultural stereotypes, habits formed by home-breeding and cultural traditions, values of people included into territorial integrity named "inhabitants of Urals monotown".

Provinciality of mentality of an inhabitant of a monotown is defined by narrowness and restricted character of their consciousness observed in conservatism and behavioral inertia rather than by territorial distance. Researchers believe that the base for differentiation between provincial and capital (biggest city) is degree of innovativeness or representation of new elements in the way of life and living environment. Mentality of provincial towns is characterized by gap between traditional and new way of life. Milgram remarks: "behavioral differences of inhabitants of big and small cities are stipulated by reaction of the same people to the not the same conditions of life rather than by some specific personal features of inhabitants of metropolises or provincial little towns. Big city is a situation to which a man have to adopt" [7].

Study made by the author in 2010 was devoted to the family, living in a middle-sized Urals mono-profile town (city of Serov, Sverdlovsk region) and it uncovered such characteristics of present state of this type of towns:

Almost 3/4 of town population have professional education - primary, secondary and higher education. Profiles of education - technical, economic, pedagogic, timber-technical, managerial, medical, corresponding to infrastructure of a monotown.

Demographic situation in the town is quite the same as in the monotowns of UrFD and in Russia in general. For the last 20 years death rate is higher than birth rate in Serov. Recently natural shrinkage of population has become less, in 2008 the number of died persons per 1 born was 1,25. And though in 2002 natural shrinkage of population achieved the highest point of 1,8 the process of aging in the town goes on. Quality characteristics of death rate for recent years do not change either:

- C Prevalence of men over women (for 7%);
- C High percent of forced death (17,8%): suicide, alcohol-intoxication, drugs, road accidents etc. (many moderns researches point out to the lethal role of alcohol in length of life [8]);
- C Increase of death rate among able-to-work population (32%).

In 2008 they registered 745 marriages which is for almost 13% less than in 2007. Divorce rate is increasing, in 2009 it was 58%. It is much less value than in 2002 when rate of divorce was 93%! (for 642 marriages there were 597 acts of divorce). In general accordingly to statistics birth rate increases (834 in 1998 against 1194 in 2012), in the same time high proportion of children born in partial families still remains - 41% from general number of newly born. The number of families with many children in Serov is decreasing annually. In 2012 third and fourth child was born in 10% of families. Demographic situation in the town is closely connected with level of life of Serovians, provision of social aid and defense by local authorities in real economy. Probably, quality changes of social sphere of Serov which must be done on federal, regional and municipal levels will in future take birth rate indicator to a higher point and decrease death rate as well.

In Urals region process of constant, natural or enforced migration takes place.

Process of inter-influence and absorption of new cultures continues. The proof for it can be found in Serov: we can say about fact of stable living in Serov of diasporas of CIS, the most numerous among them is Azerbaijan one. Since 2000 registration of acts of civil state with citizens from CIS have become regular and is steadily increasing. In 2012 4% of registered marriages were with CIS citizens, 5% of newly born children were born in the families of CIS citizens.

Analysis of data obtained in the course of research makes it possible to argue that family employees hardly survive in the present socio-economic conditions. Most of Russian families face such problem, but the family of inhabitants of mono-profile town has become hostage of its enterprise, having experienced in full all negative sides of such dependency: more than half (51%) of respondents have evaluated their existence as unsatisfactory, though the wages in major town-forming enterprise are higher than in the budget sphere of town. Specific character of labour at major enterprise regardless of qualification level and education of respondents suggests high costs for food, health-care, effective relaxation both on weekends and on holidays.

Actual problem for an inhabitant of Urals monotown is the problem of apartments (lodgings), which as a rule must be solved by the family itself. Advantage here is that directorate of major enterprise does not withdraw their responsibility for providing their employees with lodgings, speed of construction it directly depends on enterprise's success. But long-term payments for apartment loan is a heavy financial burden for a family, especially a young one.

Results of research show that employees of major enterprise whose age is 20-40 has been cared less by enterprise on which they work. More than half of respondents whose age is 45-70 have received some social privileges from the enterprise because during Soviet period our state through enterprises provided employees with enough material and social support. Small businesses of the town do not provide such support to its employees - that is why stable wages and social package are the main factors of attractiveness of major town-forming enterprise.

In the conditions of new economic and socio-cultural reality respondents prefer to work for major enterprise not because of civil duty and wish to bring benefit to the society but because of limited available occupations in the town. Metropolis with highly developed infrastructure offers to a person much broader opportunities for professional realization [9].

In foreign practice there exists various experience of supporting of monotowns which can be used in Russia. It is necessary to take into consideration original managerial specialization of town, the level on which main events of social support were organized, end result of support of monotown, mechanisms and tools that were used in the support. Main part of this support can be either from local authorities' side or from higher bodies' side [10].

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