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Socio-political determinants of social well-being of the population: theoretical and applied aspect

Sergey Yu. Belokonev^{1, 2, 3} , Elena V. Levina^{1, 3, 4}  

¹Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, *Moscow, Russian Federation*

²State University of Management, *Moscow, Russian Federation*

³Ogarev Mordovian State University, *Saransk, Russian Federation*

⁴Central Economic and Mathematical Institute of RAS, *Moscow, Russian Federation*

 elena.v.levina@gmail.com

Abstract. The study presented the analysis and assessment of the impact of socio-political factors on the level of social well-being of the country's population (on the example of the Russian Federation). The authors highlighted the key indicators that are studied both independently and as part of integral indices. Thus, such variables as the level of social justice, national pride, indices of trust in government, public and individual indices of protest activity were of special interest, as well as the phenomena of social apathy and adaptation reflecting the activity aspect of the social well-being of the population. The authors used a comprehensive methodological apparatus, which included general scientific and private scientific methods: analysis, synthesis, deduction, induction, classification, systematization in the study of approaches to the consideration of components of social well-being; comparative discursive analysis of its determinants based on the works of Russian and foreign scientists, mathematical, statistical and secondary analysis of open data obtained in the course of previously conducted research on the stated problem. Analysis and assessment of the dynamics of socio-political indicators of social well-being revealed average indicators, which indicates the adaptation of the population to the current socio-political situation. The obtained results can be used by sociologists, economists, and political scientists in the development of conceptual provisions of social policy and social management, as well as for further scientific research.

Keywords: social well-being, indicator, methodology, integral indicator, social justice, adaptation, apathy, protest moods, trust in the authorities

Contribution. All the authors participated in the development of the concept of this review, data collection, processing and analysis, drafted the manuscript, and formulated the conclusions.

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Социально-политические детерминанты социального самочувствия населения: теоретико-прикладной аспект


С.Ю. Белоконов^{1, 2, 3} , Е.В. Левина^{1, 3, 4}  

¹Финансовый университет при Правительстве РФ, Москва, Россия

²Государственный университет управления, Москва, Россия

³Мордовский государственный университет им. Н.П. Огарева, Саранск, Россия

⁴Центральный экономико-математический институт РАН, Москва, Россия

 elena.v.levina@gmail.com

Аннотация. Авторами приведен анализ и дана оценка влияния социально-политических факторов на уровень социального самочувствия населения РФ, выделены ключевые показатели, которые могут изучаться как самостоятельно, так и в составе интегральных индексов. Интерес представили такие переменные, как уровень социальной справедливости, национальная гордость, индексы доверия власти, общественные и индивидуальные индексы протестной активности, отдельно рассмотрены феномены социальной апатии и адаптации, отражающие деятельностный аспект социального самочувствия населения. Использован комплексный методологический аппарат, который включал в себя общенаучные и частнонаучные методы и приемы исследований: анализ, синтез, дедукция, индукция, классификация, систематизация в изучении подходов к рассмотрению компонентов социального самочувствия, сравнительный дискурсивный анализ его детерминант на основе трудов российских и зарубежных ученых, математико-статистический и вторичный анализ открытых данных, полученных в ходе ранее проведенных исследований по заявленной проблеме. вектором его развития, протестная активность. Анализ и оценка динамики социально-политических показателей социального самочувствия выявили средние показатели, что указывает на адаптацию населения к текущей социально-политической обстановке. Полученные результаты могут быть использованы социологами, экономистами, политологами в разработке концептуальных положений социальной политики и социального управления, а также для дальнейших научных исследований.

Ключевые слова: социальное благополучие, индикатор, методология, интегральный показатель, социальная справедливость, адаптация, апатия, протестные настроения, доверие власти

Вклад авторов. Все авторы участвовали в разработке концепции исследования, сбора, обработки и анализа данных, написании текста рукописи, формулировке выводов.

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Introduction

Contemporary conditions associated with the aggravation of the economic crisis, sanctions pressure, the deployment of a hybrid war against Russia, and the growing confrontation between Russia and the West dictate the need to monitor, analyze and assess the social well-being as an indicator of the well-being of citizens in the context of building a just state. The phenomenon of social well-being is quite complex and multilayered, which leads to a wide range of research in various scientific fields: philosophy, psychology, sociology, political science, as well as interdisciplinary research.

The purpose of the study is to analyze and assess the impact of socio-political determinants on the level of social well-being of the population.

Theoretical and methodological basis of the research

The problem of identifying socio-political determinants of social well-being in an unstable and dynamic environment is becoming topical and relevant. The issues of social well-being of the population have been in the focus of attention of political scientists, sociologists, social psychologists, economists since the 60–70 years of the last century.

Among foreign researchers, it is advisable to single out E. Diener, N. Bradburn and K. Riff, who study both subjective and social well-being, M. Argyle [1] and M. Seligman [2], who study the phenomenon of happiness and its components, R. Easterlin, whose central place in his works was occupied by socio-economic parameters, namely the influence of income on the level of life satisfaction [3; 4], etc.

Issues of social well-being within the framework of domestic research were highlighted in the works of A.A. Rusalinova [5], where confidence in the future was highlighted as a component of social well-being, J.T. Toschenko

and S.V. Kharchenko [6], studying the social moods of the population with the allocation of objective and subjective parameters, N.E. Simonovich [7; 8], considering social well-being as an integral indicator and highlighting its key components, etc.

The influence of socio-political factors on social well-being is touched upon in the works of A.V. Andreenkova, N.V. Andreenkova [9], focusing on the impact of the level of trust in government, S.Yu. Belokoneva, E.V. Levina [10], highlighting indicators of the analysis of trust in public administration, M.Yu. Vinogradov and A.A. Suslova [11], studying the phenomenon of social adaptation and apathy, N.H. Gafiatulina, N.M. Sizova, E.I. Khubuluri [12], highlighting the connection between the phenomenon under study and social justice, E.A. Kamalova, E.D. Ponarina [13], exploring the impact of national pride on social well-being, etc.

The significant amount of research on this issue makes it necessary to conduct further scientific research in a socio-political context.

As a methodological apparatus, the authors of the study formed the following set of general scientific and private scientific technologies, methods, techniques and approaches:

- analysis, synthesis, systematization, generalization, structuring to identify a complex of socio-political determinants in integral indicators of social well-being;
- discursive and comparative analysis of the results of research by domestic and foreign scientists on social well-being, well-being, quality of life, social justice, adaptation, trust in government, etc.;
- mathematical and statistical analysis to study the dynamics of the level of social well-being in a socio-political context;
- Secondary analysis of empirical data from previous studies on similar issues.

The set of methods, techniques and technologies proposed by the authors makes it possible to implement an integrated approach to the study of socio-political determinants of social well-being of the population.

The results of the study

Within the framework of the ongoing research, the construct of social well-being proposed by N.E. Simonovich summarized previous developments and continued scientific research in this direction. Within the boundaries of the proposed construct of social well-being, three groups of components were distinguished: the evaluative-cognitive component associated with the individual's understanding and assessment of his position in the group and society as a whole, perception and comprehension of his expectations; an emotional component that includes the feelings and moods of individuals and groups, an emotional state in a specific life situation, primarily influencing the level of satisfaction / dissatisfaction with life; an activity-behavioral

component indicating the degree of social activity manifested in the willingness or unwillingness of the subject to change or preserve living conditions.

Thus, N.E. Simonovich, like his predecessors, distinguished the emotional, cognitive and behavioral aspects of social well-being, and interpreted it as an integral indicator, including a social position and its assessment, awareness and experience, as well as behavioral manifestation associated with the activity of an individual, aimed at self-realization and social existence [8; 14]. According to the scientist, if the social well-being of a large social group (a large number of people) is considered, then researchers are dealing with a massive (or undifferentiated) well-being, which indicates a generalized vision and experiences that have a stable and long-lasting character, not amenable to instant (momentary) change. During the study of undifferentiated well-being, the following distinctive features were identified:

- it can have creative or destructive effects, carry an optimistic or pessimistic mood, depriving confidence or constructing it on the way to achieving goals;
- may be reflected in the determination or indecision of the subjects in the direction of implementing plans, may be pronounced and manifest itself in drastic actions (for example, confrontations and rallies) or in the passive attitude of groups;
- may have varying degrees of saturation: bright, medium or weak expression of approval or disapproval;
- it may differ in a wide degree of coverage, in the case of intensive forms it is of a short-term nature;
- has a high degree of contagiousness, especially when exposed to various social technologies (for example, PR) [15].

In this case, it is advisable to note that social well-being is formed not only under the influence of intrapersonal characteristics of individuals, but also under the influence of social conditions in general and socio-political determinants in particular.

In Gorshkov's research, M.K. social well-being is considered in the context of an individual's involvement in public life and is associated with the state of the external environment and the assessment of a specific situation by subjects. The scientists proposed a typology of social well-being, which was based on such components as the satisfaction of the subject with the material and economic condition, socio-psychological and socio-cultural conditions, the degree of expression of feelings, assessments of emotional and physical condition [16].

Thus, it is advisable to consider social well-being as an integral indicator that is formed in the process of personal adaptation to public life, the evaluation parameters of which are: assessment of objective conditions for the realization of personal goals and intentions; perception of subjective well-being; analysis and evaluation of individual achievements.

The connection of social well-being with social justice is reflected in the studies of N.H. Gafiatulina, N.M. Sizova, E.I. Khubuluri, and the phenomenon

of social well-being is understood as an “indicator of social attitude” [12], which combines not only the level of material well-being, but also a sense of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with social status, security/insecurity of their development and self-realization. Social justice is identified with the concept of equality, which manifests itself in equal rights and opportunities for different social groups. In the context of the study conducted by the authors, key indicators of social justice as a component of social well-being were identified: equality in wealth, in access to education and medical services, equality before the law (fig. 1).

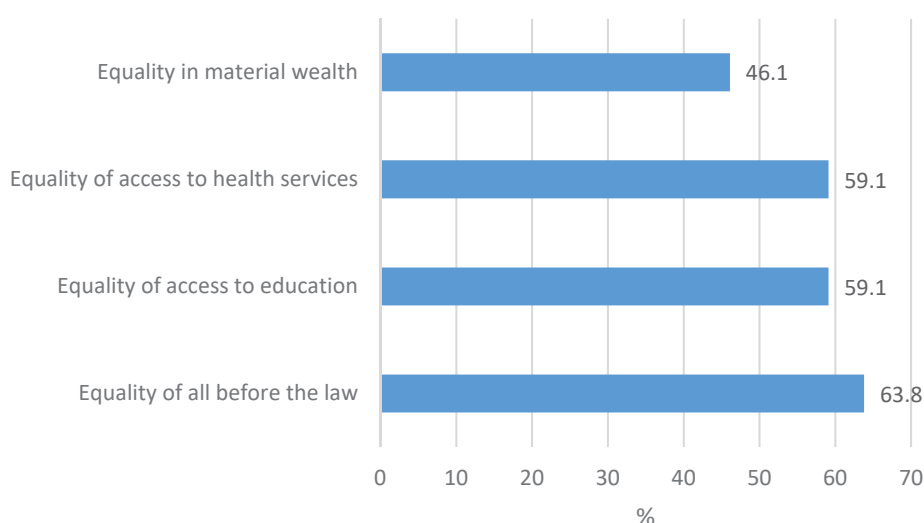


Fig. 1. Indicators of social justice as a component of social well-being

Source: made by S.Yu. Belokonev, E.V. Levina according to the data [12] with the use of MS Excel.

The impact of a sense of national pride on social well-being is presented in the work of E.A. Kamalov, E.D. Ponarina. This study notes that the higher the national pride of an individual, the higher his level of social well-being, and the greater effect national pride has for individuals with low income and/or having problems health problems in the individual assessment of social satisfaction [13].

The phenomenon of social adaptation and its impact on social well-being is touched upon in the works of M.Y. Vinogradov and A.A. Suslova [11]. As noted earlier, one of the components of social well-being is activity-based, which manifests itself in the willingness or unwillingness of individuals to social activity to change or preserve current living conditions. Social apathy is a phenomenon reflecting the attitude of individuals to the socio-political situation, which can manifest itself and be interpreted in the following directions:

- loss of interest in socio-political life;
- reduced motivation for social activity;
- indifference to the current situation, lack of emotionality;
- equality between social apathy and depression [11].

In this context, it is advisable to mention the principle of James Davison, an American sociologist, author of the work “Towards the Theory of Revolution”, this principle is called the “Davison Curve”, which explains the causes of revolutions, which are as follows: revolutions occur when a period of recovery, which formed certain expectations and hopes among people, is replaced by a sharp decline, moreover, protest activity is stimulated not by need, but by high expectations and demands for life in a period of relative prosperity of the state.

It should be noted that a fairly large range of research is currently being implemented, both domestic and foreign, aimed at developing indicators for analyzing and evaluating the social well-being of the population.

Socio-political determinants have a significant impact on the level of social well-being of the population, among them the following come to the fore: internal politics and the situation in the country, the level of trust in the authorities (the President, the Government, the Head of the regions, etc.), attitude towards their own and protest activity (public and personal).

According to VTsIOM, the index of trust in the President of the Russian Federation varies in the range of 59–66 units, which indicates an average / above average value, however, the percentage of those who answered the question about trust in the President of the Russian Federation positively (“I trust / rather trust”) exceeds 78 % (fig. 2).

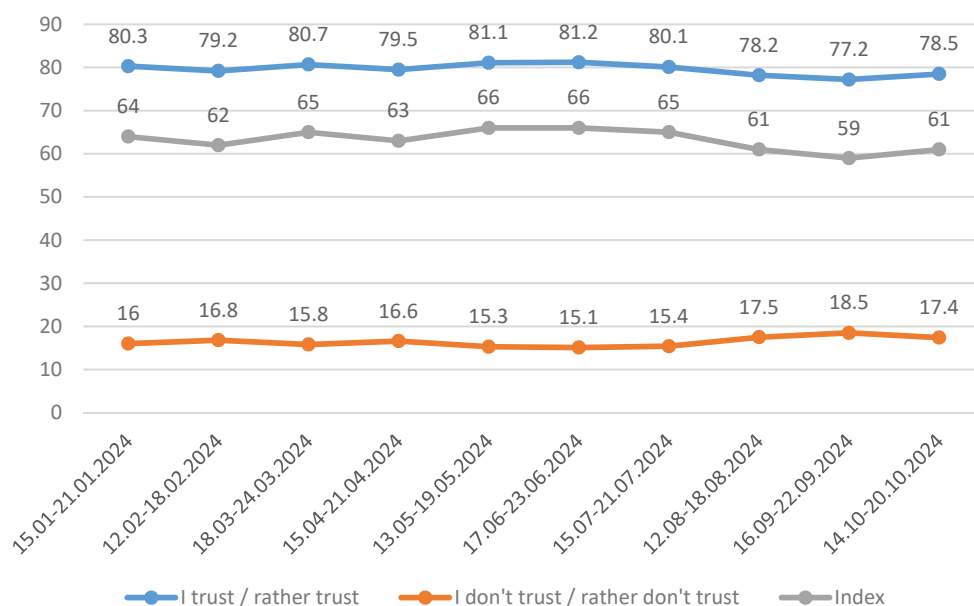


Fig. 2. Dynamics of the index of confidence in the President of the Russian Federation in the period January–October 2024

Source: made by S.Yu. Belokonev, E.V. Levina according to the data¹ with the use of MS Excel.

¹ Trust in Politicians. *The official website of VTsIOM*. URL: <https://wciom.ru/ratings/doverie-politikam/page?ysclid=m2ubctiznj410964910> (accessed: 29.10.2024).

The confidence index of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation varies from 43 to 48 points, which indicates an average/below average level of trust, and, accordingly, a low level of social well-being.

As noted above, the indicator of social well-being is both evaluative and activity-based, which may indicate the willingness of citizens to take active actions aimed at changing or maintaining social status. Thus, it is advisable to trace the dynamics of the index of protest activity, both social and personal.

In the period from January to September/October 2024, there is a stable state of the protest activity index, the value of the index of public protest activity does not exceed 13, and the proportion of respondents who expressed a negative attitude towards protests varies from 80 to 84 % (fig. 3).

A similar situation is observed in the dynamics of the index of personal protest activity, the share of Russians who are not going to demonstrate protest behavior was about 79...84 % (fig. 4).

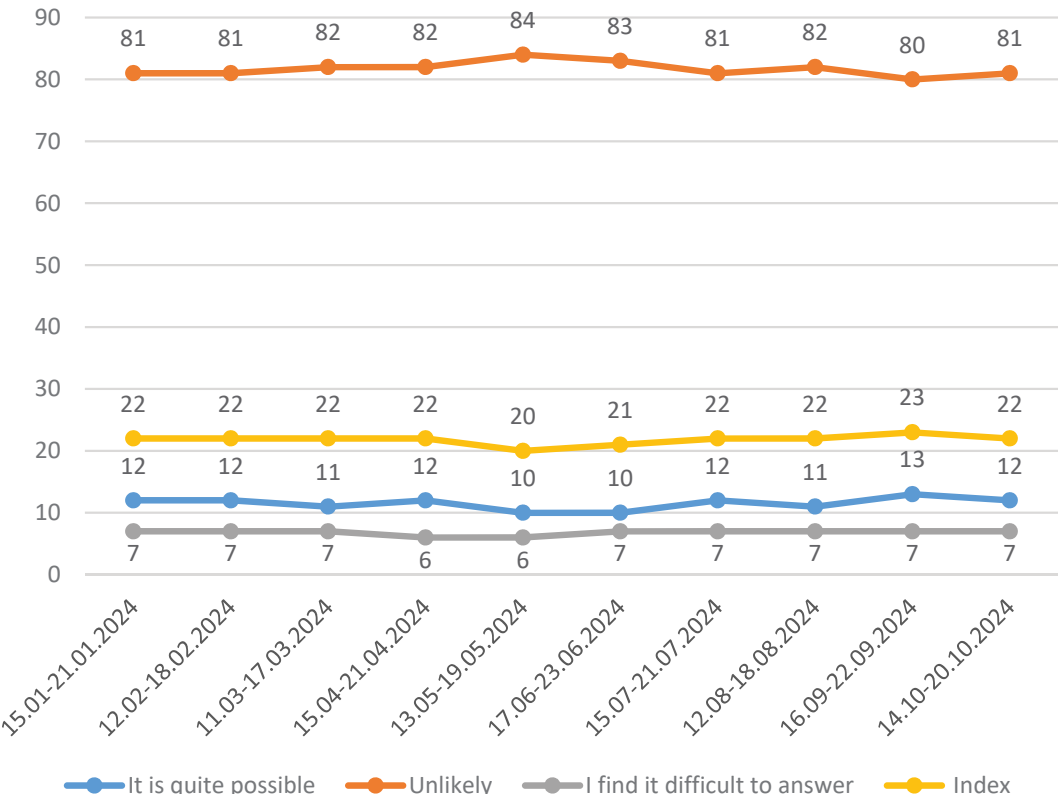


Fig. 3. Dynamics of the index of public protest activity in the period from January to October 2024 (Question: How likely do you think mass protests against falling living standards, unfair actions by the authorities, and in defense of their rights and freedoms are now in your city/rural area?)
Source: made by S.Yu. Belokonev, E.V. Levina according to the data² with the use of MS Excel.

²Protest Potential. *The official website of VTsIOM*. URL: <https://wciom.ru/ratings/protestnyi-potencial?ysclid=m2ud0bg87n879673034> (accessed: 29.10.2024).

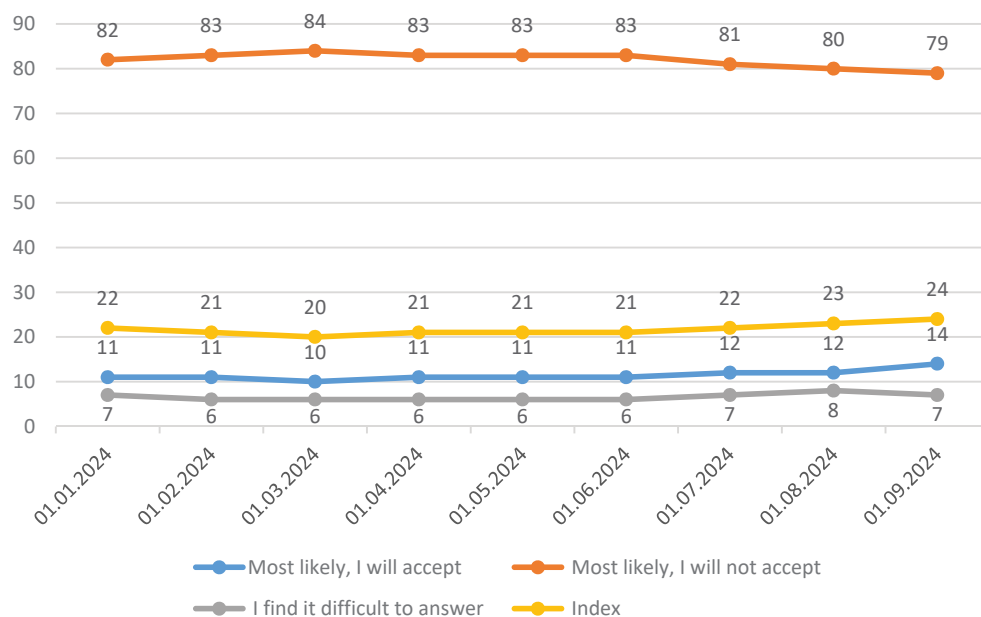


Fig. 4. Dynamics of the index of personal protest activity in the period from January to September 2024 (Question: If there are mass protests in your city/rural area against falling living standards, unfair actions by the authorities, and in defense of your rights and freedoms, will you personally take part in them or not?)

Source: made by S.Yu. Belokonev, E.V. Levina according to the data³ with the use of MS Excel.

The indicators of the index of public and personal protest activity can indicate both relative satisfaction with domestic policy and the adaptation of Russians to the current situation.

One of the socio-psychological parameters indicating the level of social well-being is the National Anxiety Index, presented by the research company KROS. As of the second quarter of 2024, the top 5 main worries according to the total index of Russians included: possible natural disasters (386.57), price increases (306.08), escalation of the conflict with NATO countries (273.80), UAV attacks (272.54), fraud (107.85). According to the survival index, which is reflected in the anxiety manifested in the social media space, the top 5 worries were: growing dependence on China (3.12), fraud (1.35), possible crop failure (1.28), the onset of infections (1.25)⁴. Thus, among the socio-political determinants in this case, it is necessary to note the orientation of state policy and the foreign policy situation, which cause an increase in the level of anxiety of citizens and can affect the dynamics of the level of social well-being.

³ Protest Potential. *The official website of VTsIOM*. URL: <https://wciom.ru/ratings/protestnyi-potenc> (accessed: 29.10.2024).

⁴ National Anxiety Index. *The official website of the CROSS company*. URL: <https://www.cros.ru/ru/exploration/anxiety/4112/> (accessed: 21.10.2024).

Conclusions

Social well-being is a complex integral indicator that includes cognitive, psychological and activity components that are influenced by socio-political determinants.

The analysis of the components of social well-being in the Russian Federation revealed the main socio-political determinants that affect its dynamics: social solidarity, adaptation and apathy, national pride and identity, trust in the authorities, satisfaction with the internal policy of the state and the vector of its development, protest activity.

The analysis and assessment of the dynamics of socio-political indicators of social well-being demonstrated average indicators, moreover, the level of trust in the President of the Russian Federation is significantly higher compared to other political figures, and protest sentiments (both at personal and public levels) are weak, which may indicate adaptation to the current socio-political situation or satisfaction with the country's development vectors.

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Information about the authors:

Sergey Yu. Belokonev — Candidate of Political Sciences, Associate Professor, Professor, Director of the Institute of Global Studies, Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, 49 Leningradsky Prospekt, GSP-3, Moscow, 125993, Russian Federation; Associate Professor of the Department of Public and Municipal Administration, State University of Management, 99 Ryazansky Prospekt, Moscow, 109542, Russian Federation; Senior Researcher, Ogarev Mordovian State University, 68 Bolshevistskaya st., Saransk, Republic of Mordovia, 430005, Russian Federation (ORCID: 0000-0002-8028-7421) (e-mail: syubelokonev@fa.ru).

Elena V. Levina — Candidate of Social Sciences, Senior Researcher at the Laboratory of Digital Economics, Central Economic and Mathematical Institute of RAS, 47 Nakhimovsky Prospekt, Moscow, 117418, Russian Federation; Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology, Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, 49 Leningradsky Prospekt, GSP-3, Moscow, 125993, Russian Federation; Senior Researcher, Ogarev Mordovian State University, 68 Bolshevistskaya st., Saransk, Republic of Mordovia, 430005, Russian Federation (ORCID: 0000-0002-6913-6155) (e-mail: elena.v.levina@gmail.com).