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EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA. WHY HAS THE FIFTH WAVE RISEN?

The author considers the problem of the emigration of the youth advanced part from Primorsky Kray over the past few years, analyzes the reasons, presents the arguments, and reveals the factors of this phenomenon, also determines the main countries for emigration, basing on available statistical data, and considers the ways of the formed situation overcoming.

Адрес статьи: www.gramota.net/materials/1/2012/10/52.html

Статья опубликована в авторской редакции и отражает точку зрения автора(ов) по рассматриваемому вопросу.

Источник

Альманах современной науки и образования
Адрес журнала: www.gramota.net/editions/1.html
Содержание данного номера журнала: www.gramota.net/materials/1/2012/10/

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What is the reason for “the urge to fly”, which has intensified among the “advanced” part of the population of our country and how can we improve this sad tendency?

Besides natural resources Russia, alas, continues to deliver the most important strategic resource – people – to the international market. The Chamber of Accounts has published a shocking report, according to which in the 2000s the country has lost 1,25 million people. For comparison, after the revolution of 1917 Russia lost 2 million. And today people run not from ruin and discord, the young and well-educated representatives of the middle class with a high enough level of income have “a ready to leave” mood. Ideally, it is that layer of the population, which should become a modernizing factor.

“It is time to get out from this country!” - recently this phrase can often be heard from people of ages from 20 to 40. And many of them are not simply talking nonsense or grumbling in blogs, but make their “readiness to leave” dreams a reality.

No doubt, there is a personal story behind each emigrant destiny. But whatever distinctions might be considered, most emigrants are alike in one way: they are young, vigorous people with high intellectual capacities and are bent on self-realization. And, as the Chamber of Accounts reports, such people are not few and far between.

The outflow of the most “advanced” part of the population, which is watched today, is already the fifth wave of emigration in the history of Russia. It is still poorly studied by sociologists and psychologists, however it is already obvious that it essentially differs from its predecessor, the so called “sausage emigration” in the 1990s. During those years people aspired to get to “the western paradise” for economic reasons – a shortage of money, poverty, unemployment… Today mass emigration from Russia is caused not so much by material as by social-psychological factors: it is possible even to say by spiritual factors.

But what particularly doesn’t suit the representatives of this part of the population in the Russian Federation?

First of all the absence of normal “social opportunities”. As the political scientist Dmitry Oreshkin confirms, “the Russian elite has turned into a closed, haughty caste, which doesn’t like to accept “talented upstarts” into its circle”.

Experts have noted the fact that the propertied middle class is dissatisfied not only with the economic level, but the quality of life. What does that mean? According to most sociologists the concept “quality of life” consists of such non-material “trifles” as traffic policemen’s goodwill, passersby’s smiling, and officials’ wish to help, instead of extorting money.

People also run from Russia because in our country there is no big idea and an image of future, which would inspire the people. Instead of it in the country there is an exhausting race of consumption under the motto “Buy cheaply, sell advantageously!”.

One more important thing: the growth of “a wish to emigrate” moods is connected with the fact that there is no concept of “Russia is I am” in our heads. We don’t feel ourselves the owners of our own country, we consider it as something external in relation to ourselves and we do not have a burning desire to work for its well-being.

As a whole the spirit of emigration shows that after the historical shocks of the XXth century the Russian people are simply tired. After all the energy, which in other conditions the society would direct toward social protest or to something external in relation to ourselves and we do not have a burning desire to work for its well-being.

Where do they go?

Young experts usually choose Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. They have extensive enough programs of immigrants’ reception there. If Russian people go to countries of Western Europe, as a rule, they begin or buy firms there. The legislature system of the European Union allows receipt of a residence permit on the basis of possession of a company. But its reception depends on the success of the business.

For the purpose of the study of the mood to leave a sociological poll has been taken among young people. The results have turned out to be shocking. About 30% of the students interviewed would like to move off to another country for permanent residence after graduating from the university. For comparison: in 10 universities of such cities as Moscow, Taganrog, Stavropol and Rostov-on-Don only 3% of respondents want to emigrate from Russia.

Social poll of students has shown that girls still want to leave more often than young men. The desire to have a family is the main reason. The level of foreign language knowledge is not the last reason. Among people, who want
to move off permanently, 31% of respondents know English fluently and among those, who don't think of departure, only 21% know English. Besides, many students actively study the second language.

As found by a recent survey, the desire to emigrate abroad is also influenced by the geographical location of Primorsky Krai. According to the poll, more than half of respondents had never been to Moscow while only a quarter of participants had never been aboard. Thus, the distance of Primorsky Krai from the central part of the country and a wealth of travel experience abroad favours the fact that the relation to emigration abroad becomes more natural.

Among the countries, which respondents visited during study in High School, the following ones were mentioned most often: China (52%), the USA (20%) and South Korea (6%). Visiting China is connected to its close geographical position. Visiting the USA shows the result of various work training programs, and also that the programs combine work and tourism, which are in high demand by the students of Vladivostok universities.

Respondents gave the following arguments in support of their wish to move permanently abroad:
- Quieter and safe life – 25,2%.
- Higher level of a salary – 22%.
- Confidence in their and children’s future - 15,4%.
- Possibility to travel – 14,6%.
- Observance of laws – 13,8%.
- Opportunity for work promotion – 8,1%.

The factors defining unwillingness of young people to live in our region and in the country:
- Low level of wages – 28,7%.
- Political, social and economic instability - 25,9%.
- Absence of safety – 17,6%.
- Children’s future uncertainty – 9,3%.
- Impossibility of career growth – 7,4%.
- Impossibility of the regulating of private life – 5,6%.

But the results of the research have shown that the students, wishing to look for the work abroad with further emigration, are ready to remain in their native region if they have well-paid work with prospects of career growth. The wage level, which is capable to satisfy ambitions of young experts at the first step of career growth, varies in the range of 1–3 thousand euro a month. It is appreciably below expectations of the salary abroad, but is considerably above the current level of a salary in Russia, – makes commented professor Bezrukov.

Respondents agree that there are decreased opportunities ways for emigration. And if these ways are in our society, flow of young, talented and efficient will be reduced considerably.

Respondents mention the following popular ways among them:
- guaranteeing of a worthy wage level at the enterprises of our country;
- guaranteeing work to young specialists after universities;
- insuring social guarantees and housing.

Only drastic measures can stop “the urge to fly” of young people.