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Anthropological Features of Adinative-Gerontological Approach in The Organization of Social Policy

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Abstract

The article analyzes the features of targeted social assistance to elderly citizens and the disabled. Targeted social assistance as a special type of state social assistance is of scientific and practical interest. In modern conditions, the basis for receiving social support is an important but insufficient element of targeted social assistance and weakly reflects the principle of targeting. The authors use a description method that reflects the relevance, purpose, philosophy of the basic principle. The criteria for the effectiveness of this research method are especially relevant in determining the content, type and form of targeted social assistance, taking into account the needs of the elderly and the disabled.

Keywords: society, social status, standard of living, targeted social assistance, social security, social protection, social services, living wage, social services.

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Антропологические особенности адинатно-геронтологического подхода в организации социальной политики

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Аннотация

Анализируются особенности адресной социальной помощи гражданам пожилого возраста и инвалидам. Адресная социальная помощь как особый вид государственной социальной помощи имеет научный и практический интерес. В современных условиях основание для получения социальной поддержки является значимым, но недостаточным элементом адресной социальной помощи, и в слабой мере отражает принцип адресности. Авторами используется метод описания, который отражает актуальность, цель, философию основного принципа. Критерии эффективности данного метода исследования особенно актуальны при определении содержания, вида и формы адресной социальной помощи, учитывающих потребности граждан пожилого возраста и инвалидов.

Ключевые слова: общество, социальный статус, уровень жизни, адресная социальная помощь, социальное обеспечение, социальная защита, социальное обслуживание, прожиточный минимум, социальные услуги.

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Introduction. One of the most important tasks of Russia as a welfare state is to ensure social security and improve the standard of living of citizens, especially those segments of the population who, due to age, health or other life circumstances, are not able to provide themselves with a decent existence and need state support. The main principles of social assistance are its legal and legislative basis, informing citizens about the possibility of receiving it, the financial system of social assistance, that is, the financing of this assistance from the funds of the relevant budgets. The principle of targeting, which in modern conditions is of particular importance, should also be referred to the main principles.

The goal of the targeting principle is not to cover everyone with a system of social security measures, but, on the contrary, to prevent, exclude the possibility of including in the category of people in need those who do not really need and are able to have their own source of livelihood. Otherwise, the same idea can be formulated as follows: the principle of targeting prevents the transformation of social security into such a negative phenomenon as social dependency.

Materials and Methods. Through the use of methods of analysis, survey and questioning, collection and evaluation of facts, the needs of the elderly and disabled were identified in order to determine the nature of the provision of targeted social assistance to these categories of citizens.

Results. When determining the forms of social assistance, one should take into account the needs and capabilities of the entire family served in the social center. Information about people's needs for social assistance and services should be kept in the form of social data banks about the population, which should contain comprehensive information about age, sex, social, material and other information in need of social assistance, including information about her/his family. This bank will allow to determine the need for specific types and forms of assistance to specific groups of the population, to identify the most disadvantaged categories of the population in order to identify citizens in need of social support.

Thus, in modern conditions, increased attention is needed to the provision of targeted social assistance to elderly citizens and the disabled. The main task of social service institutions for the population is the availability of social services for all citizens in need, without exception.

Discussion and Conclusions. In science, there are different approaches to the origin and definition of the semantic meaning of the term targeting. According to some researchers, the term targeting is of foreign origin and is translated as a poverty benefit. Others believe that the term "targeting" was introduced into domestic circulation and is used in the meaning of income verification or means testing, that is, the direction of benefits only to those recipients who were able to confirm that their income did not exceed the limit. Still others believe that the term «targeted social assistance» is very close in meaning to the concepts of individual assistance, need assistance, low-income assistance, to targeting assistance (its provision to strictly target groups). Targeted social assistance is also defined as a system of measures to provide assistance to certain really disadvantaged groups of the population in order to overcome or mitigate life's difficulties, maintain their social status and full-fledged life.

Targeted social assistance as a special type of state social assistance is interesting from a scientific and practical point of view, especially in the context of understanding domestic and foreign experience. Such interest is due, on the one hand, to the scale and intensity of recent changes in the legal regulation of social assistance to poor citizens, and on the other hand, to the urgent need to strengthen the fight against poverty. Especially if we take into account the fact that at present the reduction of poverty at the federal, regional and local levels is largely determined by the effectiveness of the mechanism of targeted social assistance. Indeed, the instability of the economic situation, which contributes to the deterioration of the financial situation of citizens, and, most importantly, the limited state funds force the state to look

for new opportunities to modernize the current system of providing social assistance to low-income citizens, who are usually classified as poor.

In the historical sense, the problem of finding and developing new forms of social assistance in our country is by no means new. In this sense, the experience of creating city trustees at the turn of the 19th–20th centuries is remarkable. With their creation, the affairs of charity actually passed into the hands of the city government, which, of course, contributed to a noticeable increase in public participation in the organization of social work. District guardianships were a model of flexible charity: on the one hand, they were under municipal rather than state jurisdiction, which allowed them to resolve all issues related to social assistance, on the other hand, the vast majority of the costs for the poor were borne by local communities with little support from city authorities, and the funding of the trustees did not place a heavy burden on the city budget. However, under the conditions of insufficient financial expenditures by the state for the needs of social assistance and limited opportunities for the main subjects of public charity, the scale of all this assistance was insufficient and could not cover the needs of society. The modern social system functions when receiving and transforming the scientific information that enters it [1, pp. 30–34], is “a complex interaction of various types of social communication” [2, pp. 95–100]. An indispensable condition is also the inclusion of the individual in the integral world of universal culture in order to assimilate spiritual and moral values, through “... the formation of spiritual and cultural traditions” [9, pp. 66–72], through the formation of a personality in a society where “historically, many peoples live with their own traditions and beliefs” [8, pp. 195–201]. “The system of spiritual and moral values is able to provide the necessary stable existence and development...” [4, pp. 1566–1569]. Social protection as a developing social institution ensures the formation of a personality that takes into account interpersonal relationships [9, pp. 73–78], its huge influence on “... the formation of a civic position in society” [6, pp. 33–36]. “Particular attention is paid to the analysis of the human sensory sphere” [5, pp. 127–133].

In terms of historical continuity, this is important and to some extent relevant for solving the problems of optimizing the modern Russian system of targeted state social support for certain social groups [11, pp. 44–50], perceived as poor, their way of life and consciousness [3, pp. 80–85].

In modern Russia, poverty is defined by such a category as the subsistence level of the able-bodied population, which is the cost of the minimum consumer basket, which includes the minimum set of products and services necessary for survival. It is the amount of earnings, which borders on the level of the subsistence minimum, that is the line between poverty and poverty. Thus, poverty (neediness) as a legal fact and the basis for the emergence of a legal relationship for social assistance should be based on the ratio of all incomes of a person to the subsistence minimum established by law at the federal and regional levels.

At the same time, the main form of providing the most vulnerable categories of the population in Russia at present is the targeted provision of social assistance, which applies only to those citizens whose actual consumption is below the subsistence minimum, that is, its recipients can be not only disabled citizens, but also fully able-bodied but low-income individuals.

At present, the state social policy is being implemented at a high pace in the Russian Federation, aimed primarily at overcoming the extreme degree of social inequality in modern Russian society, and providing state assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the population, namely the elderly and the disabled. The task at the present stage is to ensure the availability and diversity of social services and improve their quality. At the same time, it is important to achieve a more efficient use of public funds allocated to this area [10].

Providing targeted assistance is essential. First of all, it turns out to be the most needy: single retirees, disabled people, senior citizens over eighty years old, as well as large families, ones with disabled children. At present, the main principle of building a social protection system is subject-subject relations, in which the client of social protection takes an active life position in the process of solving her/his problems.

In the lives of the elderly, as well as those with disabilities, income and health status are the two most significant variables that are the most important components of the quality of life. Therefore, the key parameters for assessing life include economic, socio-medical, as well as socio-psychological aspects.

To the greatest extent, the social problems of elderly citizens and the disabled are caused by factors that limit life;

- specific limitations caused by a specific disease, injury and inability to receive proper treatment;
- psychological and social barriers that arise between an elderly person and a person with a disability and others;
- insufficient provision with modern auxiliary technical means and their almost complete absence among these categories of citizens;

– the imperfection of the mechanism for implementing the existing legislation, which determines the special situation of the elderly, disabled people and their families;

- shortcomings in the formation of an accessible living environment.

The above factors in combination lead to the limitation of the life of the elderly and the disabled: limited access to information; restriction of movement; limited self-service capabilities; restriction of communication, maintenance and establishment of social contacts; restriction of participation in cultural life and leisure; restriction in labour activity; restriction in the field of training, retraining, and advanced training. Of course, this is not an exhaustive set of characteristics of limited life activity of this group of people, but it reflects the most significant barriers.

The current situation actualizes the organization of targeted social assistance to families with the elderly and disabled as the least protected category. Such support is based on a differentiated approach to those in need, allowing the use of public funds for their intended purpose.

Targeting methods for their implementation require careful collection, evaluation and verification of the reliability of information about applicants for social assistance. The effective distribution of social assistance in cash or in other form primarily depends on the methodology of ensuring targeting. Types and forms of targeted assistance are determined by complex centers of social services for the population based on the available material and financial resources, taking into account the needs of citizens and their property status.

Analyzing the experience of providing targeted social assistance to elderly and disabled citizens in the state budgetary institution of social services “Regional Center for Social Services for Elderly and Disabled Citizens” (Stavropol), it is possible to identify the content and focus of the social institution’s activities to support the needy population, organization of targeted assistance the elderly and the disabled.

The assessment of the state of social support for the elderly and people with disabilities was carried out on the basis of an analysis of:

- reporting documentation in the state budgetary institution of social services “Regional Center for Social Services for Elderly and Disabled Citizens” (reports for six months of work, both for the entire center and its branches, a diary of a social worker of the department for social services for the elderly and disabled);
- personal data of clients (elderly and disabled people living in the state budgetary institution of social services “Regional Center for Social Services for Elderly and Disabled Citizens”);
- analysis of conversations with family members, clients of the state budgetary institution of social services “Regional Center for Social Services for Elderly and Disabled Citizens”.

In order to identify the address of those in need of social assistance, a questionnaire was developed and a pilot survey of families with the elderly and disabled was conducted. The survey involved ten respondents of the elderly and the same number of respondents with various types of disabilities and health restrictions.

It should be noted that among the respondents, the majority of elderly people (3/4) living in families were widowed, having lost one of their spouses. Respondents (3/4) noted a number of problems that arise not only for them, but also in their families. These problems are primarily due to the financial situation of the family (9/10) and, as a result, the lack of medicines for the treatment and support of the elderly, the inability to send a senior citizen to a sanatorium or for diagnosis. Problems of interaction between the older and younger generations were also noted (almost half of the respondents).

Other data was obtained as a result of a survey of people with disabilities. Almost all the subjects (9/10) answered that they live in families with children, parents (disabled children). Among the main problems noted by the respondents was the problem of the material well-being of the family (9/10), the impossibility of full treatment not only for people with disabilities, but also for other family members (3/4), the need to receive both material and psychological assistance and support from professionals.

When determining the content of assistance, the type and form of assistance, one must take into account not only the needs of the person served in the center, but also his family members. Such characteristics may include information about the number and age of children in the family, disability, pregnancy, marital status, the presence of elderly family members, place of residence, place of work.

The implementation of the principle of targeting in the activities of social institutions is possible subject to the following positions:

- well-thought-out strategy for disseminating information so that those in need can learn about the possibilities of obtaining assistance;
- accessibility of local social protection authorities;
- the presence of proper control over the implementation of social programs at the local level.

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Conflict of interest statement

The authors do not have any conflict of interest.

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