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LABORATORY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROCESSES MONITORING

The article describes the history of the Laboratory of Social and Political Processes Monitoring at the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. During several years one of its main tasks was carrying out national representative surveys on the up-to-date issues of social and political life of Ukraine. Information bulletins and analytical reports are being published systematically for more than ten years of Laboratory's monitoring activity. These materials are given to the Administration of the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Scientific and research work carried out by the staff of the Laboratory along with the monitoring activity is described.

Key words: social tension, social situation, personal development, social development, situational approach.

Since the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine was founded its scientists carry out their scientific research work and use numerous monitoring results. But subject specification of the Institute is first of all focused on the issues of social and political psychology, educational problems. Scientific researches carried out in the Institute's departments in the before mentioned areas needed creating and enlarging its own empirical database. That was the reason of creating Laboratory of Social and Political Processes Monitoring in the Institute in the early 2000's. One of its main tasks was annual national representative surveys on the up-to-date issues of social and political life of Ukraine. These are: public confidence in state authorities and public institutions, social tension level and protest potential of society, citizens' electoral intentions before the presidential and parliamentary elections, public opinion on the most acute and controversial aspects of political and social economic life, about European and Euro-Atlantic integration, the Ukrainian-Russian relationship, national symbols, and monitoring of social and political situation in Ukraine and situation in the sphere of education (based on the results of higher educational institutions admission campaign) and others. Information bulletins and analytical materials are being published systematically for more than ten years of Laboratory's monitoring activity. These materials are given to the Administration of the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

Scientific staff of the Laboratory carries out scientific research work along with monitoring activity. Scientific research work “Level and Dynamics of Social Tension in Ukraine” was made under the supervision of M.M. Slyusarevskiy in 2000-2002. Developing this theme was determined by the need of defining principles of transitional society development and management of governance processes occurring in it. In its turn it required analysis of social tension dynamics, its influence on population behavior.

A holistic concept of theoretical and empirical studies of the phenomenon of social tensions was developed as a result of the Scientific and Research Work. The definition of the term *social tension* as a specific mental state of society (or parts of it) occurring in response to extreme conditions. Despite genetic relationship of individual stress and social tension the latter has differences, defined by its supra-individual psychological nature.

Studying effects of tension occurring at certain stages of social development defined the need for consistent implementation of the situational approach. The main elements of social tension based on the scientific understanding of social tension structure were defined. Those are: 1) general dissatisfaction of the existing situation in society; 2) discontent of the possibilities of influencing the situation; 3) dissatisfaction of the actions of personalized social force able to influence the situation (according to the subjects' views); 4) retrospective assessment of previous the situation; 5) future situation assessment prediction.

A theoretical pattern of necessary and sufficient indicators of social tension makes is made. It makes possible development of new methodological approaches to its study. Pattern's operationalization made it possible developing an original methodology for measuring social tension level in the public opinion polls as well as improving recently created methodology for social tension expert evaluation. A methodological tool-kit for focus group studies was used as an additional mean for high-quality analysis of the phenomenon under research. Focus group studies were carried out among the representatives of social groups with mental condition characterized by the highest level of intensity. The combination of the mentioned techniques allowed improving significantly the reliability of empirical data and authenticity of respective interpretations.

During monitoring studies of social tension level and dynamics of in the Ukrainian society, the dynamics of social tension was monitored: a) in Ukraine as a whole and its regions; b) among teachers and other public sector employees; c) among representatives of different age groups.

Social tensions in Ukraine was defined to be at middle and close it levels during the period of observation and it was slightly lower compared to 1999. But its general all-country level was not influenced significantly by such potentially destabilizing factors of domestic and international life, as

“Cassette” and “Kolchuga (armour)” scandals, government and parliamentary crisis action “Arise, Ukraine!”, terrorist attacks in the USA, war in Afghanistan etc. Based on the data obtained it was concluded that certain tension reduction in society is natural because: first, of slight improvement of objective macroeconomic indicators; second, society as a whole is adapting to market conditions; third, gradual generations change and as a result increasing the number of citizens who have no psychological trauma because of transition to the new social order. However, trends of regional redistribution of social tension were observed: if it was significantly higher in the eastern and southern regions (especially in Donbas and Crimean Peninsula) in 1999-2001 and relatively lower in the western and central regions. So lately its level is increasing in the western region and Right-Bank Ukraine and lowers in the southern and eastern regions. Certain changes for better are seen in the structure of social tension: overall socio-political situation evaluation is less intense, awareness of their own ability to influence is growing, and the nostalgia for the past is decreasing. But instead government’s actions and prospects for the future are evaluated with more stress. These changes and trends are caused by both material and economic and political factors. However, individual psychological factors that are peculiar social tension “self-decreasing” mechanisms were found.

Trends of tension localization in certain social demographic and professional groups were tracked. Monitoring survey among competent experts found social tension to be at constantly higher above the national average level first of all among retirees, unemployed miners and teachers. Social demographic and social professional localization of the tension don’t coincide always with the trends of its regional distribution. Thus, social tension rate among the teachers at the end of 2002, was the highest as it was expected considering the regional trends. It was close to maximum in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk, partial in Ternopil region. But at the same time it was significantly higher than the regional indicators in AR of Crimea, Vinnitsa, Odessa, Rivne, Kharkiv and Cherkassy regions. Social tension level among the male teachers in the teachers' medium is significantly higher than in the women’s one, whereas the opposite ratio is observed in other social groups. Social tension aggravation among young teachers under 30 years is a particularly disturbing fact. Social tension in this age group is lower than in older colleagues. But it is much higher (more than 50%) than the Ukrainian average among the youth in general. The need for developing and implementing special programs of social and psychological support of the young teacher is explained considering the abovementioned trends.

Analysis tension in inter-ethnic and inter-religious spheres proved existence of potentially conflict zones. First of all those are Autonomous Republic of Crimea and other south-eastern regions of Ukraine. Mainly

those are Russians and Crimean Tatars living in the mentioned regions. Despite the fact that there are no real social and psychological preconditions for arising spontaneous ethnic and interreligious mass collisions in the short term, the only real factor that can provoke such collisions can be its targeted inspiration by some political forces and leaders as well as ethnic and religious hatred “export” from abroad.

Theoretical and empirical research on the relation between the phenomena of social tension and social protest proved this relationship can't be linearly determined. It is due to social protest to be relatively independent social phenomenon, and is not always directly conditioned by social tension level. The new concept of “protest mobilization” was introduced for making more complete and adequate description of social protest phenomenon in its relationship with the one of social tension. It should be regarded as structural and functional unity of society protest potential and mass protest activity. On the one hand, the latter reveals potential, on the other it is a permanent source and universal means of accumulation.

Monitoring studies made in 2000-2002 revealed the trend of lowering Ukrainian citizens' protest activity. However, it combined increasing protest activity. Public opinion on the social problems legal solving by means of mass protests was gradually forming. Approximately half of the respondents declared and it proves citizens' attitudes to the protest behaviors to be normative. As far as it concerns population protest behavior motivation we should mention that political and ideological reasons become more important despite common ideas about its prevailing social economic nature.

Other scientific research work “Research and Methodological Foundations of Social Tension Prediction and Correction” was carried out in 2003-2006 under the guidance of M.M. Slyusarevskiy. It allowed laboratory staff to clarify and develop an original theory of social tension as a mental condition of society. A conceptual pattern of social tension diagnosis, prognosis and correction based on its correlation was developed in the frames of the previous scientific topic (2000-2002).

Our scientists continued working at monitoring of social tension level and dynamics (started in 1998) in Ukraine as a whole, and its regions and most disadvantaged sectors of society (retirees, youth, educators and specialists in other state-financed spheres). Monitoring studies results revealed the main trends in social tensions in Ukraine. Those are: 1) general trends of its gradual decline (it is uneven, there are periods of some increase and stabilization; 2) trend of regional redistribution of intensity levels, moving its localization zones from east and south, towards west and north; 3) trend of increasing dependence of regional dynamics of social tensions political factors in the weakening of social economic factors influence.

Psychological mechanisms of social tension course as a condition characterized by severe procedures were clarified as a result of the research made. Thus, in particular, there is a kind of self-support tension mechanism based on the phenomenon of cognitive dissonance and causal attribution. We suggest that there can also be asymmetric mechanism of tension self-lowering.

Phenomenon of the Orange Revolution was analyzed considering the fact of revealing social tension patterns and citizens action. Its original interpretation as the one conditioned by relatively independent protest moods and action on the current level of social tension was offered. The Orange Revolution was shown to be a powerful burst of heated out-of-date grieves of mass protest activity. But it happened on the decline wave of public discontent of the living conditions in contrast to the most of the popular uprisings happening on the risen of it. The government tried to do everything to reduce “stress” conditions and was knocking the ground from the feet of the opposition. Indeed it became easier to live for the average and thus social tension in the country was lowering. So people were outraged of the government that ignored their will and came to the Maidan being but there was no anger, stress and aggression accumulated. They had some grains of hope in their hearts rather than blind revenge. This was the specific feature of the Orange Revolution defining its peaceful, festive and carnival course.

Dependence of social tension level fluctuations in almost all the social groups (age, social professional, ethnic, etc.) from its all-Ukrainian dynamics was found. It proved the favor of the interpretation of social tension phenomenon as a holistic mental state of the society. This dependence was not observed in the Crimean Tatar community only. On the one hand, it can be explained because of unresolved problems of Crimean Tatars related to their resettlement after returning to their historical homeland. On the other hand its social and psychological self-isolation, low integration level into the Ukrainian society.

A steady trend of social tension lowering is observed, in particular, among the educators. However, in some regions (especially in Lviv, and Vinnytsa regions) tension level among teaching staff is constantly exceeding average regional and is usually higher than average for the field. Moreover, it is quite clear (although not absolute) that tension is seen first in the teachers’ environment because of delays in salaries. In recent years tension was rising for other reasons, first of on the basis of “personnel” educators’ conflicts with local authorities.

It should be mentioned that it is impossible to predict social tension outside of centers of administrative and political decision-making. At the same time, social tension increases from its background level but not from

zero. That is why it's the systematic tracking, efficient and long-term predictions enable to estimate possible destructive potential of such tension.

Social prognosis synthesis and typology, their toolkit, sources, methods, kinds and stages allowed suggesting basic methodological principles of predicting social phenomena and processes, as well as methodological principles of creating prediction technologies. This is the basis for creating social tension technology forecasting. The latter provides comprehensive use of well-known forecasting methods such as extrapolation, modeling, expert interviews.

The reliability of calculated prognostic indexes of social tension conceptual pattern was proved by the method of isolated extrapolation of prognostic data in the process of developing mentioned technology.

It was made by means of comparison with empirical data obtained in 2006. All the actual data was found to be within 95% of predictive confidence interval. The latter is an empirical proof of accuracy of isolated extrapolation method for tasks-solving. The quantitative prediction of social tension and its individual components in 2007 was received by means of the mentioned method.

Predictive patterns of social tension possible dynamics of in Ukraine were made based on focus group and psycho-semantic researches data. Those are 1) a pattern based on reconstructed social ideas about space (this pattern enables predicting changes in the social tension level defined by certain state decisions and social events. It enables transition from search to the required normative prediction type) 2) pattern of tension depending on the employees income, including public sector (this type of prediction is relevant, because most of so-called popular or unpopular decisions concerning the average income of Ukrainian population can now be regarded as the main vector of external influence on social tension).

A morphological space of socio-economic and political situation in Ukraine scenarios, including two main ones that make this differentiates mostly this space. The first one includes state leaders' orientation into maximum possible integration with Russia and other former Soviet republics, support of some financial and industrial groups and export of priorities; second is determined mainly by the moderate state position of the "eastern vector" and focus on developing small and medium businesses in the country. Considering these scenarios the forecast of social tension dynamics for the next 10 years was developed. In case of the second scenario its level is likely to decrease; in the first it is to increase to some degree.

Social tensions theoretical background, main strategies and ways of adjustment are made based on research results. Typology of tense situations arising in the society from the part of defining approaches to decision-making and corrective influence tools selection is made. A structural and

dynamic pattern of social system response to tension situations as reflective process of decision-making was created. The main structural elements of the pattern are: state and political institutions, mass media, professional and other communities. The content and limits of their impact on social tension are outlined.

Real and simulated tension situations during business game taking place on different levels of social hierarchy: national, local (in some regions, sectors, ethnic groups, etc.) and on the level of specific organizations are analyzed. Managers (heads of technical vocational education institutions) research ideas about ways and means of adjusting mass stress states revealed typical errors for these concepts. Thus, recommendations for assistance management education employees were given. A psychological program of analyzing and resolving social tension situations in the neighborhood (for example, a situation in Kiev during the implementation of urban construction projects) was made. The system of management principles for preventing tension disturbance in the society in general and all its layers was created.

The scientific research work “Scientific and Methodological Background of Monitoring Social Situation of Personal and Social Development” was made in 2007-2010 under supervision of L. V. Hryhorovska. Its main objective was in developing concepts, patterns and methodological tools for tracking social development dynamics of personal and social situations. Performing public opinion monitoring on up-to-date issues of society transformation and education modernization is very important.

The concept of complex integrative analysis of social situations, personal and social development in the period of democratic reforms and innovation changes implementation in the educational space was developed. Specific features of two notions of social situation as a set of external conditions and of relations of man to the world are outlined. The first is the basis for harmonization ideas about content, relationships and hierarchy of factors influencing personal development of human being and its development as a subject of life and social creativity. The second is considered to be priority for studying patterns and predicting mental states of the subject dynamics, his behavior. The situation is studied as a result of subject’s efforts, its scope and essential structural characteristics as being always related in some way to the scope of the subject and its features.

Social situations classification scheme by scale is created. Types of social situations are highlighted. According to the socio-spatial parameters these are: micro-environment, macro-environment and global. According to the personal-temporal these are episodic, life phase and the scale of life in general. Global, macro and micro level situational factors influencing creation and manifestation of subjective potential of the individual nowadays in

Ukraine are highlighted. The most important factors are, in particular, the global information and sexual revolution; *macro-level* (moral values disintegration of modern Ukrainian society, low level of economic freedom, significant corruption level of public life and undeveloped public sector; *micro-level* (weakening socialization institutions of the young generation, such as family, school and children's community).

Ways of analyzing social situation representation are suggested. Those are: representations contents, subject's expectations, social situation boundaries in the individual's perception (family, work, social and political life, art, etc.), central and peripheral, structured and unstructured elements of situation image. Types of subjective representation situations: specific practical (phenomenological) and objective-logical (ontological) associated with types of subjective localization influence factors (external and internal) are distinguished.

Post-totalitarian subjectivity paradox conditioned by social situation subjective interpretations is recorded and analyzed. For example, revealed readiness to subjective realization in social creativity coexists with expectations of external factor of the "trigger". However, this paradox has no age specification. Social and psychological reasons for this personal initiative "paralysis" are in the fact that the social situation is presented mostly in its perception in macro-level dimension (as national, state). That is why it is impossible for humans to cope with it without assistance. Thus, there is the need for applying social and psychological technologies of adjusting subjective scale of social situation perceived by people, reducing it to the size that fits individual's possibilities and enable discovering his own subjectivity.

Up-to-date social situation can be a threat to personal and social development because of its variety, multiple opportunities, uncertainty, weak social control, rigid traditional norms and so on. Considering the fact that there are no effective technologies of shaping subjectivity these features can cause serious problems for social, civic, ethnic identity of the person, contribute to appearing of the personality whose life program is in avoiding any fixation of social space, position, stable mutual obligations. Mediatization and virtualization are features of contemporary social situation. It is revealed on the personal level, in particular, in reducing contact duration of maturing person with the nearest social environment and increasing the time of person's stays in the virtual space. The latter distorts human behavior patterns, relationships, social problems priority. In the social aspect it refers to increasing information attacks threat, psychological wars, the need for protecting information space.

When determining the structure of the situation as a dynamic spatial temporal formation without established items list, since it is given we should consider that, on the one hand, it is defined by the challenges of the

subject's environment, on the other hand by the specific features of the subject, first of all by his subjective potential and personal resources. Attention should be focused on determining factors of the developing nature of the situation. This is a compliance of the community subjective potential and / or individual's environment challenges. The pattern of the personality meeting modern society needs in constant development and effective integration into the global community is very important in modern conditions of world and society transformation. Possibilities of national traditions and values preservation and development are combined with society capacity to cooperation and integration with global and regional communities. Consequently, personal development strategy should be based on the principles as follows: contextual / cultural relevance, universal validity, practical use, focus on the best possible development of personal competencies and personality's best adaptation to the society transformation.

Monitoring of the social situation in Ukraine in various dimensions: political, social-economic, ethnic-national, educational was made in 2007-2010. A particular attention was paid to monitoring social situation in the educational dimension, aiming at determining Ukrainian citizens' relationship to education reforms, to any possible negative effects.

A conclusion about unfavorable social situation in today's Ukraine, for solving personal growth problem, development and manifestation of subjective personality qualities was made based on the data. In particular, Ukrainian society is in the situation of lack of recognized national values, which would contribute to nation consolidation and was an example to follow for citizens as subjects of social creation. Citizens' assessments of the overall life situation were worse. Ukrainian citizens' confidence crisis to the representatives of higher power still remains deep and irresistible. It is one of the most characteristic features of the social political situation in the country during the mention period. Citizens' disbelief to the possibility of influencing the situation is an attribute of the social situation. The responsibility for the current social economic and political situation is laid by the citizens first of all on the central power. It confirms the distance to be between the state and the civil society in Ukraine. Dynamics in the motivation structure of possible protest citizens' behavior was observed during the period of research.

Scientific and research work to study the features of personal and social development continued previous researches and was started in 2010. Situation approach was used: social tension and clarification scientific and methodological background of social situation monitoring.

The purpose of the scientific research work "Specific Features of Situational Factors Dynamics of Personal and Social Development" (carried out under the supervision of O. V. Sushyy) is developing a conceptual pat-

tern of situational factors, personal and social development in the context of social changes taking place in the modern Ukrainian society; carrying out public opinion monitoring on the up-to-date issues of the society transformation and education modernization on the basis of it; identifying social situation trends, available resources and personal and social development risks. Laboratory scientists believe in need of studying situational factors is caused by theoretically postulated and experimentally justified social and psychological science of their influence into the social events course. The latter is not always understood and evaluated properly by group subjects of social life. That is why the systematic studying of public opinion based on the conceptual pattern of situational factors, identifying trends in social situation will contribute to developing psychologically grounded strategy of public authorities and tactics of state development, society consolidation and education modernization.

The staff of monitoring social and political processes laboratory expresses congratulations to the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogic Sciences of Ukraine on the 20-th anniversary and wishes all the colleagues new scientific achievements for the good of Ukrainian science.

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