

Секция «Принятие решений: коммуникационные стратегии и социальные практики»

Decision-Making on Social Assistance: A View from Moscow and Shanghai

Научный руководитель – Dr Vyas, Lina (Д-р Лина Вьяс)

Sazhina Olga

Аспирант

Педагогический университет Гонконга, Faculty of liberal arts and social sciences (FLASS),
Asian and policy studies (APS), Гонконг, Китай
E-mail: osazhina@s.ied.edu.hk

It is not easy to achieve equability in the provision of social services and social assistance within a country or even a city. Some researches highlight the importance of a targeted-aid development, while others tend to put more attention on selection criteria. Thus, I found it reasonable to look into the decision-making process of social assistance in two big megalopolises, Moscow and Shanghai.

During my field trips to Moscow and Shanghai, I had a chance to interview the scientists who closely monitor the social assistance policies, and, people with at-risk-of poverty situations to talk about social assistance provision and their evaluation of it.

The interviews took part in 2018 (1st batch of interviews in Moscow and Shanghai) and 2019 (2nd batch of interviews in Moscow and Shanghai).

According to the results of the study, I revealed the riskiest groups in both places with high chances to fall into poverty. The outlooks from the scientists and the near poor helped to analyze the government decision-making strategies in social assistance and policy-making.

In this presentation, I determine decision-making as the process of identifying alternatives and a process of choosing between them. The government, as a leading decision-maker in my research, make decisions based on its values and preferences. When identifying them, it helps to compare two countries and highlight the weaknesses of the government-led social practices. The state, as a social institution, is obliged to ensure order between its members and regulate social processes, that is, to maintain the structure and well-being in society. Thus, in this report, I analyze social assistance through the prism of decision-making by a state institution, and also, I note the sociocultural factors of decision-making.

Social practice is a type of practice which influencing the system of public relations, changes society and develops itself through public organizations and institutions. The interviews from the people with at-risks-of poverty give a sufficient overview of how the social practices perceived and evaluated by citizens. As a result, this work additionally provides a comparative analysis of the social protection of the population, in Moscow and Shanghai.

Furthermore, I consider what specific management tools are used in Russia and China, as socialist and post-socialist societies, and describe the most vulnerable groups of the population identified as a “risk group”, that is, those with high chances of falling into the poor.

The presentation also provides an in-depth discussion on the causes why do the unprotected groups of countries populations continue to grow by explaining economic, political and other factors.