

CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH ON THE ISSUE OF VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION IN EMERGENCIES

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Abstract. This paper represents the results of current state of research on the issue of volunteer participation in emergencies. It's highlighted that this phenomenon is complex and demands a cross-disciplinary approach. As well the studied scientific problem requires a combination of studies from different fields such as volunteering, civil society and its interaction with government, sociology of emergencies and disaster. Based on the review we concluded that in Russia the qualitative and quantitative structure of the volunteer community mobilizing in emergency situations, its mobilization mechanisms and the role of information technologies in it are still badly researched, as well as the assessment of emergency situations by volunteers as a mobilization factor, the motivational structure of the mechanisms of civil-state collaboration. There is not enough research focused on civil-state collaboration during the response to emergency situations, which also addresses to current knowledge gap-filling.

Keywords: volunteering, emergency, mobilization factor, civil-state collaboration.

1 Introduction

Volunteering is a flourishing phenomenon in the Russia. The work of volunteers is very diverse: in hospitals and social institutions, protect the environment and culture, ascertain the identities of dead militants, help to organize the major international events, to find missing people, and provide all possible assistance to the natural disasters' victims. The national policy on volunteering demonstrates the focusing on its promoting and is being implemented in a few directions: legislative and tax regulation, informational and methodological support, motivation, promotion of the infrastructure of volunteer activities. Today it can be said that among all the practices and institutions of civil society, volunteering is gaining the greatest attention of the state, it becomes a real resource for social development. Due to its complexity and high social significance, this phenomenon requires a multilevel and interdisciplinary approach to analysis.

2 Methods

The article represents the results of the analysis of Russian and foreign literature of three research areas: volunteering, civil society, sociology of emergencies and disasters.

3 Results And Discussion

The stated scientific problem is at the intersection of sociological studies of volunteering, civil society and its interaction with the state, as well as the sociology of disasters and emergency. The following will summarize these three areas.

Volunteering. Volunteering research is interdisciplinary in nature. According to Smith, at least 20,000 representatives of the social and human sciences are involved in the study of various aspects of volunteering (Handbook of Volunteering, 2016). As a result of the analysis of more than 300 academic publications on the subject, the researchers identified four aspects that cause some confusion to the definitions of volunteering:

- voluntary nature of action: from completely voluntary actions to the obligation to be a volunteer;

- type of remuneration: from fully unpaid work to donations, grants, cost recovery and even minimum wage;
- institutional context: from completely informal or spontaneous volunteering to formalized participation in non-profit organizations;
- volunteering beneficiaries: from strangers to friends, relatives, members of the local community and the volunteer himself (Cnaan et al 1966).

Most researchers agree on several criteria for volunteering: proactive action, lack of material benefits, and voluntary participation. Researchers at J. Hopkins University define volunteering as "a set of activities, a type of work in free time without any monetary compensation" (Anheier, 1999 & Salamon; Salamon, 2011). Mersyanova and Jacobson describe volunteering as "a kind of philanthropic practices, selfless individual or collective activity for the benefit of other people or society" (Potencial i puti razvitiya filantropii v Rossii 2010). The most common definition given by Tilly: Volunteering is unpaid work, for the benefit of those with whom the volunteer is not bound by contract, kinship or friendship obligations (Tilly, 1994).

Volunteering researches can be divided into several areas. The extent of volunteer participation in the world, the degree of inclusion of various categories of citizens, different models of volunteer participation are the main volunteering research topics, undertaken by a team of Salamon. They have developed a social origins theory – a methodological approach that allows to assess the size of the non-profit sector and the degree of volunteer participation depending on the type of "wealth regime" and the degree of national control of NGOs (Anheier & Salamon 1999; Salamon & Sokolowski 2001). Other studies examine the basis for distinguishing volunteering among other types of voluntary collective actions, such as political or civic activism (Musick & Wilson, 2008; Eliasoph 2013). The authors suppose that the basis for this separation is the fundamental difference between political representation – a civil action aimed at changing social institutions, and charitable activities aimed at solving specific problems. Another important topic is presented in papers on changing the nature of work in the modernization context. The researchers developing this direction show how voluntary work moves from serving the community to the form of leisure, how the image of the volunteer itself changes, the socio-demographic characteristics of volunteers, how voluntary work affects changes in the sphere of wage labor (Hustinx & Lammertyn 2003; Hustinx 2007; Rochester 2012). Ethnographic studies in Russia and other countries are also focused on the influence of volunteering on traditional professions and the volunteering professionalization (Haddad, 2010; Klepikova, 2011; Puda, 2011).

Studies on Russian volunteering highlight the socio-demographic characteristics of groups of "permanent" volunteers who choose various forms and different channels of the volunteerism implementation (online and offline). In that connection the extensive corpus of texts on the history of Russian volunteering, including in the field of rescue work should also be (Maksimov, 1905; Shchapov, 1994; Lindenmeyer, 1928; Raab, 2011; Liborakina, 1996).

Civil society. Volunteering in its organizational structure can be formal and informal (Pevnaya, 2013). However, in general, it is considered in its institutionalized form: most authors analyze it in the studies of third sector organizations (Salamon & Sokolowski, 2001; Pearce, 1993; Wilson, 2000).

Civil society research in Russia usually refer volunteer organizations to "socially oriented NGOs" (Bogdanova, 2017). The reasons for this distinction can be found in volunteering works and in studies of civil society problems. Here, the authors distinguish two main approaches to the definition of civil society: as spheres in opposition to the government or spheres of voluntary associations that perform socially significant functions, including collaboration with state institutions (Seligman, 1995;

Salmenniemi 2009; Chebankova 2012). “Socially oriented NGOs” are the subject of researches of various areas of social policy and civil action: in the field of family and childhood protection (Ivashinenko & Varyzgina 2017), and search and rescue activities (Nevskij, 2018), in veterans associations (Tarasenko & Kulmala 2015). The substantiation of civil society can be found in the works of A. Auzan. Following the social origins theory and neoinstitutionalism, he provides a theoretical model in which civil society is a meaningful regulator of positive and negative externalities created by the government and business (Auzan & Tambovcev 2005).

An important methodological basis for the proposed project is ethnographic studies of volunteering and civil society in postsocialist countries (Hann, 2002). The authors propose to move beyond the Western studies conventional concepts of civil society and to do researches of civil organizations in Tsarist Russia, as well as in the USSR and the countries of the socialist camp. Such an attempt was made by Western researchers in studying of volunteer organizations of firefighters (Raab, 2011), and the author, declaring conservative nature of these organizations, nevertheless indicates the presence of democratic procedures and diversity of opinions within them.

Sociology of emergencies and disasters. The issues of civil society are closely intertwined with the sociology of emergency. This is a vast and well-developed field of research in which the problems of power and collective action are also analyzed. Emergency in sociology is presented as a special type of constructed situation generated by a natural or man-made disaster. A criterion of such situations is the modern age perception of the need for immediate humanitarian intervention to overcome the consequences of a disaster (Calhoun, 2010). Quarantelli and Dynes called natural disasters “consensus crises” in contrast to “dissensus crises” (Quarantelli & Dynes 1997). “Dissensus crisis” is a situation with strong contrasting views of nature of the situation, its causes and ways to remedy. A civil conflict can be an example of this crisis, wherethrough the end of this conflict obviously provokes the clash and further social fragmentation (Argohty, 2003). A “consensus crisis,” such as a natural catastrophe, on the contrary, implies acceptance of the gravity of the situation, its norms, values and priorities. For our project the essential studies are those related to the mobilization of the population, public services and activists to cope with emergency. Here we should emphasize the researches on the spontaneous mobilization of volunteers, sustainable volunteer communities, as well as strategies of overcoming the disasters’ consequences that government agencies use around the world. Spontaneous post-disaster care is a significant and usually necessary component of post-catastrophic teaming up and rehabilitation (Michel 2007; Quarantelli 1992; Stallings & Quarantelli 1985). The Russian experience of reflection of this phenomenon has begun after the mass network mobilization of citizens at times of natural and man-made disasters of the 2010s (Usacheva 2012; Yanickij 2013; Averkiev et al 2010). O. Yanitsky and his research team have analyzed the processes and the role of civil solidarity networks in post-disaster rehabilitation and have suggested the criteria of emergency situation and the overcoming strategy. Research of institutionalized volunteering in emergency management is a relatively underdeveloped area. However, we can say that the study of this kind of organizations is closely related to the studies of professionalization and the sociology of organizations. This may be attributed to several factors: emergency situations requires a high level of professional training and sense of ownership within organization by a volunteer (Lois 2003; Nevskij 2018); in other countries, the very structure of employment in the fields of rescue, firefighting is historically based on volunteerism (Greenberg, 1998); the strategies of overcoming disasters’ consequences adopted by the Government in different countries are quite fully represented in sociological and historical studies (Desmond, 2006).

4 Summary

Based on above review we concluded that in Russia the qualitative and quantitative structure of the volunteer community

mobilizing in emergency situations, its mobilization mechanisms and the role of information technologies in it are still badly researched, as well as the assessment of emergency situations by volunteers as a mobilization factor, the motivational structure of the mechanisms of civil-state collaboration, as well as their interacting with the local community. There is not enough research focused on civil-state collaboration during the response to emergency situations.

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