

SOCIAL EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZATION IN RUSSIAN ENVIRONMENT: HISTORICAL SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS

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Annotation. *From the point of the historical analysis the author considers problems of social education and socialization of the person of the Russian environment. There are revealed and commented social and philosophical aspects which identify features of social education and socialization of rising generation in historical formation of Rus-Russia. The author reveals components of social education (body, Soul, Spirit, conscience) in the conditions of Ancient Russia that enabled development of a Russian person in harmony with himself, the Mother Nature and clan-tribe. Harmonious development of the Russian environment and the person in it is possible only in condition of availability of the holistic integrated social educational system, when senses and values, attitudes and regulations, rules and prohibitions, rituals and traditions are expressed by all organizations of the community (a family, the ultimate authority, social groups), all the society in the whole.*

Key words: *social education, socialization, person of Russian environment, communal environment, national potential of spirituality, national mentality, national traditions, level of social and cultural development.*

In the Russian community social education has always been purposeful, specially organized process on formation of rising generation, its preparation to living in all historical epochs. Social education has always acted as expression of national culture of the Russian environment, it has involved the mentality of its people.

Socialization as the process of the Russian person's learning the system of knowledge, ethnic norms of behaviour and values, labour skills which were historically saved up by many generations, has been an important component in social and cultural development of Rus-Russia. Socialization allowed a person to get used successfully to surrounding social and cultural environment, to become aware of himself as the full member of the national community, to express and support ethnic senses and values, to keep national identity of the people.

Socialization in the conditions of the communal life form of Rus-Russia which had the clear-cut organized social structure and the established system of social relations, mostly included socially controlled processes of purposeful impact on the Russian person, his conscious inclusion in the social life of surrounding society (the family, the community, the estate, all the society in the whole). In the communal Russian environment elemental and spontaneous social processes could not play simply a big role and have significant influence on forming the Russian person. This feature allowed the Russian community to evolve steadily for thousand years and keep the national mentality, despite different natural cataclysms and social upheavals.

For many centuries and thousand years the structure of the Russian community was forming according to its national mentality, national traditions, the level of economic and socio-cultural development, under forming national potential of spirituality and morality of the Russian people. All social structures of the Russian community and the state had definite structure and organization. In spite of the fact that representatives of each social niche (estate) had their class culture, labour orientation and organization of the entity world, all of them are bound in one inviolable community – the Russians (the Russian people) with unified Orthodox faith, generic culture, common mentality that further made it possible to develop the national Russian concept in a quite natural way.

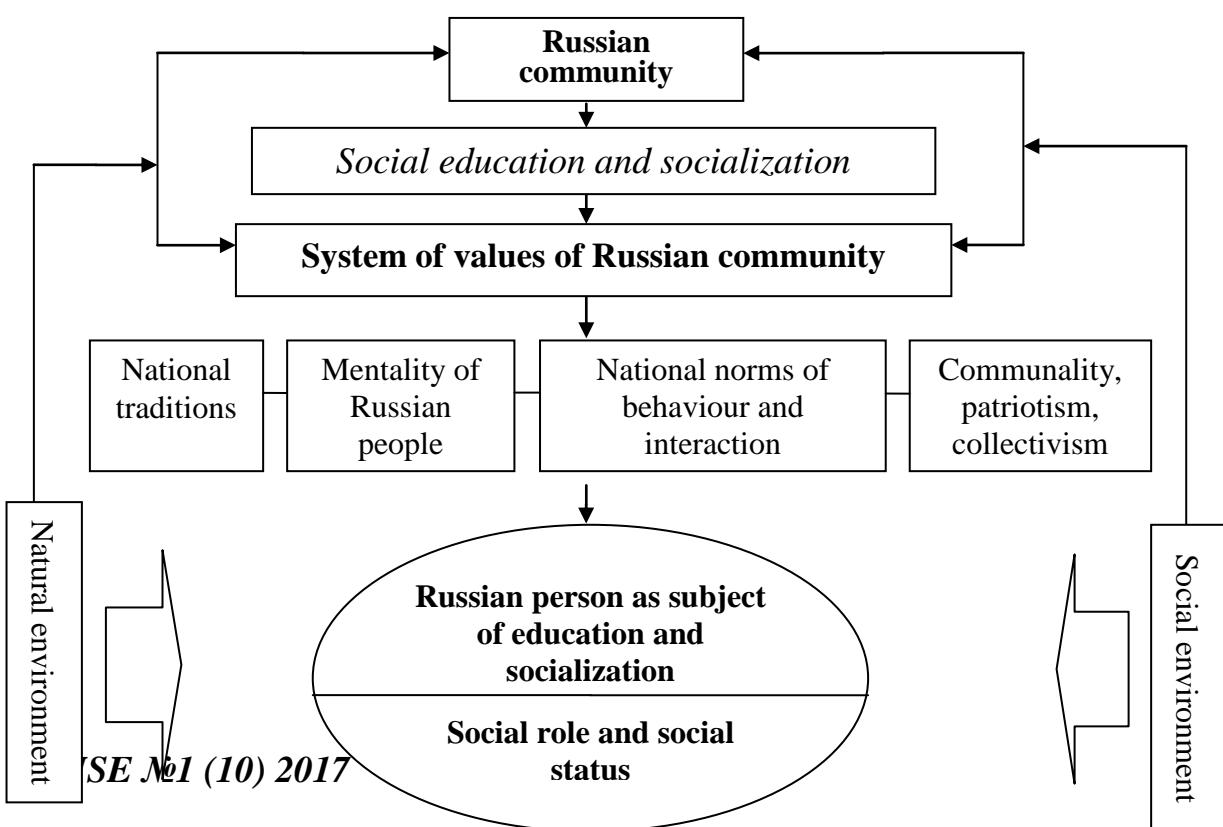
Social education and socialization of each person of the Russian community, from the moment of his birth, as a rule, have been initially predetermined by his belonging to the certain estate (peasantry, nobility, merchant class, clergy, craftsmen, others).

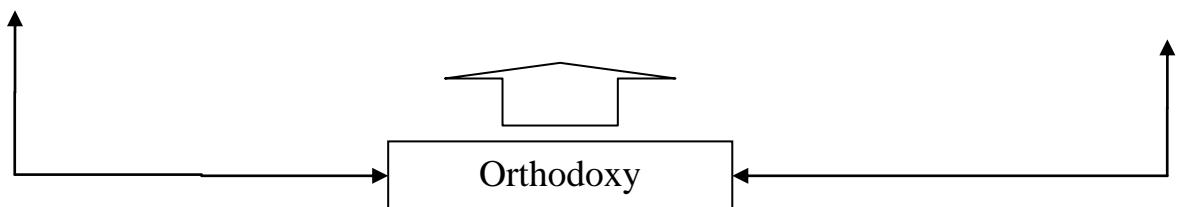
It is possible to state confidently that the given phenomena of social education and socialization in conditions of the vital organization of the Russian community, environment of Rus-Russia, represented the whole social unity with their inner entity, revealed in integrated socio-cultural process on forming the person of the Russian environment. Due to such the strengthened unique system of the social organization of the Russian world, the developed system of social interaction, ethnic norms and traditions, each its representative (a child, a teenager,

a youth, an adult, an elderly person) got that social character which mostly corresponded to the communal organizing of life in the Russian community.

Thus in their integrated entity social education and the process of socialization were oriented to preparing the rising generation for living and working in the Russian environment. The vital organization of the Russian environment, both in the content and arrangements, forms of organization, represented a complex system of daily interaction of the person with himself, the family, the members of the social surroundings, the whole Russian community, the One Creator. The vital organization of the Russian environment represented the unique philosophy of life of the people united by the long history of joint developing, socio-genetic relationship.

It can be concluded that in all historical periods of development of Russian state and community there has been a purposeful dedicated process of social education and socialization of the rising generation; the process of natural involving uneven-aged groups in the developed system of social relations and values (the clan, the community, the society), their accepting social roles according to the social niche, involving in labour activity for the benefit of the family and the society. Simultaneously there was a continuous natural process of the national identification of each person of the Russian community, by means of assimilation of national traditions and the beliefs which carried out a common evolutionary task, that is forming the type of the person who would correspond to the social ideals and norms of the certain historical period of the Russian community, its preserving and developing (see Scheme 1).





Scheme 1. Model which characterizes the process of social education and socialization of the Russian person

The community of the Russian environment has been vitally interested in the process of involving all its members in the complex social education and socialization (gender-role, labour, socio-hierarchical, socio-cultural, oth.) to get them prepared for working, making a traditional large family, Motherland serving, its defending.

Process of personal self-determination, self-assertion and self-realization of each person of the Russian community was going on within the framework of socially-significant purposes and goals of the certain estate, its interests and the main labour activity. At the same time interests of a representative of any estate of the Russian community completely coincided with the interests of the community, the society that allowed to make strong internal social relations that made the basis of its safety and sustainable development.

Complex purposes and goals of social education and socialization of members of the Russian environment could not have been fulfilled without purposeful and dedicated social education and training, without corresponding level of knowledge, without “teachers and mentors”. They themselves supported and introduced each child, teenager and youth in terms of his gender, age, abilities and other psychophysical and social characteristics, into corresponding level of knowledge and skills, belonging to the corresponding social niche, inclusion of national traditions and belief of ancestors.

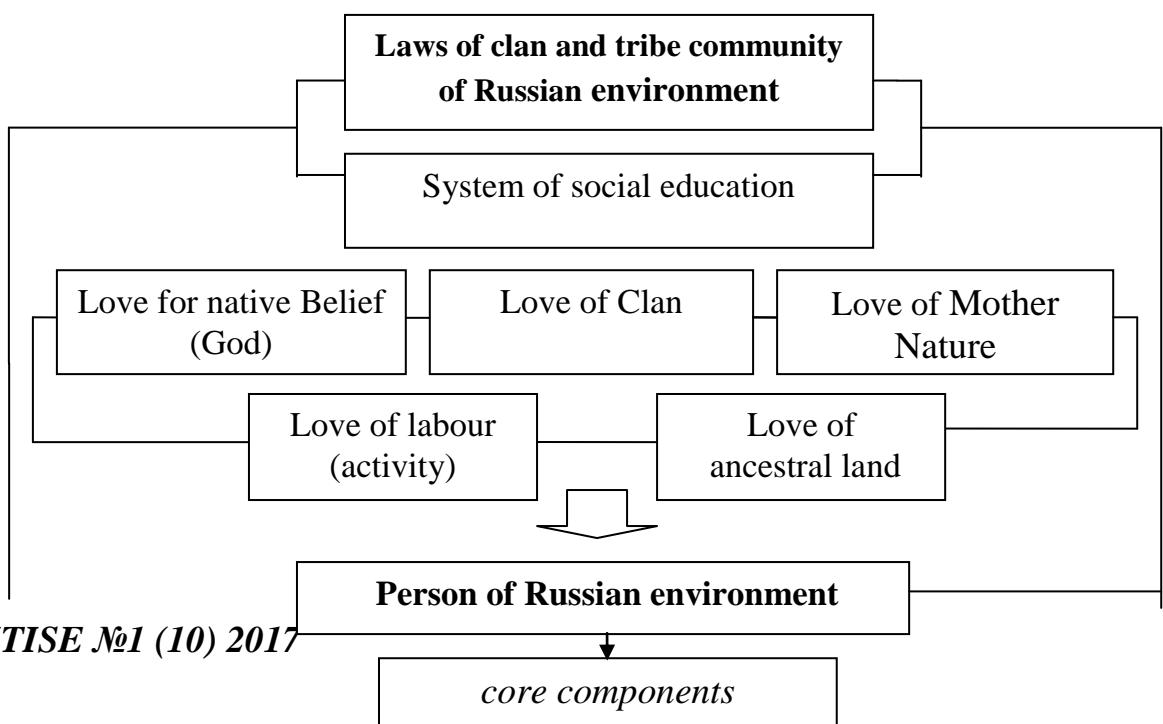
If taking into account strict social hierarchy when the experience and knowledge were passed on from an older person to a younger one, from a skilled person to a less skilled one, from a knowledgeable person to a less knowledgeable one, the result of that process was person’s assimilating corresponding senses and values, norms of social behaviour, forming belief, skills and practice. All these provided the person of the Russian community with the necessary level of well-being and social functioning, social and natural adaptation and socialization, both in the social niche and in the area of the whole Russian environment.

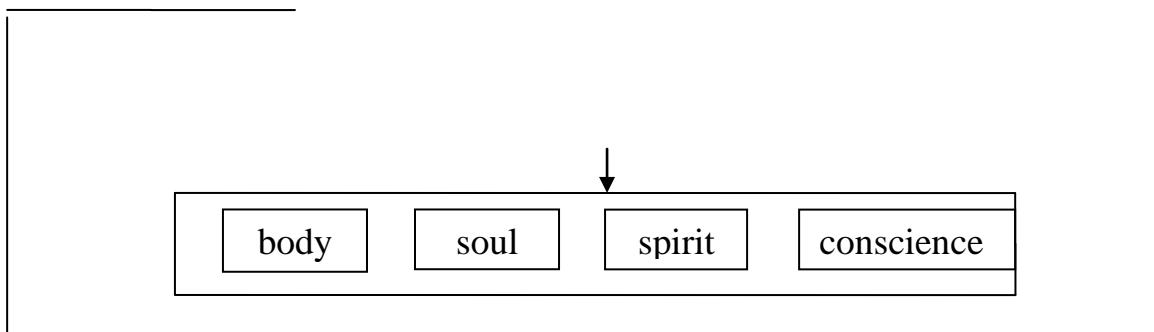
Since the most ancient period of developing Russia a single process and phenomenon of social education and socialization was persistent, endless in time

since the birth of a person to his transition in the world of ancestors. There were all involved in that process – children, teenagers, youth, adults and elderly people, men and women. The surrounding world was huge and contained many mysteries, dangers and unknown laws. The nature which person was a part of, acted as an affectionate mother or a menacing stepfather. Everlasting forces and elements of Mother Nature in their exposure demanded constant new unexpected decisions which had not been made up in the previous experience. They would have never forgotten Heavenly Father, the Almighty as there must have been the specific wisdom to speak to Him.

Social education and socialization in Ancient Russian environment was a complex process of “making” a person, his creative developing and forming in interactive unity of all social structures, all members of the community (rising generation, elders, leaders, hunters, warriors, mothers, shamans, doctors, storytellers) who acted in their organically linked unity as the major social educational institute, strong archetypical core of the Russian generic culture.

From an early age all children from the Clans of the Russian environment were brought up according to Heaven Laws of the Clan, that is the Ancestor, with sincere love of the Clan-tribe, with respect for the generic primary Belief, the generic heritage (clan history), original culture and the national Tradition, with honouring elders and caring youngers. Ancient laws of the Clan and the compressed thousand-year experience allowed to bring up the rising generation by developing a particular sense of Love for the native Belief, of Clan, the Mother nature, labour, the nature, the whole surrounding world. There was being formed the particular harmony in the Russian person of that period, the period of developing the Russian culture and civilization that expressed in the system of social education of that time period (see Scheme 2).





Scheme 2. Model which characterizes content of social education of Russian person in Ancient world

Upbringing a person with love of the five above mentioned forms in their organic totality, formed that personal and collective social harmony which was required to the future continuer of the ancient Russian environment. This love gave a person a chance to develop and be improved in the further life within the framework of the settled ethnic norms, stereotypes and traditions of the Russian environment. Such the social education made it possible to the whole Russian community not only to resist to elements of the menacing world, but to develop efficiently, forming its culture and affirming the mentality of its people.

Love for native Belief is love of the Truth and for God Almighty, trust to the experience and traditions of Ancestors.

Love of Clan is love for the family, the partner in life – the wife (the husband), children and old men, of the whole Clan-tribe, for all its representatives.

Love of Mother Nature is love of all life forms which exist in the Nature (fauna, mountains, the rivers, lakes, the sky, oth.). There is everything which Mother Nature generates, waters, feeds, warms and protects.

Love of labour is love of working activity for the benefit of the family and Clan-tribe. Work feeds and warms, allows to care of yourself and surrounding people.

Love of ancestral land is love of the history of the Clan, its culture (traditions), the home nature that is expressed in developing and affirming patriotism to the Mother Nature, the people, the culture.

Harmonious development of a person in the Ancient Russian environment was based on at least three principles perceived by our ancestors as the fundamental laws of life which they were guided by:

- Holding sacred Gods and the Ancestors.
- Living in all conscience and in harmony with Mother Nature.
- Life belongs to God Almighty and Clan-tribe.

Development of a Russian person in harmony with himself, Mother Nature and Clan-tribe is possible only in case when all four components are formed in the person (body, Soul, Spirit, conscience). It is possible only when functioning the holistic integrated social educational system in which senses and values, attitudes and norms, rules and prohibitions, rituals and traditions are expressed by all structures of the community (a family, the ultimate authority, social groups), all the society in the whole.

Forming a person in the Ancient Russian environment is a long-term and continuous process which consists of the certain age periods, characteristics of which are defined by many internal and external factors, conditions (experience, traditions, a kind of activity, the elements, many oth.).

Probably our ancestors had a wide experience of understanding the human character, its developing and forming. From the moment of the birth the child found itself in a complex completely time-tested system of training, developing, social education and socialization. The survival and development of the ancient Russian community depended on that exactly the kind of educational system.

The determined function in social education of a person in the Ancient Russian environment was fulfilled by elderly people. They themselves were important keepers of patrimonial traditions, legends, knowledge and the experience which had been saved up by ancestors. The older generation acted as cement solution, it fastened the community (Clan), did it holistic and steady while developing in the stream of time. It can be said, figuratively speaking, that they were the first social mentors (social teachers).

Due to such life organization in the Russian community, all children, teenagers, youth and adults as representatives of the ancient Russian community, society had strongly developed communal (social) consciousness and mentality. From the age of three children were actively given access to the primary Belief of ancestors, to mastering skills of constructive labour for the benefit of the family and Clan. It was followed carefully by parents, the old people, all members of the tribe and the clan.

While mastering skills of constructive labour, imitating the older generation and adopting the peers' practices, children knew the surrounding world, were involved into complicated social relations of their Clan and others, accepted certain social roles and the status. They became bearers of the Russian culture.

Thus it can be said that the whole long-term historical way of social and culture developments of the Russian environment, since a generic community, had organic links with the process of forming public (social) system of training and education. The very public system of social education of the Russian environment perfectly dealt with fulfilling its central task, that is transferring to the rising

generation the social historical experience of the life organization; experience that had been saved up by the previous generations, for the purpose of their preparation for living and working, securing their tribe and clan.

In the community of the Russian environment there took place national ethnic traditions, customs, ceremonies, educational methods that comprised bases of labour, physical, moral, intellectual, sexual, religious, military education. The whole extensive saved-up experience of education was being carefully kept and transferred from generation to generation.

By means of well organized public (social) education, by means of national social pedagogy there was a continuous process of forming the person of the Russian environment, making and fixing social norms and rules of behaviour, developing interpersonal relations and interactions, strengthening social structures. It created evolutionary preconditions for forming and developing the stable socio-ethnic system of the Russian environment, the mentality of the people.

Such the social system already possessed the key feature of all human communities, that is an ability to accumulate and transfer knowledge which constantly strengthened its ability to understand laws of nature during the historical process. It allowed not only to adapt successfully to changing natural and social conditions and circumstances, but also to develop person's social stability to extreme situations, as a whole – to continue successfully the way of historical social and cultural development of the Russian environment.

This social structure which arose in the ancient Russian community and successfully carried out the functions of social education of the rising generation, its socialization, preparation for living and working, can be called as the forerunner of the national social education of present Russia.

After the lapse of thousand years the created system of preparation of the rising generation for living and working in the Russian environment has gained the state official recognition and fixing, that is the status of national social education.

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