



The Effectiveness of Russian Youth Policy: Problems and Solutions in the Context of Digitalization

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Abstract

Youth policy is the engine of the country's economic development in the context of digitalization. Young people who can adapt quickly and effectively to rapidly changing environmental conditions, allow to look at the existing digital economy instability from a side more favorable for the state. This research lies in the fact that in the presence of a huge number of projects and programs, the youth of the country practically does not use this opportunity. The Stavropol Territory, the agrarian region of Russia, seems to have many youth problems. To understand the specifics of the implementation and realization of modern youth policy, it is necessary to study scientific concepts and approaches to the interaction of the state, educational institutions, and society. According to the UN Youth Strategy, it is necessary to strive to strengthen the impact and scale up efforts undertaken at the global, regional, and international levels to meet the needs of youth, strengthen their capacity and empower young people in all their diversity around the world. Youth policy development is an indicator of society's commitment to its young citizens. National youth policy can be in the form of a policy, strategy, or law. It is shown that young people are reluctant to take part in various political events, based on the fact that we believe that there is a certain amount of distrust in the youth environment towards the state and the main power structures. The main organizers and initiators of many events are young people who develop their potential, and at the same time contribute to the improvement of the economy of the regions and the country as a whole. This is served by maintaining the foundations of youth parliamentarism and developing the managerial qualities of young people to realize their own potential in the socio-political sphere.

Disciplinary: Sociology, Youth Study.

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1 Introduction

Youth policy is the "youth part" of international socio-economic policy, state (national), municipal (regional, district). It can also be carried out by private, and public organizations and foundations.

The development path of the federal law on youth in Russia took more than 30 years. The collapse of the Soviet Union marked the beginning of a new era of stagnation in the implementation of this political direction. Then there was a continuous development of a new law that could combine the successful experience of the Soviet state and the new Russia. In 1999, the developed law passed both houses of parliament but was stopped by a presidential veto. The head of state saw a deviation of the law from the constitutional provisions.

The next attempt to legislate youth policy was the draft law of 2009. But this time the president of the country (who at that moment was D.A. Medvedev) rejected the law, justifying this decision by the insufficiency of the regulatory component.

In the Russian Federation, since its formation, ten attempts have been made to adopt a law on youth. Only in 2020, the approval of all parties receives a draft law submitted for consideration by members of all political parties in the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

Currently, after the adoption of the federal law in December 2020, regulatory acts in the subjects of the federation in the field of youth policy are being processed [5, 11].

The youth policy of the region under consideration has some discrepancy between the stated goals in the regional legislation and the actual social activities carried out, given that in practice measures to support the younger generation is used in a rather truncated amount and, often, financial assistance in the implementation of various projects is provided to the same persons. There is a situation when the management sees good indicators of allocated grants, and the number of participants in events and festivals, but in fact, the same people participate in the creation of these indicators.

J.Bessant[8,9] discusses how important the participation of young people is, and whether it is a "political cliché" for the authorities in his works.

Youth policy is a way to involve young people in the management of territories. This is indicated by the work of scientists from around the world. They especially note the importance of the participation of young people in local self-government both on a global scale [17] and in various countries - the Philippines [14], Nigeria [6], etc., highlighting rural areas [18]. The experience of some cities in Denmark is interesting from the point of view of generalizing the experience of involving young people in management. In the work of L.E. Karlsson and his colleagues, the participation of young people in the development of local health policy is presented [15].

The activation of the public position of young people is facilitated by the implementation of various program activities and the positive attitude of the leadership to the participation of young people in management [19]

Currently, digitalization has a great effect on young people [1], young people actively communicate on social networks and consider them an important channel for participation in management and public activities [20].

Regulatory documents and work plans developed by regional authorities for periods (quarter, half-year, year) are essentially only updated copied documents of federal examples. Moreover, often, the employees of the authorities involved in the development of youth policy do not even bother to introduce innovative proposals into the plans being developed.

Based on the research conducted in the course of this article, it can be concluded that improving the legal literacy of young people, and expanding the channels for realizing their abilities can become the basis for the development of the whole country's economy. Thanks to the coordinated actions of all subjects of youth policy and the involvement of young professionals in socially significant sectors of public life, key economic indicators will be achieved, and the innovative activity of young people will be stimulated [7].

The coronavirus pandemic intensified this trend, which predetermined the need to activate their entrepreneurial activities [10].

Youth policy is not a simple area of work for public authorities. It covers a fairly large age group from 18 to 35 years old, and often attracts young people under the age of 18, schoolchildren. Youth policy specialists in government bodies implement and control a large number of areas of youth policy, each of which, whether it is patriotic education or scientific activity, requires great attention and clearly defined legislative boundaries.

Considering all the above facts, we find it necessary and relevant to study the problems of youth policy development in the Stavropol Territory and ways to solve them in the modern realities of the digital economy society.

2 Methodology

The article uses methods of statistical analysis of information about the existing problems of youth policy development in the Stavropol Territory, and various methods of collecting and processing specific material.

Also, the methods of documentation analysis and visual analysis were used in the work of the article. The study was conducted on the example of the activities of the executive and legislative bodies of the Stavropol Territory.

The information base of the work was made up of normative documents and laws, and legislative acts regulating youth policy in the country. In addition, the method of secondary analysis and the method of comparative analysis was used.

By means of comparative historical analysis, the entire experience of the regulatory environment of youth policy in the region under consideration was summarized and ways to improve legislation and the activities of regional authorities were identified.

To substantiate ways to solve problems in the youth environment, proposals for the implementation and realization of modern youth policy through programs and projects of regional authorities and advisory structures of the region will be appropriate.

3 Result

Young people face the problem of a lack of necessary knowledge about the existence of various youth public associations, and about holding various grant competitions for youth projects.

Despite the fact that many organizations are actively developing their pages on social networks, this is not enough to reach most of the region's youth.

Based on the above, we can conclude that the vast majority of young people are practically not interested in the political life of the country, and to take part in it for them is similar to something uninteresting and harmful. The main reason may be distrust of the country's power system and the state.

In 2021, Russians called the main reason for not participating in the political life of their own country a banal lack of time, this was the answer of 28% of respondents. The second place was rightfully taken by the stable opinion that only professionals trained in this should be engaged in politics (20%). A close second, distrust of the country's president and the general political course was in third place (19%).

Nevertheless, 15% of respondents shared their civic position, in which politics and public activities are simply not interesting to them.

Unfortunately, neither the youth nor the older generation yet fully understands what the implementation of the state youth policy is. It is necessary to develop this understanding from the bottom up: first at the municipal level, gradually involving young people in larger-scale events.

The history of the adoption of youth policy law includes the following fact: for a long time, the authorities, the best lawyers working in the State Duma of the Russian Federation, could not develop a bill regulating youth policy, giving the rights of young people to realize their opportunities. The development of youth policy was significantly hindered because there was not even a very understanding and legislative consolidation of the "youth specialist" concept.

Perhaps that is why the data of various surveys indicate the unwillingness of young people to participate in elections, in the implementation of youth policy in their region, and in the organization of events.

Based on the materials of a survey of the youth of our country conducted in 2021, the number of young people who are active in the political life of the state was analyzed, which is shown in Figure 1.

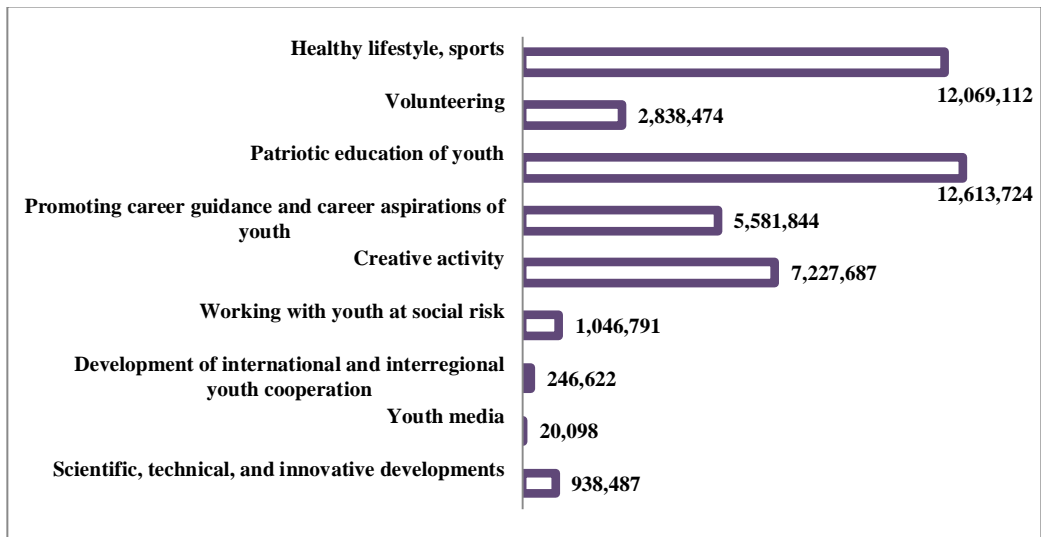


Figure 1: The number of young people involved in program activities in various areas. *Source:*[3].

We clearly see that the priority in our country in the youth policy field of work, both now and in the Soviet years, has always been the patriotic education of young people, taking care of the younger generation's health and developing creative potential.

The Russian Federation defines the main goals and directions of state policy in the field of youth work as follows (Figure 2).

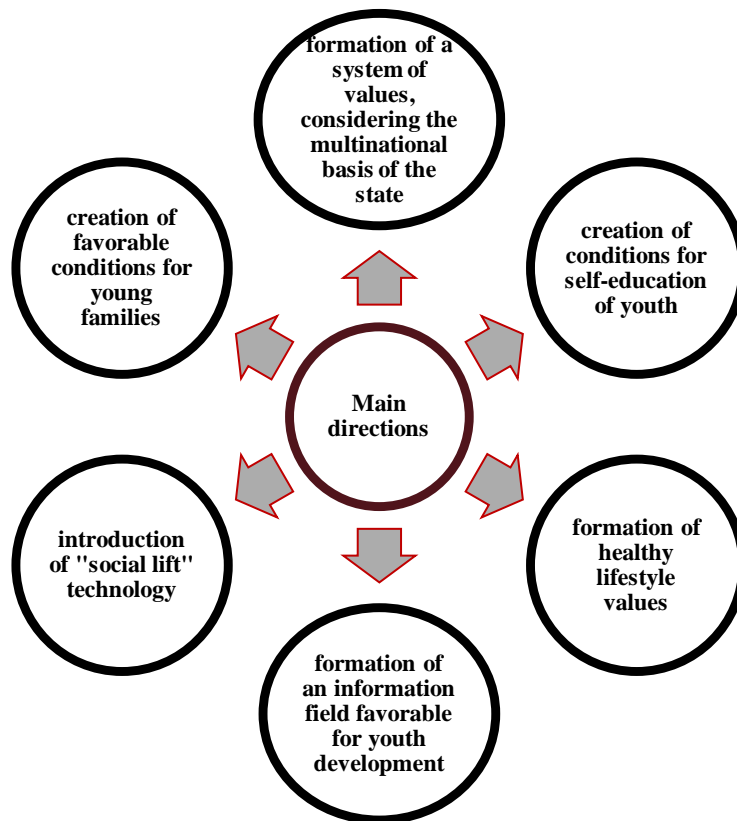


Figure 2: The main directions of youth policy implementation in the Russian Federation. *Source:* compiled by the authors based on materials [2].

We propose for consideration several events in the field of international youth policy to understand the development of this direction in the subjects of the North Caucasus Federal District [4].

As part of the selection, support, information and methodological provision of the best youth initiatives, the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs has been holding an All-Russian competition for youth projects since 2012. The purpose of the event is to increase the competitiveness of active youth representatives of the country, who have the ability to create innovations and entrepreneurial skills and are able to offer bright formats for municipal and regional events.

More than 5,000 foreign participants from 180 countries of the world meet at forums, festivals, and seminars of the Rosmolodezh. The main theme of the Rosmolodezh events is the rallying of compatriots and the simplification of interaction and cooperation between them.

Ideally, the meaning of the functioning of youth bodies, both established under regional authorities and functioning in the form of non-profit organizations, is to represent the interests of young people in the relevant authorities. In fact, a youth leader receives only a beautiful line in his resume. Young parliamentarians are allowed to organize various events, mainly with students. But at the same time, interaction with the current deputies of the regional parliament is minimal.

This is the problem of youth policy in the Stavropol Territory (ST) under consideration – consultative and advisory youth bodies formally exist only in documents on paper, hold meetings and report to the public of the region in subscribers' social networks. There is very little about it on social networks. Thus, on the website of the Portal of public authorities of the ST, on the page of the Youth Government of the ST, there are only two documents (Regulations and composition), as well as a link to the VK. The same situation is on the website of the Ministry of Education of the ST, where a page for the Youth Government has been created, but it is empty, so there is no information.

For the most part, the youth policy of the region consists in holding mass events of various levels, including international ones, on the basis of educational organizations with the involvement of active students of this organization and a small number of regional activists who are noted for their presence at almost all high-profile events.

The implementation of the regional youth policy largely depends on organizations of higher and secondary vocational education, as well as youth non-profit associations and organizations, for example, the Russian Youth Union, the Russian Movement of Schoolchildren, Russian student teams, Yunarmia, etc.

The youth of the Russian Federation is becoming more politically active and expressing a civic position, which is confirmed by the existence of youth branches under Russian political parties. The most famous is the "Young Guard of United Russia", the LKSM (youth part of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation), and the youth wing of the LDPR.

The improvement of the entire system of state youth policy consists not only in the formation of the legislative framework and public authorities in this area but also in involving the youth in the implementation of youth policy, the formation of principles, and relevant directions.

These problems of youth policy of the Stavropol Territory cannot be called unsolvable, but it is important to intensify the activities of executive and legislative authorities to attract young professionals to their structures, improve the legal literacy of young people, and teach them the basics of lawmaking, which will be quite easy to do in the era of society digitalization. In this regard, it is recommended to organize courses, not for young leaders, but courses aimed at gaining knowledge in the field of politics, law, and economics, since a number of bills from the Youth Parliament did not pass due to their poor preparedness.

It is also necessary to strengthen the lines of communication in the Internet environment, and expand the audience since the youth of the region knows little about such bodies under the Government and the Duma of the Stavropol Territory.

In addition, the activities of various youth organizations are currently accumulating around the same people: youth policy activists who are engaged in the implementation of projects as students, participate in creative and sports competitions and write scientific articles, speaking subsequently at conferences.

In our opinion, the main priority of the region's youth policy should be the expansion of project participants, and, most importantly, the involvement of not the same people in all projects, but the motivation and interest of different youth categories.

Thus, a large number of organizations of various legal forms and different levels of subordination are always present in the implementation of youth policy in the region. Nevertheless, it is worth striving to systematize and coordinate this work to create a solid basis for the implementation of youth policy in the territory. To exclude the incoordination of the actions of public organizations and public authorities, it is necessary to clearly understand the problems of regional youth policy.

Based on the conducted research and considering the impact of digitalization on the implementation of youth policy, the following proposals can be made for the development of regional legislation in the youth sphere.

1. In the Stavropol Territory, first of all, it is necessary to bring all the provisions of legislative acts to uniformity, in which the age of the "youth" category will be within the same boundaries, it is also necessary to adjust the essential articles of the regional laws containing the fundamental points for the implementation of youth policy.

2. To establish inseparable joint participation of state authorities in the activities of youth and children's public associations from the point of view of maintaining and developing their activities by an administrative resource.

3. Recently, the Russian Federation has focused on legal support for youth volunteering and presented conceptual and other documents on the organization and development of youth volunteering. The social significance of this activity and the need for its legal regulation are very important for all subjects of the Russian Federation today. In this regard, the adoption of a separate

law in relation to volunteer activities in the regions will increase the effectiveness of regulation in this area.

4. An important direction for the development of regional youth legislation is to highlight various kinds of support for youth political and social movements (financial, administrative, personnel).

5. Improving the legal basis for the development and implementation of the institute of mentoring in the field of youth work, makes sense to supplement the relevant paragraphs of the laws on youth policy of the region with relevant sub-paragraphs [11, 13].

In our opinion, the development and implementation of various social projects for young people in the digitalization environment should be a fundamental factor for the development of the region. It is worth identifying the main directions in which the region poses, developing not only them but also paying attention to potentially profitable areas. For the Stavropol Territory, such areas are agriculture, and tourism, which can be profitable for investment. Young people, free from many cliches of the Soviet past, are able to raise the region to a new level. Existing problems need to be solved, not just discussed, emphasized, and written down. New policy implementation mechanisms are needed.

4 Conclusion

The State's youth policy is an integral part of the State's social policy. National governments should support the interaction of young people in the era of digitalization with like-minded foreign people, considering the common views and values of society.

Youth policy in the EU countries has become an independent direction of state activity, which is associated with the increasingly complex processes of reproduction of labor and intellectual resources.

The authors' recommendations are as follows: improvement of the regulatory framework is absolutely required; improvement of the effectiveness of interaction of regional authorities with other participants in political life and civil society; creation of conditions for self-organization of youth, implementation of international projects; a program should be developed to create a system of youth legislation; development of a coordination system for activities of all subjects implementing youth policy will lead to the strengthening of these directions of the country's economy. This eliminates double powers, reduces the narrowness of organized events and expands the interaction of the regional youth with the youth of other regions and countries.

Based on the data obtained, it can be concluded that, of course, there are many problems in the development of this direction in youth policy, as well as in other sectors of society. But youth organizations and authorities, thanks to the consolidation of efforts, strive to unite talented youth, develop the younger generation, and attract young specialists to promising industries. All joint actions correspond to the concepts and development strategies of the Russian Federation and, ultimately, lead to an increase in the effectiveness of the implementation of youth policy in the context of digitalization.

5 Availability of Data and Material

Data can be made available by contacting the corresponding author.

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