

The Concept and Essence of Social Policy

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ABSTRACT

Мақола ижтимоий сиёсат феноменига бағишланган бўлиб, ижтимоий сиёсатнинг субъекти, объекти, даражалари ва куйи даражалари каби таркибий қисмларининг ўзига хос хусусиятларини, шунингдек, ушбу ходисанинг иқтисодий, сиёсий ва маънавий соҳаларнинг ҳолати билан боғлиқлигини очиб беради. Муаллифнинг ижтимоий сиёсатнинг моҳияти ва йўналиши ҳақидаги қарашлари очиб берилган.

Статья посвящена феномену социальной политики и раскрывает специфику таких его составляющих, как субъект, объект, уровни и подуровни социальной политики, а также взаимосвязь указанного феномена с состоянием экономической, политической и духовной сфер общественной жизни. Раскрыто авторское видение сущности и направленности социальной политики.

The article is devoted to the phenomenon of social policy and reveals the specifics of such components as the subject, object, levels and sublevels of social policy, as well as the relationship of this phenomenon with the state of the economic, political and spiritual spheres of public life. The author's vision of the essence and direction of social policy is revealed.

Social policy is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, and it is worthwhile to systematize and analyze different approaches to it. Although social policy has only recently emerged as a function of the state and civil society, as well as as a scientific theory, there are still many approaches in interpreting this concept.

Any change in society as a whole, as well as in the social sphere, should be viewed as a continuous process, an endless stream of events. These events can lead society not only to improvement but also to disintegration. Therefore, any sphere of society needs to be regulated and purposefully managed by the society itself.

Management can be defined as a separate type of activity aimed at achieving the goals of this system by maintaining the integrity and balance of the system, choosing the optimal way of its operation and development.

Social governance, on the other hand, acts as an organizational structure and a set of managerial relationships between them, the implementation of which allows for the exercise of managerial influence between individuals, social groups and communities, political, economic and other institutions of society.

As controversial aspects of this phenomenon, it is possible to distinguish the human problem as a subject and object of management, as well as the variability of the internal and external environment.

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The regulation of the social system is characterized by a number of distinctive features such as self-governance, the presence of purposeful and feedback.

Social policy as an independent sphere of state intervention in social processes began to take shape in Germany in the 70s of the XIX century, when a number of laws regulating the social sphere were adopted. Who developed the theory of the universal state to this process. G.Shmoller, K. Byuxer, L. Brentano's ideas had a direct impact.

Today, social policy is still the most important area of activity of civil society institutions. "Social policy is linked to the overall system of public policy, and within the emerging civil society, it expands its capabilities and influences alternative non-governmental organizations and groups," writes T.Y. Sidorina.¹

The interpretation of the concept of "social policy" depends on the approach of the term "social". When comparing the concepts of "social" and "collective", social policy refers to the efforts of a society to solve all its problems. At the mesoderm level of these interpretations, social policy emerges as a way of regulating relations between social groups and institutions.

In a narrow sense, this phenomenon can be interpreted as a system of measures aimed at protecting and ensuring the social rights of each individual, the implementation of specific measures to ensure a minimum level of social benefits for the most vulnerable segments of the population.

There are many definitions of social policy in the modern literature. This concept is defined as follows:

1) "A set of government interventions that support the vital activities of vulnerable groups in order to unite society"²;

2) "Activities of the state and society to coordinate the interests of various social groups"³;

3) "Mechanism of regulation of socio-economic relations by the state and other institutions in order to create a favorable socio-cultural environment for society, harmonize all spheres of society, ensure stability and civic consciousness"⁴;

4) "An integral part of the domestic policy of the state, which is reflected in the social programs and practices and regulates relations in society in the interests of the main social groups of the population"⁵.

5) In other words, it can be said that social policy is aimed at stabilizing society by harmonizing the interests of different groups of the population and ensuring their well-being.

The subjects of social policy are state bodies, local governments, local self-government bodies, civil society institutions (enterprises, any socio-political and economic organizations). These subjects are designed to ensure the well-being of society, to implement the principle of social justice, which is the goal of the activities of the social sphere. They are focused on serving the most important social needs, human and infrastructure development.

In describing the structure of social policy, the following levels can be distinguished: public policy, activities of non-governmental structures, social groups and individuals aimed at self-renewal and development. Apart from it should also be noted that there are lower levels of state and non-state social policy. These include the territorial level - the policy of local public authorities within the territorial and socio-economic boundaries, and local authorities, organizations, social groups and individuals within the city or district.

Territorial policy is an integral part of the overall social policy of the state, which includes aspects of the region. In other words, this type of governance pursues the interests of the state, taking into account the specific characteristics of the subjects of the region. The main goal of this social policy of the state is to improve the quality and standard of living of the people. Local self-government "serves as a form of civic initiative of the population, a manifestation of its social activism, participation in the management of public

¹ Сидорина Т.Ю. Социальная политика - между экономикой и социологией // Обществ, науки и современность. 2005. №6. С. 112.

² Капицын В.И. Социальная политика и право: сущность и взаимозависимости // Общерос. журн. соц. работы. 1998.№8.С.31.

³ Григорьева И.А. Социальная политика и социальное реформирование в России в 90-х гг. СПб., 1998. С. 20-21.

⁴ Социальная политика: парадигмы и приоритеты: моногр. / под ред. В.И. Жукова. М., 2000. С. 88.

⁵ Зайнышев Э.Г. Взаимосвязь социальной политики и социальной работы. М., 1994. С. 6.

affairs and the ability to take responsibility"⁶, - states that E.V. Galkina. Based on this definition, it can be argued that local self-government is a level of independent authority that exists alongside the state. At the same time, it is integrated into the overall system of managing public affairs. Consequently, the policy of local self-government bodies is to independently address issues of local importance by the population, that is, to develop the main sectors of the social sphere of the region, to ensure the integrity of the local community.

The above levels and the lower ones are in constant interaction, which represents an interconnected and inseparable unity. The approach considered describes the structure of social policy, but does not disclose its content. This shortcoming was addressed by E.G. Zaynisheva's approach is complementary, and it distinguishes two components of social policy at any level: the scientific component, which is the result of understanding the forward direction of social policy expressed in the formation of conceptual policy directions; and a practical-organizational component expressed in the implementation of the developed concepts.

Social policy is determined by the state of all spheres of public life, so it includes material, institutional, procedural, personal, spiritual and other components.

As part of the domestic policy of the state, it is designed to regulate relations between social groups and is carried out by political actors. In this sense, social relations also include political relations.

However, social policy is politics, that is, is the activity of social groups to seize, retain and use power. Therefore, in this case, power can be considered as a means of achieving social welfare as a way to influence the nature and direction of the activities of people, social groups and classes. The relationship between economics and social policy is that the latter is based on macro and microeconomic indicators of the development of society, as it regulates social relations in the production, distribution, exchange and consumption of material goods and services. The level of economic development affects the quality of meeting social needs. In this regard, the concept of "socio-economic system" is formed, which reflects the sum of economic relations that occur as a result of social processes occurring in a particular society.

The relationship between social policy and the spiritual sphere of society is ideologically manifested, it determines the goals and general direction of people's social activities aimed at maintaining or changing existing social relations.

The general directions of social policy are determined on the basis of the ideological concept prevailing in a particular society. As one of the global challenges of today is the growing conflict between wealth and poverty, social policy is also taking on a continental dimension. These contradictions occur not only within each individual state, but also between different countries at the international level, which means that this problem cannot be solved by domestic social policy measures alone.

The process of globalization, the integration of most countries into a single economic space requires their cooperation in social governance, ie the formation of world social policy - the transition of social regulation from the activities of individual states to the competence of the world community.

Based on the above, it should be noted that social policy is the activity of various social institutions to regulate, formalize and standardize social relations, aimed at optimizing the social structure that ensures the stability of society.

The main goal of social policy is not to support certain social strata or groups, but to ensure the integration of society, the balance of the social system.

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