

The Analysis of Effectiveness Assessment of the Municipal Programme “Accessible Environment” 2014-2020 Implementation

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Abstract— The article describes the results of the conducted sociological research on the effectiveness assessment of the implementation of the municipal programme “Accessible environment” in 2014-2020 in Vladivostok. There are state programmes being implemented in the Russian Federation that are aimed at the creation of the best comfortable environment for the disabled and people with limited mobility (PLM) including, among other things, the availability of various social infrastructure facilities. The goal of the research is to assess the effectiveness of the utilized methods aimed at making Vladivostok residents more tolerant towards the disabled and to find out the disabled persons’ opinion on the availability of priority facilities in priority spheres of daily life. Analysis of the received data showed that 4.6% of all the surveyed disabled in Vladivostok assess positively the availability of priority social facilities in priority spheres of daily life, and 63% of the disabled residents in Vladivostok assess positively Vladivostok residents’ view of the disabled persons’ problems. The produced results enable us to conclude that the implementation of the municipal programme “Accessible environment 2014-2020” is productive and meets the expectations concerning the researched effectiveness indicators.

Keywords— *municipal programme’s effectiveness, people with limited mobility, environment availability, municipal programme effectiveness indicators, “Accessible environment” programme, availability indicator.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Statistics show that in 2016 in the Russian Federation there are about 13 million people with the official status of the disabled that constitutes 7% of the population. China has 5% of the disabled, and the USA has 19%. The biggest percentage of the disabled is in Belgorod Oblast, Leningrad Oblast, Moscow Oblast and Ryazan Oblast. According to the statistics, the number of the disabled in Russia has shown a weak trend towards decreasing since 2011 [1].

Under Article 1 of the Federal Act No. 181-FA «On the Social Protection of the Disabled in the Russian Federation» a disabled person is “a person with health problems resulting in continuous body dysfunction arising from diseases, consequences of injuries or defects that limit daily living activities and call for social protection.” [2] Social protection of the disabled is a system of economic, legal and social

security measures taken by the State that provide the disabled with the environment to overcome, substitute (compensate for) the limited daily activities and with equal opportunities with regards to other citizens to participate in the social life.

This federal law gives the Russian Federation Government, executive bodies in the Russian Federation entities, local governments and organizations regardless of their organizational and legal form the authority to create the best possible comfortable living environment for the disabled in order to provide them with unimpeded access to social infrastructure facilities [2].

Under Article 7 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the social public policy must be aimed at the creation of an environment that ensures life in dignity and free development of a person [3].

In May 2012, Russia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [4] to implement the Convention Federal Act No. 419-FA of 1 December 2014 “On the Introduction of Changes into Individual Legal Acts of the Russian Federation Concerning Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities in the Context of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Implementation.” [5]

It is this Convention that first began to interpret the concept of “availability” as “... an ability to lead an independent life and comprehensively participate in all aspects of daily life.” “Accessible environment” becomes both the prerequisite for people with disabilities’ comfortable life and the basis for successful social integration and promotion of human rights.

However, besides the disabled, there is another category of citizens who need an Accessible environment. These are people with limited abilities that have trouble with independent transportation and space orientation or people with limited mobility (PLM). The percentage of the PLM according to statistics is 25-30% (depending on the demographic structure of the population) [6].

In 2011, the Government of the Russian Federation approved a public programme of the Russian Federation “Accessible environment” for the period between 2011 and 2020 [7-8]. Many Russian Federation entities, for instance

Moscow, Moscow Oblast, Volgograd Oblast and Perm Oblast, Krasnodar Krai, Stavropol Krai, Khabarovsk Krai, Primorsky Krai etc., approved and are now implementing municipal and regional programmes “Accessible environment.”

Some results in various aspects of this programme’s implementation have been produced and analysed: approaches to the formation and management of the Accessible environment, the assessment of the Accessible environment, propositions regarding the compliance of urban elements with the needs of the PLM etc. [6, 9-20].

In 2014 in Vladivostok, the «Accessible environment» municipal programme for the period 2014-2019 was launched. The primary goals of this programme are [21]:

- provision of barrier-free access for the persons with disabilities and other PLM to priority social infrastructure facilities in priority spheres of daily life in Vladivostok;
- improved availability of daily life activities for the disabled and other people with limited mobility;
- elimination of the social gap between the disabled and non-disabled citizens.

The primary effectiveness indicators of the municipal programme implementation in Vladivostok are:

- the percentage of the disabled in Vladivostok who positively assess the availability of priority social facilities in priority spheres of daily life among all the disabled and other people with limited mobility in the total number of the polled disabled;
- the percentage of the disabled in Vladivostok who positively assess the city’s residents’ attitude towards people with disabilities’ problems in the total number of the polled disabled.

These indicators enable the local government to assess the effectiveness of programme implementation.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The survey of the disabled and people with limited mobility was conducted in Vladivostok in 2016. 500 respondents were questioned during the opinion poll in accordance with the sampling study procedure. The confidence limit (margin of error) of the opinion poll is about 5%. The method cluster (territorial) sampling was used which helped to acquire data with high representation level. A questionnaire with 32 closed questions was used as an instrument. A part of the questions provided an option of giving one’s answer in the entry “other” which gave the respondents an opportunity to state their opinion on the subject. The question of possible improvements in the further implementation of the municipal programme “Accessible environment” was formulated in open form.

Theme questionnaire had two blocks of questions. The first one focused on how people with disabilities assess the availability of urban infrastructure facilities. The second one dealt with attitude aspects, namely with how the disabled see themselves in the society, how they evaluate tolerance and

empathy. This block had questions that show the change in the stereotypical image of the disabled and help to assess the gap between the disabled and the non-disabled and the attitude of the non-disabled towards persons with disabilities.

The data were processed and analysed with the help of SPSS software.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS

Social and demographic characteristics of respondents are shown below. The number of surveyed females with disabilities was considerably higher (68% of the polled) than the number of males (32%). The most important age groups of the respondents: 61-70 years – 21.4% and 71-80 years – 31.2%. Other age groups are smaller: 18-30 years – 7.0%; 31-40 years – 11.4%; 41-50 years – 7.6%; 51-60 years – 11.8%; 81-90 years – 9.4%. The disabled with the 2nd disability group were the majority (50.6%). 22.6% of the surveyed had the first disability group and 26.8% – the third one. Respondents had the following diseases that resulted in them receiving the status of a person with disabilities: the disabled with musculoskeletal diseases that can move without a wheelchair – 20%; the disabled using a wheelchair – 8.2%; the disabled with hearing diseases – 9%; the disabled with eyesight diseases – 12.6%. 49.8% of the respondents chose the «other diseases» option. This question was included to assess the independent mobility of the respondents and to identify specific challenges concerning availability for respondents with different diseases. The majority of the surveyed disabled have a higher education degree (33.4%); secondary vocational education degree (28.6%); secondary education degree (23.2%); incomplete secondary education (5.4%); primary education (4.6%); incomplete higher education (4.4%).

The majority of the respondents (80.4%) are not employed for a number of reasons, with 37.6% of them retired and 31.8% not able to work.

The opinion poll conducted by the municipal authorities identified the list of social facilities in priority spheres of the every-day life. These facilities are presented to the respondents so that they could assess their availability. Priority facilities are administrative facilities; education facilities; physical culture and sports facilities; culture facilities; recreational facilities; transport and transport infrastructure (sideways, pedestrian crossings); information and communication facilities.

More than half of the respondents marked as Accessible the following urban infrastructure facilities: information and communication facilities (59.1%), recreational facilities (52.8%), and culture facilities (51.2%). The least Accessible in the opinion of the respondents were administrative buildings (39.9%) and physical culture and sports facilities (38.2%). The respondents were best satisfied with culture facilities (70.8%), recreational areas (72.3%) and information and communication facilities (69.2%).

To achieve one of the main goals of the research, namely to identify the availability of urban social infrastructure facilities, it was crucial to assess how important these facilities are to the respondents. They were asked a question “what

urban infrastructure facilities listed below do you want to visit the most?"

The poll showed that the most important urban infrastructure facilities for the disabled are transport and transport infrastructure facilities (68.6%) and recreational areas (52.4%). Culture facilities (37.6%), administrative buildings (36.4%), and information and communication facilities (33%) are less important but still significant. The least attractive are education facilities (12%) and physical culture and sports facilities (17%).

In order to get the most objective assessment of the availability of the priority facilities in the questionnaire the following question was asked: "To what degree are you satisfied with the availability to the disabled of the following urban infrastructure facilities?" This question is connected to the question "assess the availability of the facilities listed below." It helps to analyse more thoroughly the results of the poll in order to have a more objective assessment of the priority urban infrastructure facilities.

The respondents were best satisfied with culture facilities (70,8%), recreational areas (72.3%), and information and communication facilities (69.2%). The three facilities that satisfy the respondents the most are the same three that were described by the respondents as the priority urban infrastructure facilities.

Thus we can conclude that these facilities are Accessible to the disabled.

To assess the changes in the availability of the urban infrastructure facilities the respondents were asked a question, "in your opinion did the priority social facilities become more Accessible to you in the past three years?"

Priority social infrastructure facilities became more Accessible in the opinion of 33.4% of the respondents; "they may have, but we do not see it" was the answer chosen by 52.6%; "priority social facilities became less Accessible" is the opinion of 13.9%.

The second block of the questions concerned the assessment of Vladivostok residents' attitude towards the disabled and their problems. The people with disabilities believe that others treat them with respect and sympathy but do not see them as people with equal opportunities – the non-disabled often only pretend to sympathize with the disabled which can be explained by the low educational and cultural level. Moreover, the disabled underscore the influence of the public policy and media coverage on the emergence of a positive attitude towards them.

The majority of the respondents (44%). when asked to assess the changes in the attitude, said that it did not change, 38% see a positive trend and 18% of the respondents are sure that they are now treated worse and with more indifference. The positive changes in the attitude towards the disabled are identified by the respondents in the following statements: "the media cover the problems of people with disabilities" (61%), "more events are organized for the disabled" (46.6%), "people offer seats in public transport more often" (42%), "it is now easier to receive services in different spheres" (30%),

"programmes aimed at higher living standards for the disabled are being implemented" (25.4%), "there are more jobs in the labour market." (6,2%) The negative change in the attitude was seen in the statement "there is a change to the worse in the attitude", with 15.9% of the surveyed people with disabilities agreeing with it.

4. RESULTS DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of the conducted research show that:

- the level of availability for all priority social facilities can be qualified as high. 47.6% of all the surveyed disabled people in Vladivostok positively evaluate the availability of priority social facilities in priority spheres of the everyday life;

- the percentage of the disabled in Vladivostok who positively assess the Vladivostok residents' attitude towards them is 63,1%.

The following target indicators were identified under the municipal programme "Accessible environment" in Vladivostok for the period 2014-2020:

- the number of priority social infrastructure facilities Accessible for the disabled and other people with limited mobility in the total number of priority objects in Vladivostok city district: 25% in 2014, 47% in 2020;

- the percentage of the disabled in Vladivostok who assess positively the availability of priority facilities in priority spheres of the daily life of the disabled and people with limited mobility in the total number of the surveyed people with disabilities: 3% in 2014, 61% in 2020 [21].

The results of the research enable us to conclude that the implementation of the municipal programme "Accessible environment 2014-2020" is effective and meets the expectations concerning the researched effectiveness indicators.

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