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HUMAN BEHAVIOUR SPECIFIC IN RUSSIAN ARCTIC

According to all the environmental parameters the Arctic area is of extreme character for vital activity. It requires particular technical and technological systems, economic activity, social and culture mechanism for ensuring human activities. Therefore, there are special requirements for the behaviour of a human and its psychology as well. My paper presents the specifics of the human behavior in Russian Arctic. It based on the experimental studies and observations which I have been doing since 1984 in the Arctic (the Kolsky peninsula, continental tundra and the islands of Novaia Zemlia) and in the regions of the Northern Siberia (areas inhabited by the Evenks and Yakuts, Kamchatka area). It should be noted that behaviour of men is the basis for my studies as far as data of women's behaviour are not enough.

The human behavior peculiarity is not determined by the environmental factors alone; if it were so it would be limited only by psychological and physiological characteristics. The behaviour is not determined by socio-cultural models either which are adapted to the extreme physical conditions; in this regard we would deal with the specifics in the plane of ethnic and cultural stereotypes. Moreover, the behaviour is not determined only by individuals' reaction in response to critical environmental stimuli: we have no grounds yet to speak of a special "Arctic" psychology of a person. Although the three factors are known to be independently significant as the determinants of the psycho-physiological and socio-cultural human specific they act as interconditional components of united system in the creation of "the Arctic behaviour". My purpose is to reconstruct this system of the determinants in order to give a general description of typological features of human behaviour in the Arctic.

Environmental Pressure

Undoubted factor which definitely modifies the behaviour is the environmental extremity of the Arctic. Climatic pessimum promotes high unevenness in the distribution of the biological resources and their limitedness for the human. It is not only a matter of food resources which are practically not produced in this area but procured by hunting or fishing or imported (which requires high expenditures). Warmth keeping resources are of utmost importance: the necessity to have a large stock of fuel and to live in specially insulated houses keeping at a high level the insulation properties. So, the two basic limitation factors for the vital activity - the cold and the hunger - are pessimal in the Arctic. The influence of these factors is manifested both in traditional and new models of life support (the specific of "the Arctic economies" is surveyed in detail in the literature), the peculiarities of the social organization and originality in settlements and in the character of psycho-physiological reaction (the extent to which the vegetative nervous system resists to the cold and hunger as the basic stressors of the environment is connected to person's inherited traits). The environmental pressure gives rise to new adaptive stereotypes of the behaviour in the area of economy, culture, and social relations. It is conducive to emergence (as a result of non-systematic social selection) of the psychological type which is adaptable to the Arctic conditions. In its turn the social circumstances begin to play the role of causative factors.

Social Imperatives

The economy of the Arctic community and the system of its social relations have those well-known specifics which, on acquiring the meaning of the typological characteristics, act as the social determinants of the individual behaviour. The structure of the individual behaviour is modified in these communities due to the necessity to live in spatial and communicative isolation where neighbour and tribal relations prevail which presupposes particularistic character of relationships. In addition, this social medium possesses such feature

as a personified character of co-subordinated relationships. The formal relationships are entwined and planted into the system of private, friend, and neighbour relations. All these gives to the system of the social relations, originally defined by contemporary socio-economic and cultural model, the touch of archaicity and the essence of clan and tribal relationships. Undoubtedly, it requires peculiar stereotypes of behaviour. The behaviour stereotypes which are peculiar to the Arctic conditions change many elements of the social behaviour structure. In this respect these elements exert secondary influence on individual and psychological traits in such a way that in the process of socialization a totality of certain personal traits which are adaptive to the social medium requirements. It is one of the ways in development of behaviour originality. Another way which is no less significant is selection of adult individuals who are psychologically adapted to environmental and social specifics in the Arctic.

Specific of Social Behaviour Structure

So, the specifics of social behaviour are developed as the adaptation which is caused by the environmental conditions and requirements of the society and as a realization of individual and psychological traits of a person "selected" to live in the north. To my mind the following specifics of human's social behaviour structure are peculiar to the Arctic conditions. Here I come from my concept of the social behaviour structure where this structure is represented by three interdependent components: spatial and physical, socio-dynamic, and communicative. Spatial-physical component of the social behaviour is expressed in territorial relationships and personal spatial behaviour. There are four the most peculiar specifics. The behaviour of the human who lives in the North and the Arctic is characterized of spatial effusiveness: i.e. the need and aspiration to development and control over a large territory. The area of individually and commonly controlled territories is by an order and in some places by two orders of magnitude greater than that of on the moderate zone. In this connection the relationships with respect to the boundaries of the areas are built on agreement basis: the spatial boundaries to a small extent are

defined by physical forms and provided with communicative means. Another peculiar features are spatial conservatism and striving for fixing the territory for maximum of time where the conservatism concerns basically the secondary area (the space which provides the human with basic resources). The relation to the primary area - "the living space" - in contrast, shows no somehow expressed attachment. As a counterbalance to the vast territories the living space is small and structured into cells which is environmentally reasonable. In a whole, the spatial-physical component of the social behaviour structure has its specifics due to the environmental circumstances. The socio-dynamic and communicative components, on the contrary, are conditioned to a great extent by the social circumstances by which the environmental factors action is refracted. The socio-dynamic components of the social behaviour are probably transformed in a smaller degree. The most important are the following thing:

(a) rigid but ambiguous distribution of functional and role positions of the Arctic society members. The reason for that is not only small number of people in the communities and individualization of role positions of its members but their multifunctional character of activity which leads to universalization.

(b) lability and dissociation (atomicity) of hierarchic relation system in autonomous community. There is no rigid orderliness of ranks, the co-subordination is based on tribal relations and individual influence rather than formal social and occupational features.

The communicative component is likely to be transform to a greater extent. In this regard a number of expressive characteristics should be pointed out which are the following: (a) the communicative system is of absolutely non-anonymous character, the human intercourse is of personalized character where the personalization covers not only members of one community but unites a group of spatially greatly disconnected communities.

(b) in parallel with it, as an additional feature to non-anonymous communication, the intercourse is of isolated and unso- ciable character. The intensity and, therefore, the significance of the communicative process is considerably high inside

the community. The value of external information is subjectively small. The community is small and represents almost closed system;

(c) the communication is build on particularity (privateness of information). Formal information acquires individual and personal character.

(d) the communication is characterized by low functional load: the preference is given to the psychological (contextual) component of the communication rather than to informational one.

(e) the structural parameters of the communicative systems in the Arctic communities are characterized by high degree of integration and centralization. In the course of the communication an obvious "leader of an intercourse" is distinguished to whom all the information is addressed and who shows maximal initiative while passing the information. As for the acts of the communication, they are thematically and emotionally integrated;

(f) one more peculiarity (which is less important) of the communicative behaviour is prolonged process of distribution of the information (or extended in time). It may last days and months;

(g) preferential orientation of the communication is toward the past while the communication is fixed in the present. At the same time such aspect of the communication as planning for future is low;

All the indicated specifics of the social behaviour structure have the following in common: they characterize the behaviour of a representative from the archaic or traditional society rather than the one from modern industrial (universal) society. The explanation of this phenomena is directly connected to the environmental pressure on the society. This pressure is so powerful that it make the man, having modern machines, technologies, and resource potentials, restructure its behaviour in order to adapt it to the archaic communities.

Individual and Psychological Originality

Extreme environmental and social circumstances change the character of the social behaviour, create the new adaptive stereotypes, and are conductive to certain changes of psychological appearance of the community members. I have determined some traits which are peculiar to the human in the Arctic. They al-

low one to speak on the "polar person prototype" (i.e. the totality of the personal traits) who is adaptive to the environmental and social conditions of the Arctic. The temperament of the Arctic human is characterized by the high resistance of the vegetative nervous system to the stressors of the physical environment (the cold and hunger) and the low resistance to the stressors of the social environment (intensity of interaction, dynamic density), emotionality and anxiety of adult individuals related to it. A number of personal character traits which have psycho-physiological base are also peculiar to representatives of the Arctic communities. They are the following:

- (a) low ability to domination while high individual independence of the behaviour;
- (b) low degree of the sociability (the tendency to introverting) and a high degree of the anxiety;
- (c) high degree of aggressiveness while low degree of the hostility
- (d) high degree of the creativity and increased investigation activity;
- (e) inclination to risk and aspiration to sharp emotions.

The mentioned above complex of individual and psychological traits allows one to speak on the prototype of the polar person. In conclusion it should be noted that the identified specifics of the human behaviour in the Arctic should be taken into consideration when making scientific and socio-economic solutions regarding circumpolar region and designing the strategy for development in the Arctic.