

## **MODERN YOUTH ABOUT RUSSIA AS THE COMMON HOME FOR PEOPLES OF RUSSIA (ON THE MATERIAL OF THE MARI EL REPUBLIC)**

**Vitaly Shabykov<sup>1</sup>, Raisia Kudryavtseva<sup>2\*</sup>, Olga Orlova<sup>3</sup>,  
Tatiana Belyaeva<sup>4</sup>, Zoya Zorina<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Senior Scientific Researcher, Mari Scientific Research Institute of Language, Literature and History named after V. M. Vasilyev, RUSSIA, sebs9-kud@yandex.ru

<sup>2</sup>Prof. Dr., Mari State University, RUSSIA, kudsebs@rambler.ru

<sup>3</sup>Head Scientific Researcher, Mari Research Institute of Language, Literature and History named after V. M. Vasilyev, RUSSIA, marsoc\_orlova@mail.ru

<sup>4</sup>Assoc. Prof., Mari State University, RUSSIA, sokolova\_beljaeva@mail.ru

<sup>5</sup>Prof. Dr., Mari State University, RUSSIA, zorinazoia@mail.ru

\*Corresponding author

### **Abstract**

In this research the emotional and valuable component of civic identity of the youth population of the Mari El Republic is considered.

The purpose of this article is to analyze civic identity of modern youth of the republic in aspect of its understanding Russia as a common home for peoples of Russia.

The material for analytical generalizations of sociological data obtained as a result of a survey of residents of the Mari El Republic at the age from 15 to 29 years old (more than 750 people were interviewed) on the topic «Civic and ethnic identity of youth in the context of inter-ethnic relations in a multicultural space», which was held in September-October, 2018, by employees of the Mari Scientific Research Institute of Language, Literature and History named after V. M. Vasilyev. The survey was conducted by the method of random repetition-free quota sampling in 2 cities, 6 districts and 5 urban-type settlements. The method of formally standardized interview was used for the collection of sociological information.

During the research the question «Your attitude towards Russia as to the home for peoples of Russian» with the list of the possible answers, capable to present the level of formation of respondents' ethic and legal consciousness, tolerant and humanistic worldview, was offered to respondents.

Based on the analysis of sociological data, it has proved, that modern youth of the Mari El Republic concerning the attitude towards Russia as a home for peoples of Russian has the pronounced positive civic identity, including respect for the equal and mutually enriching principle of the existence of peoples in the multinational state.

In this article the attitude of young people towards Russia as a common home for peoples of Russian depending on the ethnic identification of the respondents, their age, level of education and material well-being of the family is considered.

Young people in their vast majority (more than two thirds) – both in general and for individual qualification groups, identified according to ethnic self-definition, age, education level and material well-being of the family, – consider, that Russia is the common home for many nations, exerting their influence on each other, that all peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages.

To the fullest extent people's equality in the common Russian home is recognized by the Tatars, youth at the

aged 15–19 years, respondents with higher and incomplete higher education, people from lower-income families.

There are few supporters of the idea of prevalence of the rights of the Russians as a state-forming and most numerous nation; there are more of them among Mari people, young people at the aged of 20-24, from a middle-income family and among the least educated part of youth.

**Keywords:** sociology, public opinion, the Republic of Mari El, youth, civic identity, Russia, peoples of Russia.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Russia is a complex of peoples of Russia, coexisting with each other in one «house» and adhering to certain principles of interaction and hierarchical attitudes.

The purpose of this article is to analyze civic identity of modern youth of the republic in aspect of its understanding Russia as a common home for peoples of Russia.

In Mari sociological science this problem was addressed in the V. I. Shabykov's monographs (Shabykov, 2014; Shabykov, 2016), but only on material of researches of the end of the XXth and the beginning of the XXIst centuries.

The material for analytical generalizations in this article were new sociological data, obtained as a result of a survey of residents of the Mari El Republic at the age from 15 to 29 years old (more than 750 people were interviewed) on the topic «Civic and ethnic identity of youth in the context of inter-ethnic relations in a multicultural space» (Questionnaire, 2018), which was held in September-October, 2018, by employees of the Mari Scientific Research Institute of Language, Literature and History named after V. M. Vasilyev in framework of implementation of the project of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research.

The survey was conducted by the method of random repetition-free quota sampling in 2 cities, 6 districts and 5 urban-type settlements. The method of formally standardized interview was used for the collection of sociological information.

The materials of this sociological survey, both, as a whole, and on the issue of the attitude of young people to the concept of «Motherland», are for the first time introduced for scientific use.

## 2. OPINIONS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the survey showed a high level of civic identification of youth of the Mari El Republic in the sense of self-awareness as a citizen of Russia (about 65%). At the same time, it was important to find out the respondents' attitude to the concept «Russia» and thus to define the emotional value component of civic identity: «positive, negative or ambivalent attitude to accessory», «accepting or rejection of their accessory» (Guseynov, 2017). In this regard, the question «Your attitude towards Russia as to the home for peoples of Russian» with the list of the possible answers, capable to present the level of formation of respondents' ethic and legal consciousness, tolerant and humanistic worldview, was offered to respondents.

The research showed, that the vast majority of youth (80,1%) entertain an idea, that Russia is the common home for many nations, exerting their influence on each other, that all peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages. It indicates, that the youth of the Mari El Republic for the most part are aware of the equality of all peoples, espouse for equal communication and mutual enrichment of the peoples of Russia.

About 15% of respondents in the mechanism of existence of polyethnic Russia note importance of the Russian ethnic factor: 3,5% of respondents consider, that Russia should be the state of the Russian people; about 11% of respondents note, that Russia is the multiethnic country, but the Russians, who form the majority, should have more rights, because they bear the main responsibility for the fate of the people, in general.

Next, we will consider the attitude of the youth towards Russia as a common home for peoples of Russia depending on the ethnic identification of respondents, their age, level of education and material well-being of the family.

Equality of the peoples in the Russian house to the fullest extent is recognized by the Tatars (almost 80%) (Table 1), the other peoples of the MER, though in a less degree, but nevertheless a large majority (not less than ¼ of the respondents) hold this opinion.

**Table 1**  
**The attitude of the youth of the Mari El Republic towards Russia as a common home for peoples of Russia depending on national affiliation**  
(in % from the number of respondents)

Variants of answers	the Russians	the Maris	the Tatars	Others
1) Russia is the common home for many peoples, exerting influence on each other. All peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages.	82,2	78,8	88,1	74,1
2) Russia is the multiethnic country, but the Russians, who form the majority, should have more rights, because they bear the main responsibility for the fate of the people, in general.	9,2	12,4	3,4	15,5
3) Russia should be the state of the Russian people	3,8	2,2	3,4	6,9
4) I find it difficult to answer	4,4	6,2	5,1	3,5
5) Did not answer	0,4	0,4	0,0	0,0

Some part of the Mari youth (more than 12%), obviously, first of all, to express their respect for their state through the attitude to the state-forming nation, proclaimed the legal priority of the Russians, who constitute the majority in Russia. This indicator is nearly 3% more in Mari youth, than in the Russian, and nearly 4 times higher, than in the Tatar.

The peculiarities of perception of the problem Russia is as home for peoples of Russia in different age groups are not very expressed, except for youth at the age of 20–24 years (the youth at the initial stage of their work, students at the final stage of study at a higher education institution). In this age group, there is a slightly lower level of recognition of equality of peoples (Table 2) and higher, in comparison with youth of 15–19 and 25–29 years old, indicators for the positions «Russia is the multiethnic country, but the Russians, who form the majority, should have more rights, because they bear the main responsibility for the fate of the people, in general» (15,5%, 8,5% and 9,6% respectively) and «Russia should be a state of the Russian people» (5,3%, 3,4 % and 1,2%).

**Table 2**  
**The attitude of the youth of the Mari El Republic towards Russia as a common home for the peoples of Russia depending on age**  
(in % from the number of respondents)

Variants of answers	Age (years)		
	15–19	20–24	25–29
1) Russia is the common home for many peoples, exerting influence on each other. All peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages.	82,8	75,4	80,2
2) Russia is the multiethnic country, but the Russians, who form the majority, should have more rights, because they bear the main responsibility for the fate of the people, in general.	8,5	15,5	9,6
3) Russia should be the state of the Russian people	3,4	5,3	1,2
4) I find it difficult to answer	4,8	3,8	8,4
Did not answer	0,5	0,0	0,6

The greatest number of supporters of equal existence of the peoples in Russia (home) are among respondents with higher and incomplete higher education (83,6%) and basic compulsory education (82,5%) (Table 3), the smallest are among the youth, having complete full school education (11 classes) – 76,6%.

There are the greatest number, who considered Russia is a state of the Russian people, among the respondents with education of 11 classes, and there are no respondents with such opinion at all among the most educated part of the youth (with higher and incomplete higher education).

**Table 3**  
**The attitude of the youth of the Mari El Republic towards Russia**  
**as a common home for the peoples of Russia depending on the level of education**  
**(in % from the number of respondents)**

Variants of answers	The level of education			
	9 classes	11 classes	secondary vocational education	higher and incomplete higher education
1) Russia is the common home for many peoples, exerting influence on each other. All peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages.	82,5	76,6	79,0	83,6
2) Russia is the multiethnic country, but the Russians, who form the majority, should have more rights, because they bear the main responsibility for the fate of the people, in general.	9,5	11,7	12,1	9,6
3) Russia should be the state of the Russian people	2,1	6,7	2,5	0,0
4) I find it difficult to answer	5,3	5,0	5,7	6,8
Did not answer	0,6	0,0	0,7	0,0

The level of liability for breakage almost does not affect the opinion of youth on ethnic legal hierarchy of the state. All indicators are presented approximately equally, except for one position: representatives of middle-class families recognize the advantage in rights in the multiethnic country as the most numerous nations (Table 4).

**Table 4**  
**The attitude of the youth of the Mari El Republic towards Russia as a common home**  
**for the peoples of Russia depending on the level of material security of the family**  
**(in % from the number of respondents)**

Variants of answers	Level of material security of the family		
	very well-off	middle-income	lower-income
1) Russia is the common home for many peoples, exerting influence on each other. All peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages.	82,1	79,3	84,7
2) Russia is the multiethnic country, but the Russians, who form the majority, should have more rights, because they bear the main responsibility for the fate of the people, in general.	7,5	11,6	7,1
3) Russia should be the state of the Russian people	3,0	3,4	3,5
4) I find it difficult to answer	6,0	5,4	4,7
Did not answer	1,4	0,3	0,0

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Thus, modern youth of the Republic of Mari El concerning the attitude towards Russia as a home for peoples of Russian has the pronounced positive civic identity, including respect for the equal and mutually enriching principle of the existence of peoples in the multinational state.

Young people in their vast majority (more than two thirds) – both in general and for individual qualification groups, identified according to ethnic self-definition, age, education level and material well-being of the family, – consider, that Russia is the common home for many peoples, exerting their influence on each other, that all peoples of Russia should have equal rights, and nobody should has any advantages.

There are few supporters of the idea of prevalence of the rights of the Russians as a related to national development and most numerous nation; there are more of them among Mari people, young people at the aged of 20-24, from a middle-income family and among the least educated part of youth.

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