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Implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in the South Urals in the 1990s

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Abstract

The relevance of the studied problem is determined by the subject of the study, namely the policy of the Russian Federation towards children. Children are the future of the state. The younger generation determines the future technological, intellectual, political, economic, demographic, and ecological wealth of the country. The objective of the article is to study the degree of implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in one of the largest regions of Russia – the South Urals in the 1990s. Research methods: synchronous, systemic-structural, historical-comparative, historical-genetic. As a result of the study, the authors draw conclusions and offer practical recommendations on the improvement of the state policy in the field of educating the younger generation in modern Russia. The practical significance of the conducted study is that the authors of the article investigated the first steps of implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in Russia. At the same time the authors explored unresolved issues in the field of children's rights and public policy mistakes to prevent them from happening in the future.

Keywords: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; South Urals; state policy; children's rights; Russia.

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Implementación de la Convención Internacional sobre los Derechos del Niño en los Urales del Sur en la década de 1990

Resumen

La relevancia del problema estudiado está determinada por el tema del estudio, a saber, la política de la Federación de Rusia hacia los niños. Los niños son el futuro del estado. La generación más joven determina la futura riqueza tecnológica, intelectual, política, económica, demográfica y ecológica del país. El objetivo del artículo es estudiar el grado de implementación de la Convención Internacional sobre los Derechos del Niño en una de las regiones más grandes de Rusia: los Urales del Sur en la década de 1990. Se emplearon los siguientes métodos sincrónico, sistémico-estructural, histórico-comparativo, histórico-genético. Como resultado del estudio, los autores extraen conclusiones y ofrecen recomendaciones prácticas sobre la mejora de la política estatal en el campo de la educación de la generación más joven en la Rusia moderna. La importancia práctica del estudio realizado es que permite visualizar los primeros pasos para la implementación de la Convención Internacional sobre los Derechos del Niño en Rusia. Al mismo tiempo, los autores exploraron cuestiones no resueltas en el campo de los derechos del niño y errores de política pública para evitar que sucedan en el futuro.

Palabras clave: la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos del Niño; Urales del Sur; política estatal; Derechos de los niños; Rusia.

Introduction

In the modern world, the problems of protecting and realizing the rights of children occupy one of the priority directions both in the internal politics of individual states and in the whole world community. The governments of all states must understand that the future of the state, its development, and ultimately its national security, is determined by what kind of young generation will come to power in decades. Therefore, already now, various concepts, programs, plans for the development of youth policy are being elaborated, approved, and received practical implementation. The key criterion is to educate the younger generation in the spirit of peace, tolerance, freedom, equality, citizenship, patriotism, respect, and responsibility. It is especially necessary the ecological and legal education of children, as well as to bring up the modern “digital generation” based on traditional moral and ethical principles.

According to the UN Convention of 20 November 1989 “On the Rights of the Child”, ratified by the USSR in 1990, and then by the Russian Federation in order of succession, which assumed obligations in full, every child is assigned basic and inalienable rights. Among them are “the right to life”, “the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents”, “the right of the child to education”, “the right to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence”, “the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health” and a number of other rights. At the same time, the Article 3 emphasizes that “the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration”.

In the 1990s, when Russia embarked on the path of democratic transformations, many provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were only declarative. In reality the state of society in general, and children in particular, caused great concern. On the pages of the press of that time, such a definition appeared in relation to children of the 90s 20th century as “The Lost Generation” (Kuzmin, 1999: 2). And it wasn’t accidentally. Indeed, in reality, there was a generational gap, the connection of times was destroyed, there were attempts to completely reject and erase the entire Soviet past. In new Russia people began to bring up globalists children, which were “open to the world” under the slogan of de-ideologization and new thinking. In this regard, the essential ideas of morality and ethics have radically changed in children to compare with the Soviet era. Now everything that was previously “banned” became possible, including the sex education of children. In general, in society, as well as among the children were widespread unbelief, indifference and self-interest.

The South Urals (Chelyabinsk region), as one of the regions of Russia, was no exception in the development of these processes. During the period under study, many children were in reality deprived of the right to be cared for by their parents, which was primarily due to the economic situation. The number of homeless and neglected children in the country and in the region has sharply increased because of many factories reduced production capacity or was completely destroyed. As a result of which the salaries of parents were not paid for a long time, state benefits were paid with great delays. A lot of families in Russia were on the brink of survival.

The situation began to change only towards at the end of 1990s in early 2000s, when Vladimir Putin became the head of the state. Many people in Russia associated the election of Vladimir Putin with hopes for a noticeable improvement in people’s lives, preserving the unity of Russia, and strengthening state power. A strong state is able to ensure the effective implementation of all obligations assumed, including children’s rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. Literature Review

The problem of protecting and realizing the children's rights and interests is one of the most studied and discussed in the world. Modern authors studying the problem of children's rights in the spirit of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child focus on such aspects as the protection of children's rights in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the related restrictions on children's rights and changes their lifestyles (Lynch *et al.*, 2021; Liefgaard, 2020; Peleg *et al.*, 2021; Minson, 2021).

Another area of research by scientists is the problem of developing gender identity in children, raising transgender children and giving children the right to determine their own gender at an early stage of development. In the works of American researchers, we can observe some differences in the interpretation of the concept of "gender identity". Some scientists (Polderman *et al.*, 2018; Chin, 2016; Robinson *et al.*, 2021) believe that gender identity is fixed at birth by genetic or other biological factors. Others (Fine, 2010; Case, 2019; Guzzetti *et al.*, 2018) argue that "gender identity" is determined by society and cultural influences, i.e. can be socially constructed. Still others believe that "gender identity" is constructed rather than expressed by the continuous execution of gender behavior (Butler, 2020; Thorn, 2019; Soh, 2020). One way or another, Jason Rafferty (2018), MD in Rhode Island, believes that gender identity in children develops from the age of 2, and by the age of 4, a child already has a stable idea of his gender identity. And here, as the author supposes, parents can make sure that the environment of their young child reflects the diversity of gender roles and encourages the child to choose the gender in the future.

Russian scientists (Lyadova, 2018; Makeeva, 2011; Makarova, 2018; Alekseeva, 2020) in their works study the articles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, its features, while highlighting such groups of norms in this document as - general principles, special measures of protection and norms of implementation. The authors attach particular importance to the problem of implementation of international legal norms in the field of protecting the children's rights in Russia, focusing on the difference between children brought up in families with parents and orphans or children left without parental care and brought up in families of adoptive parents, guardians (trustees), foster parents, in institutions for children who are more vulnerable and need even more protection.

Thus, the scientific literature emphasizes the need to provide even greater rights to underage children, including the ability to independently determine their gender. However, at the same time, in many countries of the modern world, we can see how many articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are not observed or are grossly violated. Unfortunately, in part, this also applies to Russia in the 1990s. It is necessary in every

possible way to prevent such a situation. This determines the need for our research.

2. Materials and Methods

The methodological basis of this scientific article was formed by the most important principles of research: objectivity, scientific character, and historicism. Objectivity presupposes the study of the subject of research without bias, without ideologically set schemes and stereotypes. Therefore, the authors sought to show both the advantages and disadvantages in the possibility of implementing the main articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the South Urals in the 1990s, qualitative and quantitative indicators. In the fight of the state against child homelessness and neglect, juvenile delinquency which sharply increased during the period under study.

The scientific principle requires authors to avoid political and ideological conjuncture when studying the life of children in the 90s 20th century. The fact is that, in the assessments of various political figures, the state of Russian society, including children and adolescents, looked different. For example, in the report about the implementation of youth policy in the 1990s, the first deputy governor of the Chelyabinsk region A.N. Kosilov emphasized that “in terms of the number of students per 100 thousand of the population, the Chelyabinsk region came close to the leading Western European countries” (Aleksandrovich, 2000: 10). However, for example, the chairman of the board of the Russian Fund “Future of the Fatherland named after V.P. Polyanichko” M.F. Nenashev spoke directly about what concerns children, their situation in Russia, and therefore in the South Urals, has never been so difficult. In order to avoid various “distortions”, considering all the circumstances, in this article the authors give a balanced objective assessment of the implementation of the main provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in the South Urals at the end of the 20th century.

The principle of historicism helped to study the subject of research in a holistic manner and in the interconnection of all its aspects, in the context of general historical phenomena and processes. The key factor in changing the vector of state policy towards children in the 1990s in Russia, the main principles, and approaches in working with adolescents were the collapse of the Soviet Union, the whole authoritarian political system and the transition to a new, not yet formed, democratic one.

The methodological principles noted above also led to use special research methods in our work. So, the authors use the synchronous method. It allows making a horizontal (cross) section of the assessments

and conclusions of political and public figures of the South Urals on the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the further development of organizations and institutions for children in Russia in a particular period of time. The authors took into account their political positions – communists, liberal democrats.

The systemic and structural method made it possible to consider the main directions of activity towards children of the state authorities of the Chelyabinsk region as part of the federal system for the implementation of youth policy, which includes concepts, federal and regional programs, plans, which recorded the main directions of modernization and development of policies carried out in attitude of children and also in the framework of interaction with various structures – public organizations and movements, unions, organizations of additional education for children, religious organizations.

The historical-comparative method helped to reveal the general and specific features of the main mechanisms of interaction between the state authorities of the Chelyabinsk region and children in comparison – in different historical periods – the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. The historical and genetic method made it possible to consider the reasons for the genesis and specificity of the change in thinking in relation to the spiritual and moral values of children, which was undoubtedly facilitated by such processes as “perestroika”, “glasnost”, “democratization”.

To write the article, the authors involved documents of a legislative and regulatory nature, documentary and statistical collections, periodicals, and Internet sources. The authors also involved documents from the State Archive of the Russian Federation and the Consolidated Archive of the Chelyabinsk Region.

3. Results

According to world practice, a state that has assumed obligations must fulfill them. First, this applies to signed international treaties, ratified international documents. The Russian Federation, as the legal successor of the Soviet Union, assumed such obligations towards children by ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Certain steps were taken to implement the Convention in Russia, in particular in the South Urals, but there were great obstacles along the way. At the end of the 20th century the Russian state and society was in a condition of crisis, which most painfully affected the fate of children and adolescents. 1990s were a transitional period from one socio-political system – authoritarian, to another – democratic. Reforms of the 1990s revealed and exacerbated negative tendencies in Russian society. The crisis of moral values gave rise

to conflict, and even a generation gap. Crime, drug addiction, prostitution have become the norm of many children and adolescents. In the face of the struggle for survival, the need for reading for many people became “luxury”. A huge number of illiterate children have appeared in the country.

In the 1990s for the South Urals, as for most of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, similar political and socio-economic upheavals associated with the creation of new institutions of power and the transition to a market economy were characteristic. “In conditions of a shortage of time and personnel, namely, an unjustifiably high turnover, as well as the need to organize serious study in new working conditions, the first president of Russia B.N. Yeltsin acted decisively” (State Archive of the Russian Federation. F. 10115. Op. 1. D. 100. L. 14.). In the South Urals, the formation of a new statehood was also related with a crisis of power. “The administration of the Chelyabinsk region led by V.P. Solovyov confronted to the Chelyabinsk regional executive committee led by P.I. Sumin” (Consolidated Archive of Chelyabinsk Region. F. P–274. Op. 3. D. 46. L. 2.). There were two governors in region. This situation didn’t have the best effect on the development of the region, especially economic.

Most of the factories in towns in the South Urals reduced their production capacities or they were completely destroyed. Large factories, including the military-industrial complex, ceased their interaction with countries such as Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia because of the collapse of the Soviet Union also led to the destruction of economic ties. Such situation led to a social tension. “In August 1998, as a result of the financial economic crisis and default, real incomes of the population decreased by 31.1 %” (RIA News, 2013). “The price growth index for food products in 1999 amounted to 151.6 % of the previous year, including for children’s clothing – 166.0 %” (Report of Chelyabinsk region’s Administration, 2000: 2).

Such circumstances made it real for the development of child homelessness and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and deviant behavior among minors. At the beginning of 1999, according to the report of the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation (2000), there were 2 million street children and 15 million neglected in the country and according to the Russian Children’s Fund (2000), there were 657 thousand orphans “as compared with May 1945 (after the Great Patriotic War), there were 678 thousand of them in the USSR” (RIA News, 2004). According to the prosecutor of the Chelyabinsk region A.I. Bragin, the crime situation in the region in the 1990s, including the level and dynamics of juvenile crime, was deeply anxious. The total number of crimes committed in the region was constantly growing. So, “in 1992, 4991 crimes committed by minors and with their complicity were registered, in 1995 – already 5606, the number of offenses increased from 14 926 in 1993 to 31 178 in 1995” (Information and statistical collection, 1998: 14). Also “increased the number of crimes

committed by minors repeatedly (so-called recidivism) from 572 in 1994 to 645 in 1995” (Statistical collection, 1999: 25).

The increasing influence on children and adolescents in the period under study was exerted by such extremely dangerous phenomena as drug addiction and alcoholism. In 1999, in the South Urals, according to official data, there were “5150 drug addicts who were registered in narcologists and the police, including 272 teenagers and 10 children” (Report of the prosecutor of the Chelyabinsk region, 2000: 3). Throughout the period under study, the process of alcoholization of the younger generation was observed. According to statistics, almost every fourth teenager committed crimes while intoxicated. This has become a real threat to the existence of a healthy gene pool of the Russian nation.

Another result of the socio-economic upheavals of the 1990s is the appearance of the so-called “demographic hole”. In 1999, only 12 out of 89 regions in Russia experienced natural population growth (Unified interdepartmental information and statistical system, 1999). Over the past 10 years (the period of the 1990s), 6 million fewer children were born than in the previous ones. The population did not want to give birth. In this context, the statement of one of the governors of the Chelyabinsk region V.P. Solovyov became “popular”: “If you can’t feed your children – don’t give birth!” (Samokhina, 2014: 95).

All this taken together posed a serious block to the progress and renewal of Russian society, created obstacles in the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was compulsory to do something with this, both at the federal level and in each region.

4. Discussions

In Russia, the period of the 1990s can be marked as the period of the formation of a new state policy towards children. If in the past the Komsomol and Pioneer organizations were part of a unified state system for the upbringing of the younger generation, then in the early 1990s their socio-pedagogical potential turned out to be unclaimed by the state. At this time, new concepts, programs and mechanisms for the implementation of measures to educate children and adolescents, as well as to improve their situation, were developed. The first legal acts in the field of social protection of children and adolescents, which fully comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are beginning to appear by the late 1990s – early 2000s. For example, the Law of the Chelyabinsk Region of 11 June 1998 N^o 46–ZO “On state support of youth and children’s public associations of the Chelyabinsk region” was adopted, and in the same year, the Resolution of the Governor of the Chelyabinsk Region N^o 234 “On measures to support

youth in the Chelyabinsk region” was adopted. After two years the Law of the Chelyabinsk Region of 24 February 2000 № 114-ZO “On the organization of guardianship and trusteeship in the Chelyabinsk region” was adopted. Next year the Law of the Chelyabinsk Region of 17 December 2001 № 54-ZO “On the protection of children’s rights in the Chelyabinsk region” was adopted.

According to the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the Chelyabinsk region of 27 December 2001 № 386 “On the regional program “Children of the South Urals” for 2001–2005” the Concept of State Youth Policy in the Chelyabinsk Region was adopted. In the same year, financing of a new regional program “Children of the South Urals” began. This program unites a number of targeted programs of various departments related to childhood problems – “Disabled Children”, “Orphans”, “Safe Motherhood”, “Gifted Children”, “Social protection of families and children”, “Family planning”, “Prevention of neglect and juvenile delinquency”.

The issue of combating drug addiction among children and adolescents was of particular importance. For example, in the South Urals, there were facts of suppression by the law enforcement agencies of huge consignments of smuggling drug supplies from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (Aleksandrovich, 2000). The fight against drug addiction of the children and adolescents was carried out not only by the forces of law enforcement agencies, but also through the medical care system. The regional narcological dispensary continued its activity, where normal conditions were created for the treatment and rehabilitation of children and adolescents who suffered from drug addiction, thereby ensuring the right of children to receive health care services. Of course, these actions were not enough. The main preventive measures in the fight against drug addiction continued to be – the organization of employment in socially useful labor, recreation, educational activities, and sport.

As a result of the dire consequences of the reforms of the 1990s the younger generation was left “on its own” and was very acutely experiencing the problem of employment in their free time. To solve this situation, a system of temporary employment for adolescents was formed in the South Urals, especially during vacations. This program made it possible to get additional income in families, distracted teenagers from idle sitting outdoors and, in general, helped to reduce the level of unmotivated juvenile delinquency. For difficult teenagers, a system of summer sports field camps was created and operated. In 1998, “750 adolescents were sent in such camps, in 1999 – 3 thousand people” (Aleksandrovich, 2000: 48).

In matters of combating juvenile delinquency in the system of state authorities, commissions on juvenile affairs played a positive role. The main aims of the commissions on juvenile affairs were “the protection of the child from domestic violence”, “the protection of the child from the

harmful influence of the asocial environment”, “the protection of the child from illegal actions of the parents”, etc. (Resolution 29–P/2006 of February 22). The existence of a separate authority – commissions on juvenile affairs made it possible to solve the problems of child protection more effectively.

The prevention and elimination the reasons of offenses, the commission of crimes among minors were related with the formation of the respect for the law at the level of their personal conviction. Therefore, the legal education of children, in the first place, was focused on preventing compliance to negative manifestations in society. For this, in the South Urals, classes were held with teaching staff to consolidate a clear understanding of the initial legal concepts, the possibilities of using legal means of influence on students prone to committing offenses, and on the unfavorable family and household environment around them. Extracurricular forms of work were used – disputes, meetings with law enforcement officials, conferences, competitions, visits to law enforcement agencies. Employees of libraries were involved, whose task was to collect books and materials from periodicals for teachers, parents, children on the legal education of the younger generation. Such universities as Chelyabinsk State Pedagogical University, Magnitogorsk State University, Academy of Physical Culture and Sports, Academy of Culture and Art continued training students to develop their professional skills to educate children.

At all times, the school has been the most important unit of the moral education of children. According to the Federal Law of 10 April 2000 N° 51–FZ “On Approval of the Federal Program for the Development of Education” a new federal program for the development of education in Russia was approved, according to the main provisions of which, among the priorities for the development of school education were fixed – accessibility, quality of education, information support, at the same time such an important direction of the school’s activities as the moral education of future citizens of Russia, was not named. At the same time, educational organizations, as the most important social institutions, simply needed to more actively form a new way of life for the young generation, which really contributes to the upbringing of a physically healthy, spiritually rich, highly moral personality, respecting the traditions and culture of their own and other people. It was necessary to direct efforts to educate patriotism, citizenship, respect for human rights and freedoms, responsibility to oneself and society. Educational organizations, such a school, have to create favorable conditions for the full development of children, their adaptation to social changes, to form in children’s stable motives and attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle.

In the 1990s in connection with the destruction of the previous system of pioneer and Komsomol organizations, the system of additional education for children is beginning to play an increasingly important role

in the implementation of youth policy. In the South Urals, due to additional funding, the number of sections was increased. A system of work with children and adolescents through clubs at the place of residence was carried out. The movement of sports and courtyard teams “Golden Puck” and “Leather Ball” was developed. During the period under study, a program was launched to increase sports grounds at the place of residence. Military sports competitions were held for school teams. They began to pay more attention to the development of military-applied and technical sports. In the region, such a program as “Development of patriotism, citizenship and preparation of young people for service in the Armed Forces” has been implemented. The team of the Chelyabinsk region won first place at the European final of the Odyssey of Mind program, which took place in Frankfurt am Main.

In the 1990s the most important tool for creating the foundations of a democratic state for the future was the development of children’s public associations and organizations, youth associations, various public structures, centers acting in the interests of children and their interaction with public authorities. Prevailing by the beginning of the 2000s the system of political, educational, cultural and leisure organizations had significant social and pedagogical potential for the implementation of the main principles of the state’s youth policy and solving the most important problems associated with the socialization of children.

During the period under study, a very important problem for young people was the problem of accessibility of higher education. In this connection, the Governor’s recruitment system was created in the South Urals, which guaranteed that up to 500 children from low-income families – children from rural schools, small territories – entered the region’s universities annually only based on the Governor’s recommendation. This program was aimed at solving two main problems at once – to educate children from low-income families, as well as to train the necessary specialists.

A significant contribution to the upbringing of children and adolescents began to be made by the Chelyabinsk Regional Public Charitable Foundation “Future of the Fatherland” created in 1995 named by V.P. Polyanchko. The purpose of creating this fund is to form true spiritual values in children. The path of development of Russia, both in the present and in the future, depends on how prepared children and adolescents will be for a new type of social relations, what value orientations they will develop. Therefore, the main directions of the Fund’s activities were to support the youth movement, increase social activity, create conditions for the development of creative abilities and talents of children and adolescents, educational success, mastering the chosen specialty, maintaining health, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Considering the experience of previous years, we have formulated practical recommendations in the upbringing of the children, which will contribute to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the South Urals in modern times:

1. In the upbringing of children and adolescents, there is no principle more effective than the principle – “do as I do”. Therefore, the process of raising children should be based on an example of the activities of real people, contemporaries, whose life, and deeds are an example for those who follow them. Such a citizen of his country, a patriot of his Fatherland was V.P. Polyanichko (First Secretary of the Chelyabinsk Regional Komsomol Committee, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Government), who said: “Moral progress is stable and reliable where the connection of times is not interrupted, where the authority of the elders is high” (Polyanichko, 2017: 371).
2. The idea of patriotic service to Russia should form the core of state and social education, the formation of moral values in a democratic society, the national ideals of which are nationality, statehood, and spirituality. Civic education in the young generation is a respectful and responsible attitude to the rule of law, moral norms, customs and traditions of the people, a separate social community, and every Russian family.
3. Humanization of education and upbringing based on universal human values such as religious virtues, freedom, labor, citizenship, patriotism, rejection of nationalism, extremism, and terrorism.
4. Continuity of generations and traditions, “connection of times”, to preserve and pass on to modern children the best traditions, cultural values of the past, including at the level of each individual region. Substantive directions of this activity should be traditions and state, traditions and society, traditions and family. The success of education based on folk traditions will depend on the fruitful cooperation of teachers with various state and social institutions and services such as public funds and movements, children’s and youth organizations, political parties, councils of war and labor veterans, cultural and art institutions, health care institutions, law enforcement agencies, sports societies, travel agencies and mass media.
5. The constant involvement of children in active social and creative activities – actions, contests, projects, competitions, expanding their social rights and opportunities, through the development of self-government, manifestation of activity in various activities, excluding aggression, ethnic and religious tension, bad habits such as drug addiction, tobacco smoking, alcoholism.

Thus, the most important criterion for the upbringing of the younger generation will be its conscious, voluntary participation in public life; the highest indicator is the ability to serve the Fatherland.

Conclusion

Of course, the modern realities of life in Russia should be aimed at protecting and fully realizing the rights of children in accordance with the norms of international and national legislation. In turn, the state assumes responsibility and certain obligations in providing of these rights.

Children are one of the most important population groups in the country. This is the future of the state. Therefore, state policy towards children should be a priority if we think about national security.

In the 1990s, when the link between generations was significantly destroyed, children in Russia were in a very difficult situation. In these conditions, the state needed to ensure the historical continuity of generations in country; the preservation, development, and dissemination of national culture; to educate a respectful attitude to the cultural and historical heritage of all people in Russia. After all, it is well known that a society that does not remember the past is doomed to degradation, and, on the contrary, a society that honors the old acquires immortality.

Based on this, the main objective of the state policy towards children, its main goal was to create favorable economic and political conditions for the social development of the younger generation, to solve the most actual problems of children and adolescents (health, education, labor and creative activity, morality, homelessness, drug addiction, crime), attracting the younger generation to active political, socio-economic, and cultural activities. For this purpose, all social and state structures formed moral norms and rules in children, used the previously created material base – palaces of pioneers and schoolchildren, children's health camps, sections of children's scientific and technical creativity, hotels, tourist centers in the interests of patriotic, civil, labor, physical, aesthetic, moral and environmental education of children and adolescents. Socially significant initiatives of children were supported. New public organizations with the participation of adolescents, such as "Yabloko", "Medved", and "Zhirinovskiy's Falcons" were developed. There were proposals to create an All-Russian Children's Organization – "Russian Pioneer Organization named after Yuri Gagarin". Summer sports and work vacations, excursions and travels around native country were organized for children. However, the above steps were not enough.

During the period under study, society faced a serious aim – the upbringing of the young generation of a renewed, reviving Russia, the upbringing of highly moral, educated young people who will ensure the rise and prosperity of our country and the South Urals, which remains relevant in modern times.

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