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Socio-demographic bases of intra-family differentiation of non-financial wealth: the case of deputies of regional parliaments

Among the problems of studying the material well-being of the population, two can be singled out, which, in our opinion, are essential for determining the scale of economic inequality. At first, the lack of information about the upper economic strata, the "underrepresentation" of the wealthiest in the distributions according to various indicators of well-being obtained in population surveys. Secondly, the assumption of equal intrafamily distribution of benefits, which is embodied in the calculation of average per capita income, the choice of a household as a single owner of property in the study of wealth. The general consequence of these problems is incompleteness in assessing economic inequality. The appeal of sociologists and economists to various kinds of administrative data allows us to partially remove these problems. It was with the advent of administrative data that studies of elites, including economic ones, reached a new level [Cousin et al., 2018, p. 228-229]. For example, a combination of socioeconomic surveys of mass households and tax data is used to construct studies that "reconstruct" the top of the distribution of income and wealth [Bricker et al., 2016; Chakraborty et al., 2019].

Our research was carried out using data on the income and property of the regional political elite – deputies of the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation for 2020 (a description of the data and an assessment of their quality are presented in [Cherkashina 2021]). The data was collected in the framework of anti-corruption activities. Administrative data includes information about the property of declarants and members of their nuclear families (spouses with whom they are in a registered marriage, and minor children). The limitation of this source is the absence in the information of the value estimates of the objects that are owned. But the undoubted plus and uniqueness of the considered administrative data is that they contain information about the types of ownership of real estate and vehicles: individual, joint or shared. It gives the opportunity to assess the individualization or "intercommunity" in the property rights of the spouses.

The comparison of these administrative data and materials of a sample observation of the population's income and its participation in the social programs of Rosstat was carried out. It shows that the income of married couples, in which one of the partners is a deputy of regional legislative

bodies, partly corresponds to the income level of the upper economic strata available in a mass survey, representing the population of the country, and partly exceeds them [Cherkashina 2021, p. 23-24]. Meanwhile, in this research, information on the income and property of the regional political elite is used not so much to analyze the well-being of the upper economic and political strata of Russian society, but to identify patterns of economic inequality within households.

The nomenclature of the considered objects in the ownership or in use of declarants and their spouses: residential and non-residential real estate, land plots, vehicles, which in the researches of material well-being is defined as non-financial wealth. The aim of the research is to assess socio-demographic differentiation in terms of non-financial wealth within Russian households using the example of the upper segment of economic stratification. The novelty of the research lies in the structural description of the property of married couples from the predominantly upper economic strata with the allocation of objects in the individual property of each of the spouses. This allows us to assess a) tendencies towards “individualization” of property, b) differences in the property of Russian men and women as a prerequisite for the gender wealth gap.

The experience of a few foreign researches in this problem field allows us to distinguish several patterns:

- the tendency of individualization of the population's property, which is formed both by the increasing number of single households and by the division of property between spouses [Kan, Laurie 2014; Frémeaux, Leturcq 2020];

- on average, the less well-off are single households, and the richest are those who are officially married [Sierminska et al. 2010; Grabka et al. 2015; Frémeaux, Leturcq 2020]. The value of the property of men compared to the value of the property of women is generally higher [Schneebaum et al. 2018]. In the case of married couples, the difference in net worth is partly due to the higher value of men's business assets. The smallest gender gap is observed when comparing the value of residential real estate [Sierminska et al. 2010; Grabka et al. 2015; Meriküll et al. 2021];

- the gender wealth gap in favor of men is most pronounced at the top of the distribution [Schneebaum et al. 2018; Meriküll et al. 2021].

The presentation will provide a comparison in Russian households of the scale and structure of ownership of men and women, both married and unmarried.

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