

UDC 39

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2023-4/189-206

Original article

© *Yuliya Olkhovskaya*

ELDERLY PEOPLE DURING THE PANDEMIC: A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY IN THE MOSCOW REGION AND TATARSTAN

Using the method of cross-cultural analysis, the article examines interviews with elderly people, residents of the Moscow region and the Republic of Tatarstan, during the COVID-19 pandemic, both living independently and in a social institution – an Orthodox hospice. The instruments of social cohesion and healthcare among the retirement age population are described. The research was inspired by interest in the perceptions of older people's experiences and the difficulties they have faced during the pandemic. The unanimous public awareness of the situation showed that the ways to support the population during COVID times contributed to the improvement of inclusiveness in many areas of society. The situational component of COVID-19 has created special conditions for the elderly population, demonstrating an increasing need for care provided by the state, charities, volunteers and the local community. The resulting financial difficulties and the increasing need for care forced some people to seek help or move to live in specialized institutions. At the same time, interaction with volunteer organizations and social services partially contributed to the reduction of psychological stress in elder people. The social paradigm that emerged during and after COVID-19 has changed and gradually established social cooperation between older people, the state and non-profit volunteer organizations. The strategy of mutual assistance smoothed out the conditions of social isolation of vulnerable groups: the emerging decline in their standard of living and the lack of social communication did not reach a critical level thanks to volunteer assistance and mutual assistance within society. The study of the narratives of those living in an Orthodox hospice made it possible to emphasize the correct organization of the work of this institution in a pandemic, compliance with anti-epidemiological requirements, and also to identify the positive experience of cooperation between an Orthodox hospice and volunteers. The author hopes that gained experience will facilitate the further introduction of an inclusive agenda into the institutional environment of social actors.

Keywords: *pandemic, Moscow, Tatarstan, pensioners, COVID-19, national solidarity, interaction*

Author Info: *Olkhovskaya, Yuliya A.* — Post-Graduate Student, the Russian Academy of Sciences N. N. Miklouho-Maklay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: justjuliag@mail.ru ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0183-9356>

For Citation: *Olkhovskaya, Y. A.* 2023. Elderly People During the Pandemic: A Cross-Cultural Study in the Moscow Region and Tatarstan. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 4: 189–206.

Funding: The article was prepared in the framework of a research grant funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation (Grant ID: 075-15-2022-328).

References

- Denisenko, M. 2020. Labor Migration in Russia during the Coronavirus Pandemic. *Demographic Review* 7(5): 42–62. <https://doi.org/10.17323/demreview.v7i5.13197> EDN VBJMDF
- Di Bari, M., F. Tonarelli, A. Giordano et al. 2022. COVID-19, Vulnerability, and Long-Term Mortality in Hospitalized and Nonhospitalized Older Persons. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* 23(3): 414–420. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2021.12.009> EDN OBGWFS
- Fan, L., Y. Tian, J. Wang et al. 2021. Frailty Predicts Increased Health Care Utilization Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A Longitudinal Study in China. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* 22(9): 1819–1824. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2021.01.082> EDN KPCCTB
- Frolova, E. A. 2021a. Aktivnoe dolgoletie i zhiznesteikost' starshego pokoleniia v Tomskoi oblasti [Active Longevity and Vitality of the Older Generation in Tomsk Region]. In *Institutsional'naia transformatsiia ekonomiki: chelovek i sotsium (ITE-CHS 2021): Materiali VII Mezhdunarodnogo nauchnogo kongressa, Tomsk, 21–23 oktiabria 2021 goda* [Institutional Transformation of the Economy: Man and Society (ITE-CS 2021): Proceedings of the VII International Scientific Congress, Tomsk, October 21–23, 2021], ed. by M. V. Chikov. Tomsk: NITGU. 202–203. <https://doi.org/10.17223/978-5-907442-40-5-2021-138> EDN EISILA
- Frolova, E. A. 2021b. Instrumenty ukrepleniia zhiznesteikosti starshego pokoleniia v usloviakh pandemii COVID-19 na primere Tomskoi akademii aktivnogo dolgoletii [Tools for Strengthening the Resilience of the Older Generation in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Example of the Tomsk Academy of Active Longevity]. *Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta* 473: 154–160. <https://doi.org/10.17223/15617793/473/19> EDN OTFCIS
- Ivanov, R. V. 2021. Mobilizatsionnaia solidarnost' vo vremia pandemii [Mobilization Solidarity During the Pandemic]. *Sotsiologiia* 4: 92–105. EDN ZPJYDW
- Karmadonov, O. A. and G. D. Kovrigina. 2017. *Resursy sotsiokul'turnoi konsolidatsii rossiiskogo obshchestva* [Resources of Sociocultural Consolidation of Russian Society]. Irkutsk: Izdatel'stvo IGU. 184 p.
- Kharitonova, V. I. 2020. COVID-19: novaia tema meditsinskoi antropologii [COVID-19: a New Topic in Medical Anthropology]. *Meditsinskaia antropologiia i bioetika* 1(19): 5–27. <https://doi.org/10.33876/2224-9680/2020-1-19/01>
- Klimovich, M. A. 2019. Institutsional'naia sreda i ee transformatsionnyi potentsial v usloviakh novo tekhnologicheskoi revoliutsii [Institutional Environment and its Transformational Potential in the Conditions of the New Technological Revolution]. *Ekonomika i upravlenie innovatsiiami* 1: 18–26. <https://doi.org/10.26730/2587-5574-2019-1-18-25> EDN WRWLZL
- Kokoshin, A. A. 2014. Nekotorye makrostrukturnye izmeneniia v sisteme mirovoi politiki. Tendentsii na 2020–2030-e gody [Some Macrostructural Changes in the System of World Politics. Trends for 2020–2030]. *Polis. Politicheskie issledovaniia* 4: 38–62. EDN SJGLUF
- Neo, H. Y., L. M. Teo, A. Hum et al. 2021. Palliative Rehabilitation Improves Health Care Utilization and Function in Frail Older Adults with Chronic Lung Diseases. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* 22(12): 2478–2485. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2021.05.031> EDN QFTAYO
- Polozhikhina, M. A. 2021. Ekonomika Rossii v usloviakh pandemii koronavirusa [Economy of Russia in the Context of the Coronavirus Pandemic]. *Ekonomicheskie i sotsial'nye problemy Rossii* 4(48): 39–63. <https://doi.org/10.31249/espr/2021.04.02> EDN NHODGC
- Shaginian, S. G. 2021. Koronavirusnyi krizis trebuets korrektsirovki instrumentarii ekonomicheskikh funktsii gosudarstva [The Coronavirus Crisis Requires Correction of the Instruments of Economic Functions of the State]. *Nauka i obrazovanie: khoziaistvo i ekonomika; predprinimatel'stvo; pravo i upravlenie* 3(130): 28–30. EDN PKCHGR

-
- Siniavskaia, O. V. 2021. Organizatsiia postoronnego ukhoda za pozhilymi i invalidami: motivatsiia obrashcheniia k razlichnym postavshchikam [Organization of Out-of-home Care for the Elderly and Disabled: The Motivation to Turn to Various Suppliers] *Demograficheskoe obozrenie* 8(4): 60–80. <https://doi.org/10.17323/demreview.v8i4.13876> EDN IFWPVT
- Tarusina, N. N. 2021. Pravo rasporyazhat'sia svoei zhizn'iu: aktualizatsiia sotsial'no-politicheskogo konteksta v usloviiah pandemii COVID-19 [Right to Dispose of Your Own Life: Actualization of Social-Political Context in COVID-19 Pandemic Conditions]. *Sotsial'nye i gumanitarnye znaniia* 7 (2): 166–181. <https://doi.org/10.18255/2412-6519-2021-2-166-181> EDN LHJSJU.
- Vavilov, V. V., I. V. Shajmardanov, A. K. Saetgaraev and R. Sh. Kamaletdinov. 2020. Osnovnye protsessy organizatsii hospisnoi pomoshhi v respublike Tatarstan [Main Processes of Organization of Hospice Care in the Republic of Tatarstan]. *Palliativnaia meditsina i rehabilitatsiia* 2: 36–41. EDN FRMKIJ