

## **ABSTRACT**

**Thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
Specialty “6D050100 – Sociology”  
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### **Social feeling of the population in emergency situations as an indicator of social assessment: regional aspect**

**The relevance of the research topic.** The twenty-first century is full of complex socio-historical changes and development of global consciousness, and deep influence of the process of industrialization and urbanization on the society. Sharp rise of social crises, natural and man-made disasters and the increase of social consequences are on the mind of every scientist. Mass media broadcasts the information about the frequent explosions, fires, aircraft, ocean vessels and marine disasters, floods, epidemics, riots, civil wars and other emergency situations. These situations take place alongside with the people's deep material and moral shock, social-economic, spiritual and cultural destruction. Such shock has a direct impact on conflict and formation of dependent situations, threatens the social security and sustainable development of the society. In most cases, the natural and anthropogenic emergency situations take place as a result of indifferent attitudes of authorities and social institutions towards the nature. So, incomplete development of civil society is based on the initiative and characterized by the weakness of conscious civil position.

Last 40 years 14 million people suffered from 131 major natural disasters, and their economic loss made up \$ 3.8 billion. The earthquake in Gaiti in 2010 (240 thousand victims), the largest flood in Asia (flooding one quarter of Pakistan territory), Brazil and Australia in 2011 (\$ 13 billion loss), devastating earthquake in Japan on March 11, 2011 “Fukusimo1” large-scale disaster at the nuclear power plant caused thousands of deaths and 26 missing people and economic loss of 300 billion dollars. These situations require the organization of systematic work by the state to eliminate the devastating social consequences of disasters in all affected regions. The comprehensive assessment of these matters and measurement of the mood of affected social groups need the forecasting near and far future development directions from sociological point of view, planning and design work.

According to information in 2014, 17779 natural and man-caused emergencies and events were registered on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the number of casualties was 4251 people, including 1202 victims. Even if there are not large-scale natural disasters in the country, according to the report of the Committee on Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2014, the damage is calculated every year from KZT 3.5 to 4.5 billion. According to the report in 2015, there were registered 17678 emergency situations in the country, compared to 2014, the indicators decreased by 0.6%, financial expenses increased by 10%. The country is responsible for life and social safety of the population, but every citizen must take care of social and environmental well-being. Big responsibility of citizens play a key role in

sustainable development of the state. Upbringing of educated, cultured, competent and responsible generation helps to develop the attitude to consider their lives as a value. Those people who value their lives take responsibility to their social mood as well. Sociological measurements of social mood of people who have experienced emergency situations reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the society, allows to shape directions that have strategic and tactical characteristics.

Emergency situations affect social system. Any disaster leads to loss of people or group of people. In this regard, negative social situations in the places where disaster has taken place and crisis and zone problems arising from the discontent of the people should be defined. According to the sociologists who study social consequences of disasters, many man-made and natural disasters build extreme behavior in people that can lead to insurrection, riot and conflict. Therefore, it is very important to study people's self-awareness who live in places where emergency situations have taken place or in the regions that are under the danger of emergency.

**The object of the study is** the local people who have experienced emergency situations in dangerous areas.

**The subject of the research** is to consider the social well-being of the population in emergency situations as an assessment of the stable development of society.

**The aim of the dissertation work** is on the bases of the social assessment of features and characteristics of social well-being of people who have experienced emergency situation (on the example of the East Kazakhstan oblast) to make proposals to regional authorities about the improvement of social policy regarding to various groups of citizens to form the strategies of social behavior of citizens before the emergency situation takes place, while the emergency situation and after emergency situation.

The purpose and structure of the work define the following set of tasks and solutions:

- to define the structure and typology, causes and consequences of social nature of emergency situations;
- to give a sociological definition to the category of "Social well-being", evaluate its research characteristics from methodological and methodical points of view in social sciences;
- to describe the socio-cultural factors that affect the social well-being and to suggest the effective use of ways of positive potential in emergency situations.
- to justify the opportunities of human potential in the society through showing the importance of social well-being as a subjective indicator.
- to group the system of necessary measures by local authorities to improve the social policy relating to population who live in emergency areas.
- to suggest behavior strategies that mobilize the full potential of human in an emergency through the effective use of international and domestic experience.
- to show the measures of social cooperation of local government, non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs and local population via the research of social well-being of people who have experienced emergency situation.

### **Theoretical and methodological bases:**

The dissertation work deals with basic principles of dialectics (communication, development, communication), as well as a systematic approach and structural-functional analysis.

Main methods of research are theoretical analysis, modeling, problem-chronological approach. At the same time, general cognitive methods (analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction), specific scientific methods: sociological information collection (document analysis, in-depth interview, questionnaire) and static (correlation analysis method), formal-logic (classification, typing and grouping) methods were used. Document analysis was widely used in the study of state reports, regulations, laws, government regulations and programmes.

News Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, information and reports of Committee in Emergency Situations, the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the President's message to the people form the **data bases of dissertation research**.

The empirical base of research serves the information of applied sociological research taken from residents of East Kazakhstan oblast, Tarbagatay region who experienced natural disaster on “The impact on the social well-being of people of the threat of emergency situations in the region” in September, 2014. Empirical data are based on the complex of methods, including methods of sociological research questionnaire and expert interviews (qualitative and quantitative). The purpose of the study is to evaluate the feeling secure in emergency situations and social well-being of people who experienced the emergency situations.

320 respondents took part in the questionnaire. Research took place among people of different age group of 18-72 years old. This area is taken as a test site for several reasons: firstly, a variety of natural and climatic conditions of East Kazakhstan can cause frequent emergency situations in its territory; secondly, people from places where disasters are common build a special relationship to such situations; thirdly, measurement of social well-being of people who have experienced disaster influences on the solution of various issues that arise from prevention or elimination of the consequences of emergency situation.

In this regard, experts of various specialties were interviewed in March 2016. Experts consisted of scientists who did research on this issue, representatives of governmental, non-governmental and business organizations who know well the population of the areas of ecological disaster emergency.

At the same time, scientific works of foreign and domestic researchers, monographs, periodicals, dictionaries, statistical compilations, as well as individual works related to the research issue are used in dissertation work.

**The novelty of the research is** its relevance and lack of thorough research. In particular, measurement of social well-being of people who live in regions where emergency situations take place is considered to be a subject of sociological research in domestic science of sociology for the first time.

The following new scientific findings are revealed in the study:

- emergency situations were classified according to the place of occurrence, characteristics, peculiarity, types and stages, structural and situational sociological analysis have been done to their social consequences;

- the category of “social well-being” has been scientifically based from methodological and methodical points of view and author's definition was given;

- socio-cultural factors that affect the people’s social well-being are studied and system of their effective use in emergency situations is suggested;

- the system of actions concerning the policy of social protection of people in emergency situations is analyzed and main ways of its improvements are shown;

- strategies of behavior were analyzed that give opportunity to social groups to act effectively in emergency situations;

- the importance of social well-being as a subjective indicator is justified;

- on the basis of research of social well-being of citizens of Tarbagatai (EKO) region who have experienced natural emergency situations, the system of specific measures was proposed that is necessary for mobilization of all sectors of society.

### **Main conclusions:**

- Emergency situations are natural phenomena, disasters, spontaneous or can be seen in the form of natural calamities, cause people material loss, moral and psychological shock, create conditions that is detrimental to health and human critical state. The volume of emergency and characteristics, its consequences are determined by the conditions that take place before the disaster. In addition, the period of time after the disaster and the time during the disaster give an opportunity to define the destructive effects of disaster on socio-cultural, economic, industrial, psychological, demographic processes.

- Social well-being is a subjective assessment that is based on the indicators that give an opportunity to evaluate the well-being of an individual or social group in terms of complex description of social, psychological, spiritual, moral, social and cultural, social and economic positions.

- Presented four groups of indicators, which determine social well-being in estimating society with sociological viewpoint: social security, social and psychological feelings, social satisfaction and expectation.

- In effective solution of emergency cases on the basis of the experience of civilized societies to develop the innovative informatization strategies that is aimed at using effectively opportunities of mass media, network communication technology achievements; to develop the co-sectoral partnership strategy aimed at building the cooperation of government, business and civil sectors; to develop interstate partnership aimed at establishment and improvement of system of three sector relationship in the areas where natural disaster take place.

- The state local authorities should activate the behavior of people before the emergency, during and after the emergency, and the economic, social, spiritual, cultural system of activities improve the social policy. According to it, it is necessary to develop initiative social programs aimed at developing activeness of the regional local government, civil and business organizations;

- Values based on ethnic, religious, social, demographic, sexual peculiarities of each nation give an opportunity to suggest effective types of strategies of

behaviour of social groups. Integrated strategy that is based on co-operation, mutual aid and support on society level has been proposed; adaptation strategy aimed at taking responsibility, reflecting the development of consciousness of post-industrial civilization; intervention, which is a reflection of civic consciousness, and active citizenship of specialists of various professions and volunteers who interfere in people's lives for the purpose of social support in crisis and catastrophic situations - guaranteeing sustainable development of society.

**Theoretical and practical significance:**

In the domestic sociology for the first time, studies were carried out with a view to the sociological assessment of the social well-being of the inhabitants of the regions that survived the difficulties of emergencies and natural disasters. The research is based on quantitative (questionnaires) and qualitative sociological methods (expert interviews). The importance of the results of this theoretical and methodological work can be used for further research and for the improvement of the actions of the state and public institutions that deal with emergency situations, for training of specialists of ministries, agencies and other organizations. The materials of the work can be used for compiling scientific and methodological manuals on the protection of nature and public health, for rendering lectures and seminars on discipline, «The theory of social catastrophes and crises», «Sociology of social security», «Sociology of Ecology», etc..

**Approbation of the main results of the research.** The main content of the thesis, the idea, the conclusions are reflected in 13 scientific articles, including 4 – in the editions recommended by CCSES, 8 – in proceedings of international conferences, 1 – in foreign journals indexed database SCOPUS.

**The structure of the thesis.** The thesis consists of introduction, two chapters (seven paragraphs), conclusion and bibliography.