



## ETHNOCULTURAL FACTORS OF SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR OF THE NORTH PEOPLE

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*Summary:* This article examines the ethnocultural factors in the origin of suicidal behavior of the North people. The main ethnocultural factor is unestimated psychological self-assessment of the aborigines of the North, which leads to alcoholism and suicide. The reason for this is intercultural conflict – pressure from eurocentrism.

**Keywords:** suicide, alcoholism, ethnocultural factors of suicide, psychological self-esteem, intercultural conflict, ethnocentrism, eurocentrism.

In the Russian Federation, since 1996 there is a pronounced downward trend in the number of suicides (the peak of suicides occurred in 1995 – 41 suicides per 100 thousand population). In 2011, this figure dropped to 21.4. Thus, the reduction in mortality from suicide in the whole of the Russian Federation amounted to 40% (compared to 1996).

In the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the number of suicides is not observed, as in the whole of the Russian Federation, the steady downward trend. The peak of suicides occurred in 2001 - 50.4 per 100 thousand population. In 2007 and 2008, respectively, suicide rate was 48.3 and 48.5, respectively, in 2009 - 46.9. Suicide rates in the three years of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (2007, 2008 and 2009) exceed a similar national average by about 1,6 times. In 2010 there has been a trend to reduce the number of suicides - 40.8. The decline was in 2010 - 5.3%. In 2011, the number of suicides - 40 per 100,000 population.

Suicide researcher in pre-revolutionary Yakutia Dmitri Shepilov in 1928, by analyzing the historical data of the Yakut, wrote in his Suicide in Yakutia (study): "in Yakutia in the early 19th century, the number of suicides in 1809 and 1810, respectively 23 and 17, that is about three times higher than in Russia» [5].

According to federal State statistics service for the 2009 year, leaders on the frequency of suicide among children - Tuva, Yakutia and Buryatia. At 100 thousand children aged 10 to 14 years there have consequently 15.6; 13.4 12.6 and suicides. These indicators are extremely high (3 times the Russian figures). In these same regions, there is the most unfavorable situation among teenagers 15-19 years: in Tuva-120.6 on 100 thousand, Buryatia-86.6 and Yakutia-74.2.

The whole flash suicide walked to the end of the twentieth century to the Indian Reservations USA and Latin America. The main causes of this epidemic of suicides are considered the destruction of ethnic traditions , reduction of habitat , lack of work , alcoholism . The most characteristic example - the Guarani- Kiowa Indian tribe in Brazil. His fate weekly "Newsweek", wrote in November 1991: "The wave of suicides started in 1987 and has since been



growing. Only in the last 19 months, 52 people lost their lives voluntarily. Average age - 17 years. In one of the tribes, numbering only 7,500 members, is now committed suicide annually by 4.5 per thousand people, which is about 150 times higher than the comparable figure for the whole of Brazil".

The high number of suicides in the national republics of the North of Russia (Komi Republic, the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia and the Republic Buryatia, Tuva Republic), especially teenage and childhood, and on Indian reservations U.S. and Brazil, indicates the presence of other than socio-economic factors, and other factors, including and "ethnocultural" factor in the origin of suicidal behavior. The high number of suicides of children and adolescents is a kind of "sensitive barometer of society," testifying to the cultural, spiritual crisis that has hit us.

Èthnocultural factor in the origin of the suicide in the first place there is the example of Hungary, which for a long time, until 1994, was leading by the number of suicides in the world. Hungarian language belongs to the Finno-Ugric language group. In terms of socio-economic development in Hungary was not behind its neighbors in "Kommunismus camp" – Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia, where the suicide rate was much lower. In the Russian Federation regions, where mostly people related to the Finno-Ugric language group (Komi, Udmurt Republic, the Republic of Mari-El), have always been a high rate of suicide. Other foreign countries with Finno-Ugric population also give similar high rates of suicides: Finland – 100 thousand population at 20.3 (2004), Estonia – 20.3 (2005 year).

Doctor of medicine, psychiatrist B. Polozhii in his article "Suicide in the context of ethnocultural Psychiatry" writes that the study of the frequency of suicide in the Komi Republic found that persons of Finno-Ugric nationalities at 94.9 per 100 000 population, 2.2 times higher than the rate among the Slavs (41.5) at 100 thousand of population and 1.7 times the average for the Republic [9]. The prevalence of suicide among Finno-Ugric tribes has increased in recent years, 1.6 times, and among the Slavs remained stable. These figures, according to Polozhy B., convincingly show a great predisposition to Finno-Ugrians suicide response. The frequency of suicide in Finno-Ugric subpopulation is higher among men (in 2.5 times) and women (in 2.7 times). Doctor B. Polozhii put out several ethnocultural factors that contribute to high suicidal activity of the Finno-Ugric peoples [4].

Chief among them is the factor of religious morality. In contrast to the Slavs, with more than a thousand years of Christian history, in which suicide is a grave sin, and therefore culturally deviant and denounced the act, the Finno-Ugric peoples, such restrictions are virtually absent. This is because, according to B. Polozhii put that Christianity came into their culture is only 350 years ago, and pretty much mandatory that hinder the implementation of the principles in the



consciousness of the people of Christian morality [4].

The second ethnocultural factors of suicide B. Polozhii we consider the existence of national (actually pagan) traditions of the Finno-Ugric peoples, which include belief in a future life in a new way and, accordingly, no fear of death. Therefore, independent of life care involves a quick and easy return to it on difficult situation [ibid.]

The third feature of ethnocultural suicides Finno-Ugric nationalities is, according to BS rely on, their antitsipatsion inconsistency. The fact that the Finno-Ugric culture imposes a taboo on forecasting life, dictating the necessity of anticipating a positive event. As a result, a mismatch of personal forecast of development with its real unfavorable course can take a stressful and suicide character [ibid.]

In our opinion, the level of religiosity in the Russian society low - in the country for too long cultivated atheism (from 1917 to 1993), so few Russians now know the Christian commandment reads scripture. An example of the above may be data of modern Russian political scientists V. Yakunin, V. Baghdasaryan: "The vast majority of believers are denominated in Russia have a very distand relation of religion... Only a very small quantity of Russian regularly visit temples (7%), read the Gospel (2%), and thus the true number of Orthodox faithful in Russia does not exceed 7% of the population "[7, P. 197].

We believe that the main ethnocultural factors in the origin of the high number of suicides among the peoples of the Russian North is a negative impact on the natives of the North of the social and psychological phenomena as Eurocentrism. Eurocentrism is a special variant of ethnocentrism.

The essence of ethnocentrism as a socio-psychological phenomenon boils down to having a total mass of irrational positive views about their own culture as a certain "nuclei" around which are grouped other ethnic groups [Ethnopsychological Dictionary, 1999]. It contributes to the development of poor people's awareness about the customs, beliefs, traditional occupations are members of small ethnic groups, which often leads to conflict.

Ph.D., a sociologist A. Dmitriev writes about ethnic conflicts, as follows: "With regard to the aspirations of various ethnic groups themselves (economic, political, cultural), then, of course, makes no sense to them somehow suppress, much less condemn. Each ethnic group is inherently desire not only to maintain but also to fully expand its territory, to preserve their language, culture and identity "[1, P. 174].

According to the Russian culture expert L. Kulikova Eurocentric cultural superiority manifests signs of all the peoples of Europe in relation to non-European peoples [2, P. 37]. Modern German specialist in communications theory G. Maletske, developing a theory of

intercultural communication in the context of cultural anthropology, said: "At least since the New Age , Europeans , and after them, Americans are convinced that they own the only true culture and civilization . Europeans see themselves as an example of all nations and cultures ... "[by: 2, P. 37].

Eurocentrism leads to the alienation of people of the North (especially young people ) from their own culture, when a technological global civilization cultivates in the public mind the image of a " standard" of a successful person , usually belonging to the European race and culture . Alienation from traditional culture, the disparity of their social and physical status of the reference specimen of mass media leads to low self-esteem in a fragile psyche of teenagers and young men. A low self-esteem, in our opinion, is the primary psychological trigger factor of suicidal behavior and leads to alcoholism.

B. Polozhii confirms the above: "The next aspect is occurred in the XX century, the loss of the Finno -Ugric peoples of our country of its traditional religious and cultural roots, which was due to the introduction of violent alien to the Finno-Ugric peoples moral values, principles and behaviors that are not appropriate historical traditions of professional activities, in the suppression of the indigenous population a sense of national identity. All this reduces the psychological stability of people increases their vulnerability psychogenic, resulting in the development of suicidal behavior "[4].

Russian ethnographer and historian S. Tokarev said: "Respect for the culture of each nation, though considered to be backward, careful and cautious attitude to the people - the creators of such a culture. Rejection of the arrogant self-aggrandizement Europeans as carriers allegedly absolute values and infallible judges - all of this, of course, sound scientific idea that deserves serious attention "[3, P. 290].

Ethnocentrism as one of the major anthropological constants, invariably affects the behavior of people in their attitude towards other cultures [2, P. 37]. In this context of cultural studies is a negative phenomenon is considered the biggest challenge of cross-cultural communication, and in overcoming it, we see the main problem in the prevention of suicidal behavior in young people of the North. Therefore, the main task in the prevention of suicide among young people is to cultivate a positive attitude towards cultural differences - the ability to conduct the existence of other indigenous culture and adapt to it, not even to integrate into it. This version of the response to a different culture is much rarer.

Modernity, globalization should lead to the interpenetration of cultures, the exchange of material and spiritual values. At the same time you need to create the conditions for the harmonious development of the personality of each person - self-identity. The famous German



sociologist Norbert Elias stated: "There must come a time of We-are a group identity on the human level" [6, P. 323].

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