HEALTH SAVING TECHNOLOGIES IN HUMAN CAPITAL FORMATION
AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST FEDERAL DISTRICT

M. Sokolskaya, A. Tkachenko
Far Eastern State Transportation University, Khabarovsk, Russia

Abstract

The problem of the human capital is one of the most urgent issues of the present. The purpose of this article is to define the strategies of health saving technologies development in human capital formation. The paper draws on the research conducted by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) in 2001 - 2015. The institutional approach is presented as the most fruitful in the research of problems of the human capital. The quality of human capital’s reproduction is defined by the quality of social institutions participating in this reproduction and is, therefore, ensured by progress in family, health care, education and social protection of the population. In the most general view the activity of any social institution is aimed at satisfaction of social imperatives. Social imperatives are the main driving factor of human capital reproduction, accumulation and improvement. Therefore, health protection technologies in human capital formation should be aimed, first of all, at the satisfaction of needs of a person. As the structure of person’s requirements and, consequently, the quality of the human capital can change throughout various periods of his/her life, health saving technologies should also be improved to stay on the rise.

Keywords: human capital, social institutions, person’s needs, health saving technologies, social and economic policy

Relevance

“Complication of external organizational environment” and “competition toughening” in the world market are characteristic of the modern period of society’s development. This

Sokolskaya Marina Vyacheslavovna – Doctor of psychological sciences, Professor, Head of the Department “General, legal and engineering psychology”, Far Eastern State Transportation University, Khabarovsk, Russia;
Address: 47, Serysheva street, Khabarovsk, 680000; phone: +7(4212)407343
E-mail: mvsokolskaya@mail.ru
period requires research of “new ways to increase efficiency” of the organization and ensure
the stability of people’s life (Fortis, Weinert, Bushinski, Koehler, & Beilman, 2014; Garau,
The human capital is being considered by experts (managers, economists, intellectuals) as a
possibility of investments into the future of mankind, as a strategic factor for the organization
and society. For a country it is even more important than material resources such as “the plants,
the equipment, technologies” (Glukhenkaya, 2014).

State of the problem

The social and economic processes taking place in modern Russia clearly demonstrate that
the vector of the Russian investment policy is still mainly aimed at the capital reproduction, but not at
the human capital. A society may have an unprecedented natural and reproductive potential, but being
discharged of the state investment in the population, that society risks expending the fixed capital,
or the human one. Experience of the developed countries shows that the profitability of investment
in the human capital is higher than the profitability of investment in the reproductive capital and that
investments in health and education are the most effective ones (Pretty, Barton, Pervez Bharucha,
Bragg, Pencheon, Wood, & Depledge, 2016; Arthyuhov, Gorbach, & Lisnyak, 2008).

Among the basic attributes of human capital there are: physical, mental and spiritual
health, knowledge and abilities, experience, culture level, innovative potential, etc. Therefore,
investments into human capital include preservation and promotion of health, education,
medical and social care with a particular focus on youth who will define our future (Novikov,
Artyuhov, & Kapitonov, 2008; Artyuhov, Novikov, & Kapitonov, 2007).

The young population becomes the most effective and perspective sphere of
investment of the human capital, provided that the educational environment it is surrounded
by is focused on health forming and health protection.

This research objective is to define the strategies of health saving technologies
development in human capital formation.

Materials and methods

To achieve the research purpose a range of scientific research methods were used
including the historical method to describe the formation and development of the “human
capital” category; general scientific methods of the social description (i.e., the system method was used to consider a research object in the form of a system and to analyze interaction of the system elements); the comparative analysis method consisting in studying materials presented in research literature, their analysis and comparison; sociological methods such as expert poll and analysis of statistical documents.

The paper draws on the research conducted by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) in 2001 - 2015.

Various computer databases and the Internet materials were also used.

Results and their discussion

Considering theoretical approaches and methodology of studying human capital formation, it should be noted, firstly, that in the course of the person’s activity, their knowledge, skills and motivation represent the capital as a resource that brings a considerable social and economic effect, provided that it is rationally used.

Secondly, the human capital, human resources, vital forces of the person can be considered as the person’s internal wealth, originally existing as a “transcendental object”.

Thirdly, the process of human capital production and reproduction can be understood at this transformation as “a thing for itself” and for society.

Fourthly, like any other type of capital, the human capital requires investment and it is characterized by higher norms of return in comparison with other types of the capital.

Fifthly, social institutions are a basic form of human capital reproduction. Social institutions form social standards. Change of parameters of the social environment influences human capital reproduction and possibility of the satisfaction of human needs.

Being the main sources of human capital reproduction, institutions organize joint activity of people for the satisfaction of certain social requirements (Sinyushin, 2002). Particularly, the institution of family satisfies the need for reproduction of the human race and education of children, realizes relations between the sexes, generations, etc. The institution of the higher education provides training of labour force, improves quality of the human capital, gives the chance to a person to develop their abilities, to use them in follow-up activities and to ensure quality of these activities.
The participation of social institutions in the formation of the personality as carrier of human capital depends on stages of development of the person and their functional importance and a role. On every new stage a human enters as a by-product into some educational institution and leaves it in the form of a ready-made product with the necessary merits (capital) potentially ready to carry out economic, social, spiritual and moral activity. Efficiency of these abilities has no visible limits.

Therefore, reproduction of the human capital in many aspects is defined by the level of development of social institutes of this reproduction, such as family, health care, education and social protection of the population.

Proceeding from characteristics of social institutes, their social qualities on production of the human capital it is necessary to precise: a) which institutes form human’s potential, 2) how functional human capital is, and 3) what has the priority.

Considering activity of any social institute in the most general view, it is possible to say that its main function is the satisfaction of social requirements for the sake of what it has been created and exists.

That is why we can say that requirements are the main driving factor of reproduction, accumulation, improvement of the human capital. Therefore, health protection technologies in formation of the human capital have to be directed, first of all, to satisfaction of needs of the personality (Sokolskaya, Tkachenko, 2016).

The structure of requirements can change at the same person throughout various periods of his life, respectively and quality of the human capital at the person will change, so health saving technologies also have to be improved and developed dynamically.

Increase in requirements leads to growth of investments into the human capital. On the other hand, the level of investments into the human capital depends on their efficiency. The more the investments into the human capital effectively used, the less they are required.

Human resources for health are necessary to the delivery of health services; only by securing a sufficient, equitably distributed, adequately supported and well-performing health workforce can meet any health goals and targets set by national governments or the international community. In spite of the recognition of this central role in attaining health
outcomes, investments in human resources for health have been and still are constrained by
the perception that the health economy (and the health workers within it) is a consumptive
sector, whose costs governments should strive to decrease. But this sector is a contributor to
socio-economic development in its own right. This thematic series sought to examine and
broaden the evidence on the contribution of investment in human resources for health to
broad development outcomes in other sectors, including synergies with education, finance,
employment, gender empowerment and peace building.

As the main research was conducted in Khabarovsk Territory, it is necessary to tell
about the characteristic of the human capital in the region and make an analysis of one of the

The human capital in this regional social and economic system is defined by two
components: quantity living in the territory of able-bodied population and its qualitative (first
of all educational) characteristics.

A sustainable development of regions of the Far East depends from social policy of
the state, the welfare sphere and, finally, quality of life of the population as final assessment
of activity of state governing bodies, enterprise structures, economic heads, experts and all
society in general.

During 1992 – 2008 Khabarovsk Region suffered from depopulation. Processes of
decrease in population and its demographic characteristics’ deterioration were caused by birth
rate and mortality rate increase and migratory outflow of people out of borders of the territory
of the region.

Development of a health system in Khabarovsk Region in 1992-2008 did not
promote improvement of quality of human potential. Moreover, the low level of the income
of an overwhelming part of the population created the powerful financial barriers limiting
possibilities of receiving high-quality services in the sphere of human capital’s creation. Thus,
now annual charges on paid education practically on all specialties are already comparable to
the average per capita monetary income of the population of the region, and for villagers they
exceed them. However, deeper analysis shows that in the region there is also other tendency:
expenses of the population of Khabarovsk Region in education as an indicator of investments
into the human capital grow. In 2008 they have increased 6 times in comparison with 2001 and they considerably exceeded growth rates of education’s cost.

The significant effect on investment into the human capital and processes of his accumulation in the region are rendered by territorial and branch differentiation of the personal income which stimulates inside and extra-regional mobility of the population. On the one hand, it causes concentration of human resources in the large cities of region (Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur) where the level of the income is much higher than in rural areas and small cities. As a result of there is an outflow of people from peripheral areas. On the other hand, the smaller size of the income in comparison with big cities of the European part of the country leads to migration of highly qualified workforce from Khabarovsk Region.

Khabarovsk Region has a high level of educational potential of the population which provides higher efficiency in a number of industries of the region. This factor is considered by experts as indisputable advantage of the region in the investment competition to other subjects of the Russian Federation. According to modern researches of domestic and foreign experts this factor’s value, its investment’s attraction and use of the capitals is extremely big and can be a basic priority in investment decisions making.

Despite many positive results of development of economy and the social sphere in recent years, a number of negative factors continue to exert impact on a social and economic situation in the Far East and Khabarovsk Region in particular.

The region has the following specific features: remoteness from the federal center, high prices for fuel and transport expenses, growth of tariffs for electric and thermal energy. Tendencies of growth of the real wage and the monetary income per capita in the region, the region and the country in general coincide, but their rates in the Far East and in Khabarovsk Region lag behind. The access of most of Far Easterners to scientific and cultural values of Russia, resorts and sanatoria, is impossible because of transport tariffs. People are deprived of an opportunity to meet the relatives living in the western regions of the country.

The region lags behind not only at the level of the real monetary income, but also in consumption of the main services which reflect quality of life and migratory appeal of the Far East.
Perspective development of the social sphere and economy of Khabarovsky Region substantially depends on external factors and conditions which exert impact on regional economy. These are changing conditions of world economy and Russian one. Due to its specific geographical transport location Khabarovsky Region of Russia is an adjacent region with the most high-growth part of world economy.

One of the most important questions of strategic development of the Far East is formation of resident population of the region, its social development and employment. In recent years some measures for preservation of the local population were undertaken. Those measures concerned health care, preferential air traffic for separate categories of the population and a number of purely economic measures for development of new industries and, respectively, to creation of new jobs. Medium-term and long-term problems of post-crisis development consist in formation of new structure of local economy. The solution of these tasks is a necessary condition of dynamic and sustainable development of the country and the Far East.

It is known that any interregional redistribution of the economic resources is connected primarily with formation of social infrastructure attractive to the population, leads to change of an orientation and intensity of migration flows. And finally in many respects it defines characteristics of population and territory’s labour force characteristics. The realization of national projects leads to a new situation in social development of territories, their interterritorial interactions and respectively, to formation of good social characteristics of the population living in regions. We mean educational level, average age, medical assistance, etc.

Khabarovsky Region has accumulated a considerable experience of management of these processes. Traditionally in territories with serious problems with formation of resident population the local authorities have paid close attention to local population’s quantitative and qualitative characteristics.

Till 2003 outflow of the population from the region exceeded arrival indicators, and at the same time qualitative nonequivalence of replacement was distinctly traced (young and qualified specialists were leaving this region and many aging people with low professional standard were arriving).
The mentioned problems became the cause for realization in Khabarovsk Region of some projects directed to form and retain highly qualified workforce.

First, since 1998 there has been implemented a number of programs for formation of the state order for experts, including those ones for the remote and rural areas.

Secondly, local authorities stimulated the participation of local business community of the region in workforce training. Such large enterprises as KNAAPO, the Far East railroad have detailed programs for training of specialists.

Thirdly, local universities have chosen development strategies which correlate with requirements of economic system of Khabarovsk Region. Among those universities it is necessary to mention especially Komsomolsk-na-Amure State Technical University and Far Eastern State Transportation University which contribute greatly in formation of specialists of rare professions.

Fourthly, some banks namely Khabarovsk branch of VTB Bank, MTS Bank and NOMOS-Regiobank provided financial assistance to the process of formation of qualified specialists.

As a result the situation with population’s migration improved.

**Conclusion**

When estimating the migration situation in Khabarovsk Region since 2003 according to official statistics, it is possible to speak about an achieved balance of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the arriving and leaving workforce. Approximately the same number of people comes and leaves. The age, education level and professional experience of migrants have also close characteristics.

The absence of deterioration in the human capital in the territory should be estimated as positive result of long-term and purposeful work on fixing of the population and, first of all of its most qualified and educated part.

Development of the Far East on the basis of its richest natural resources is only a general basis. Essentially, at the moment the most perspective the innovative model of development of economy of the region looks like this. This model assumes diversification of economy with the emphasis on development of the human capital, on stimulation
of emergence of new kinds of activity, avoidance of further degradation of the region. Developing according to this scenario, the region will be able to reach growth rates planned in “the Concept of 2020”, to increase the gross regional product (GRP) level per capita and to overcome lag with European part of Russia.

Minimum necessary average annual rates of a gain of GRP according to this scenario have to make about 7.7% a year against 6.7% according to the central Russia’s scenario. Only in this case the region will get advantage in growth (260% against 230% across Russia on average), to keep population and to provide realization of social welfare tasks. Such approach will provide the minimum necessary base for further sustainable and dynamic development of the Far East and ensure an increasingly larger Russia’s role in the Pacific Rim region.

Thus, the human capital seems to be the main value of modern society and a fundamental factor of economic growth both of the country in general and of a separately taken region in particular. In order to increase the human capital, it is necessary to pay attention to its every component.

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