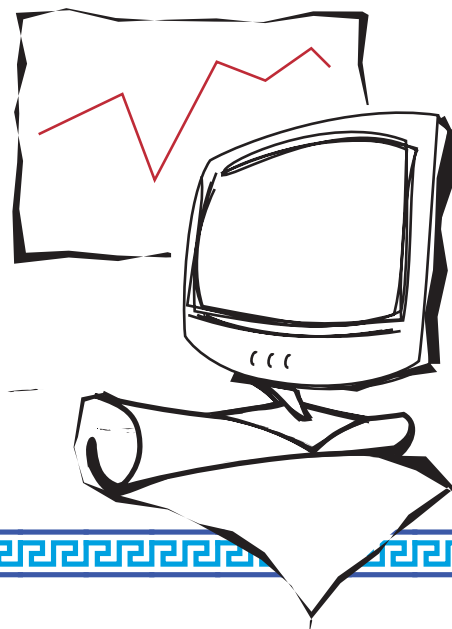


Sophist



Information Bulletin

This year The Russian Sociological Data Archive held the Second methodological seminar «Statistics without tears: regression modeling with the NESSTAR». The program included a brief course of lectures, work in the computer class,

final research paper defense. The seminar took place in Snegiri village not far from Moscow. It was attended by 19 participants from different regions of Russia and former USSR countries. We

COMMENTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

I have got most positive impressions of the second seminar, held by the Russian Sociological Data Archive.

A unique teaching staff, the newest software, most comfortable conditions for the studies and friendly atmosphere — this all comes back after the seminar. But what is more important are the results: the experience of the work with the new type of data and communication with the colleagues who have similar problems and queries.

On the basis of the skills I acquired at the seminar, I am planning to hold several seminars at the Yaroslavl State University. The received information will be very relevant for my colleagues in Yaroslavl whose scientific interests lie in the field of international socio-political and various cross-culture research.

Many thanks to the moderators for their perfect work and the opportunity to widen professional horizons.

Olga Yeparkhina,
Department of Sociology, Yaroslavl State University,
named after P.G. Demidov

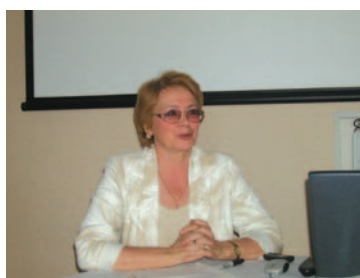
My participation in the Second seminar «Statistics without tears: regression modeling with the NESSTAR» was undoubtedly very useful. Information richness of the seminar in combination with the informal communication formed a basis for my own further research and joint projects with my colleagues.

The use of the Russian Archive data makes it possible to even the «remoteness» of the provincial researchers from the center, and give them an opportunity to operate with the same data, which are available to our Moscow colleagues.

Many thanks to the organizers!

Natalya Volkova,
Biysk Technological Institute,
Department of Enterprise Economy

... I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the summer school for the work, which was accomplished on a very high level and with the respect for the invited participants. In my turn, I will try to share



ALL ROADS ARE OPEN FOR US? POSSIBILITIES FOR VERTICAL MOBILITY IN THE SOVIET SOCIETY

Among the data stored in the Russian Sociological Data Archive this year are the results of the survey Your Labor Biography held by the RAS Institute of Sociology in 1983. The survey was carried out in seven regions: Tyumen, Tataria, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzia, Far East, Voronezh and Abkhazia. The questionnaire contained a block of questions which allowed to measure both intra- and inter-generation mobility. It should be noted that the methodological approach of this work to the understanding of the society structure was fully limited within the frame of the Soviet discourse — in this research society was viewed as a cluster of three groups: workers, collective farmers and employees. However, even within the framework of this approach one can observe the hierarchy structure of society organization and some channels of the vertical mobility.

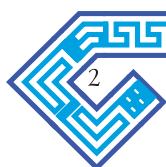
Among other questions the respondents were asked, «What was your occupation at the beginning of your labor activity?» and «What is your occupation at present?» Results are displayed in the Table 1.

According to Table 1 in case of the population mobility the transit from the low status positions to more prestigious ones was provided by two channels — professional growth and raising of the educational level. A more detailed structure of each position is given in Charts 1—8, which show what share the different initial labor positions have in the current status. Thus, among the respondents who are at present low-skilled workers, 58 % began their labor activity just from the same position, 20 % lowered their qualification by going down to this status from the former position of semi-skilled workers. Those who started their labor activity in the position of highly skilled workers are not present in this group, collective farmers of different categories comprise 16 %, employees — 8 % (Chart 1). Among

	What was your occupation at the beginning of your labor activity?	What is your occupation at present?
low-skilled worker	24.8	3.6
semi-skilled worker	32.0	25.6
highly skilled worker	3.4	17.1
collective farmer engaged in physical work	4.0	0.6
collective farm mechanic	2.9	2.0
collective farmer of other categories	1.7	1.6
employee without higher or secondary specialized education	9.2	5.6
employee with higher or secondary specialized education	18.0	39.0
other	0.0	0.7
no answer	3.9	4.3

the semi-skilled workers 51 % began their career exactly in the same position, other 34 % raised their qualification from the former category, and also we have here only 1 % of highly-skilled workers, 7 % of collective-farmers, and 7 % of employees (Chart 2). The high qualifications served as a sort of guarantee from downward mobility. Moreover it provided absolute advantages in the situation of the further career development. Table 2 shows answers to the question Have you ever been a boss? in relation to the initial working positions of the respondents.

	initial labor positions							
	low-skilled worker	semi-skilled worker	highly skilled worker	collective farmer engaged in physical work	collective farm mechanic	collective farmer of other categories	collective farmer of other categories	employee without higher education
have never been a boss	71%	69%	41%	78%	78%	79%	64%	56%
headed a team, unit	16%	15%	19%	11%	22%	5%	12%	14%
headed a work section, workshop, department	13%	16%	43%	4%	0%	11%	20%	29%
headed an enterprise, institution, collective farm	0.7%	0.3%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%
worked in governmental, party, trade-union, comsomol institutions	2%	3%	11%	7%	0%	5%	4%	4%



Among all the population groups it was highly skilled workers who formed a forge of bosses which supplied superiors of different levels: only 41 % of the respondents, who began their labor activity in this category never occupied a leading position. Without doubt, the trajectory of mobility was not straight — the road to high status positions ran through a certain checkpoint — the active. Only by going through it, one could expect a further promotion, but being a worker in

the beginning of the career was most welcome. Education as a channel of the vertical mobility gave a chance to go up a bit, but the ceiling of career was rather low — only 6 % of the respondents in this category occupied positions higher than heads of the workshop or department. The least opportunity for the career development was accessible for rural residents: about 80 % of the respondents in this group never occupied leading positions.

Chart 1

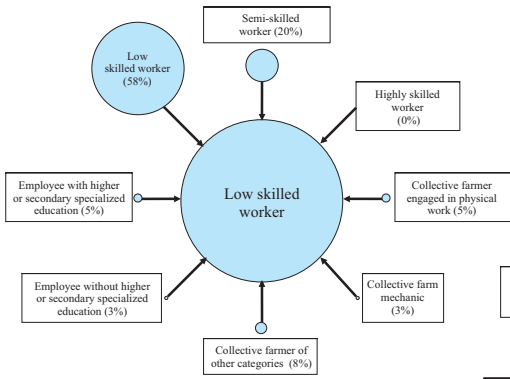


Chart 2

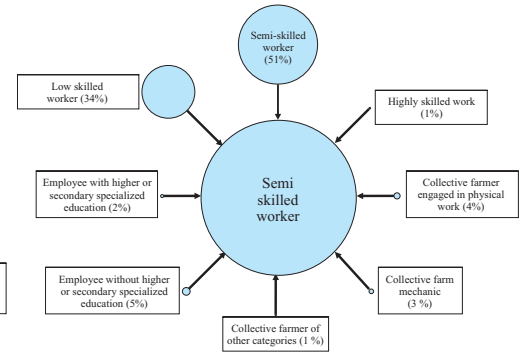


Chart 3

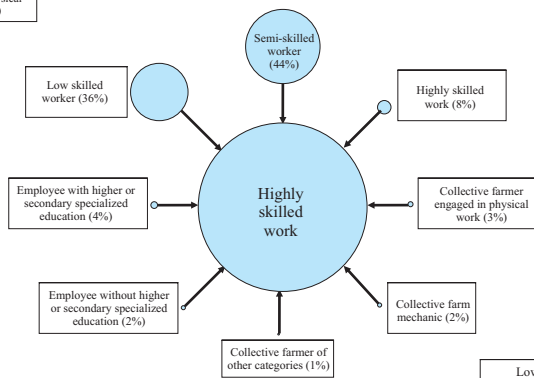


Chart 4

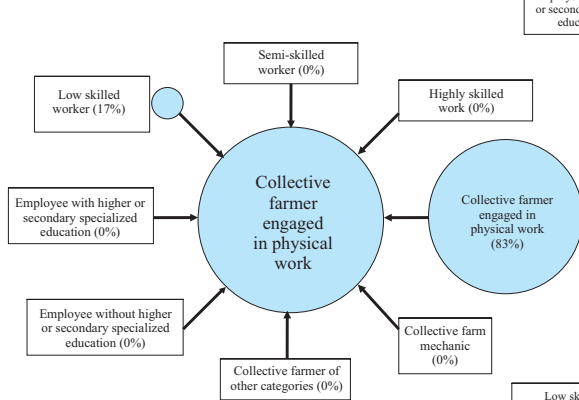


Chart 5

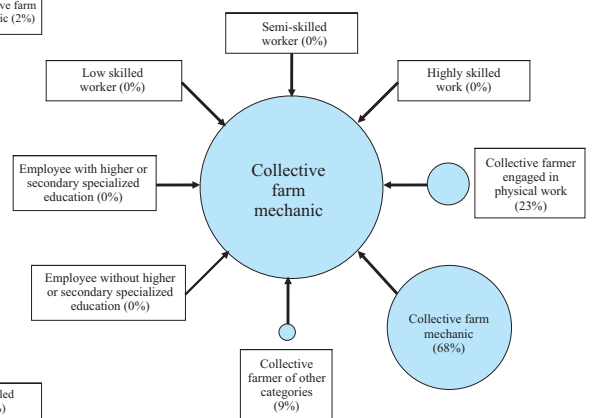


Chart 6

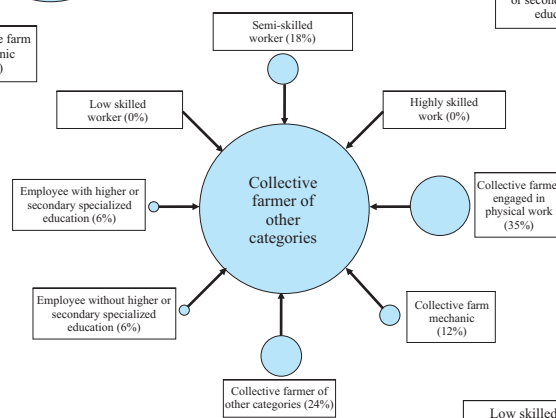


Chart 7

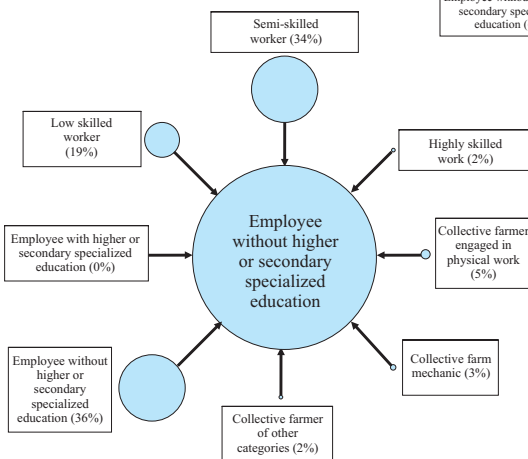
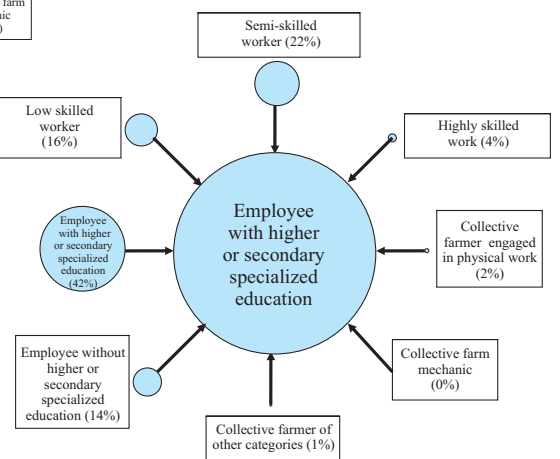


Chart 8





the knowledge with my colleagues and students, provided that we have necessary technical possibilities.

Ramil Khanipov,
Kazan State Technical University, named after Tupolev,
Department of Sociology, Political Sciences and
Management

The seminar has given me a lot:

— I have understood what problems researchers face today, particularly in the theory of measuring and post-hoc analysis;

— I have acquired momentum to establish new creative connections, which will in future take shape in new successful joint projects;

— I have got acquainted with the literature on modern research which will be useful for the teachers at our university.

Semen Leontiev,
Department of Mathematical Economy, Institute of
Mathematics and Informatics of the Yakutsk State University,
named after M.K. Ammosov

I thank the organizers for the opportunity to be acquainted with the work of the Russian Archive of

Sociological Data and the NESSTAR system. The knowledge will help me organize the work of students on a new level, carry out research in the field of my interests. The information about the seminar made my colleagues interested and I am planning to tell them in detail about the possibilities this kind of work offers.

Svetlana Goncharova,
Pacific State University of Economy,
Department of Philosophy and Political Sciences

I would like to thank the organizers of the Second seminar for the opportunity. The week of intensive and fruitful work made it possible to accomplish the set tasks. The seminar provided a lot of interesting materials and wonderful experience. We established good contacts among the participants for further cooperation in the sphere of information exchange and joint projects on the regional level. Pleasant and warm atmosphere of the studies will stay in my memory for a long time.

Nadezhda Korytnikova,
Kharkov National University, named after V.N. Karazin,
Department of Methods of Sociological Research



My impressions of the seminar are most positive. The organization was wonderful; I have what to compare with. I can give the highest mark to the level of the event. I liked both the location of the seminar and organization of the check-in itself: meeting, transportation, and settlement. The Russian Sociological Data Archive gives a happy opportunity to obtain information from one source. By the way, the informative system «Sophist» turned interesting not only for the people, connected with sociology and political studies, but also for information technologists: they recognized both the idea of the archive itself and the NESSTAR software complex as quite advanced.



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