
A STUDY OF ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIO-POLITICAL RELATIONS IN A PROVINCIAL TOWN

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Abstract

The article presents results of studying the situation in socio-political, interethnic and socio-religious relationships in the provincial districts in Tyumen region in the year 2015. The main problems considered in the research were the following: to characterize the social and political activity of Tyumen region's population; to analyse the socio-religious relations between people; to reveal the level of interethnic group conflicts between the inhabitants of Tyumen region and to determine the attitude of the population toward the local government activity. Citizens of provincial towns aged 18 and older and those who were officially registered in the location where the research was held took part in the questionnaire. Analysis showed that most of the respondents evaluate their wealth positively. The received answers in general show stability of social well-being of people in the provincial towns in Tyumen region. Three quarters of respondents estimated the socio-political situation in Tyumen region as stable. The probability of protest mass actions in provincial towns is low. The results of the research give reasons to asseverate that no significant tensions exist in the interethnic and confessional relations and the socio-political situation is stable.

Keywords: interethnic, socio-religious relations, provincial district, Tyumen region, social well-being

1. Introduction

Tyumen Region is one of the fastest growing regions in the multinational Russian Federation. According to the latest population census, the region is home of more than 143 nationalities and ethnic groups. As one of the most

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prosperous regions of the Russian Federation for their socio-economic and socio-political situation, Tyumen region attracts migrants from former Soviet republics. This can lead to social tensions in the ethnic and religious sphere of the region.

The principles of the state policy in the sphere of national, state-religious and socio-political relations are enshrined in a number of legal acts, including the Russian Constitution, which speaks of their relevance to the modern Russian society. However, for a full control over the situation, the government needs to take into account expectations and needs of the people, the interests of the representatives of different religious and ethnic groups. In order to maintain stability, prevent conflicts and social interethnic confrontation, the state should timely identify the situations of possible tension, associated with the specific for the modern world problems as competition for jobs, participation in power, threat to personal safety and fear of cultural identity loss. This includes constant monitoring of the views of residents not only from large cities, but also from provincial towns such as Ishim and Yalutorovsk in Tyumen region.

2. Theoretical and methodological basis of the research

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research included the works of foreign and domestic authors, devoted to the theoretical aspects of the concept of political culture and tolerance in social interaction. In the study of the factors of social conflict there are applied conflict theory and ethical processuality [1, 2]. Using a system approach allows to reveal the influence of society on the information of people about each other and analyse the system of relations of the individuals in society. Analysis of the interaction between members of different ethnic groups is based on the social identity theory.

Ethno-cultural and civil identity are significant characteristics of modern Russia, along with different types of identity [3-5]. In the period of social and economic transformation, the national identity is being changed fact which can acquire a discriminatory nature. The change of national identity and its domination over the civic identity often leads to ethnic conflicts [6]. Therefore, in the process of studying the institutional mechanisms of interaction between the civil society and government in the context of socio-political, ethnic and socio-religious relations, the civil society is considered as a set of social institutions of secular, religious and ethno-national character, which allows individual citizens and their associations to realize their interests, whereas the state is considered as a structured social and political institution in charge of the main activities of public institutions within their administrative territorial integrity and competence [7-9].

3. Methodology

The sociological monitoring of public opinion in political, ethnic and socio-religious relations is an urgent task and it has undoubted practical

significance, since it allows to obtain reliable information, which helps in making management decisions to ensure a socially efficient mode of development of the region [10].

The need for sociological monitoring is determined by several factors. Priority attention should be paid to the unique position and role of the provincial districts of the Tyumen region in the socio-economic, political and cultural development of the country. The size of the territory of the region occupies the third place in the Russian Federation, and the thirteenth by the number of inhabitants. Having Russia's largest natural resource potential and great economic power, the region has been for decades a major supplier of strategic energy resources.

System study of civil society is possible in the separation of its different dimensions: the ideal and the real, the general and the special, the regional and the national-specific, the cultural and the socio-political. Institutional interaction between civil society and the state is understood in the present work as the essential characteristic, conceptual content, a set system of relationships, due to the relevant purpose and the resources available, implemented according to certain rules and regulations, formed under the influence of historical, ethnic, religious, economic, cultural, family, political and other factors, directed on streamlining the organizational mutual activities in the field of socio-political, ethnic and socio-religious relations [11, 12].

The electoral population of the Tyumen region that form the basis of the civil society in the region is included in the dynamic system of social interaction in the sphere of international, state-confessional and socio-political relations. The essential elements of this system are the factors that are divided into three groups.

The first group of factors includes general and specific factors. General factors include socio-economic conditions of development of the territory in accordance with the concept of the state policy in the sphere of inter-ethnic, religious and socio-political relations. These factors are constant. Specific factors characterize the features of the implementation of the state policy in these areas on the territory of the Russian Federation subject based on its historical experience of inter-ethnic cooperation and cross-cultural interaction, multifaceted activities of social institutions and its involvement in migration flows.

The second group of factors includes the direct and indirect ones. The direct factors are directly recorded in the object of study (the population of the provincial districts of Tyumen Region): it belongs to the citizens of a certain age and sex, type of settlement, educational achievements and the sphere of social and professional activities. The indirect factors are fixed by the declared subject of identification with a particular group or community (ethnic identity, religious affiliation, political position, marital status, self-assessment of their own financial position, and others).

The third group of factors includes both objective and subjective ones. The objective ones characterize the conditions and circumstances, forming the subject preconditions of its involvement in the international system, socio-religious and political relations, determine the subjective factors associated with the processing of the external environment in the mind and psyche of the individual.

Between these groups of factors there is some connection, which is revealed in the sociological study:

- positive or negative opinion of the residents of the region about the representatives of different nationalities, confessions, supporters of the political parties and their assessment of the situation in the sphere of inter-ethnic, social, religious and socio-political relations. They are formed under the influence of sustainable behavioural stereotypes learned during the socialization of the individual;
- stereotypes of consciousness manifested in the process of identification of the individual with a particular ethnic, religious and community opposition ‘Myself’ against ‘Them’;
- a collision of interests of social groups;
- the level of conflicts on ethnic, religious, socio-economic and political grounds in the region depends on the effectiveness of existing measures of public policy to regulate ethnic, social, religious and socio-political relations.

The purpose of the study is a research of the situation in the areas of political, ethnic and socio-religious relations in the provincial areas of the Tyumen region in 2015. The research tasks are:

1. to characterize the social and political activity of the inhabitants of the Tyumen region,
2. to consider the social and religious attitudes of the population,
3. to identify the level of inter-ethnic tension between citizens of the Tyumen region,
4. to determine population’s assessment of the activity of the municipal authorities.

The object of study is the population of provincial cities aged 18 and older, who are citizens of the Russian Federation at the moment of the sociological study and are officially registered in the locality as the point of the interview. The sample volume was 340 respondents and was formed with representation of the quota method of the adult population by gender and age at every point of the study.

The study used quota type of sample, which is a micro model of the studied object. This sample was formed on the basis of statistical data (parameters quotas) on the socio-demographic characteristics of the elements of the population. In our case, the object of study is people living in provincial areas of the Tyumen region. The quota sampling method differs from the actuarial that presupposes the existence of statistical data on the essential characteristics of the total population. However, this information is not used to

determine the sample size as in the subsequent selection of respondents is carried out not by chance but deliberately with the help of interviewers. Therefore, in the case of quota, the sample value is determined on the basis of the established decades of experience and from 200 to 500 units of observation, depending on the complexity of the test object. In our case, the amount of the total sample of 340 respondents for each of the two studies seems to be sufficient.

4. Data analysis method

Analysis of the data of sociological study was performed by means of the licensed version of SPSS 19.0. After primary information processing, a linear distribution of respondents' answers to questions posed in the questionnaire analysis was made. The data obtained in this phase of the study are the main object of study and subject to interpretation and description. Another object of the data analysis at this stage is to compress the collected empirical information aimed at identifying general trends and 'isolation' hidden in its statistical regularities (Table 1).

Table 1. Main significates and indicators of sociological research.

Problem	Significant	Indicators
To characterize the social and political activity of the inhabitants of a country town	Social activity	The interest of the respondent in socio-economic situation
		Estimation by the population of the area of the level of political stability in the region
	Social and political stability	Probability of taking part in mass actions
		Satisfaction of the population with the activities of the regional authorities to ensure conditions for the realization of civil initiatives
To consider the social and religious attitudes of the population	Religious tolerance	The religious self-identity of respondents
		Assessment of intensiveness of interreligious relations
		Sympathies and antipathies of people of different religions
To identify the level of inter-ethnic tension between residents of provincial cities	Ethnical tolerance	National identity of respondents
		Assessment of tensions in the international relations
		Hostility toward others and a feeling of hostility to themselves
To identify financial situation	Economic activity	Evaluation of financial position
		Self-evaluation of financial position

The questionnaire consists of four main blocks of issues and socio-demographic characteristics.

Unit 1 describes the social and political activity of the inhabitants of provincial towns of the Tyumen region and includes the following indicators:

- the respondents' interest in socio-economic situation in the region,
- population's assessment of level of socio-political stability in the region,
- probability of taking part in mass protests.

Unit 2, dedicated to the socio-religious relations in Yalutorovsk, was directed mainly on the characteristic of religious tolerance in society and includes the following indicators:

- the religious self-identity of the respondents,
- assessment of tension in the interfaith relations,
- religious hostility toward others and a feeling of hostility to oneself,
- likes and dislikes to people of different faiths.

Unit 3 was aimed at identifying the level of inter-ethnic tension between inhabitants of provincial cities and it consists of the following subsections:

- national identity of the respondents,
- assessment of intensiveness of international relations,
- national hostility toward others and a feeling of hostility to oneself

Unit 4 characterizes the social portrait of inhabitants in the region and includes the following features: period of residence in the area, education, activity, income, self-evaluation of the financial position and the size of the household.

5. Results and discussion

The research was conducted in two phases: the first stage was in May 2015, the second phase was in October 2015. The survey in the first phase of the study was attended by 48% of men and 52% of women, in the second phase of the study there were 46 and 54%, respectively.

The first survey question 'Generally speaking, to what extent are you satisfied with the life you have today?' revealed the degree of satisfaction with the current way of life. Analysis of the responses showed that in the first half of 2015 three quarters of the respondents (74%) are generally satisfied with their lives, 31.6% said that the life they have today is quite satisfying; 42.4% said that for the most part they are satisfied. 2.7% citizens of provincial towns expressed contrasting assessments. At the same time, every fifth participant of the questionnaire (22.9%) was partly satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied with their lives. In the second half the positive trends are preserved. It is found out that the percentage of partly satisfied with their life citizens went down for 3.6%, upon that a percentage of respondents who are dissatisfied with their everyday life went up by about 1.1%.

The majority of respondents (93.4%) in the first half positively rated their financial situation: as very good 6.4% of respondents, good 35.0%, average 51.9%. Only 5.4% of respondents rated their financial situation as poor, and

0.7% as very poor. In the second half the negative changes in the financial position of the residents of provincial towns have not been identified: the majority of respondents (92.4% - which is 1% less compared with the data obtained in the first half) welcomed their financial situation.

In the next item of the questionnaire 'How has your (your family) financial situation changed for the last year?' about half of the respondents in the first half of 2015 said that they had positive changes. One in three (31%) said that there was 'small change for the better', one in ten (9.8%) said significant changes for the better. The analysis revealed that the third part of respondents (39.7%) sees no changes. At the same time 17.5% of respondents pointed to the deterioration of their financial situation, which occurred in the last year: 13.5% of respondents noticed small change for the worse, and 4.0% noticed a significant change for the worse. Along with the answers to this question, 2.0% of the provincial cities have not been able to answer the question.

The replies to the questions show the overall stability of the social well-being of residents of provincial towns. Stability can also be seen in the answers at two questions. So, to the question 'How would you assess the current socio-economic situation in the region as a whole?' about half of the respondents were rated (45.8%) in the first half of 2015 as 'very good' (4.0%) and 'good' (41.8%). At the same time 45.5% of the citizens assessed the socio-economic situation in the region as the average. Communication in the course of interviews with the participants of the survey allowed forming a stable understanding that residents of provincial cities are more interested in the urgent problems of the locality ('small homeland'), for which the development of the Tyumen region is not always significant. Not all respondents know that the level of socio-economic development of Tyumen region in 2014 was ranked as the first among all the subjects of the Russian Federation. The negative assessment of the socio-economic situation in the region is present in 1.0% of the respondent's answers. A positive evaluation continued in the respondents' answers made during the questionnaire in the second stage of the research.

Positive assessment prevail in the answers to the question 'How has the socio-economic situation in the region/city changed in the last year?'. About half of the respondents (49.1%) in the first half of 2015 believed that the socio-economic situation of the area had been significantly changed for the better (8.4%) and also had small changes for the better (40.7%). One in four believes that no changes have occurred. Every tenth inhabitant of provincial towns believes that socio-economic situation of the region/locality were noticeable (1.3%) and there was small change for the worse (8.8%). Note that 12.8% of residents of the area found it difficult to answer the question.

The next block of items allowed assessing the political situation and the level of protest moods. Three-quarters of respondents (79.8%) in the first half of 2015 estimated the socio-political situation in the Tyumen region as stable: one in three (33.3%) believes that the situation is quite stable and every second (46.5%) defines it as 'mostly stable'. Every tenth participant of the questionnaire (10.4%) could not assess whether it was uniquely stable or unstable, so this

category of respondents chose the answer 'partly stable and partly not'. Only 0.6% of respondents assessed the socio-political situation in the Tyumen Region as 'mostly not stable'. At the same time, one in ten provincial towns citizen found it difficult to assess the political situation in the Tyumen region. In the second half of 2015, inhabitants assess the socio-political situation in the Tyumen region as not changed.

A chance of mass protests in provincial towns is extremely low. This is confirmed by the answers to the question 'How likely do you think are currently the mass protests in your city/region?'. The majority of respondents in 2015 took the view that they are unlikely. According to 29.0% of respondents, mass protests are impossible, the same number believe that they are 'not likely to happen', one in three respondents believed that mass protests are unlikely. This tendency was confirmed in the second half of 2015.

More than three quarters of the inhabitants of the region (80.8%) in the first half of 2015 and 88.6% in the second half of 2015 responded that they personally would not take part in the mass protests if they were held. Only 0.7% of respondents in the first half of 2015 said that 'most likely will take part' in mass protests. In the second half of 2015 there was 1.8%. The respondents chose the selection which was based on that such a decision would be taken if they speak out against raising tariffs for housing and communal services, if left without work, or in the case of a sharp rise in food prices. At the same time, 18.5% of respondents in the first half of 2015 and 9.5% in the second half did not respond to this question.

One of the indicators characterizing the development of civil society identifies perceptions about the activities of the provincial towns authorities to create favourable conditions for the realization of civil initiatives and the participation of public associations and non-profit organizations of citizens in the development of the region. 80.1% of the survey participants consider the activities of public authorities to create favourable conditions for the realization of civil initiatives and the participation of public associations and non-profit organizations of citizens in the development of the region 'rather' and 'definitely' effective in the first half of 2015. In the second half of 2015 it is more for 0.6% and it is 80.7%. 4.7% 2015 of respondents in the first half of 2015 and 5.7% in the second half doubt the efficiency of public authorities in this field. One in ten did not respond to this question.

Analysis of the responses showed that almost every second respondent in 2015 did not participate in public and political life of the region (45.8 and 48.8%, respectively). The most common forms of participation in public and political life of the provincial towns are participating in the election campaign (collection of signatures, election campaigning, work at the polling station) and fundraising things for people caught in a difficult situation (terrorist attack, natural disaster, treatment, surgery). Less common forms of participation of citizens, public associations and non-profit organizations in the development of the region are participating in rallies, demonstrations, pickets on the events in the life of the country, region or locality. In the second half of the year, there has

increased significantly the number of people who took part in the activities of civil society organizations (human rights, charitable, environmental, etc.) from 9.8 to 12.3%.

Let us analyse of the questions of the next block profiles dedicated to the research of interethnic and interfaith relations. The first question of the unit revealed the nationality of the respondents. Most of respondents in the provincial cities are Russian and Tatars. In addition, there are Kazakhs, Ukrainians, Azerbaijanis and representatives of other ethnic groups.

The participants of the questionnaire were asked to evaluate the situation in the sphere of international relations at the present time in the Tyumen region. The majority of respondents (94.3%) assessed the situation in the sphere of interethnic relations in the first half of 2015 in the Tyumen region as absolutely or relatively calm. However, only 1.7% of respondents said that in the sphere of international relations at the present time in the Tyumen region there is some tension, 0.3% of respondents believed that situation is tense. At the same time 3.7% of respondents could not answer the question (Table 2). The positive trend continues among residents also in the second half of 2015 and the majority of respondents (96.6%) assessed the situation in the sphere of inter-ethnic relations in the Tyumen region as absolutely or relatively calm.

Table 2. The dynamics of the respondents' ratings of the situation in the sphere of international relations at the present time in the Tyumen region in general, in % of the total number of respondents.

Assessment of the situation in the sphere of interethnic relations	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Tense situation	0.3	0.0
Slightly tense situation	1.7	2.8
Relatively quiet	36.4	48.3
The situation is quiet	57.9	48.3
Difficult to answer	3.7	0.5

Mutual understanding between people of different nationalities cannot be achieved as long as they do not know each other. Misunderstanding creates hostility leading to confrontation and ethnic conflicts. Occurrence and intensification of tension and conflicts in the process of inter-ethnic relations is a reaction bringing prejudice in everyday life, in interethnic dialogue about ethnic rights and interests of the representatives of a certain nationality.

The next two questions will figure out hostile feelings of respondents towards people of other nationalities. Analysis of the responses showed that most participants in the questionnaire in 2015 (from 88.9% to 91.05) have never experienced feeling of hostility to themselves from people of other nationalities. The opposite opinion was 'felt', but with a caveat rarely or often expressed 7.1 and 8.6% respectively participants of the questionnaire in 2015. Small number of respondents could not answer the question (Table 3).

Every seventh respondent felt the feeling of hostility towards people of other nationalities in the first half of 2015 (14.5% said rarely, 0.3% said quite often). For comparison the same every tenth answered in the second half of 2015 (10.9 and 0.9%, respectively). The majority of respondents expressed the opposite opinion (84.2 and 87.2%, respectively). Mass research of religiosity in Russia records a rapid increase in the level of religiousness and the growth of interest in religion of people of different faiths. In order to ensure the representativeness of the data in the mass survey in the first half of 2015 sampling frame includes the most common religions (Table 4). Historically the most common religious tradition in Russia is Orthodox. Tyumen Region is no exception as the lead among the most common religion is Orthodox denominations, people belonging to this religion stated as 46.8 and 49.8% respectively. Islam is the second as the number of its adherents in the first half of 2015 ranged from 4.7 to 10.0% of respondents in 2015 (Table 4). Not believers are 8.4 and 15.2% respectively in the first and second half of 2015.

Table 3. Dynamics of answers to the question about the hostile feelings they feel from the outside and against people of other nationalities, in % to the total number of respondents.

Judgments of respondents	The feeling of hostility to themselves from people of other nationalities	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Rather often	0.0	1.0
Rarely	7.1	7.6
Never/almost never	88.9	91.0
Difficult to answer	4.0	0.5
Judgments of respondents	The feeling of hostility towards people of other nationalities	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Rather often	0.3	0.9
Rarely	14.5	10.9
Never/almost never	84.2	87.2
Difficult to answer	1.0	1.0

Table 4. Dynamics of the total sample of respondents according to the religion of the study, in % to the total number of respondents.

Religion	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
No, I do not consider myself as believer	8.4	15.2
I believe in God, but do not confess any religion	25.6	20.9
Islam	4.7	10.0
Orthodox	46.8	49.8
Catholicism	2.4	0.9
Protestantism	0.0	0.5
Difficult to answer	12.1	2.8

More than three quarters of respondents characterizes as stable the current situation in the sphere of religious relations in the Tyumen region (89.5%) in the first half of 2015. In the second half of 2015 there were 91.2%. It should be noted that among all the respondents no one called the situation tense. According to the estimates of 0.7% of the respondents in the first half of 2015 and 2.8% in the second there is some tension in relations between people of different religions (Table 5).

Table 5. Dynamics of answers of respondents about the situation in relations between people holding different religious views, in % to the total number of respondents.

Evaluation of religious relations	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
The situation is extremely tense in	0.0	0.0
Tense situation	0.0	0.0
There is some tension	0.7	2.8
Relatively quiet	39.7	41.2
The situation is completely calm	49.8	50.0
Difficult to answer	9.8	6.9

Only 5.7% of respondents who took part in the polls in the first half of 2015 admitted that they experienced hostile feelings towards themselves from people of other faiths (rarely, quite often or very often) (Table 5). Most residents of provincial cities have never experienced hostile feelings to themselves from people of other faiths (90.2%) in the first half of 2015 and 91.5% in the second. At the same time, from 2.8 to 4.0% of the respondents found it difficult to answer the question (Table 6).

Table 6. Dynamics of answers to the question about the hostile feelings that they experience towards themselves and against people of other faiths, in % of total number of respondents.

Judgments of respondents	The feeling of hostility to themselves from people of other faiths	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Very often	0.0	0.0
Rather often	0.0	0.0
Rarely	5.7	5.7
Never/ almost never	90.2	91.5
Difficult to answer	4.0	2.8
Judgments of respondents	The feeling of hostility towards people of other faiths	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Very often	0.0	0.0
Rather often	0.0	0.0
Rarely	8.8	6.6
Never/ almost never	89.9	91.5
Difficult to answer	1.3	1.9

None of the respondents who took part in the polls admitted that they experienced hostile feelings towards people of other faiths (often or very often). Rarely had hostile feelings towards people of other religions 8.8% of respondents in the first half of 2015 and 6.6%, in the second half of 2015. Most residents of provincial cities have never experienced hostile feelings towards people of other faiths. At the same time, from 1.3 to 1.9% of the respondents found it difficult to answer the question (Table 6).

The last set of questions allowed characterizing the socio-demographic profile of residents of provincial cities. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents live in the area for over 11 years. More than 10% permanently live in the region from 6 to 10 years; as much live from 2 to 5 years (Table 7).

Table 7. Dynamics of answers to the question ‘How long are you a resident of the area/city?’, in % to the total number of respondents.

Period	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Less than 2 years	8.4	2.4
From 2 to 5 years	11.1	11.8
From 6 to 10 years	15.2	12.3
From 11 to 20 years	25.6	35.1
More than 20 years	39.8	38.4

More than half of the respondents have graduated an university or have completed three years of university degree; every fifth – secondary vocational education (college); one in ten has a secondary education, and 0.5% admitted that they have graduated only primary school (Table 8).

Table 8. Distribution of respondents depending on educational attainment, in % to the total number of respondents.

Education	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Elementary education or lower	0.0	0.5
Incomplete secondary education	1.7	8.5
Secondary education (school or vocational school)	15.2	10.0
Secondary special education (college)	21.2	27.0
Incomplete higher education (at least 3 years of studying at a higher education institution)	5.4	13.7
University	56.5	40.3

Slightly more than half respondents of the questionnaire graduated school without ‘satisfactory’ grades, 4.7% with ‘excellent’ grades, about half of the respondents with only ‘excellent’ and ‘good’ grades. One-third of respondents in 2015 replied that they studied mainly with ‘good’ grades but there were several

‘satisfactory’ grades; every tenth studied mainly with the ‘satisfactory’ grades (Table 9).

Table 9. Self-assessment of the respondents how they finished school, in % to the total number of respondents.

Self-judgement	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
Without graduation certificate	0.0	0.0
Basically ‘satisfactory’ grades	6.4	12.8
Mainly with ‘good’ grades, but there was some ‘satisfactory’ grades	30.6	32.7
No ‘satisfactory’ grades	50.2	38.9
Only ‘excellent’ grades	4.7	4.7
No answer/do not remember	8.1	10.9

In the questionnaires there were involved pensioners, students, housewives, skilled and unskilled workers (including agriculture), younger staff, businessman, managers and other categories of employees, which made the sampling representative. It should be noted that the residents of provincial cities are engaged in various fields of activity and this allows us to consider sampling frame of the study as representative.

An analysis made by respondents about the amount of money per month on average taking into account all family members from all sources of income, showed that just about half of the respondents in the first half of 2015 obtained from 10 to 30 thousand rubles per month. In the second half, were less respondents who expressed such an assessment.

Note that every third person indicated sufficiency of money per month on average for all family members from all sources of income in the second half of the year.

Table 10. Self-assessment by respondents of their financial position, in % to the total number of respondents.

Self-judgment	Phase	
	1 st half of 2015	2 nd half of 2015
We barely make ends meet. Not enough money even for food	1.0	0.0
We have enough money to buy products, but buying clothes causes financial difficulties	12.8	33.6
Enough money for food and clothes.	51.5	44.1
We can easily buy consumer durables.	29.6	12.3
We can afford quite expensive things as a flat, cottage and more	1.7	0.5
No answer, hard to answer	3.4	9.5

The last question of the questionnaire allowed analysing the self-judgement of income of residents of provincial towns. To do this, respondents were asked to select one of five choices. Answers to this question are presented in Table 10.

6. Conclusion

The results of the research carried out by scientists of the Tyumen State Oil and Gas University on the topic ‘The study of the situation in the areas of political, ethnic and socio-religious relations in the provincial towns of Tyumen region in 2015’ give grounds to assert that there is no significant tension in the sphere of international and confessional relations.

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