

Russian Urban Fieldsite

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Location of the fieldsite

Our sample area is a high-rise district of Moscow – Akademicheskiy. This district is used to be village Cheryomoshi (XVI th century) and only then became a part of Moscow City. It is characterized by tranquil atmosphere (cozy yards with playgrounds, pond, several schools and a kinder garden), absence of huge overcrowded supermarkets and presence of a wide transport net (Underground, buses, trolleybuses, trams).

Housing problem

In Moscow housing problem is one of the most actual and critical problem. housing demand greatly exceed it's supply, new houses are build mainly in prime-price segment (average price for one square meter in new building varies around 1500-2000 dollars). In such conditions forced stay-at-home kids phenomenon is widely spread. Adults, sometimes with their families, are to live with parents in one flat and have no opportunity to move to another apartment. This, from our point of view, aggravates relations between children and their parents and intensifies natural difficulties in relations.



The view of the houses, entrance.



The fragment of the interview [young mother].



Children playground.

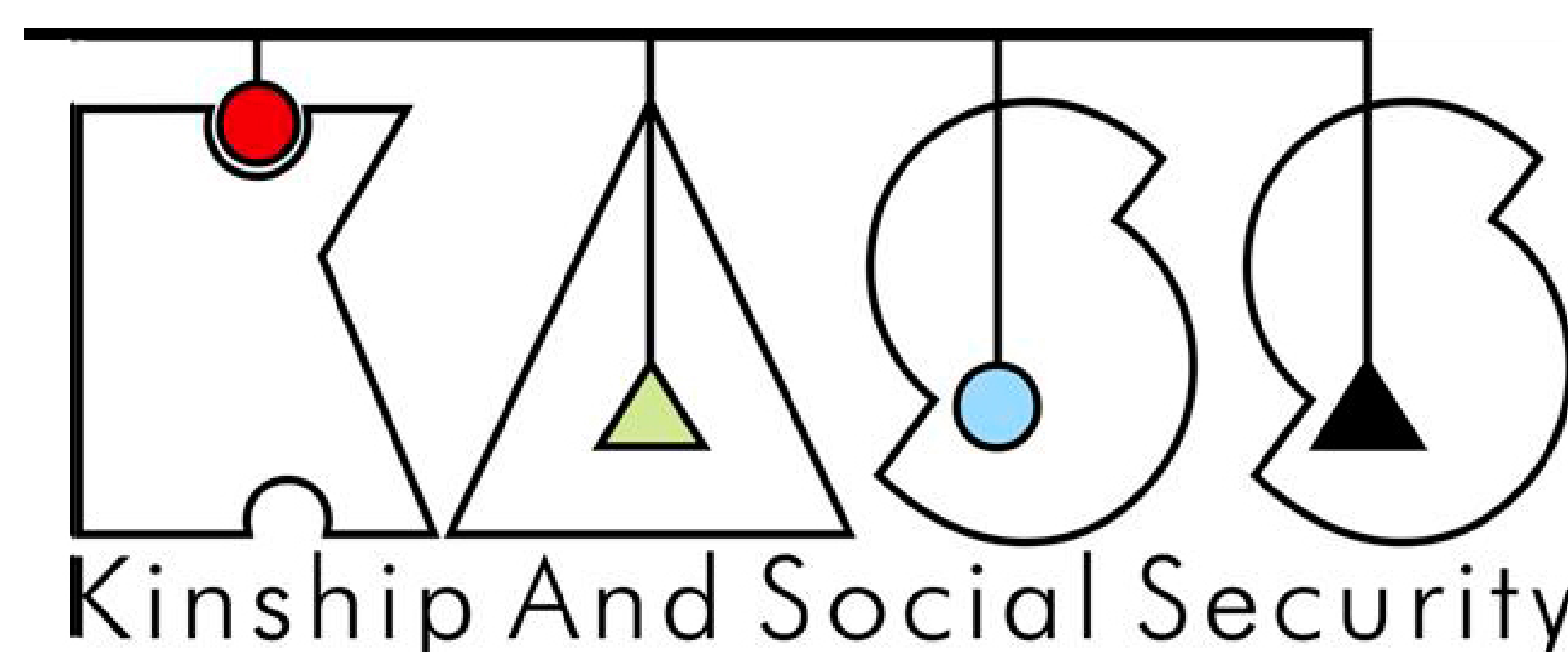


Children-parent help

We managed to observe two contradicting patterns of helping relations between generations in case of children – parent help. On the one hand, grown-up children help their parents or one parent on sincere relative feelings. On the other hand, members of family have to give help “in invitum”, due to social or legislative norms.

Conclusion

Basing on collected data and resting upon our inner context knowledge, we can suggest a presence of “exclusive” kinship system. Families are rather closed, voluntary limitation and narrowing of relative's circle occur in relative relations. We did not find out strong and constant attempts to reestablish broken relations with relatives. It is not possible to speak about mutual aid with neighbors and friends – contacts mainly have a character of simple communication, spending time together. Help is mainly limited, it does not exceed boundaries of essential minimum. We noticed predominantly one-sided character of aid and its reduction to cash form.



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