The Role of Affirmative Action in Education

Case of Russia
Affirmative action / positive discrimination / positive action

A set of procedures designed to eliminate unlawful discrimination between applicants, remedy the results of such prior discrimination, and prevent such discrimination in the future.
NEW AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RULES, BOYS - WE HAVE TO HIRE SOME SOMALIS.

I survived life on welfare and food stamps...

In a poor, crime-ridden neighborhood with crumbling schools filled with guns and drugs...

In a world that rewards rich white men.

So now... affirmative action will help me get into college.

That's so unfair!

For a fair selection everybody has to take the same exam: please climb that tree.

Politically Correct

By Jim Huber

Whew, those SAT questions were brutal. What did you think?

I got the one where I check off my ethnicity, so I know I aced it.

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WHAT IS DISCRIMINATION?

Convention against Discrimination in Education, UNESCO, 14 December 1960

Depriving any person or group of persons of access to education of any type or at any level

Limiting any person or group of persons to education of an inferior standard

Establishing or maintaining separate educational systems or institutions for persons or groups of persons

Inflicting on any person or group of persons conditions which are incompatible with the dignity of man

In Russia:
Discrimination in education is not permissible in state policy and legal regulation (Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation")

! Declarative (vague generalities)

! No specific anti-discrimination legal regulation and instruments to counter discrimination

! No judicial practice
Affirmative action / positive discrimination / positive action

“The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin”

John F. Kennedy
Executive Order 10925 (1961)

Civil Rights Act (1964) (34 CFR § 100.3(b)(6)(i))

“In administering a program regarding which the recipient [of federal funding] has previously discriminated against persons on the ground of race, color, or national origin, the recipient must take affirmative action to overcome the effects of prior discrimination”
Grounds for affirmative action

- **Political affiliation**: The Soviet Union, China
- **Social status**: The Soviet Union, China (class character)
- **Composition of the family**: Russia, The Soviet Union (families with many children, orphans etc.)
- **Profession**: The Soviet Union, China
- **Race**: USA, Germany, Sweden
- **Health status**: USA, Germany, Sweden, Russia
- **Native minorities**: The Soviet Union, China
- **Gender**: USA, Germany, Sweden
- **Foreign citizenship**: Russia (quota)

etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td><strong>Completely banned</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td><strong>Enabled</strong></td>
<td>According to the decision of the Supreme Court in the case &quot;Grotter against Bollinger&quot; Banned in the California, Washington, Michigan Prohibited formal rules: extra points for particular groups, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td><strong>Applied widely</strong></td>
<td>Class character and party affiliation, to the military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td><strong>Applies</strong></td>
<td>In a small number of cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td><strong>Applies</strong></td>
<td>For native minorities, to the military</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td><strong>Applies</strong></td>
<td>For immigrants, people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td><strong>Applies</strong></td>
<td>Special preferences for Swedish language speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td><strong>Applies</strong></td>
<td>For immigrants, people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td><strong>Not prohibited</strong></td>
<td>Actually it does not apply, except for the case of Buraku caste</td>
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</table>
Affirmative action is not subject to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, 14 December 1960
The right to education in Russia

Education for all

- Prohibition of discrimination
- Equal conditions of admission
- Inclusive education
- Lifelong learning
- The unity of educational space
- Compulsory general education
- Adaptive educational programs
- Information transparency
- Public associations of students
- Secular education
- Equal rights of foreign nationals
- Measures of social support

Educaion for all
Measures of social support of certain groups in education system of Russia

- Children with disabilities
- Orphans
- Children from multi-child family
- Children of deceased servicemen
- Children of employees of public bodies (why?)

- Public funding of bachelor's degree
- Free child care and care in preschool education
- State provision by clothing, shoes, tools
- Free meals
- State social scholarship (higher education)
- Admission to the preparatory departments of universities at public expense
Where we should search for discrimination?

**Sink and rural schools**
- Funding of schools with regard to their social backgrounds and backgrounds of their pupils (Belgium).
- State support to collaboration of strengths and sink schools (Germany, Australia).
- Special Educational Zone (Greece).
- Free mobile classrooms for rural schools (Turkey).

**Disadvantaged families (low-income and migrants families)**
- The after-school activities for children from low-income families (until 22:00).
- Special programs for the integration of migrants (Finland, Germany) and specific social groups (Roma (Slovenia), Maori (New Zealand)).
The goal of affirmative action in Russia is reducing the gap of opportunities for quality education of children from different social groups.

The government does not use affirmative action to support children from poor families, children in difficult life situations, and migrant children.

Nowadays there are not enough dates of monitoring of education in Russia for using affirmative action as an instrument to overcome discrimination.

Design of sufficient legal instruments of affirmative action depends on implementation of evidence-based policy in Russia.
Dr Szymon Jankiewicz,
Director of the Center for Applied Legal Researches
of the Institute of Education of Higher School of Economics
syankevich@hse.ru

Nadezhda Knyaginina,
Expert of the Center for Applied Legal Researches
of the Institute of Education of Higher School of Economics
nknyaginina@hse.ru

Thank you for your attention!