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Revenues and Expenses of the Gymnasium and Uezd Schools of the Smolensk Gubernia at the Eve of the Great Reforms of Alexander II (Mid-19th Century)

Abstract

The subject of interactions between central and local authorities in view of financing upcoming reforms is of great significance. In a case-study of educational institutions of the Smolensk gubernia, the article examines an attempt of the Ministry of National Education to streamline income and expenses of gymnasiums and uezd schools in Russia at the eve of the Great Reforms of Alexander II. Drawing on unpublished documents from the State Archive of the Smolensk Region, it offers a first ever study of factual information on the implementation of the Ministry of National Education decisions on introduction of new forms of reports on incomes and

expenses of the male gymnasium and uezd schools of the Smolensk gubernia in 1861–1862, that is, just before the start of national reforms in the educational sphere. The article provides information on the income of educational institutions. It consisted of the State Treasury disbursements, tuition fees, receipts from the Office of Public Charity, City Dumas, income from leased crown lands and properties, special funds of the Ministry of National Education, etc. Analysis of the archival data on the expenditure of the gymnasium and uezd schools of the Smolensk gubernia shows that main expenses included salaries of teachers and employees, cost of building repairs, and other daily requirements (maintenance, rent and insurance of buildings, stationery, awards to students, library costs). From the point of view of gubernia authorities, which rarely coincided with that of the heads of uezd schools, the schools were sufficiently financed. The statistics presented in the article demonstrate a certain stability of the uezd schools of the Smolensk gubernia, as well as desire of the central and local authorities to tighten their control over schools' income and expenses. The cited information on the financial situation of regional educational institutions on the eve of Russian modernization in the second half of the 19th century is of undoubted interest for the history of education, regional studies, and economic history.

Keywords

Historical sources, provincial educational institutions, Smolensk gubernia, gymnasium, uezd schools, 1861–1862, sources of financing, incomes and expenses of educational institutions.

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