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ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT AND LOCAL COMMUNITY AROUND THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ARCTIC RUSSIA

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The regions where oil, gas, and other mineral resources are being developed have a lot of problems to secure the lives of the population living in the mining places. Especially, in Arctic Russia, the difficulties are acute, because good mining places are sometimes good pasture and places of residence of the local population at the same time. In those cases, companies make various kinds of compensation providing people with gasoline, provisions, and even houses. And, frequently it is said that the companies should support self-reliance of local residents so that they could undertake some enterprise.

While the local population, more often than not, have an expectation for comprehensive support, the compensation offered by mining companies inclines toward providing commodities. But, the compensative commodities are so deeply penetrated into the lives of the local people, that they almost depend on the commodities despite discontentment. As a result, in complaining the shortage of compensation, the attention of people tends to be devoted to negative impacts of resource development, rather than to a long-term ecological and social sustainability.

On the other hand, the lack of community participation and control in planning and implementation of natural resource extraction and ancillary infrastructure construction processes have caused conflicts and discontent in natural resource dependent communities. While ethnic-oriented compensation is in its implementation apt to reinforce ethnic boundaries and social tensions within communities, indigenous collectives (*obshchiny*) and clan territories (*rodovye ugody*) should be considered as potential collective agency.

In these situations, entrepreneurial support of local people is an alternative way of sustainable development. In Arctic Russia, some plans to support farming by local and indigenous autonomy, and to support free enterprise model of local community as “*obshchina*” have been designed to trial. In this study the effect and problems of such a trial will be investigated.