

# IDENTITY AND ATTITUDES OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHNIC MINORITY – JAVAKHETI POPULATION - TOWARDS VARIOUS SOCIAL ISSUES: CASE OF GEORGIA

**Tamar Abashidze**

Tbilisi State University,  
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science, Associate professor.

**Irina Zhvania**

Tbilisi State University,  
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science, Assistant professor.

**Anastasia Kitiashvili**

Tbilisi State University,  
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science, Associate professor.

## Abstract

*The aim of the research was to analyze attitudes of the population of Javakheti region (one of the ethnic minority region in Georgia with majority of Armenian population) towards various issues such as self-identity, satisfaction of population with their own life, access to education, employment opportunity, participation in political and public life, trust towards governmental institutions, relationship with different nationalities and gender stereotypes.*

*The survey research was carried out in Javakheti Region during June-July 2013 with the support of Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies.*

*The representative sample consisted of 400 people (55% females and 45% males). Average age of the surveyed population was 50 (SD=19.06).*

*About 86.2% of the population reported about having Armenian identity, 12.8% considered themselves as Georgians and others as Russians. The research results revealed that the most of the surveyed population were satisfied with their life.*

*Surveyed population thought that Georgian and Armenian population had equal access to Vocational Education while higher education was more available for Georgians than for Armenians. It should be mentioned that Higher Education has more positive status in Georgian than the Vocational Education.*

*About one third of the population was employed at the time of research. The level of unemployment in the region is higher than in the country in general. The respondents for starting a job named the following main preconditions: knowledge of Georgian language, Georgian nationality and knowledge and skills relevant to the vacancy.*

*In general activity level of population is quite low. The participants considered active participation in regional as well as country life less important. 91.2% of participants were not registered members of any of the unions or associations. Similarly trust to the governmental institutions was quite low except ombudsmen.*

*Survey results showed that the level of ethnic discrimination was very low in the region in getting a job as well as during distribution of social assistance. In general surveyed population had positive attitudes towards the other ethnic minorities as well as a host society; especially positive attitudes they had towards Georgians while less positive were attitudes towards Gypsies. Similarly, population had positive attitudes towards gender equality; most of them think that women should have active role in a society.*

**Key words:** identity, attitudes, ethnic minority.