

YOUTH PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS AS A FACTOR OF PROFESSIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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The article deals with professional social work oriented to young people as a social and demographic group which bear, due to various factors certain psychological, social and economic peculiar features. Among the directions of work with young people in view of the purposes of this article the authors have chosen career-guidance work. At present young people's professional self-determination is a topical problem for the state youth policy, the resolution of which has influence on well-being of the whole social and economic sphere of the society. In reality of contemporary life young people frequently have difficulties in self-determination, in their choice of professional training, in their first and subsequent employment. These difficulties are caused by a number of social and economic problems that obstruct the development of Russian society. Owing to this, university graduates very often, having got professional education, decline the opportunity to work in the acquired profession that demonstrates the education system's imperfection in the area of disagreement with practical professional activity. The activity of youth public organizations in this article is considered as a way of assisting young people in their personal and professional self-determination and the results of practical sociological study are also provided that was carried out for the purpose of revealing and analyzing the above mentioned organizations' influence on young people's choice of their walk of life. The authors of the present article believe that correctly planned and organized activity of youth organizations (such as the Youth Government, field-specific Youth Ministries of the region and similar organizations) have a positive influence on young people's self-determination and facilitates their further employment.

Key words: career guidance, professional self-determination, youth organization.

INTRODUCTION

Social work, understood as professional activity and directed towards the problems' solution of vulnerable social groups and raising the quality of life of the whole society, has many objects and areas. The problems of young people as a social group can be separated into a multifaceted object of social work and the involvement of a great number of society institutions and skilled application of a vast array of social technologies are required to solve these problems.

When speaking about social work with various categories of the younger generation social workers themselves as well as scientists and politicians often speak about serious, but frequent problems: the crime rate growth, addiction and

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suicides, health impairment in young people, social orphanage and homelessness, violence against children within families, unemployment among young people, immorality, lack of spirituality and social apathy of the younger generation, about deformations in attitudes to labor of boys and girls and etc. (Pariseva & Gatsalova, 2014; Bayanova & Mustafin, 2016; Ermolaeva, 2016; Rakhimova et al., 2017). Despite a number of problems that require urgent solution young people are more often considered as the country's most important strategic resource in contemporary conditions (Vasyakin et al., 2015). It is in this category of citizens that the prospects of economic growth, sovereignty, a stable development of the country, implementation of the state's foreign and regional policy, the development of spiritual and moral potential are focused (Fedin, 2007; Vasyakin et al., 2016; Valeeva & Biktagirova, 2016; Salakhova et al., 2017; Zheltukhina et al., 2017).

Social problems of children and youth are some kind of life quality indicators of the whole country. The economic crisis, an incredibly great gulf between the poor and the rich, various social conflicts (ethnic, religious and etc.) – these are the facts of contemporary Russian society. The youth as the most impressive category of the population are prone to many social risks. In this connection, the state power at all management levels pays a great attention to youth developing and realizing the state youth policy (Salakhova et al., 2016; Efimova et al., 2015; Rean et al., 2013; Ovsyanik, 2016; Ivleva et al., 2014, 2016).

The state youth policy is understood as the state's activity directed towards the creation of legal, economic and organizational conditions and guarantees for self-realization of the young person's personality and youth associations' development, movements and initiatives. The state policy focuses on young people aged from 14 to 30, young families and youth organizations. The subjects of this policy are state bodies and executives, youth organizations and associations as well as young citizens themselves (Ilyasov, 2008; Lipatova, 2015). Youth employment is one of the most difficult issues of the state youth policy implementation. The situation with employment of graduates of professional education institutions established in new social and economic conditions – in the absence of the state order, assumes the necessity of working out completely new approaches, organizational and methodic principles of creating and functioning the state system of assistance to learning youth employment and employment of young specialists (Ilyasov, 2005; Gnedova et al., 2015).

Professional social work is one of the major ways of implementing the measures of the state youth policy, which is also important in the problem solution of career guidance and youth employment. This activity is aimed at successful involving young people in social, cultural, economic and political spheres of the country and the fullest uncovering of young people's potential (Holostova, 2001).

We can speak of two models of social work with youth — integrative and deficient. The integrative model — this is social work in the broad sense which

must contribute to youth socialization. In this aspect social work practically is relevant to such type of professional activity as social pedagogics. The implementation of this model is possible by means of the state and public cost-based mechanism that implies the allocation of significant financial, human and material resources. Due to an excessive amount of means which should be allocated for the complete realization of such type of social work the majority of countries with the market economy chooses the deficient model of developing social work oriented towards, socially vulnerable strata of the population first of all, the risk groups, the disabled and lonely people, as well as children and teenagers (Ilyasov, 2008; Masalimova et al., 2014).

While planning and organizing social work with young people the problem approach is very important. This approach makes it possible to identify a large number of activity areas but for the purpose of the present research only one has been chosen – career-guidance work. This direction is very important for the social and economic situation of contemporary Russia, because, the new generation finds it difficult to orientate themselves in the choice of walk of life in view of the economic system change, a complicated situation on the labor market, the emergence of new professions and the elimination of outdated professions, the reformation of the education system (Enyashina & Mitin, 2011). Under these circumstances joint efforts of specialists from various fields are needed – social workers and teachers of educational institutions, the employment centers, the centers for youth career-guidance, bodies of power, and employers of private and state agencies (Masalimova et al., 2016).

Specialists distinguish the professional formation stages of a young specialist: career-guidance and professional training (Kamkova, 2010). Career-guidance should shape up personal orientations and interest in school students, students and youth taking into account the needs of public production and adjust their personal orientations with the realization possibilities. The aim of the career-guidance system is the combination of personal orientations and public needs (Gurinovich, 2010). The system of career-guidance is connected with many public institutions, due to which the lack of timely decisions in the sphere of professional orientation has an effect on the country's economy on the whole (Elbaeva & Kutumov, 2016).

Thus at present professional orientation – this is the system of interacting between the personality and education (as a social institution), contributing to the development and adjusting abilities, inclinations, interests, individual and psychological, physiological specific features of the personality with the needs of society, its professional self-determination throughout all “professional life” (Tsukanov, 2014; Kamyshanov, 2015).

METHODS OF RESEARCH

For the purposes of the present work as the subject of research youth organizations have been chosen that are considered from the point of view of career-guidance

influence on their members and role identification of the above mentioned associations in self-determination of the personality.

Considering youth associations we should understand their temporary character connected with the realization of definite objectives and tasks, and also the spontaneity of their origin. Among youth associations researchers often separate youth political associations into a special group. The fact that the members of such political associations clearly identify their interests and role in the society, carry out significant public activity realizing their own interests can be considered as distinctive features of these associations. Youth political associations also have a distinct institutionalization and hierarchy (Poruchkina, 2013).

From the point of view of the personality's socialization youth associations, and political associations in particular, have a specific significance, because they touch upon such very important aspect of the personality as social and civil activism. This direction is expressed in the implemented socially significant actions that transform the social environment and the personality itself. Stimulating the social activism of youth associations contributes to the young people's preparation for independent decision making, the ability to invest their powers for the welfare of people around. High quality work of the creators and coordinators of the activity of similar associations helps a person to form personal qualities that are required for a search for his own walk of life and to follow his own values and interests creating social space around himself.

Public associations' set-up and functioning are based on such principles as the self-realization principle contributing to reasonable inclusion of the personality in the association; the principle of self-organization being the mechanism that forms a public association of the youth; the principle of self-activity; the principle of self-administration; the principle of social reality that is a content-related source of the organized youth self-activity and the sphere of realizing their social activity (Klimova & Poruchkina, 2005; Klimova, Utlik & Poruchkina, 2015).

Collectively organized, joint activity which is carried out with joint efforts serves as the main condition and way of forming a positive experience of the youth's social activity development. Socially significant activity at the same time provides really attainable results expressed in a change for the better of the social sphere in the young people's life activity, intensification of the active civic position, a mindset for practical demand of the public character of their activity, a positive perception by society of those actions and measures taken by the youth in a public association (Burbaeva, 2011; Mitin, 2014).

The youth government and field-specific youth Ministries of the Ulyanovsk region can be considered as an example of the youth public organization. These youth associations function in the Ulyanovsk region by the initiative of the Ulyanovsk region Government and pursue the following objectives:

- the youth involvement in the process of social and economic, community development of the region, the increase of their legal and political culture;
- the engagement of the youth's scientific and creative potential of the region to solve the objectives that the Government and field-specific Ministries of the Ulyanovsk region face;
- the creation of the holistic system of selecting, training and attracting socially active young people to the administrative activity in various spheres of public life in the Ulyanovsk region, the assistance in forming, training and instructing the personnel reserve of the Government and field-specific Ministries of the Ulyanovsk region.

The Ulyanovsk region actively develops the activity of youth public associations and for this purpose the District Forum of the Youth Governments in the Volga Federal District was held from December 08 to 10 2016 in the Ulyanovsk region (further – the Forum). It was aimed at developing competences in forum participants in the field of working out and implementing the youth policy, non-formal education and youth work; at forming unified understanding the approaches, priorities and concepts in the field of work with the youth applied in the Russian Federation. In the framework of the forum training sessions, panel discussions, master-classes, groups of reflection, works for developing joint and personal initiatives were held (action plans).

The governor and representatives of the Ulyanovsk region government participated in the work of the forum, as well as the representatives of the Youth Government of the Ulyanovsk region, the representatives of the youth councils at Ulyanovsk region municipalities, the representatives of the student and public associations in the Ulyanovsk region, the representatives of the Youth Governments of the Volga Federal District (the Republic of Tatarstan, the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Udmurtia Republic, the Chuvash Republic, the Saratov region, the Penza region) and the Yamalo-Nenetsky autonomous district (the city of Novy Urengoy, Muravlenko).

In the framework of this forum the study was conducted, the purpose of which was to analyze the activity of youth public organizations in the Volga Federal district in view of the career-guidance influence on the members of such organizations.

The questionnaire survey was chosen as a method of the study with the use of a specially designed questionnaire. The members of the youth public organizations in the Volga Federal district were the respondents who participated in the work of the forum. One hundred thirty eight respondents were questioned in total.

Among the respondents at the time of conducting the questionnaire survey 43,2% was aged 21-23, 37,3% was older than 23, 17,6% - aged 18-20, 1,9% - before 18.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To the question of what led the respondents to participation in the activity of youth associations (bodies of power) 32,1% marked the interest in public work and activity of youth public organization; 25,9% – the desire to get experience of organizing work, to make interesting contacts, to take part in public life of the city and the region; 16,1% – the desire to gain knowledge and practical skills in the field of public administration; 14,8% – the desire to learn about a personnel situation in agencies of power, the prospects of professional activity, a possibility of being admitted to the personnel reserve with the subsequent employment; 11,1% – the desire to gain a complete idea of activity of executive bodies of the region.

Being the participants of youth associations, young people set the following objectives before themselves:

41,2% seek to be in the center of public and political life of the city and region, to be aware of significant events and to take part in them;

27,4% seek to become a skilled organizer of events, projects, etc.;

21,6% seek to become youth leaders;

9,8% do not set specific goals before themselves.

To the question of whether the membership in a youth organization influenced the judgments of the respondents about professional activity, the answers were distributed in the following way:

39,2% answered that the membership in a youth organization created their priorities in the professional sphere, but they cannot say precisely what institution they want to work at;

27,4% precisely know, thanks to the youth organization, what institution they want to work at, what duties they want to carry out;

21,6% consider that the membership in a youth organization did not exert an impact on their professional preferences;

11,8% noted that the membership in a youth organization had a slight effect on their professional preferences.

47,1% of the respondents agreed with the fact that the membership in such organizations as the youth governments, the youth ministries of the Ulyanovsk region is assessed positively among young people and it is considered prestigious. 43,1% marked “rather yes than no”, and 11,6% “rather no than yes”.

37,2% of the respondents would like to continue professional activity further in the sphere of the public and municipal administration, also 37,2% chose “rather yes than no”; 9,9% – “rather no than yes”; 9,8% already conduct professional activity in this sphere and 5,9% found it difficult to answer.

To the question “If you have already begun work has the membership in youth association helped in it?” the respondents answered in the following way: 37,25% were employed thanks to vigorous activity in a youth association; in 27,5%

employment is not connected with the activity in a youth association; 13,7% of the respondents are sure that their employment will be connected with the activity in a youth association; 11,8% did not get a job directly owing to the activity in a youth association, but it helped them in self-determination and job search; 9,8% found it difficult to answer.

The respondents of 50,9% would like to share their experience of the membership in a youth association with school students and university first-year and second-year students, to outline the advantages and disadvantages of the membership in similar associations. 43,3% chose “rather yes than no”, 3,9% – “rather no than yes”, 1,9% picked “no”.

CONCLUSION

On the whole, the respondents treat the membership of youth organizations in a responsible manner and set significant objectives before themselves (participation in public and political life of the municipality and the region and etc.). Youth organizations enable young people to try their hand in the role of youth leaders, to develop organizational skills, to familiarize themselves with the work of bodies of power of the region and to understand the system of the state and municipal management, to make important social contacts.

One of the most significant functions of youth organizations is the assistance in professional and personal self-determination achieved through socially significant activity. The youth get social experience, on the basis of which they can plan their careers and walks of life relying on personal preferences and interests.

The results of the interview show that the membership in a youth organization served as a factor forming professional preferences in more than a half of the respondents (66,6%). A very significant fact is that 37,25% of the respondents are successfully employed thanks to the activity in a youth association which can be considered as a positive result of the youth organizations' activity.

Thus we see that the activity organization of youth governments, youth field-related Ministries and similar associations is the priority area of the state youth policy. The conducted sociologic study shows that these organizations successfully solve a number of problems which are very significant for social, economic and political formation of the youth.

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