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Секція 1. Актуальні проблеми соціальної педагогіки
та соціальної роботи

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERING IN STUDENTS' SOCIALIZATION

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On the modern stage Ukrainian society is faced with the necessity of making a constructive, participating and responsible member out of every citizen of Ukraine. Today the social and political situation is characterized by new negative phenomena and processes. The problem of national security, overcoming economic crisis is aggravated by the temporary occupation of the part of Ukrainian territory and antiterrorist operation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The government's strategy aims at uniting the society. Modern changes in political, economical and social development of Ukrainian society have significantly affected new tendencies in the national system of higher education. One of the priority goals of system of higher education is to support the positive development of the society through providing it with socially active and patriotically oriented members.

The further positive development of Ukrainian society is based on the concept of formation of a socially oriented, independent and self-sufficient member who is ready to ensure the priority of human rights and freedoms. In this context the positive youth socialization becomes a top aim of the national educational policy. According

to the National Strategy of Education Development in Ukraine for years 2012-2021, the shaping of progressive attitudes and the imparting of modern values to the young generation are essential for general development of the country.

Pedagogues, psychologists, sociologists and other researchers have studied volunteering as an important institute of social and cultural development and as an effective mean of youth socialization. Volunteers are abundant in modern Ukrainian community. Nowadays they serve as a vital part of our society.

The phenomena of youth socialization has been widely analyzed by foreign and native philosophers, sociologists and educators. Among them are well-known pedagogues G.Andreiva, Y. Giddens, Ya. Gylinskyi, I. Kon, V.Moskalenko, A.Mudryk, T.Parsons, V.Zenkovskyi. And in particular, students' socialization paying much attention to such scholars as V. Andriushchenko, L.Gordin, V.Kurylo, V. Lisovskyi, S. Savchenko, N. Reynvald.

In recent years, there have been several successful methodological and empirical studies on the effectiveness of using volunteering as an effective mean of the youth socialization, such as A.Beluaev, O.Bezpalko, E. Bogdanova, S. Kharchenko, T. Lyakh, L.Nikitina, L.Sikorskaya, L.Romanovska, I.Zvereva and others.

Analysis of the work above authors shows that they contain a wealth of scientific material which is the foundation of the study of sources. Nevertheless, a number of important aspects of the mentioned problem required further study.

In this article the focus is on analysis of the role of volunteering in the process of students' socialization.

It is known that socialization is a lifelong process of including the individual into the social world during which person learns about social expectations. Socialization is resulted in an active reproduction of the acquired experience.

So, the term "socialization" refers to the process of interaction through which the growing individual learns the habits, attitudes, values and beliefs of their social community.

A. Mudrik [3] explains socialization as the process by which individuals acquire the knowledge, social skills and value to conform to the norms and roles required for integration into a community. It is a combination of both self-imposed rules and the expectations of the others.

According to Mardahaev L. [2] socialization can be seen both as a process and as a result. Socialization as a process means the features of social identity formation. Socialization as a result means the characteristics of human social formation in accordance with their age or ego level.

Socialization occurs throughout our life, but some of the most important social process occurs in youth years and connects with educational sphere. Numerous pedagogical researches (O. Sevastianova [4], V. Vynogradova [9]) represent student age as the period of the most intense socialization and the period of active formation of identity and lifestyle ideals, self-development and self-assertion of individuals. In the student's age all mechanisms of socialization actively work such as mechanisms of imitation and mechanisms of social influence on the part of teachers and students according to which the individual chooses a role to play and learns the norms, values and social skills appropriate to it.

The growing number of modern studies [1; 6; 7] shows that volunteering is one of the activities that really plays an important role in positive student's socialization.

According to Stebbins, a volunteer – “whether economic or volitional – as someone who performs, even for a short period of time, volunteer work in either an informal or a formal setting. It is through volunteer work that a person provides a service or benefit to one or more individuals, usually receiving no pay” [8, p. 156].

K. Khadzhaliev, L. Aygubov indicate such personality needs on which the motives for participating in volunteer activities are based: 1) the need for recognition, 2) the need for achievement, 3) the need for self-control, 4) the need for diversity, 5) the need for growth, 6) the need for communication, 7) the need for entertainment [1, p.70].

Looking at the youth age when student comes to volunteers, Shields emphasizes that young adults are more likely to volunteer to benefit their own self-

interests and concern for their own personal advancement. Thus, a concern for their own advancement would be a strong motivator for young adults to volunteer their time and to remain involved with a volunteer organization [5, p. 144].

There are several types of volunteer activity:

1) professional volunteering is an activity aimed at obtaining work experience in a definite specialty;

2) public volunteering – different kinds of mass useful work that don't connect with professional specialty;

3) virtual volunteering - volunteering through Internet;

4) family volunteering - several family members are involved in volunteer activities.

Volunteer activities can be regarded as an important condition and an effective mean of students' socialization. Volunteerism improves the social activity of students and becomes an effective resource of youth socialization. At the same time it fosters ownership and influences on the formation of an active social position. Volunteering is a movement that helps each person to understand social problems and facilitates their participation in the life of society. Volunteering empowers students, it encourages participation and ownership, reinforces a sense of responsibility.

Active participation in volunteer activities contributes to the development of such social skills that ensure the positive students' socialization as:

1) communication skills

2) leadership skills

3) skills of self-organization and discipline

4) self-control skills

5) experience of interaction and cooperation in a group

6) organizational skills

7) personal qualities such as honesty, confidence, commitment, initiative, creativity etc.

From our point of view, volunteering in Higher Education as one of the areas of extracurricular work contributes to the students' self-development and self-realization, stimulates their professional growth and development. It actualizes the role of an active participation in the processes of solving social problems and indicates an individual social position. Volunteering as a mean of positive students' socialization contributes to the formation of a value-based social position and fosters individual readiness to spend their own internal resources on the needs of the society.

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