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The Role of Youth Organization in the Development of Higher Educational Institutions Students' Humanistic Value Orientations

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to ground theoretically and test experimentally pedagogical conditions of students' humanistic value orientations development in the youth organization.

205 students of the 1-2 academic year of the Institute of Pedagogy and Psychology of Kazan federal university, Russian Federation took part in the empirical research (103 students are members of Kazan Youth Korczak society "The sun for Children", 102 students are not the members of the society). The complex of diagnostic instruments to research students' humanistic value orientations development in the youth organization has been applied. Statistical data processing of the empirical research has been carried out by means of standard methods of mathematical statistics (Student's t-test differences).

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1. Introduction

In the context of the modern Russian society transition to a qualitatively new state, the decrease of the youth's moral level, the change of their value orientations under the influence of various circumstances, including economic disorder, are being observed. Today different organizations of the neo-Nazi wing are strengthening their positions in Russia. The youth is becoming cruel, insusceptible to the problems of the weak (orphaned children, disabled people and elderly people). That is what actualizes the problem of student's youth humanistic value orientations formation.

The youth age is the period of the most important events in a human life. It is the period of their social and professional guidelines establishment, the formation of worldview, value-motivational and normative sphere. One of the most important public institutions of upbringing for the young generation to avoid mental and spiritual

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devastation is the youth association that cannot be substituted by school, higher education institutions or the family.

The problem of value orientations has been analyzed in the works of Russian scientists L.M. Arkhangelskiy (1983) [1], O.G. Drobnitsky (1966) [2], A.G. Zdravomyslov (1986) [3], M. S. Kagan (1997) [4], E.A. Podolskaya (1984) [5], V. G. Harcheva (1983) [6], etc. They consider value orientations as the most important element of the personality internal structure, as the result of his interiorization the main social values, allowing to orient in the world of material and spiritual culture, providing the behavior motivation and activity. The researches of moral and esthetic values (E.V.Bondarevskaya, 1995) [7] are also presented in the Russian pedagogical science. Common basics of the value orientations formation are considered in the works of T.N. Malkovskaya (1978) [8], T.K. Akhayan (1996) [9], etc.

Many Russian researchers not only designate the most significant values in modern sociocultural situation, but also discover their informative contents (A.V.Kir'yakova, 1998 [10], R. M. Rogova, 1996 [11], etc.). N.A.Savina (1999) [12], I.N. Shadrina (1998) [13], V.A.Yadov (1965) [14], etc. have investigated the student youth value orientations at different age stages. Some aspects of younger generation's humanistic value orientations formation have been considered in the works of N.V. Ivanova (1995) [15]. The influence of humanistic value orientations on different aspects of life has been studied by E.A.Arutyunyan (1979) [16], M. Rokeach (1973) [17], etc.

The content analysis of the associated concepts "values" and "value orientations" allowed giving the definition of the concept "humanistic value orientations". It is a complex formation of the personality integrated features, comprising in its structure the system of value relations: respect for the individual, tolerance, empathy, sensitiveness, responsibility for others. The steady and consistent set of humanistic value orientations determines such personality qualities as reliability, loyalty to certain principles and ideals, respect for person's freedom and dignity, tolerance, violence rejection, tendency to be useful for people in a difficult life situation.

The process of humanistic value orientations formation of students studying in the pedagogical higher education institution and taking part in the youth organization was based on three methodological approaches: system approach, V.A.Yadov's approach and personal approach. V.A.Yadov (1979) [14] considers the individual's value orientations system to be formed at the highest level of the personality development. It regulates the personality behavior and activity in the most significant situations of social activity in which the person's attitude to goals of activity and to the means of these goals satisfaction are expressed. The significant characteristics of the personal approach are the humanistic methods of the educational process participants' interaction, the development of the personality semantic sphere, the ability to reflect.

Next point of the research was connected with revealing the youth organization peculiarities and educational potential. We consider it a special area for students' humanistic value orientations formation. On the background of psychological and pedagogical researches analysis and the experience of modern youth organizations study, we have singled out the features of youth organizations in Russia. They have a socially significant goal, specifically defined program of activity, clearly formulated rights and duties of their members, their conscious discipline, distinct structure, correlation of the organization member's social roles, coordination of their actions. The task of the youth organizations is to grant each member the opportunities for self-realization, the development of self-government, confidence and interests protection.

The youth organization educational potential includes the young people's development and self-development. Their individual-psychological features and interests are taken into account there, and their creative potential is revealed. Each young man is the subject of cognition, activity, communication, rights, social adaptation. The experience of interpersonal interaction and different social initiatives are developed in the youth organization. The goal of the youth organizations is to stimulate and develop the personality potential, their inclusion in the system of social communications through the socially useful activity.

The characteristic feature of the youth organization in a teachers' training institution is its orientation to a humane educator formation. This kind of educators do not stand inhumanity towards a person and all alive. His significant feature is violence rejection. They aware the existential originality of each person, demonstrate constructiveness and the ability to take responsibility for their activity.

In the course of the research were singled out basic principles of the youth organization educational opportunities implementation aimed at the formation of students' humanistic value orientations. These are the principle of educational environment organization; the principle of freedom congruity upbringing; the principle of universal human values and actual values harmonization; the principle of the personality self-realization; the principle of students' involvement in social relations; the principle of pedagogical management and students' self-government interconnection.

The aim of the present research has become the development and experimental approval of pedagogical conditions of students' humanistic value orientations formation in the youth organization. On the basis of the obtained data, we made an attempt to reveal differences in the formation of humanistic value orientations of students - members of the youth organization and students, who are not members of the youth organization.

2. Methods

To study students' humanistic value orientations we have applied M. Rokeach's (Rokeach, 1973) procedure of value orientations investigation; humanistic value orientations identification technique (according to Z.I.Vasilyeva); questionnaire on studying students' attitude to volunteer activity of humanistic orientation. The Student's t-test was used to test the hypothesis about the reliability of mean average.

205 students of the 1-2 academic year of Kazan federal university took part in the empirical research (103 students are members of Kazan Youth Korczak Society "The Sun for Children" (KYKS "SCh"), 102 students are not its members).

3. Results

In the course of the stating experiment, the application of Rokeach's method allowed to reveal that the distribution of terminal and instrumental values in both groups of respondents before experiment were practically identical, except for some values which were more brightly expressed in this or that group. For example, students-members of KYKS "SCh" singled out among the terminal values an interesting job (21%), love (24%), financial security (21%). As for the instrumental values there were singled out high aspirations (24%), cheerfulness (21%). The students, who are not members of KYKS "SCh", had before the experiment such terminal values as an interesting job (21%), entertainments (21%); among the instrumental values – high aspirations (21%), education (21%). It is important to note that students who were not members of the youth organization had some values that the students of the other group did not have: from the terminal - faithful friends (6%), cognition (12%); from the instrumental - duty performance (15%), irreconcilability to shortcomings in oneself and others (15%). Thus, there are practically no differences according to the expressiveness of values in both groups before the experiment.

From the whole list of the humanistic value orientations, such values as empathy, responsibility, readiness to help and care are prevailing in the group of KYKS "SCh" members before the experiment. A very low indicator of readiness to help is exposed to the high degree of empathy and care. It means that students have these values at the level of knowledge, but they remain inexperienced and unrealized. In the group of students who are not members of the youth organization the same values prevail, but their proportion is somewhat different. The results of Student's t-criterion confirm the absence of differences between the groups at the stating stage of the research ($t = 0,5432$).

After the pedagogical observation and for the convenience of the results statement, we decided that it is possible to single out the levels of the humanistic value orientations formation. The tested students of both groups had a very low level of the humanistic value orientations formation before the experiment; it makes 9%. The low level of humanistic value orientations formation in the experimental and control groups before the experiment asserts that this issue is not paid adequate attention to in the practice of secondary school upbringing and education. Therefore, the first-year students in higher education institutions have a low level of the humanistic

value orientations. They are not ready to display care, responsibility, sensitiveness and love for children. This actualizes the necessity of purposeful work aimed on students' humanistic value orientations formation. The youth organization has a positive influence on the students' humanistic value orientations formation.

In the course of the forming stage of the experiment, we approved pedagogical conditions of the students' humanistic value orientations formation in the youth organization. Each of these conditions is very important. However, we consider the establishment of students' humanistic pedagogical ideal in the person of the eminent Polish teacher-humanist Janusz Korczak as the starting point. The presence of ideals gives the chance to form perspectives and reserves for the students' humanistic value orientations formation. Janusz Korczak is the educator-humanist, who created in Warsaw at the beginning of the XX century a unique educational system in the orphanage. It is based on the ideas about children's and adults' equality, respect for the child's personality and rights in the world of adults (Valeeva, 2010) [15]. In 1942 the fascists doomed the children from the Jewish orphanage managed by Korczak to death in a gas chamber of the camp Treblinka. Janusz Korczak shared the horrible fate of the children though he was repeatedly given the opportunity to save his life.

According to Korczak's ideas we create the humanistic educational space in the Society activity. The first year, when students become members of the society, is the time of students' consolidation. Though they study at different academic courses, the tragic fate of the great educator and "clear light" of his ideas unite them. They join the Society following the talented and bright adults who have made the first generation of this youth public organization. Students make their first steps to Korczak on the Day of Janusz Korczak held annually at the beginning of September. Undergraduates go to first-year students and tell them about Korczak, about his activity, tragic and glorious fate. In the evening of the same day we have the Korczak candle light party, the major task of which is the acquaintance with new members; discussion of our plans and our common affairs.

The next pedagogical condition is students' involvement in scientific-research and propaganda activity connected with the name of Korczak. The students' scientific society has been created as the scientific laboratory within the frames of KYKS "SCh" activity. Its goals are to stimulate the motivation and development of students' scientific and creative activity skills. That suggests students' training for the participation in the competitions connected with the solution of significant social problems. To promote J. Korczak's ideas, we annually arrange the regional, all-Russian and international conferences, youth seminars and take active part in profile conferences in the cities of Russia.

The most important condition for the students' humanistic value orientations formation is the organization of practical, humanistically focused activity with children demanding special attention and care. The students organize practical, humanistically focused activity with orphaned children from two orphanages of the Republic of Tatarstan. One of them is situated in Kazan and the other is a rural orphanage situated in Laishevo. The students' work with children consists of five blocks:

1. Awareness-raising stage, establishing of friendly and trust-based relations between students and children.
2. Observation, analysis and foster children's intellectual activity skills formation.
3. The correction of foster children's emotional sphere.
4. The formation of foster children's constructive communication skills
5. Further forwarding of a child after leaving the orphanage.

The creation of the emotional-positive atmosphere and humanistic style of students' relationship in the youth organization, displayed in their full acceptance of each other, benevolence and respect is of great important for us. In order to create a small model of future activity in a higher education institution, it is necessary to unite students on the basis of the idea of mutual help and support, sympathy and empathy, equality and respect. For this purpose it is required to lay the foundation, the basis of their future pedagogical activity. This foundation is not only the knowledge they obtain in the higher education institution, but the humanistic relations they enter.

In KYKS "SCh" we try to arrange the communication on the basis of enthusiasm to do common business, without authoritarianism, accepting everyone's point of view. The involvement in common business is the source

of friendliness. The friendliness multiplied by the involvement in an interesting job, gives birth to the joint enthusiastic search. Therefore, it is necessary to form friendliness as the certain way of relations with each other.

At the control stage of the research we revealed that the high level of the humanistic value orientations formation in the group of students-members of KYKS "SCh" changed from 9% to 45%, the average level – from 21% to 30%, the low level went down from 70% to 25%. In the group of students who are not members of KYKS "SCh" there were no essential changes in the levels. The obtained data are confirmed by Student's t-test ($t_{\text{emp}} = -4,63$). The verification survey of the students-members of KYKS "SCh" found out a steady tendency to the increase of the humanistic value orientations formation level.

The interview of the members of KYKS "SCh" about the role of Korczak society for them showed that it was communication, friendship, Korczak. When answering the question what they have received in the Society, they state that it has given them a lot: the ability to interact, to be responsible for their actions. They have learnt to organize their and other people's activity; they have learnt to sympathize, to help, to empathize with other people.

4. Conclusions

The results of the stating and control stage of the experiment showed the positive dynamics of the humanistic value orientations formation and the productivity of the complex of pedagogical conditions. That testifies to the efficiency of the performed work aimed to form the youth humanistic value orientations. On the basis of the pilot-experimental work obtained results, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the youth organization plays an important role in the formation of students' humanistic value orientations.

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