

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON VOLUNTEERISM IN EDUCATION: ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

AIDA NURUTDINOVA

Kazan Federal University – Russia

ORCID: 0000-0001-5759-0820

AiRNurutdinova@kpfu.ru

NATALIA KUZNETSOVA

Federal State Autonomous Educational institution of higher education «Russian State Vocational Pedagogical University», branch in Nizhny Tagil – Russia

ORCID 0000-0002-5263-1731

kuznetsovs@mail.ru

ANASTASYA SADRIEVA

Federal State Autonomous Educational institution of higher education «Russian State Vocational Pedagogical University», branch in Nizhny Tagil – Russia

ORCID: 0009-0006-0167-5837

anastasya.sadrieva@mail.ru

DMITRY DONTSOV

Russian State Social University – Russia

FSBO «Glavrybvod» – Russia

ORCID: 0009-0004-2569-4405

Ddmitryolegovich@gmail.com

EKATERINA ARZAMASOVA

Moscow Polytechnic University – Russia

ORCID: 0000-0001-7311-4269

kstvg-15@yandex.ru

ELENA KONEEVA

Moscow Aviation institute (National Research University) – Russia

ORCID: 0009-0005-9881-0769

Elena_koneeva@mail.ru

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to explore the development of volunteering as a socially significant phenomenon and its role in aiding students, particularly those in medical fields, to acquire competencies relevant to their professional growth and career preparation.



Methods: An empirical study was carried out employing qualitative data collection methods. A substantial amount of material was analyzed, including academic articles, conference proceedings, and websites related to volunteer movements.

Results: The study identifies key aspects of how volunteering in hospitals serves as a crucial stage in the professional, career, and personal development of medical students. It highlights the benefits of volunteer work in providing practical experience and enhancing skill sets relevant to their future careers.

Conclusion: Volunteering in healthcare settings emerges as an integral part of medical students' education, fostering their professional and personal growth while addressing important societal needs, particularly in preventive healthcare. The findings underscore the value of incorporating volunteer work into medical training programs to better prepare students for their future roles in the healthcare industry.

Keywords: Volunteerism; Volunteer movement; Professional activity; Professional qualities.

1 INTRODUCTION

In Russian society today, volunteering is becoming a prominent social phenomenon. On the one hand, it provides a mechanism for the participation of young people in solving certain social problems. On the other hand, it functions as a type of social elevator that allows active teenagers and young citizens to learn how to make effective decisions, which cannot but affect the development of various spheres of our lives (Beloglazova et al., 2023; Zubova & Filippova, 2021). To summarize the conclusions of other researchers (Berezhnaya & Mikhailina, 2020; Diusekeeva & Pushkareva, 2020; Peric et al., 2021), the development of volunteering became possible for several diverse reasons. Among them, in our view, it is important to emphasize, first, the effective establishment of the necessary legal framework, i.e., volunteering receiving support from the state (Ziyatdinova & Dilmukhametova, 2023). Second, the growing role of volunteering as a socially approved activity has contributed to the formation of a culture of social activism and the popularization of such movements to solve problems at various levels, which is socially significant and approved and supported by regional authorities (Rodenkova et al., 2023; Ziyatdinova & Dilmukhametova, 2023). Furthermore, during the pandemic, the need for volunteering as an organized activity to solve the problems of people in difficult life situations began to be recognized (Lukianenko, 2020; Mamedova et al., 2020). An example of such an approach is the volunteer movement "Molodezh ONF Krasnoyarskogo Kraia" ["Youth ONF Krasnoyarsk Krai"]. Young volunteers participate



in solving various emergencies under the motto "We are where help is needed". In the time of the organization's existence, volunteers have visited emergency zones in Uyar, Norilsk, Irkutsk region, and Crimea. Their approach to work is to help in important things that require emergency assistance in a given situation (for example, collecting firewood for heating the homes of low-income people and people in difficult circumstances) (Narodnyi front, 2020). Participation in the volunteer movement contributes not only to the provision of important social assistance but also to the training of future specialists. In particular, the practical experience gained from working with people under the guidance of experienced mentors is highly useful for the development of professional qualities in a young specialist in the healthcare field (Semenova, 2020). By the specifics of their activity, a doctor is constantly communicating with patients, so they need to understand in practice that people can fall into a variety of circumstances, and they need to help the person within their competencies (Tretyakova et al., 2023), primarily focusing on the desire to assist the individual. Since a medical student has chosen the profession of a doctor, the feelings of compassion and charity should not be alien to them (Shadrina et al., 2023).

The present article aims to identify the main aspects of medical students' participation in volunteering at hospitals as an important step in their preparation for their professional practice.

2 METHODS

To achieve the research goal, an empirical study was conducted using qualitative methods of data collection (Dilmukhametova & Talipova, 2023). In our study, we proceeded from the view of volunteering as a multidimensional social phenomenon that is of interest to research in various scientific fields. The focus of our overview was to understand how volunteering can develop important professional qualities in students. The types of sources analyzed included academic articles, conference proceedings, and websites of volunteer movements. Based on the analyzed data, it was determined how participation in volunteering helps students in their professional activities and what features hospital volunteering has for medical students in terms of developing their professional skills and understanding of their profession.





3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Proceeding from the analyzed data (Saitkhanov et al., 2018; Yespolova et al., 2019), the main aspects characterizing the impact of volunteering on professional qualities were highlighted (Figure 1).

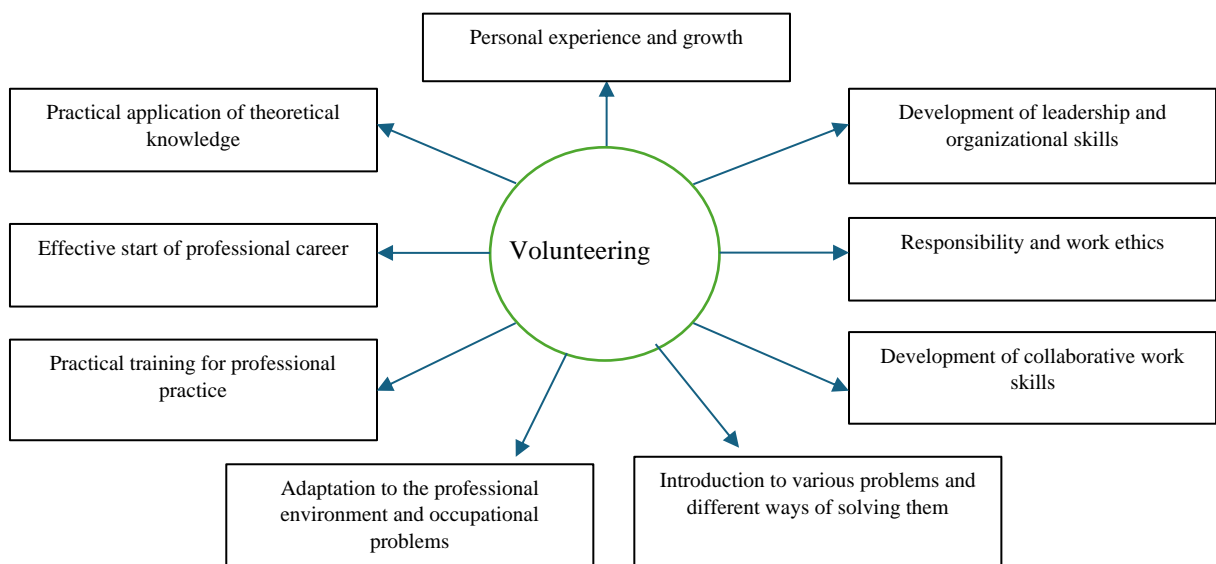


Figure 1. Impact of volunteering on the development of professional qualities (compiled by the authors)

Volunteering allows students to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired during their studies to real-life situations (Uziumova & Kiseleva, 2023). This is very important for situations where the role of skills that can only be acquired through practical activities, particularly in fields such as medicine, production, and education, is crucial.

Skills such as communication, teamwork, and step-by-step problem-solving are vital in the professional field. Through volunteering, students are allowed to develop these skills in a hands-on way. For example, "working as a team on volunteer projects helps students learn how to collaborate effectively, which is an important skill in any workplace" (Zubova & Filippova, 2021, p. 87). Moreover, volunteering often involves the need to solve problems in emergencies, which are rarely encountered in ordinary student life (Mamedova et al., 2020). All this contributes to the development of the person's emotional intelligence, which is highly valued in any professional environment.





Volunteering often allows students to interact with people of different statuses and professional positions, including those with rich life experience or unique skills, which is important for a future professional in their field. Communication with professionals in their fields provides opportunities to participate in a variety of situations based on students' current professional capabilities and resources, thus enriching their body of knowledge and enhancing critical thinking. "Critical thinking is a link and the basis for the development of personal characteristics of a specialist, and a fundamental element in the development of competitiveness" (Mamleeva, 2018, p. 101). Critical thinking is essential for a person's development as a professional who can make effective decisions in situations set by the circumstances at hand.

In addition, when working alongside professionals in their field of study, students can make valuable connections that can benefit their employability upon completion of their studies (Mityurnikova et al., 2023).

Many aspects of volunteering require students to demonstrate leadership skills, as they need to organize events or lead a team (Chevorkian et al., 2020). This experience is invaluable for doctors of certain specialties and disaster medical workers. Students learn to manage situations, coordinate their actions with team members, and propose and implement initiatives, which is an important quality for professionals.

Furthermore, volunteer experiences help build a student's resume. They demonstrate to potential employers that the student has practical experience in their field, as well as a desire to be part of the professional community and to excel in their profession.

Volunteering also allows students to understand their capabilities, which are difficult to realize without work experience, thus driving personal growth and self-reflection. "Participation in volunteer activities allows students to test their interests and abilities in a particular field before making a final decision about their future professional career" (Azbuka uma, 2023).

Volunteer work often requires students to adapt to different conditions and tasks. This adaptability is a valuable quality in a professional world where conditions and requirements can change fast.

Through volunteering, students develop a strong sense of responsibility and work ethics (Pavlova & Konstantinova, 2017). They learn how important it is to be reliable, punctual, and determined, which are qualities needed in any professional activity, especially in medicine (each student who has completed the basic educational





program of higher medical education takes a doctor's oath when receiving a certificate (diploma) of higher vocational education).

Proceeding from the outlined aspects, we will focus our attention on volunteering in hospitals, which is a rather specific type of activity, but a useful practice for the future development of the doctor, if the student aspires to master their profession faster and test themselves as a person.

Here it is important to highlight the following aspects of this approach in student training. Medical students volunteering in medical clinics can put their theoretical knowledge of anatomy and patient care into practice, advancing their knowledge and professional skills. In essence, this can be seen as a type of experiential learning, which is crucial to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Scientific studies (Denisova et al., 2023; Shebzukhova et al., 2023) emphasize the importance of practical experience in medical training. Volunteer activities in hospitals allow students to observe medical procedures, learn from experienced healthcare professionals, understand the workflow in healthcare facilities, and apply theoretical knowledge in practice.

In doing so, students are allowed to develop skills that shape them as individuals. For example, effective communication is a key skill for physicians (Denisova et al., 2023). Volunteering is an opportunity for students to interact with patients and medical staff, strengthening their communication and interpersonal skills. This experience is invaluable for building rapport with patients and for effective teamwork. It is also important to emphasize the importance of fostering empathy in the physician. Volunteering introduces students to the human side of the medical profession. Interaction with patients, especially those in vulnerable situations, helps develop empathy and compassion.

To students who are still undecided about their career focus and future occupation, volunteering can offer a unique insight into different medical specialties and career paths. On the one hand, networking with professionals and mentors who can offer guidance and support in career choices is very valuable for a young professional. On the other hand, a student who has proven themselves while volunteering at the hospital may be invited to work in a team they are familiar with, and the young professional will find it easier to fulfill their work duties, as they have already gained experience in this workplace.



Medical education can be stressful, and volunteering helps students develop resilience and stress management skills and equips them to cope with challenging situations, which is an essential aspect of the training of future physicians (Kulkayeva et al., 2023).

Hospital volunteering also instills a sense of community service. Students learn about public health issues in a hands-on way. In this light, students should be involved in projects to improve public health prevention that are conducted at hospitals (Sekerin et al., 2019). An example of such a project is described in detail in the research literature (Svetlakova et al., 2020). In 2017, the staff of the Department of Therapeutic Dentistry and Propaedeutics of Dental Diseases of the Ural State Medical University conducted the project "Happy Smile". Among the main objectives of the project was to improve the quality of medical (dental) education by engaging students in medical volunteering. In other words, such a project allows hospitals to take part in preventive activities on the one hand, and on the other hand to involve students in this task. In turn, students' participation in the implementation of such projects will increase their competitiveness in the labor market (Kenzhin et al., 2021).

4 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we note that volunteering provides students with a multifaceted mechanism for developing professional qualities in their field of interest. This is particularly relevant for medical students, as volunteering bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical application. Students develop communication skills, learn different approaches to solving professional and personal problems, gain skills in communicating with practicing professionals, and develop professional contacts. This experience not only enriches the professional path of students but also favorably affects their personal development and the development of society and regions, especially in the current conditions when regions are facing a shortage of labor resources. Therefore, the inclusion of volunteering opportunities in academic curricula and encouraging students to participate in such activities will contribute to resolving various problems, especially in the development of preventive healthcare projects and the training of a modern generation of medical professionals.



REFERENCES

Azbuka uma. (2023, December 5). Rol volonterskoi deiatelnosti v lichnostnom i karernom roste studentov [The role of volunteer activities in the personal and career development of students]. Retrieved December 15, 2023 from https://azbukauma.ru/o-kompanii/novosti/rol-volonterskoj-deyatelnosti-v-lichnostnom-i-karernom-roste-studentov?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2F

Beloglazova, L., Stepanova, D., Telezhko, I., Shaitura, N., Kirillova, E., & Biryukov, V. (2023). Opportunities to transform the concept of sustainable development. *Journal of Law and Sustainable Development*, 11(12), e1906. <https://doi.org/10.55908/sdgs.v11i12.1906>

Berezhnaya, M.S., & Mikhailina, E.V. (2020). The influence of volunteer activities on the socialization of children from orphanages by means of art. *Humanities & Social Sciences Reviews*, 8(6), 68-81. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18510/hssr.2020.868>

Chevorkian, E.N., Savenkov, A.I., Levitski, M.L., & Narikbayeva, L. (2020). Modernization of the management of a university educational structural unit based on the distributed leadership model. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 79, 02008. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20207902008>

Denisova, D., Strandstrem, E., Akhmetshin, E., & Nikolenko, D. (2023). Efficiency of various forms of simulation training in the training of medical professionals. *European Journal of Contemporary Education*, 12(3), 788-796. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13187/ejced.2023.3.788>

Dilmukhametova, A., & Talipova, D. (2023). Information space as a factor in the perception of higher education. *Revista Relações Internacionais do Mundo Atual*, 2(40), 119-129.

Diusekeeva, L.K., & Pushkareva, A.V. (2020). Volonterstvo kak faktor razvitiia grazhdanskogo obshchestva [Volunteering as a factor in the development of civil society]. *Pedagogicheskaja nauka i praktika*, 2(28), 14-17.

Kenzhin, Z.B., Tulegenova, A.U., Zolkin, A.L., Kosnikova, O.V., & Shichkin, I.A. (2021). Labour market under economy digitalization. *E3S Web of Conferences*, 311, 08007. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202131108007>

Kulkayeva, S., Sakhipova, G., Abenova, N., & Imanbayeva, A. (2023). Comparative analysis of self-assessment of life quality among medical university students. *European Journal of Contemporary Education*, 12(2), 509-516. <https://doi.org/10.13187/ejced.2023.2.509>

Lukianenko, K.T. (2020). Volonterstvo kak instrument vovlecheniia v sistemu gosudarstvennoi molodezhnoi politiki [Volunteering as a tool for involvement in the system of state youth policy]. *Humanities and Social Sciences. Bulletin of the Financial University*, 10(3), 147-149. <https://doi.org/10.26794/2226-7867-2020-10-3-147-149>



Mamedova, A.O., Bykova, P.V., Sysoev, A.A., & Gergokova, D.V. (2020). Volonterskaia deiatelnost v period pandemii COVID-19 [Volunteer activity during the COVID-19 pandemic]. StudNet, 3(7), 216-221. <https://doi.org/10.24411/2658-4964-2020-10057>

Mamleeva, A.F. (2018). Kriticheskoe myshlenie kak faktor povysheniia konkurentosposobnosti spetsialista na sovremennom rynke truda [Critical thinking as a factor of improving competitiveness in the labor market]. St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University Journal. Humanities and Social Sciences, 9(4), 96-107. <https://doi.org/10.18721/JHSS.9410>

Mityurnikova, L., Pitelinsky, K., Gnevshchev, A., & Makovey, S. (2023). Impact of career guidance for students on social cohesion and economic stability. Revista Conrado, 19(S2), 225-234.

Narodnyi front. (2020, December 14). "Molodezhka ONF" obespechivaet drovami nuzhdaiushchiesia semi v krasnoyarske ["Molodezhka ONF" provides firewood to needy families in Krasnoyarsk]. Retrieved December 15, 2023 from <https://onf.ru/news/archive/2020-12-14-molodezhka-onf-obespechivaet-drovami-nuzhdayushchiesya-semi-v-krasnoyarske>

Pavlova, V.D., & Konstantinova, M.G. (2017). Vospitanie npravstvenno-eticheskikh tsennostei u studentov cherez volonterskuiu deiatelnost [Fostering moral and ethical values in students through volunteer activities]. Scientific and Methodological Electronic Journal "Koncept", 26, 160-164.

Peric, Ju., Leko Simic, M., Pevnaya, M.V., & Sharma, E. (2021). Generation z and volunteering: A national culture perspective. Education and Science Journal, 23(1), 44-72.

Rodenkova, T., Gerzelieva, Zh., Sandler, D., Zvonova, I., & Kharchishina, E. (2023). Integration of effectiveness and efficiency indicators of state support for projects and programmes for the development of higher education in Russia. Hrvatska i komparativna javna uprava: Časopis za teoriju i praksu javne uprave, 23(2), 207-240. <https://doi.org/10.31297/hkju.23.2.4>

Saitkhanov, A.F., Khairtdinova, L.F., & Mazova, E.A. (2018). Formirovanie professionalnykh kachestv studentov v volonterskoi deiatelnosti [Formation of professional qualities of students in volunteer activity]. Teoriia i praktika sovremennoi nauki, 12(42), 396-400.

Sekerin, V.D., Dudin, M.N., Gorokhova, A.E., Kondrashova, A.V., & Blinkova, E.S. (2019). Mathematical modeling of the analysis of medical services at the "prevention" stage through quality indicators. Quality Access to Success, 20(173), 9-11.

Semenova, O.A. (2020). Volonterstvo v professii vracha: Obiazatelnoe ili zhelaemoe [Volunteering in the medical profession: Obligatory or desirable]. Tendentsii razvitiia nauki i obrazovaniia, 64(4), 150-153. <https://doi.org/10.18411/lj-08-2020-156>



Shadrina, E., Kuliev, Z., & Schastlivtseva, E. (2023). Formation of thought style in organizing the educational process and training of medical students. *WISDOM*, 26(2), 84-93. <https://doi.org/10.24234/wisdom.v26i2.998>

Shebzukhova, L., Okhtov, A., Sokolskaya, M., & Strandstrem, E. (2023). Impact of simulation education on the development of professional skills of students: Future medical and social workers. *Revista on line de Política e Gestão Educacional*, 27(00), e023027. <https://doi.org/10.22633/rpge.v27i00.18193>

Svetlakova, E.N., Mandra, Iu.V., Zholudev, S.E., Kharitonova, M.P., Kotikova, A.Iu., Vlasova, M.I., Legkikh, A.V., Ivashov, A.S., Sementsova, E.A., Chagai, A.A., Boldyrev, Iu.A., Patrakov, E.V., & Dementeva, K.V. (2020). Uspeshnaia realizatsiia volonterskogo proekta "schastlivaia ulybka" na stomatologicheskome fakultete UGMU kak chast obrazovatel'nogo protsessa [Successful implementation of the volunteer project "Happy Smile" at the Dental Faculty of USMU as a part of the educational process]. *Actual Problems in Dentistry*, 16(2), 164-171. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18481/2077-7566-20-16-2-164-171>

Tretyakova, G., Arutyunian, V., Ginzburg, O., Apresyan, K., & Belozerova, E. (2023). Formation methods of students' intercultural competence. *Revista Relações Internacionais do Mundo Atual*, 1(39), 233-249.

Uziumova, N.V., & Kiseleva, N.I. (2023). Volonterskaia deiatelnost (dobrovolchestvo) kak faktor professional'nogo razvitiia [Volunteer activity as a factor of professional students' development]. *The Eurasian Scientific Journal*, 15(s2), 05FAVN223.

Yespolova, G., Ybyraimzhanov, K., & Mussabekova, G. (2019). Research competence of pupils as the component of content of education. *Opción*, 35(88), 948-961.

Ziyatdinova, E., & Dilmukhametova, A. (2023). Characteristics of information support for state policy in the field of higher education in the Russian Federation on social media. *Revista Relações Internacionais do Mundo Atual*, 2(40), 55-64.

Zubova, O.G., & Filippova, A.G. (2021). Volonterstvo kak forma uchastiia molodezhi v obshchestvennoi zhizni: Po materialam ekspertnykh interviiu [Volunteering as a form of youth participation in public life: Based on expert interviews]. *Sotsiologiya*, 5, 87-94.

