

# **ESTUDANTES E EDUCAÇÃO DURANTE A PANDÊMICA COVID-19: ESTUDO E PERSPECTIVAS**

## ***ESTUDIANTES Y EDUCACIÓN DURANTE LA PANDEMIA COVID-19: ESTUDIO Y PERSPECTIVAS***

## ***STUDENTS AND EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: STUDY AND PERSPECTIVES***

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**RESUMO:** A pandemia COVID-19 tornou-se um problema de saúde em todo o mundo e impôs um impacto significativo na educação. Como resultado, na metade do segundo semestre de 2019/2020, os métodos de aprendizagem foram ministrados por meio do ensino à distância (EaD). O objetivo do artigo é estudar os detalhes da educação online durante a pandemia de Covid-19. Um estudo diagnóstico abrangente das características psicológicas dos alunos incluiu os seguintes métodos: o teste das orientações do significado da vida (OVM), adaptado por D.A. Leontiev (2006), diagnóstico da estrutura motivacional da personalidade. Com base nos resultados da pesquisa empírica realizada, a duração do estudo influenciou a preferência dos alunos. Além disso, um número maior de alunos do primeiro ano preferiu o EaD em comparação com os mais velhos. Apesar de alguns desafios, os alunos puderam se ajustar aos novos métodos de ensino de EaD completa, e a maioria reconheceu que a aprendizagem combinada pode ser realizada posteriormente. A pandemia COVID-19 transforma a aplicação da tecnologia na educação e nas abordagens de ensino em um futuro próximo.

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**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** COVID-19. Atividade voluntária. Alunos. Educação. Características psicológicas.

**RESUMEN** La pandemia de COVID-19 se ha convertido en un problema de salud mundial y ha tenido un impacto significativo en la educación. Como resultado, a mediados del segundo semestre de 2019/2020, los métodos de aprendizaje se entregaron a través de la educación a distancia (DL). El propósito del artículo es estudiar los detalles de la educación en línea durante la pandemia de Covid-19. Un estudio de diagnóstico integral de las características psicológicas de los estudiantes incluyó los siguientes métodos: la prueba de orientaciones de significado de vida (LMO), adaptada por D.A. Leontiev (2006), diagnóstico de la estructura motivacional de la personalidad. Según los resultados de la investigación empírica realizada, la duración del estudio influyó en la preferencia de los estudiantes. Además, un mayor número de estudiantes de primer año prefirió DL en comparación con sus estudiantes de último año. A pesar de algunos desafíos, los estudiantes pudieron adaptarse a los nuevos métodos de educación de la LD completa, y la mayoría reconoció el aprendizaje combinado que el aprendizaje combinado en el aula y a distancia se puede realizar posteriormente. La pandemia de COVID-19 transforma la aplicación de la tecnología en la educación y los enfoques de enseñanza en un futuro próximo.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** COVID-19. Actividad de voluntariado. Estudiantes. Educación. Características psicológicas.

**ABSTRACT:** The COVID-19 pandemic has grown a worldwide health concern and has imposed a significant impact on education. As a result, halfway through the second semester of 2019/2020, learning methods were delivered through distance learning (DL). The purpose of the paper is to study the specifics of online education during the Covid-19 pandemic. A comprehensive diagnostic study of the psychological characteristics of students included the following methods: the test of life-meaning orientations (LMO), adapted by D.A. Leontiev (2006), diagnostics of the motivational structure of personality. Based on the results of the conducted empirical research, duration of study influenced student preference. Plus, Higher number of first-year students preferred DL compared to their seniors. Notwithstanding some challenges, students could adjust to the new education methods of full DL, and the majority recognized combined learning that combined classroom and distance learning can be performed subsequently. The COVID-19 pandemic transforms the application of technology in education and teaching approaches in the near future.

**KEYWORDS:** COVID-19. Volunteer activity. Students. Education. Psychological characteristics.

## **Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic has held a deep and sudden result in various areas of life; work, leisure time, and family as well. Also, those changes have affected educational processes in formal and informal learning environments.

The tendency of active growth of volunteer activity in recent years has been observed both in Russia and abroad. Today it is difficult to imagine any sphere of human activity

without the participation of volunteers. It should be said that today volunteering refers to charitable activities and is regulated by the Federal Law (1995) of the Russian Federation dated of July 7, 1995, which states that volunteers are citizens who carry out charitable activities in the form of gratuitous work in the interests of the beneficiary, including in the interests of a charitable organization.

T.A. Loktionova (2012) believes that “volunteering” should be defined as an activity that is carried out by people voluntarily, on a gratuitous basis and is aimed at achieving socially significant goals and solving problems of society.

The volunteer movement is an effective way of solving socially significant problems of the state. M.V. Pevnaya's (2013, 2016) scientific works emphasize that volunteering is actively developing only in civil society.

In volunteering, it is necessary to differentiate two aspects: social and axiological one (PEVNAYA & ZBOROVSKY, 2021). In the first aspect, the activities of volunteers bring certain benefits to society and to individuals who are helped by volunteers (Rerke & Mayakova, 2019). In the second one, volunteering has a certain value for the volunteers themselves.

The analysis of contemporary domestic and international experience of volunteering shows (OVSY, 2021; ELLIS & KATHERINE, 1990) that it plays a key role in the development of both social activity of young people and is an effective tool for interaction between the state and society. A colossal rise in the volunteer movement in all countries of the world occurred in the spring of 2020 (Heyerdahl et al., 2021). It should be noted that after a year and a half, the scale and nature of the volunteers' actions does not decrease.

In this regard, it is important to study the psychological characteristics of volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the studies undertaken by L.G. Rudenko et al. (2018), I.S. Gusev (2020), U.A. Ivanova and N.V. Matveyeva (2020) the most essential, basic personal and professional qualities are outlined that are necessary for volunteers. This issue is also being studied by foreign researchers (HANSEN & BRITT, 2020; LUCA, PANARI & MELLERI, 2020). The works devoted to the motivational attitudes of people show that the volunteers are dominated by a personal orientation towards themselves, stereotypical attitudes towards material well-being, greater individualism (EREMINA ET AL., 2021).

There is a fairly large number of studies (REZNIChENKO ET AL., 2018; POZHARSKAYA, 2020; BELENKAYA & KARPOVA, 2020; RERKE, SALAKHOVA & DEMA KOV, 2021) that are devoted to the search for the most effective ways to motivate

employees in organizations, while the motives and motivation of volunteer activities have not been sufficiently studied.

The purpose of the paper is to study the psychological characteristics of volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic and, on this basis, substantiate the prospects for the development of volunteering.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study embraced 230 volunteers, with the mean age of 23.2 years. The sample of volunteers was conditionally divided into 2 groups: helping animals and helping people.

Among the volunteers, the group of helping animals includes volunteers who provide physical and material assistance to the shelter and nurseries, participating in a charity event in raising funds, supervising, and helping animals to be adopted.

In a group of volunteers who help people are volunteers who provide assistance to the elderly or sick people (for example, in hospices), as well as social shelters. Participation in fundraising campaigns for expensive treatment of children, participation, and organization of holidays in boarding houses and orphanages, collection, and assistance to people in need.

All respondents have been volunteering for more than a year, consistently, at least twice a month take part in any events.

A comprehensive diagnostic study of the psychological characteristics of volunteers included the following methods: the test of life-meaning orientations (LSS), adapted by D.A. Leontiev (2006), diagnostics of the motivational structure of personality (MILMAN, 1997).

Statistical processing of the results was carried out using the SPSS Statistics 22.0 software.

At first, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to check whether the distribution in the sample under study differs from normal. It was found that the distribution on most scales differs from the normal, therefore, for the correlation analysis, the Spearman rank correlation criterion was used, and for the comparative analysis, the Mann-Whitney criterion was used.

## **Results and Discussion**

An analysis of life-meaning orientations (Table 1) showed that volunteers who help animals have the highest indicators such as goals and the locus of control "Life", and the lowest indicators such as the locus of control "I".

Volunteers who help people have higher indicators of "Goals", "Process", the locus of control "Life". The locus of control "I" is the lowest in them.

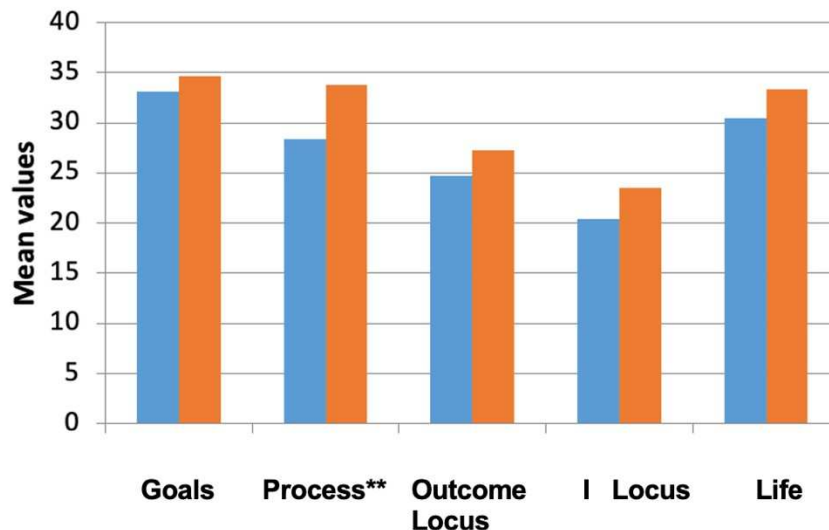
**Table 1.** Comparative analysis of life-meaning orientations

Indicator	Helping animals (n=115)		Helping people (n=115)		Significance
	Mean	Stand. deviation	Mean	Stand. deviation	
Goals	33	5,1	34,6	4,7	0,402
Process	28,4	6,2	33,8	4,1	0,009
Outcome	24,7	4,9	27,2	4,1	0,139
Locus I	20,4	5,5	23,5	4,1	0,091
Locus Life	30,4	6,8	33,2	3,9	0,179
Total amount	136,4	26,7	152,4	15,8	0,056

Thus, volunteers who help animals strive to achieve goals and, at the same time, believe that much in life is controlled not by themselves, but by external events. Least of all, they have expressed the desire to take responsibility for what is happening and the belief that they themselves control their own destiny.

It should be noted that all indicators in both groups are expressed at a high level or above average. The overall indicator of life meaning orientations is also high, that is, we can say that volunteers in general are characterized by a high level of life meaning. Probably, only those people who have themselves formed as a person can help others, clearly see their goals, objectives, as well as the meaning of their life.

Comparative analysis revealed significant differences in the process indicator ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). This indicator is higher in the group of volunteers helping people, they are more focused on the process of activity, and not only on its outcome.



**Figure 1.** Average group values of the parameters of the LMO method (blue - helping animals; orange - helping people). Note (hereinafter): \* - differences are significant at the statistical level  $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* - differences are significant at the statistical level  $p \leq 0.01$ .

Volunteers helping people have higher indicators of internal and cognitive motives, self-esteem, assessment of potential, mobilization of efforts, regularity of results, initiative. They have the lowest indicators of the significance of the result and the complexity of the task.

Thus, volunteers helping animals have a highly developed desire for knowledge, strong-willed qualities, a willingness to take the initiative into their own hands and mobilize their efforts to obtain high results.

Internal aspirations are predominant in volunteers who help people, they strive for knowledge, while it is important for them to respect themselves, to value their potential highly. Such volunteers are ready to take the initiative into their own hands and use all their strength to achieve the desired result.

At the same time, respondents in both groups do not strive to perform too complex tasks and are not very much focused on the result. The process of activity itself is more important for them.

Further, a comparative analysis of the motivational structure of the personality of volunteers in the studied groups was carried out.

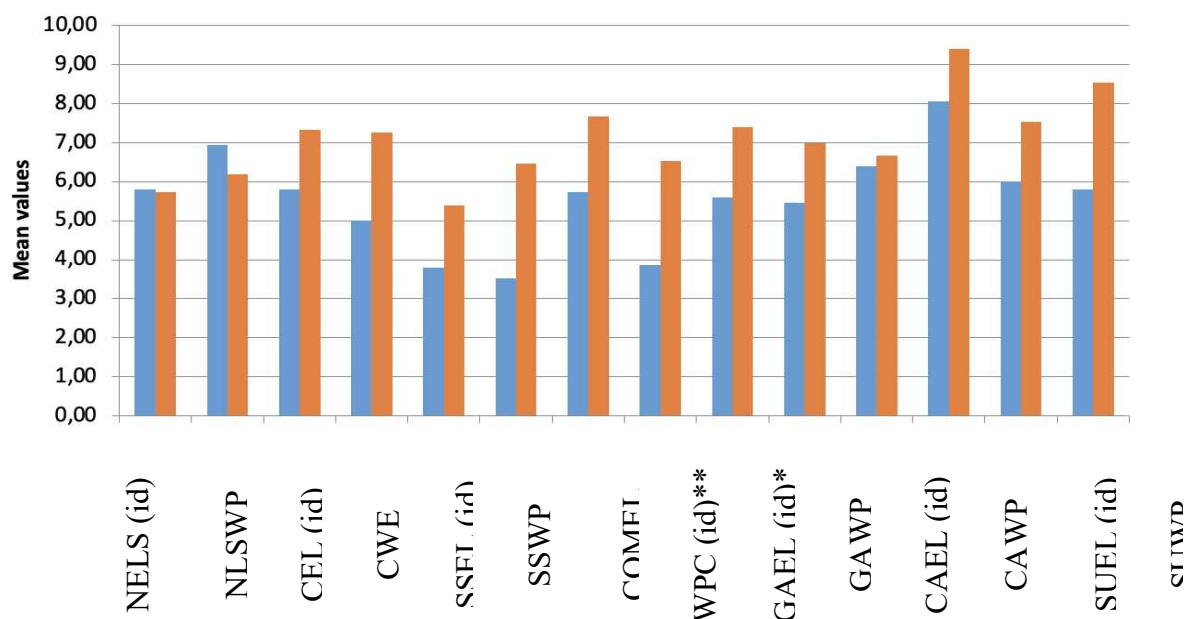
Diagnostics of the motivational structure of the individual's personality showed that among volunteers who help animals, the highest of all are such blocks of indicators as

maintaining life support, communication, general activity, creative activity, and social utility. And below all are such blocks of indicators as comfort and social status.

Among volunteers who help people, such blocks of indicators as communication, general activity and creative activity are most pronounced, while all indicators of motivation are slightly higher than in the first group. The lowest of all of them is the block of indicators – life support.

It can be assumed that volunteers who help people, in general, are characterized by a more complex and deep motivational structure. Their motives are aimed at communication, activity, and creative implementation, while among volunteers helping animals, these indicators are less pronounced, while comfort and social status are not important to them.

Comparative analysis revealed significant differences in the blocks of indicators: comfort ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), social status ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), communication ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), general activity ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), social utility ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), as well as in daily life ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and work ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) motivation. All indicators are higher in the group of volunteers who help people. That is, they strive more for comfort, high social status, communication, joint activity, socially useful work. They are generally characterized by a greater degree of daily life and work motivation.



**Figure 2.** Motivational profile of volunteers: ideal sphere.

Note: blue is helping animals; orange - helping people); id — ideal; NELS - the need for everyday life support; NLSWS - the need for life support in the workplace; CEL – comfort in everyday life; CWE – comfort in work environments; SSEL - social status in everyday life; SSWS - social status in work settings; COMEL- communication in everyday life; COMWP- workplace communication; GAEL- general activity in everyday life; GAWP - general activity

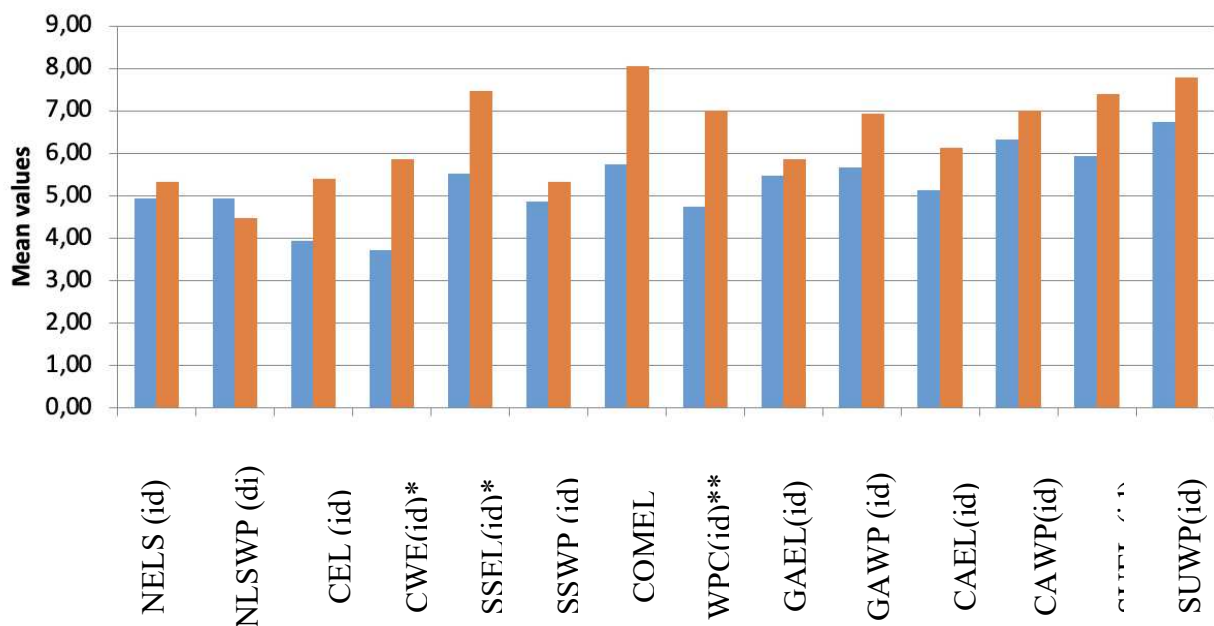


in the workplace; CAEL - creative activity in everyday life; CAWP- creative activity in the workplace; SUEL - social utility in everyday life; SUWP- social utility in the workplace.

When conducting a comparative analysis of the ideal sphere in the motivation of volunteers, it was found that in the group of volunteers helping animals, such “ideal” indicators as work creative activity and work support of vital activity are the highest, and the lowest are work and community social status, as well as ideal working communication.

In the group of volunteers helping people, the highest indicators are such indicators as creative ideal activity and social utility, ideal working activity. The lowest of all is the ordinary social status and the maintenance of life support. All indicators refer to the ideal sphere.

Comparative analysis revealed differences between groups of volunteers in terms of such indicators of ideal motivation as: comfort in the workplace ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), working social status ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), everyday life ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and work ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) communication, everyday life ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and work ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) activity, creative work activity ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and working social utility ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). All indicators are higher in the group of volunteers who help people.



**Figure 3.** Motivational profile of volunteers: real sphere

Note: blue -volunteers who help animals; orange – volunteers helping people; re - real; NLSSEL - the need for life support is everyday life; NLSWP - the need for life support in the workplace; CEL – comfort in everyday life; CWP – comfort in the workplace; SSEL- social status in everyday life; SSWP - social status in the workplace; COMEL – communication in everyday life; COMWP – communication in the workplace; GAEL - general activity in



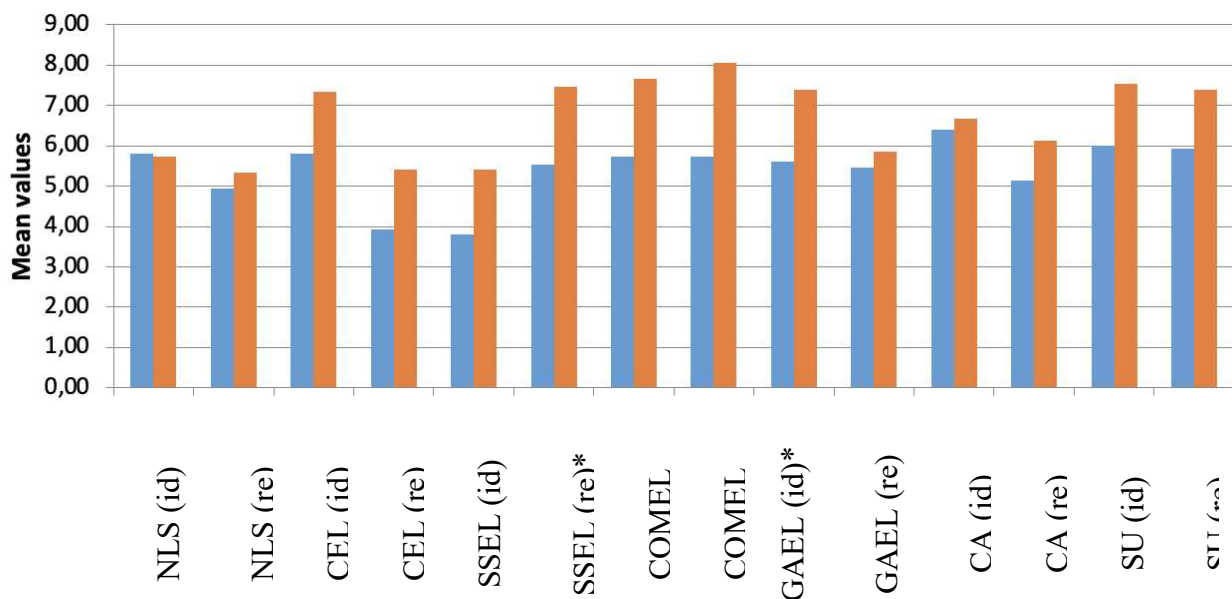
everyday life; GAWP- general activity in the workplace; CAEL - creative activity in everyday life; CAWP - creative activity in the workplace; SUEL – social utility in everyday life; SUWP - social utility in the workplace.

Further, the motivational profile of volunteers in the real sphere was considered.

It has been found that in the group of volunteers who help animals, the highest are such “real” indicators as work creative activity and work social utility, and the lowest ones are work and community comfort.

In the group of volunteers who help people, the highest indicators are community communication and social status, as well as social utility in the workplace. The lowest of all is daily life support and life support in the workplace, comfort at work and social status.

Significant differences in the real sphere were revealed in terms of comfort in the workplace ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and communication at work ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), as well as communication in everyday life ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and social status ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). All indicators are higher in the group of volunteers who help people.



**Figure 4.** Motivation profile of volunteers: everyday life sphere.

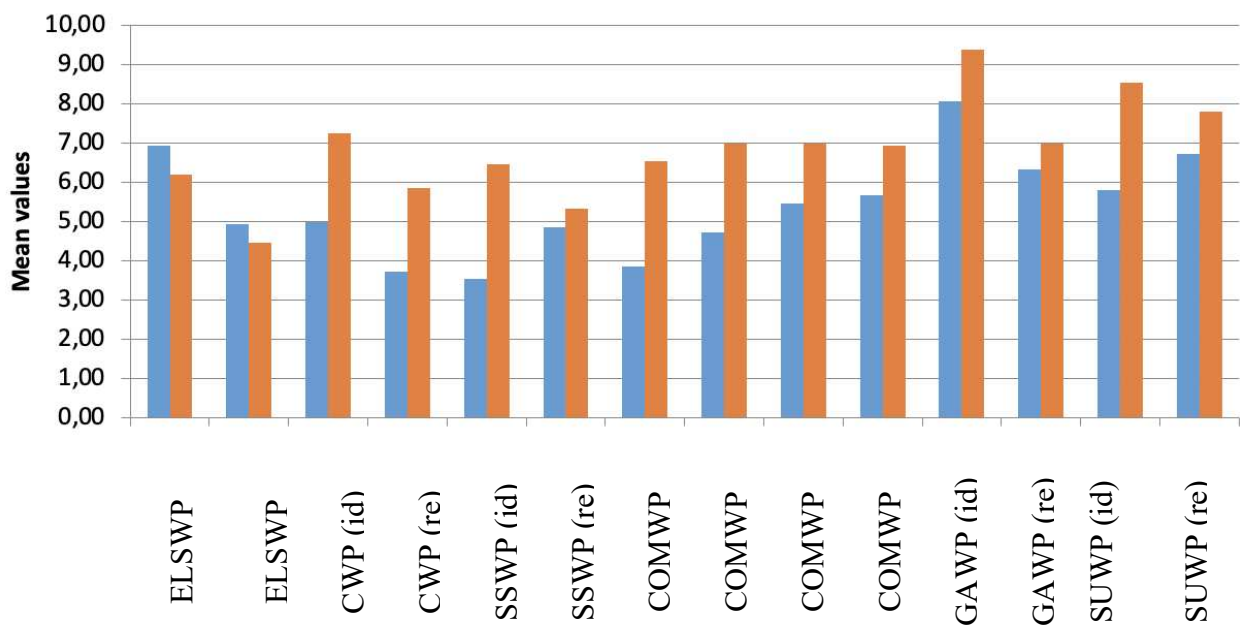
Note: blue - help provided for animals; orange – help provided for people; re - real, id - ideal; EL- everyday life; NLS - the need for life support; CEL – comfort in everyday life; SSEL - social status in everyday life; COMEL – communication in everyday life; GA - general activity; CA - creative activity; SU - social utility.

Let us describe the everyday life scope of the motivation profile.

Thus, it was found that in the group of volunteers helping animals, the highest indicators of the everyday life sphere are ideal creative activity and social utility, and the lowest are real comfort and ideal social status.

In the group of volunteers helping people, the highest indicators of the community sphere are ideal and real communication, ideal social utility, and lowest of all - real life support and comfort, as well as ideal social status.

Significant differences in the real sphere were revealed in terms of ideal ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and real ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) communication, real social status ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and ideal creative activity ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).



**Figure 5.** Motivational profile of volunteers: work settings.

Note: blue - helping animals; orange - helping people; re - real, id - ideal; WP-workplace; ELS - the need for everyday life support; C - comfort; SS - social status; COM - communication; GA - general activity; CA - creative activity; SU -social utility.

Further, the real sphere of the motivational profile was considered.

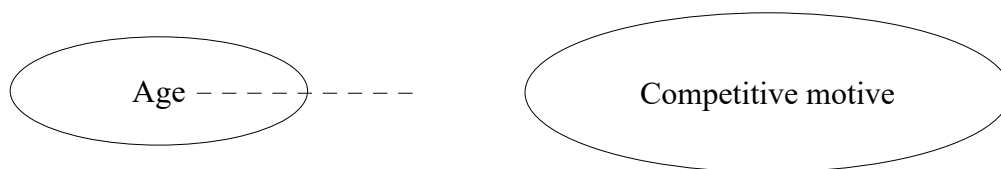
It was found that in the group of volunteers helping animals, the highest indicators of the real sphere are ideal creative activity and daily life support, and the lowest are real comfort and ideal social status.

In the group of volunteers who help people, the highest indicators of the everyday life sphere are ideal creative activity and social utility, and the lowest are real daily life support and social status.

Significant differences in the real sphere were identified in terms of real ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and ideal ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) comfort, real ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and ideal ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) communication, according to ideal indicators of social status ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), creative activity ( $p \leq 0.05$ ), general activity ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and social utility ( $p \leq 0.01$ ).

Thus, volunteers who help people are more focused on the actual process of life than volunteers who help animals. Separately, we can note the great internal motivation of people who provide help to people, as well as the desire for self-esteem. However, volunteers who help animals have a higher level of significance of the result, which may indicate a greater desire to achieve high results.

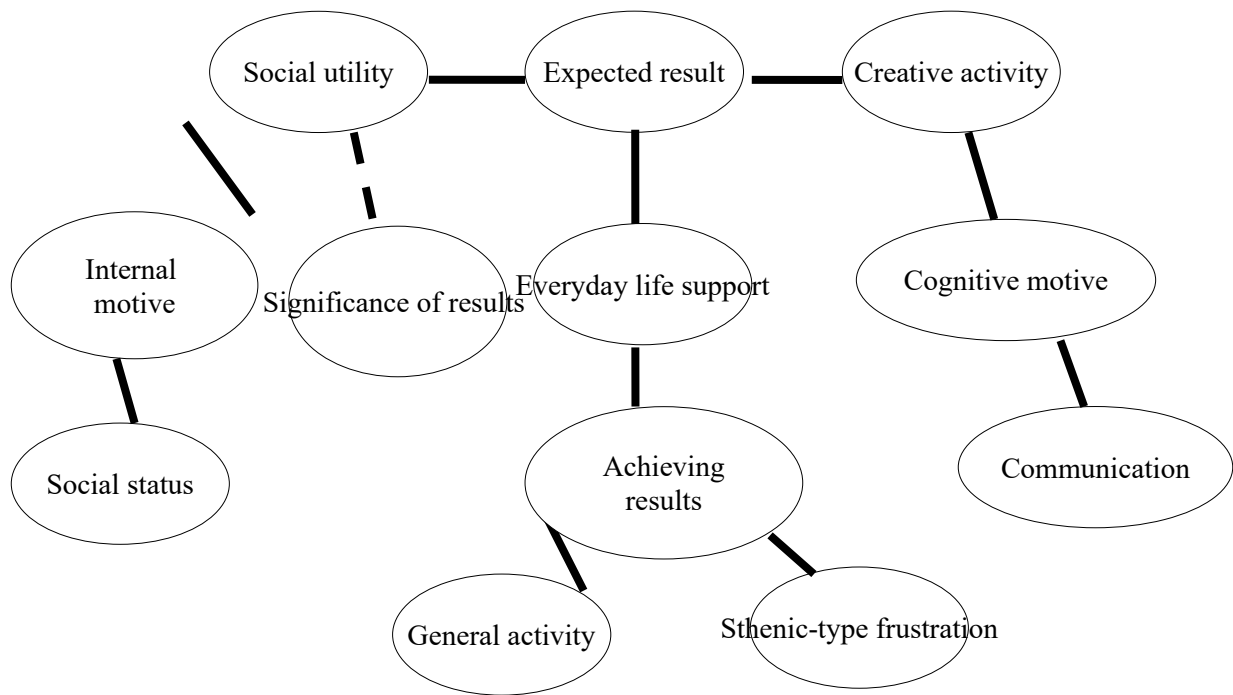
Let us analyze the interrelations of the characteristics under study.



**Figure 6.** Correlation constellation of interrelations of motivation indicators with other indicators in a group of volunteers helping people.

Note: - strong inverse (negative) correlation relationship.

The competitive motive is negatively associated with age ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). That is, the older the volunteer, the less pronounced his competitive motive is.



**Figure 7.** Correlation constellation of interrelations of motivation indicators with other indicators in the group of volunteers helping people (connections only with a significance of 1%). Note: — strong direct (positive) correlation; == very strong direct (positive) correlation; - - strong feedback (negative) correlation; = = very strong inverse (negative) correlation.

The "core" indicators in this correlation constellation are the motivation to achieve the expected result, the achievement of certain results and social utility.

The motive of social utility is positively associated with internal motivation ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), expectation of a certain result ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and the lower the significance of the results ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). That is, the higher the motive of social utility, the higher the internal motivation of the volunteer, his desire to achieve the expected results and the lower the significance of these results for him. At the same time, the higher the level of the motive of social utility, the lower the level of significance of the result and high material status.

The expected result is positively associated with everyday life motivation ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), creative activity ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and social utility ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). That is, the higher the expectation of a volunteer to receive the results of his activities, the higher his community motivation, creative activity, and social utility.

The importance of achieving results is positively correlated with community motivation ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), general activity ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), and the experience of sthenic-type frustration ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). Thus, the more important it is for a volunteer to achieve results, the higher his everyday life motivation, general activity, and ability to experience emotional frustration.

The cognitive motive positively correlates with the motive of communication ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and creative activity ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). The higher the cognitive motive is, the higher the motivation of the volunteer to communicate and his creative activity.

The motive of social status is positively associated with internal motivation ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). That is, the higher the motive of high social status, the higher the internal motivation of the volunteer.

In a group of volunteers helping people, the most important are such motives as competitive motive, achievement of results, own prestige. Age is also important. The structure of relations in this group is more complex and interesting, the indicators are closely related to each other.

## **Conclusion**

As a result of the conducted empirical research, the following conclusions were formulated:

1. Diagnostics of the motivational structure of the individual's personality showed that volunteers who help people have a highly expressed desire for comfort in the work sphere, a high level of positive assessment of the motive for comfort in the work area, a high level of social status, increased indicators of focus on emotional experiences of the sthenic type and the sthenic type experiences and behavior in a state of frustration.

2. When assessing the motivational sphere, we can conclude that volunteers helping people have a highly expressed motivation for communication, creative and socially useful activity. At the same time, they have low motivation for social status and comfort. People who help animals have similar results, but all indicators of their motivational profile are lower than that of the first group. Their motivation structure is less complex and deep.

3. In the group of volunteers helping animals, the most significant indicators of motivation are cognitive motivation, achievement of significant results, spiritual and social life. At the same time, their motivation structure is not very strong. In a group of volunteers who help people, the most important are such motives as competitive motive, achievement of results, own prestige. Age is also important. The structure of relations in this group is more complex and interesting, the indicators are closely related to each other.

4. The data obtained in this study create opportunities for further motivation of volunteers.

The results of the ascertaining experiment convincingly demonstrated the need for the formation of these personality traits for the prospect of training adolescent volunteers, volunteers among senior schoolchildren.

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