

## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL DETERMINANTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SPACE AND THE SOCIAL SPHERE

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### PROSOCIAL ASPECTS OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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The issue of human activity aimed not at satisfaction of one's own interests but at the benefit of other people concerns representatives of various scientific fields and is connected with prosocial behavior (E.V. Grishunina, A.A. Kovtun, N.V. Kukhtova, D.A. Romanov, V.G. Minenko, V.A. Petkov) [3, 5].

Volunteer work can be considered in the context of prosocial behavior, which is understood as any socially approved behavior or any action aimed at the well-being of others. At the same time this is the type of activity where a person can reveal his or her individual potential to the fullest extent. By helping others, a person acquires a lot of new knowledge improving himself.

In psychology there are attempts to connect prosocial behavior with separate personal characteristics, and in this context a volunteer can be considered as a personality characterized by prosociality [3]. The main features are the voluntariness of the act of helping, focus on helping people and even not familiar ones.

The relevance of this article is caused by the fact that despite the significant amount of research on prosocial behavior that has been conducted, a number of issues are still not adequately explored. For example, the correlation between prosocial behavior and personality characteristics has not been investigated; moreover, there hasn't been done any search for individual differences in helping people and predictors of appropriate behavior, especially in volunteers whose activities are related to helping.

**Material and methods.** Research methods include theoretical analysis of the literature on the problem (comparative, descriptive and analytical analysis).

**Findings and their discussion.** Volunteering is based on unselfishness, the "freeness" of the work being done. At the same time people engaged in volunteering need encouragement, motivation" [1]. N.E. Zlokazova also emphasizes voluntariness and disinterestedness of volunteer work, but points out that "its motives are not in material encouragement, but in satisfaction of social and spiritual needs" [2]. Although in the perception of the population the true motives of benefactors are not always altruistic. I.V. Mersyanova writes, "The majority of respondents believe that the population has little faith in the purity of benefactors intentions". According to I.V. Mersyanova's research, 72% of the Russians agree that the authorities should monitor the true motives of charitable organizations. [4, 6].

Volunteers are able to understand the consequences of behavior and the meaning of words depending on the nature of the relationship; they are friendly and altruistic, show volitional powers, are extroverted and have a low level of suspicion.

U.P. Kreptova considers volunteer activity as a kind of non-adaptive activity of a personality that is readiness of a person to unforeseen situations and non-standard decisions. Observing volunteers U.P. Kreptova came to the conclusion that volunteers take their activity seriously, consider it valuable for the society, and also tend to overcome their weaknesses and aspire to self-development.

In researches of N.V. Kuhtova and M.N. Orlova it is noted that participation of volunteers in the decision of socially significant problems is directed on improvement of social well-being of other people and therefore represents prosocial behavior [3].

Thus, as P.A. Kislyakov, E.A. Shmeleva, O. Govin specify, the psychological characteristic of the volunteer is based on motives, personal qualities and conditions of volunteer activity. So, in their opinion, qualities of the volunteer include charity, sincerity, benevolence, responsibility and desire to help. [2]

Volunteers also learn to understand people and are not afraid of taking responsibility and initiative; have an active lifestyle; tend to take risks, engage in activities that are unusual and force to go beyond their comfort zones and find creative ways to solve problem situations.

Volunteers gain great experience while communicating with people of different occupations, they learn tolerance and tactfulness, and they are less affected by various gender, ethnic and age stereotypes.

**Conclusion.** Understanding of socio-psychological features of volunteering activity allows comprehending its prosocial essence. Thus, volunteering activity is prosocial and is defined by modern scientists in the substantial, target, procedural and technological aspects. Participating in volunteering, the person on a gratuitous basis aspires to positively influenced social transformation processes. The young generation is an active socio-demographic group that possesses high volunteer potential and makes a skeleton of volunteer movement. Student involvement in volunteer movement and effectiveness of socially-oriented activities should improve the quality of education and efficiency of educational environment functioning. Socially oriented activity is an indicator of a number of personal and professional qualities development, as well as it is a significant factor in the formation of readiness for independent life activities.

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