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ОТНОШЕНИЕ СТУДЕНТОВ К ВОЛОНТЕРСТВУ

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Аннотация. Мотивация волонтерства является основой нравственно-этической и ценностной системы человека. Добровольчество основано на различных мотивах, но всегда воспринимается обществом как выражение социальной ответственности, солидарности, взаимопомощи и милосердия. Статья написана на основе материалов, полученных в ходе реализации научного проекта «Проект организации VIII Международного молодежного научного форума "Новые форматы транснациональной научно-образовательной деятельности"», осуществляемого при финансовой поддержке Российского фонда фундаментальных исследований (проект № 18-413-701001 p_r).

Ключевые слова: волонтерство, студенты, мотивы, вид добровольной службы

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STUDENTS ATTITUDE TO VOLUNTEERING

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Abstract. The motivation for volunteering is the base of human moral-ethic and the value system. The volunteering is based on various motives, but is always perceived by society as an expression of social responsibility, solidarity, mutual assistance and mercy.

Keywords: volunteering, students, motives, type of voluntary service

There are different definitions of “volunteering”, but all of them are united by the statement that voluntary service is a conscious activity for which no reward is expected.

The motivation for volunteering is a conscious choice of personality. The motives can be various: moral-ethical values, education and self-education, a certain life situation, inner motivation, social-living environment factors, religion, etc.

The spiritual development of the human personality, with the base of love to live nature, people and motherland, depends of self worldsensing [1].

Many researches, related to the youth voluntary service and their motivation, have been done [2; 3; 5; 9; 10; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16].

The motives for voluntary service can be purposefully thought, planned and realized activities aimed at: acquiring professional experience and career development, acquiring and improving practical skills and competences, enriching the CV, creating contacts with people and organizations for developing volunteer network, initiating new activities, travel opportunities and acquaintance with new cultures, etc.

The volunteer has different goals for volunteering. Some people see there the meaning of their lives, others enjoy helping, but there are some who use it to get popular or just because it is “fashionable”[8].

Different motives often intertwine and influence each other, but they always lead to personal development. The volunteers form skills for non-stereotyped thinking, quick reactions and assessment, decision-making skills in conditions of uncertainty and risk, flexibility, creativity, initiative, tolerance, empathy, and responsibility.

They develop striving for self-development, enhancement of qualification, awareness of the social significance of their future profession,

acquiring a high motivation to fulfill professional duties [6].

The volunteers improve their social skills (teamwork skills, communication skills, conflict management, foreign languages, project writing, psychological and premedical help, etc.) They also acquire civic activity, social engagement, social sensitivity and increased self-assessment.

A large part of the society in Bulgaria is still connecting the voluntary initiatives with the Bulgarian Red Cross - the organization with the most popularity and authority. Most often, people identify it with providing assistance to those suffering from disasters and accidents or in need of medical care, food and clothing, care for sick people, people with disabilities, abandoned children and single elderly people.

In recent years, with the military conflicts in countries near Europe, the refugee flow to European countries, including Bulgaria, has increased, too. Thousands of people leave their homes and seek salvation in countries far from the military actions. The flow of the economic migrants has also increased. This leads to many problems related to the reception, registration and accommodation of refugees and migrants at the centers opened by the State Agency for Refugees. They include specialists ready to help those in need of protection, but also include voluntary organizations and volunteers.

The young people are hidden potential of volunteering. Attracting them to voluntary activities helps them to become socially responsible and active participants in public life. This process should begin at an early age so that later, in the learning process young people may have embraced voluntary work and charity as a norm of behavior and part of their value system.

Students trained in medical specialties are those who can engage in the most numerous voluntary activities because of their medical knowledge and personal qualities.

In terms of medical HAI, volunteering does not differ in its specificity, because one of the main goals is to develop students' sense of social responsibility, solidarity, mutual assistance and mercy in society [7].

The issues of student volunteering in the sphere of public health and healthcare are worked by S. Kuchukova, who makes the following conclusions in her dissertation work in 2013: In Bulgaria the students with medical specialties: have a firm desire to be volunteers; have chosen their specialty with the presumption and attitude to help others / relatives; point out

as the most obvious reasons to work as volunteers: to support a cause and to apply what have already learned in their direct work; prefer to take part in voluntary campaigns, to protect interests that lead to social change and justice and to participate in projects, supported by the State; they also would become volunteers in activities related to medical services and unanimously support child volunteering [4, с. 170].

According to T. Khusyainov and L. Chuprov the students having special knowledge and professional competences are obliged not only to realize the whole significance of their profession, but also to be ready to solve the important problems of the modern society, using their professional experience [11].

The aim of this study is to identify the attitude of students in medical specialties to work as volunteers for now.

Materials and methods: An anonymous survey was conducted with 72 students in medical specialties. The data are mathematically and statistically processed with STATISTICA for Windows, version.

Analysis of the results: The survey found out that 44.48% of the students have participated as volunteers in organizing events and initiatives, and 91.74% of them are ready to do voluntary service.

By its nature and name, the work that is done voluntarily is gratuitous. Sometimes the volunteer imports his own financial and material resources to help the people in need gratuitously. The practice of volunteers has affirmed to compensate them with various non-material and sometimes material incentives. These practices are perceived differently by the society and the volunteers themselves. Similar data was received in respondents' responses. For 61.16% of the people surveyed the moral awards (a certificate, a thanking letter) are the best way to reward the volunteer. Another suitable incentive for 33.36% of students is the opportunity to be granted with student loans at preferential conditions, including voluntary service as a part of student practice or exercises. The students preferring to receive financial compensation, but only for travel expenses, food, clothing, related to their voluntary service, are 19.46%. The rest of them - 18.07%, would accept tickets for concerts, theatre, fitness cards or sport events, as compensation.

Very often, information about voluntary initiatives comes from the media, the Internet, but also from friends and family. Young people are mainly

attracted by social networking initiatives and also supported ones by popular celebrities from show business, cinema, and sports. There are many people who think that it is the right way - to talk, to make noise and to advertise volunteering, so that more and more people can get involved, because volunteering is an activity in favor of people in need, but it also educates and builds personal values and qualities.

Sometimes, critical comments are being made in the society that there is too much publicity about volunteering and charity. That is why we have sought the opinion of future medical professionals on this issue. More than half of the respondents (63.94%) think that voluntary service should not be publicly disclosed, 20.85% cannot assess it. However, everyone supports the thesis that voluntary service and voluntary initiatives should be spoken about in society and information about it should be spread.

The voluntary service has many forms and images, and covers different age and social groups. That is why we sought the students' opinion where they prefer to do voluntary service, having the opportunity to point out more than one answer. Most of them, willing to work as volunteers with disable children (48.65%) and children in social institutions (47.26%), equally have reported a crisis center for victims of violence and trafficking in human beings (40,31%) and a charity kitchen (40.31%). The students, willing to work as volunteers in nursing homes have been 30,58%, in a refugee camp with children - 26,41%, and only 12,51% - in a refugee camp.

Conclusion:

Based on this research and other ones in the aspect, we can conclude that the students are motivated and their desire to be volunteers is resistant.

For most young people, participated in this survey, the moral awards are sufficient and they would not publicize their voluntary service, if it is not related to the popularization of voluntary initiatives. The most preferred voluntary service for almost half of the respondents is the one with disable children, children in social institutions, in crisis center for victims of violence and traffic of human beings, and in a charity kitchen. Significantly fewer are the students, willing to work as volunteers in refugee camps.

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