






Implementation of Service-Learning into the Educational Program

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Abstract: The present stage of society's development puts forward new social demands to the educational system. Modern trends of education are supposed to form a highly intelligent and competitive personality who has a holistic view of the world and understands the inter-relationships between processes and phenomena of the studied disciplines. Regarding the listed demands, service-learning is formed which is 'a balance between earning goals and service outcomes' (Furco, 2011: 72). Modern students search for education which provides creative space into a better professional future (Teterskiy 2022: 279), Students' expectations correspond to the current needs of the humanity, i.e. self-organisation, competent knowledge, team-playing and personal growth (Alikova, 2022: 284). In the second half of 2023 year the President Academy of the Russian Federation launched a pilot program named "Service-learning" (<https://rutube.ru/video/fb5373761ce884d197c1735c11fd4762/>). Such a program provides several opportunities for the modern generation. In the first place, students are given an opportunity to develop supra-professional competencies. Secondly, they are able to find out their own path in the chosen profession to reach qualificational goals and recognition. Besides, the introduced program helps to add practical needs into the learning process. All the listed advantages of the introduced program serve the needs of the society itself.

1 INTRODUCTION

The federal program "Service-learning" is a unique educational scheme that is aimed to promote the students' interest in learning. This interest will definitely help them in finding their personal path of professional growth (Samygin, 2023).

The essence of the program is to attract business partners who are ready to provide students with the opportunity to solve real social problems in which they will be able to gain professional experience.

According to the research and international experience, such project activity has a social effect which significantly expands the scope of students'

opportunities, shows them the importance of their profession in the context of supporting society and forms a connection with the region and the country (Eatman, 2018: 535).

2 INTERACTION WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

The federal program "Service-learning" has been launched in more than 50 Russian universities since the International Charity Day (September, 5th, 2023). The educational trend has been promoted in Astrakhan State University named after V.N.

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Tatischev where the leaders and managers of non-profit organizations submitted their requests to the student audience.

2.1 Meeting the representatives

In the middle of October, 2023, the university students of ASU named after V. N. Tatischev had an opportunity to meet the representatives of non-profit regional organisations – a social entrepreneur (Yulia Arsenova), the head of the Regional Volunteer Resource Centre (Mikhail Sidorov), a representative of Astrakhan State Medical University (Fatima Salavatova), a deputy director of the multidisciplinary social center "Assistance" (Yulia Jaspenova) (<https://asu.edu.ru/news/15503-vstrecha-s-predstaviteliami-nko-regiona-sostoialas-v-agu.html>).

2.1.1 The social service

The award-winning social entrepreneur Yulia Arsenova introduced to the audience of Astrakhan State University named after V.N. Tatischev the implementation of her social project "Limit-free environment for special children". The project is aimed at expanding the opportunities for communication, development and education of special children allowing them to be raised as independent personalities. The individual entrepreneur made a request for the students acquiring the teaching profession who are eager to deal with the disabled children aged from 1 to 17 years in order to adapt them psychologically in the environment of normotypic peers. Y. Arsenova's project is supposed to be the best project of social entrepreneurship in the field of the children's additional education and upbringing.

2.1.2 Volunteers' resource centre

The Head of the Department of the Volunteers' Resource Centre Mikhail Sidorov revealed the details of the work in his department. The regional leader spoke about the role of volunteering in modern life. Sidorov briefly described the directions in which his guided centre operates. The students were welcome to take part in any of the developed volunteering projects.

2.1.3 Entering the Medical Academy

The representative of Astrakhan State Medical University, Fatima Salavatova, presented her award-winning project "Nast.App" for school leavers. The

project aims to help applicants to get prepared for admission. It also implies the creation of a support centre for school graduates. The speaker introduced the idea of creating a project team which will have to deal with the applicants. Volunteers of this service group will have to undergo special training on interaction and communication with applicants and their parents.

2.1.4 Social Centre "Assistance"

Deputy Director of the multidisciplinary social centre "Assistance" Yulia Jaspenova pointed out the need for mentoring after every student. The Centre interacts with various social organizations assisting people's needs and interests.

2.1.5 The meeting results

The introduced ideas and routes for further volunteering activities have been formed, verified and "packaged" into projects. Their implementation will become the part of the current academic year in which the useful projects will be intertwined the studied disciplines of the volunteers. The newly-formed program allows the students to self-actualize, understand personal significance, expand connections, gain leadership skills and build their social image.

2.2 Project's implementation into the educational program

Any Russian university is welcome to determine the contents of the project itself. Service-learning takes into account both the existing practice of social design and the project training itself. The flexibility of the competence development is embedded in the model which makes it unique in itself. This course always comes in connection with the community that set social tasks. Solving the community's requests students are able to realize their professional competencies in practice.

2.2.1 Implementation examples

V. V. Putin points out the necessity for the federal program "Service-learning" at the Russian universities. As taken from his speech at the State Council of the youth politics, "It is necessary to create conditions under which college and university students could study and practice in volunteer centres, charitable foundations, socially oriented organisations. Thus, they can gain experience of civil responsibility and unity."

(<http://www.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/70169>).

2.2.2 In the sphere of engineering education

Manufacturing of bionic prostheses for people with congenital features and amputations. The scope of application of bionic prostheses is no longer limited to replacing only lost limbs. Scientists have developed bionic prosthetic eyes which are capable of replacing retinal cells.

2.2.3 In the sphere of design

Development of clothing collections for people with disabilities taking into account the latest fashion trends. Actually, 40 per cent of people with disabilities do not consider themselves to be disabled. They rate themselves as healthy people. Following this direction, Anna Chernykh and Vladimir Tulinin formed a group of students who took part in their project "Fashion Design. Basic course". Throughout the whole academic year these students developed their own models for people with figure features. A special screening was organized to view the adopted fashionable results

(<https://www.miloserdie.ru/article/modnoe-rassledovanie-vse-o-rynke-odezhdy-dlya-lyudej-s-invalidnostyu/>).

2.2.4 In the sphere of information technologies

The development of an online service for pets' selection from dog shelters. This service is helpful for those who don't desire to spend much time on choosing a pet.

2.2.5 In the sphere of technologies

According to the 12th "UN Sustainable Development Goal" (<http://unstats.un.org>), people must ensure the transition to rational consumption and production models. Humanity is trying to avoid an ecological crisis with the help of alternative energy sources and the use of clean "green" technologies. The development of alternative natural products is a priority for many countries. Therefore, obtaining biodegradable tableware technology and formulation development biodegradable tableware can be achieved by means of using plant waste from the agro-industrial complex.

2.2.6 In the sphere of medicine

The development of an express test for coronavirus with the system accuracy of more than 90%. This test has been introduced by DRD Biotech, a Russian biotech startup in the field of medical diagnostics. This company is known to develop diagnostic express tests in Russia. Alongside with the few manufacturers of proprietary tests for the diagnosis of brain damage, this test can be easily patented in Russia, the USA, the EU and China.

2.2.7 In the sphere of landscape examination

- creation of a sustainable landscape park;
- the study of the landfill to minimize the negative impact on the environment from previous activities.

As a result, any of the listed projects should have a measurable social effect. Their implementation should have a positive impact on a certain social group or society as a whole.

2.3 Working stages

- The seminar classes provide students with the necessary professional competencies, working them out through project activities.
- Having received the task, the student group will begin to analyse it and explore the needs of the society.
- The next stage is the formulation of the main thesis of the project solution of the problem. Working with data is necessary to proceed to the next stage.
- Designing the route of further activities.
- The stage of project implementation and its creation begins.
- Alongside the described work, the interaction with the group leader (social entrepreneur or the department chief) is being conducted starting from the task's introduction and holding meetings to clarify information, to the presentation of intermediate stages.

3 CONCLUSIONS

Service-learning gives students the opportunity to apply academic knowledge to solving real-world problems, thereby ensuring the development of citizenship, as well as deeper and more meaningful learning. The federal program has been implemented

to achieve the goals of developing citizenship, responsibility, patriotism and leadership in unity with professional competencies, through the implementation of socially-oriented projects of increasing complexity using specialized knowledge and skills acquired in the educational process.

The integration of the “Service-learning” into the educational process of social activity is done to reach several targets. Firstly, academic disciplines keep developing students’ efficiency in profession. Secondly, they form their personalities — with a system of values, ethical and moral principles, civil responsibility, indifference to the fate of society and the country as a whole.

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