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ACTIVITIES OF HEALTH TEAMS AS A FACTOR OF THE YOUTH' SOCIALIZATION

ABSTRACT: The article discusses activities of health teams from the time of their appearance up to the present day. The emphasis has been put on training health teams among students.

KEYWORDS:

Human health is one of the most important values of any state. It is quite common that in the Republic of Belarus great attention is paid to preservation and promotion of people's health.

But in modern ecological situation, human social activity and the lifestyle, which became hereditary were fundamental prerequisites for the emergence of human diseases. The second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first century was the time of man-made disasters and mass injuries. Contamination of the environment triggers development of such fatal diseases as cancer and cardio - vascular pathology. In addition, throughout the human existence we were pursued by wars, floods, earthquakes and other disasters.

International organizations such as WHO – the World Health Organization and ICRC – International Committee of Red Cross, and national health organizations around the world are involved in finding solutions for emergencies. From the medical point of view, an emergency is an extraordinary situation that has developed as a result of a disaster, characterized by a large number of victims, when forces and means of the district (city) are not enough to help those in need. Due to the fact that in an emergency an acute shortage of manpower and resources of medical service arises, it is necessary to appeal to additional resources of a voluntary aid; to create health brigades, involving the youth.

The activity of health teams should be viewed as a multifaceted and multidimensional process. Work in a health team, first of all, involves one's

ability to feel the pain of others, and the desire to help unselfishly people in need. The desire to help a person in need was already manifested in ancient times, and in it occurred various forms. During the Thirty Years War in France (1618-1648) the priest Vincent de Paul initiated the assistance to victims of the war and plague - it was the first organized attempt in the history to involve the public to help the needy.

In 1831 in Dublin (Ireland) Catherine Elizabeth McAuley founded a monastic congregation "Sisters of Mercy". The activities of the congregation were aimed at helping underprivileged, and with the use of different social services to poor women and children.



Vincent de Paul, the priest



Catherine Elizabeth McAuley

In Russia the movement of nurses was initiated by Grand Duchess Alexandra Nikolaevna and Duchess Therese Oldenburg, who founded the community of Holy Trinity in St. Petersburg, 1844. In Moscow such community was organized during the cholera epidemic of 1848; its founders were Duchess Sophia Shcherbatova and the famous doctor Theodore Haas.

According to eyewitnesses, the Sisters of Charity have saved many lives, showing such qualities as equanimity, moral purity, and high level of professionalism that, according to Nikolai Pirogov, "should not be called otherwise than noble." Today we can say with confidence that the prototype of modern health teams was set by the activity of the Sisters of Charity, which is based on voluntary work and social support. After the Russian-Turkish war in 1889-1894 special measures were taken to expand

the functions of the Sisters of Charity. Following communities of the Sisters of Red Cross were created and their main purpose was preparation of skilled female health personnel to care for the sick and wounded both in wartime and in peace periods.



Grand Duchess Alexandra Nikolaevna



Duchess Therese Petrovna of Oldenburg



The first health teams appeared in Belarus in the end of 1927 in order to provide first aid in case of unexpected natural disasters or mass accidents. The work of health teams was closely linked to the work of fire brigades,

life-saving posts on water, first aid posts at enterprises, and to the work of ambulance. The teams worked together with the Belarusian Red Cross Society. The main objective of this work was to participate in health and hygiene education of workers, to cultivate daily hygiene practices in their lives.

Members of the health teams and Belarusian Red Cross (BRC) were taught to protect their health, observe the rules of personal hygiene, keep their homes and yards clean; they initiated installation of ventilated windows in peasant houses, an improvement of old wells, and construction of the Russian baths. They also took part in landscape gardening. There was a systematic anti-alcohol propaganda along with broadening people's knowledge about nursing care. Health education was extended into workers' clubs, reading rooms, libraries, and schools. There were used a variety of forms: release of wall newspapers and photo exhibitions; improved equipment of sanitary posts; the conduct of health games, quizzes, and show trials; distribution of printed materials (thematic posters, Red Cross's newsletters); lecture's delivering. During the period from 1921 to 1924 participation of health teams in recreational activities along with health education was reduced to implementation of anti-epidemic and preventive measures against diseases such as typhus, cholera, malaria, trachoma, tuberculosis and syphilis.

During 1930s main goals of health teams were determined as follows:

- 1) Assist in case of natural disasters - floods, fires, earthquakes;
- 2) Assist the government with the organization of sanitary defence;
- 3) Help soldiers in their daily needs;
- 4) fight for the improvement of working and living conditions of workers and peasants;
- 5) Protect health of young pioneers and pupils;
- 6) Provide the sick and needy with medical assistance.

Except health teams there was organized special training programmes for nurses, involving volunteers.

Only in the second half of the 1930s the activities of health teams were approved in the form viewed by the Soviet government. Volunteers were trained in nursing schools, which were commonly set up in the second half of the 1930s, where trainees were offered to master different skills, allowing them to work in the health system at that time. Great attention was paid to sanitation and hygiene at the nursing courses as well as at health-defence circles.

It was in 1941 when the concept of "health team" was given a final definition. It listed the following activities: creation of a wide network of health posts and teams at enterprises, collective and state farms, institutions,

schools and houses; special training of medical personnel, instruction of people to provide first aid, assistance to health authorities with sanitary events, promotion of organ donation, assistance towards population during natural disasters, publication of materials on the work of the Red Cross Society and etc..

Despite social and political upheavals, which were so fragment in the twentieth century, the movement of the Sisters of Mercy was not forgotten. Only in the lines of the Great Patriotic War 800 thousand of nurses and medical orderlies gave aid to the wounded.

It seems that the activity of health teams was in demand only during the wartime, whereas in time of peace it made no sense to apply for their help. Still, today together with primary organizations of the Red Cross Society health teams are created either at enterprises, secondary schools, higher and secondary specialized educational institutions.

The volunteers of BrSU named after A.S. Pushkin decided to restore the movement of health teams so as to be able to give aid to the injured in present time. In September 2015 a new social project “Let’s restore health teams” was launched with the help of the teachers of the social work department.



The aim of the project is a development of the volunteer movement, mutual assistance and provision of quality health and social care, home care to the needy who find themselves in difficult situation. The health team was created on the basis of socio-pedagogical department and comprised a group of 23 first and second year university students. Training of health teams is carried according to the programs and aimed at providing first aid.



Students learn to master the skills of nursing techniques:

- to bandage wounds and burns;
- to make a temporary control bleeding using a pressure bandage, tourniquet or “spin”;
- to immobilise limbs due to bone fractures and extensive soft tissue injuries;
- to take anti-shock measures (giving rest, warm, painkillers etc.);
- to resuscitate (chest compression, mechanical ventilation).

The students - members of the health teams - may be later involved to give first aid to the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies.

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