

## ORGANIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF VOLUNTEERS AS A SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

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### Abstract

**Purpose of Study:** The article is devoted to the study of the organization of educational activities of volunteers as a social and educational project. It is established that the strategic goal of the new generation of Federal-state educational standards is the formation of graduates' competences. A framework of competence approach helps to gradually transfer the student from learning activities to his future professional activities. In this article, the authors identify the activities of volunteers as one of the ways to adapt students to real working conditions. The article reveals the essence of volunteer activity, which allows to acquire new and improve existing competencies as a social and educational project. In the Nizhny Novgorod State Pedagogical University named after KozmaMinin, the development of volunteer activities proceeds through the work of The center "territory of opportunities", implemented within the framework of the project "Social and educational environment", in which a sufficient number of stakeholders are involved, providing students with the opportunity for further employment. The article also highlights the activities carried out by the Center, for which volunteer students are offered a lot of special courses (social design, robotics, ZD-modeling). On the basis of the revealed facts, the positive effect of volunteer activity for all participants of this process is established.

**Methodology:** The paper presents an analysis of employed student volunteers. As practice shows, students engaged in volunteer activities, quickly enough to get a job in the profession, unlike students who do not have the experience of volunteering. 49% of volunteers work on a permanent or partial basis, while students without volunteer experience employ only one in three students (33%) [Pavlov, Kindaev, Vinnikova, & Kuznetsova, (2016)]. In order to identify the positive impact of this activity on the development of students as professionals, we have shown the activities of the center "territory of opportunities", which operates in the Nizhny Novgorod state pedagogical University named after KozmaMinin.

**Results:** Results showed that students engaged in volunteer activities are more satisfied with their leisure time compared to ordinary students. In addition, the study showed that those students who have devoted their time to participate in volunteer activities are employed much faster than students who have not engaged in volunteering.

**Implications/Applications:** The higher education institutions should make every effort to improve the conditions in which volunteer activities are carried out and offer ample opportunities for the development of the student's personality because students can easily employ both in the learning process and after graduating from high school.

**Keywords:** *Volunteers, Territory of Opportunities Center, Volunteer Activities, Competencies*

### INTRODUCTION

Federal state educational standards of the new generation have outlined the requirements within which the competence approach is developing. Today, higher education institutions carry out the formation of competencies with the help of a variety of different methods and technologies. Many researchers devote their work to this topic. Russia is actively developing this area of work as volunteering. It is this area, scientists, in the context of the formation of competencies, often undeservedly bypass, although the relevance of this topic in modern conditions is quite large. We decided to highlight this type of activity as one of the most effective ways of forming students' competencies and adapting them to future professional activities. Modern higher education within the competence approach should include a large number of practices for students [Bulaeva, Vaganova, Gladkova 2018]. Volunteering is a real activity that allows realizing this requirement in the best way [Vaganova, Gladkov, Trutanova 2017; Skatova, Yambulatov, Fedyushkin, et al. 2018; Bayat et al., 2014]. We single out volunteer activity as a social and educational project that helps all its participants to develop.

Students are characterized not only by youth, lack of family and household problems, desire and willingness to help other people, but also the desire for personal advancement, so we highlight volunteering, which provides ample opportunities for the use of volunteering for personal purposes [Ilyashenko, Smirnova, Vaganova, Prokhorova, Abramova, 2018; Safdari et al., 2013].

In turn, the educational environment of higher educational institutions has the best means to develop the volunteer movement and popularize its various types [Chaikina, Shevchenko, Mukhina, Katkova, Kutepova 2018]. In Russia, there are already more than a hundred educational institutions included in the all-Russian volunteer movement [Smirnova, Vaganova, Trutanova 2017]. The main resource centers for the organization of sports and event volunteering are concentrated in higher schools [Hamitowa, Glinushkin, Avdeev, et al.2017]. The purpose of the article is to analyze the organization of educational activities of volunteers as an educational project in which students will have the opportunity to develop through additional courses and participation in various activities.

## METHODOLOGY

The paper presents an analysis of employed student volunteers. As practice shows, students engaged in volunteer activities, quickly enough to get a job in the profession, unlike students who do not have the experience of volunteering. 49% of volunteers work on a permanent or partial basis, while students without volunteer experience employ only one in three students (33%) [Pavlov, Kindaev, Vinnikova, & Kuznetsova, (2016)]. In order to identify the positive impact of this activity on the development of students as professionals, we have shown the activities Of the center "territory of opportunities", which operates in the Nizhny Novgorod state pedagogical University named after KozmaMinin. The management structure of the Center includes many organizations, interaction with which also helps students to develop and provide opportunities for future employment. And the students themselves and the objects of their volunteer influence receive the necessary knowledge and skills.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Volunteer activity is a voluntary form of Association to achieve socially significant goals, contributing to social activity and personal growth of its participants. Volunteer activity solves a number of tasks:

- creating conditions for the involvement of young people in the development of higher education, the region and the country as a whole [Vaganova, Koldina, Trutanova, 2017];
- creating conditions for the development of students [Vaganova, Ilyashenko 2018; Acuña-Moraga, & Severino-González, 2018];
- organization of student leisure;
- improving the competitiveness of future graduates in the labor market [Nikolai, Fedor; 2017].

Among the students engaged in volunteer activities, a high percentage of quickly employed both during training and after graduation was noted [Nikolai, Fedor History, 2017]. 49% of volunteers work on a permanent or partial basis, while students without volunteer experience employ only one in three students (33%). In the group of students with experience in volunteering, 13% of respondents noted the presence of a significant income, among respondents who were not engaged in volunteer activities, the percentage is lower, only 9%. It should also be noted that about half of the working students (with the experience of volunteering) work is somehow connected with the future profession, and students who do not have such experience work is connected with the future profession only in 35% of cases [Perova, Kuznetsova, Vinnikova, Kaznacheeva, & Chelnokova, (2017)].

It is worth noting not only the professional sphere but also the satisfaction with their leisure volunteer students and those students who do not have such experience.

**Table 1:** Satisfaction with their leisure time students-volunteers and students without the experience of volunteering (% of the number of respondents in subgroups)

Group of students	Student-volunteers	Students with no volunteer experience
Satisfaction with leisure		
Strong	60	47
Weak	35	43
Absents	5	10

As can be seen from the data obtained, volunteer students are more satisfied with their own leisure [Garina, Kuznetsov, Yashin, et al. 2017]. In our opinion, these data show the reason why students are easily employed both in the learning process and after graduating from high school. Students like to realize themselves in this area [Ilyashenko, Vaganova, Smirnova, Gruzdeva, Chanchina, 2018]. The higher education institution makes every effort to improve the conditions in which volunteer activities are carried out, offers ample opportunities for the development of the student's personality, ensures their greater involvement in this process [Myalkina, Sedhyh, Zhitkova, Vaskina, Isaykov 2018].



In 2018, the implementation of the project "Social and educational environment" began at the Nizhny Novgorod state pedagogical University named after Kozma Minin. Within its framework, the center "territory of opportunities" was organized.

One of its tasks is to ensure the implementation of a wide range of educational programs on the basis of the Minin University in cooperation with partner organizations [Markova, Narcosiev 2018]. The proposed range of programs is aimed at different categories of students [Prokhorova, Semchenko 2018].

Following the logic of the project, in March 2018, courses for volunteer students of Minin University, who became members of the Student Association "territory of opportunities", were launched [Ilyashenko, Prokhorova, Vaganova, Smirnova, Aleshugina, 2018]. Students of the University were offered courses in the following areas: social design, robotics, ZD-modeling. The choice of courses was due to the need to develop competencies in the field of project activities, as well as the new most popular technologies in the market of educational services for students and young people. For students are available as diverse courses that implement the educational needs of people of different ages [21]: how to open SP; 1C accounting; financial Management; Modeling and design of clothing; culinary tricks and others.

Participation in volunteer activities develops students' competencies necessary both in the professional sphere and in everyday life [Garina, Garin, Kuznetsov, Popkova, Potashnik, 2018; Suleri, and Cavagnaro, 2016].

The management structure of the Center includes many organizations, interaction with which also helps students to develop and provide opportunities for future employment [Smirnova, Gruzdeva, Krasikova 2017]. Among the interested parties are the Student Association of the same name, scientific and pedagogical workers of the Minin University, municipal authorities (Department of youth policy, culture and leisure of the population of the administration of the Avtozavodsky district), Complex centers of social service of the population of Nizhny Novgorod, the regional organization of veterans /pensioners/ war, labor, armed forces and law enforcement agencies, the Center of children's creativity of the Avtozavodsky district of Nizhny Novgorod, Service for the protection of the rights of consumers of financial services and minority shareholders of the Volga-Vyatka main Directorate of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation [6].

Recently, special attention has been paid to the financial literacy of the population. Financial literacy is a sufficient level of knowledge and skills in the field of Finance, which allows you to correctly assess the situation in the market and make reasonable decisions [Ilyashenko, Vaganova, Smirnova, Sedykh, Shagalova, 2018].

The Work within the framework of the project "territory of opportunities" is carried out using the resource base in the field of training of specialists of the financial services consumer protection service and minority shareholders of the Volga-Vyatka main Department of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. Training of students-volunteers by specialists of the Central Bank was not limited to volunteers of the center "territory of opportunities" students of the pedagogical groups conducting work in summer camps of the Nizhny Novgorod region were involved in preparation.

Various programs have been developed to work with different categories of citizens [Ivanova, Svetlana, Bystritskaya, Elena, Burkhanova, Irina et al. 2017]. For students: preparation and calculation of the family budget; cash transactions in banks and other structures; transactions related to risk; cash rewards; the presence of responsible authorities for financial services; personal savings – excess or good; rights and obligations of participants in financial and economic relations; cash flow management; aggressive banking policy; fraud [Kochetova, Gutsu, Demeneva, et al. 2017; Dmitriyeva, & Nikiforova, (2016)].

Realization of lessons of financial literacy was carried out by students-volunteers of Minin University in children's health camps of the Nizhny Novgorod region. One of the centers of volunteers' work was the children's Sanatorium-health and educational center "salute".

The spheres of personal Finance management, financial fraud, organization of own business, taxes, and taxation became especially relevant for students [Smirnova, Zh., Krasikova 2018].

## CONCLUSION

We analyzed the organization of educational activities of volunteers as an educational project, in which students will have the opportunity to develop through additional courses and participation in various activities. We have established the positive aspects of volunteer activity. First, students engaged in volunteer activities are more satisfied with their leisure time compared to ordinary students. In addition, the study showed that those students who have devoted their time

to participate in volunteer activities are employed much faster than students who have not engaged in volunteering. On the example of Nizhny Novgorod State University, we have shown the influence of the volunteer movement on the formation of the necessary competencies. And the students themselves and the objects of their volunteer influence receive the necessary knowledge and skills. Work at the Nizhny Novgorod state pedagogical University named after Kozma Minin in 2018, The center "territory of opportunities", implemented within the framework of the project "Social and educational environment", as practice shows, is extremely in demand. And so this direction will be improved in the future, every year expanding opportunities for the implementation of student volunteers.

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