

Moral Concept of Service

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Abstract—The article explores the moral concept of Service. Modern educational system is focused on forming highly spiritual professionals and patriots of the Motherland. In this environment studying the topic of Service is particularly important as it allows university students to develop multidimensionality of thinking and to look at their future profession from a new perspective.

The phenomenon of Service is mainly seen through the prism of social Service in the forms of charity and benevolence drawn from the history and from modern Russia. But Service has proved itself to be a universal concept and is applicable not only to the Russian reality. The article highlights the important role of teacher in moral, Patriotic, professional education of young generation. The basic moral values of people who devoted their lives to the high ideals of Service are emphasized by the author. The appeal to the themes of patriotism and Service is illustrated by the example of educational work in RUDN.

Keywords—Service; morality; patriotism; professionalism; Motherland; Russia; feat; temporary perspective; social Service; charity; history; RUDN

I. INTRODUCTION

Modern educational system is focused on forming highly spiritual professionals and patriots of the Motherland. In this environment studying the topic of Service is particularly important as it allows university students to develop multidimensionality of thinking and to look at their future profession from a new perspective.

In the "Encyclopedic dictionary of the teacher" the notion of "Service" is defined as "the type of person's attitude towards his work, where he feels responsible and obliged to conscientiously and continuously follow through on the commitments undertaken, regardless of the senior management and conditions. The Service is expressed in a socially valuable unselfishness of motives, strict and accurate, with dedication to the performance of their direct professional functions not out of obligation, but of internal good citizenship. In this regard we can say about the servants of faith, science, Apollo (poetry)..." [1]. It is also about Serving the cause, the Motherland and the people. In the dictionary of D. N. Ushakov it says about serving a great cause [1].

These definitions emphasize the unselfishness of socially valuable motives, internal civic position, as well as the value of Service in various fields of science, art, Church Service, the value and relevance of Service to the cause, the people, the Motherland.

We can talk about the phenomenon of Service in various fields: science, education (schools and universities), art. These are educators, philanthropists, doctors, lawyers, diplomats, defenders of the Motherland, voluntary associations (rescuers, search teams), Church spiritual Service. Some professions such as soldiers, emergency workers, Church servants, actors, include Service as an integral part of them. For the most part, people who have chosen these professions, refer to their daily activities as Service.

On the one hand, Service is not a mass phenomenon, but, on the other hand, as history shows, there are not so few people who devote their lives to Service in various fields of science, art and other fields. And evidence of this — many feats of ordinary people, which we learn about from the media every day.

While examining the Service phenomenon, the following questions arise. Is the concept of Service national or universal? During which historical events the phenomenon of Service is more brightly shown and whether it would be right to assume that during wartime we witness more examples of Service to the people and to the Homeland than in the times of peace? Does the overall welfare of society affect the possibility of Service?

Undoubtedly, the concept of Service is a universal concept. The history of the peoples inhabiting our planet is replete with numerous examples of Service, manifested in various spheres of social reality.

During the wartime and other difficult critical periods there are more examples of Service to the people, the Motherland, as it is more in demand by the society than during the peaceful time. In different historical periods there is an acute demand for Service in various fields of science, art and other fields. Objective conditions are created for a more mass manifestation of the phenomenon of Service. On the example of Russian history, the Golden age of Russian literature falls on the XIX century, the Golden age of Russian poetry — on the first third of the XIX century.

Silver age of Russian poetry was in the late 19th, early 20th century. Since the mid 50-ies until the mid-60-ies of the 20th century, during the period of the Khrushchev "Thaw" art and literature have truly flourished. The development of outer space that offered infinite possibilities for all mankind also started during this period.

There are people of all levels of well-being whose lives have become Service. There is always an opportunity to realize themselves in the affairs of charity, science, art, military Service, and to treat any business and their profession as Service.

II. SOCIAL SERVICE IN THE FORMS OF CHARITY AND BENEVOLENCE BASED ON THE EXAMPLES FROM RUSSIAN HISTORY

Social Service in the forms of charity and benevolence has deep roots in the history of Russia, beginning with the activities of the first Russian princes and clergy. Prince Vladimir Monomakh told his sons to show care and hospitality towards the poor and miserable. In "Stoglav" (1551) the need to create almshouses was stated. "Since the XVII century, the facts state encouragement regularly reflected in the records and Affairs of the Embassy, Polonnikova and state orders." [2] Award medals for the different kinds of charity appeared at the end of XVIII — early XIX century. Just from 1698 to 1917 up to 1120 different awards were set for socially useful activities. [2] Much money was spent on charity. "It is enough to name the amounts that some of their entrepreneurs spent on charity: Bakhrushins — 3.4 million rubles; Tretyakov — 3.1 million. Thanks to the contributions of the Moscow entrepreneurs such as Solodovnikov, Alekseev (Stanislavsky), Kantsov, Lepeshkin, Lyamin, Morozovs, Ryabushinskys, Rukavishnikovas, Shchapov, Shchukins, Tretyakov and Bakhrushin, in the beginning of XX century not less than 628 various social institutions were build: schools, libraries, institutes, orphanages, shelters, alms-houses and theatres. Their charitable donations, being a powerful stimulus for the development of health, education and culture, have become one of social stability regulators in the country." [3]

Benevolence has always been considered as the highest value in Russia and practiced by Russian tsars. Whether a person is in trouble: spring flood, epidemic, famine, war, there is a living brotherhood and a willingness to sacrifice awaken in all the society. The Russian philosopher of the abroad I. A. Ilyin emphasizes that Russian doctors at universities were taught compassion and Service to the suffering. The profit-oriented doctor was a grotesque exception and was subjected to caustic ridicule [4]. A vivid example could be seen in A.P. Chekhov's work "Ionych", where the author shows how the priority of material values over spiritual ones, the craving for a well-fed and quiet life can destroy the personality, turn the doctor into an "existent", deprived of public respect.

III. SOCIAL SERVICE IN THE FORMS OF CHARITY AND BENEVOLENCE IN MODERN RUSSIA

In modern Russia, great attention is also paid to charity. State awards "For good deeds", "Order of St. Catherine the great Martyr", breastplate "For mercy and charity" were established. Awards and state prizes are given to citizens for the great charitable activities to support orphanages, nursing homes, shelters, hospices and medical institutions located in the territory of the Russian Federation. Thus, the state prize for outstanding achievements in the field of human rights and charitable activities was awarded to Elizabeth Glinka (Dr. Lisa), founder of the volunteer organization "Fair Aid". She saved thousands of children's lives. Such charitable foundations as "Rusfond" — a charitable Foundation to help seriously ill children, orphans and the disabled, "Give a life" — a Foundation specializing in helping sick children and modernization of hospitals are actively working in Russia. Its founders are actresses Dana Korzun and Chulpan Khamatova. There are many other worthy organizations such as Valery Gergiev Foundation from the artistic Director and Director of the world-famous Mariinsky theatre, specializing in targeted assistance to young artists and musical groups, the organization of music festivals "Stars of the white nights" and the Moscow Easter festivals and the charitable Foundation for support of artists "Artist". Charity Fund of food "Rus" and "Center of social programs" are actively working. It is also possible to allocate the charitable Fund of rescue of seriously ill children "Line of life", Fund of the help to hospices "Vera", the regional public Orthodox organization "Mercy" carrying out 25 social projects in Moscow, whose motto is "There is love in this world" [5].

Volunteer youth associations are actively working in Russia. Of course, the specificity of social Service is closely related to the personal qualities of those who carry out this Service. During the period from February 2004 to February 2008 students and staff of the Academic Institute of Social Service of the Russian State Social University conducted a study on "Motivational readiness of young people to volunteer Service." The study involved young people (1750 people) from different regions of Russia, 54% of girls and 46% of boys. The average age of the respondents was 17.9 years. Young people were dominated by the following motives: self-realization of personal potential; social vocation, a sense of social significance; self-expression and self-determination; the ability to express their civic position, performing social and religious duty [6].

IV. THE PHENOMENON OF SERVICE AS A FORM OF PATRIOTISM

The phenomenon of Service can be seen as a form of patriotism. Russian president Vladimir Putin declared patriotism as a national idea of Russia. It is difficult to overestimate the role of history and the promotion of Russian spiritual values in the formation of patriotism and spirituality among modern Russian youth. It is important to convey to young people the glorious names, deeds and discoveries, the views of the great citizens of Russia, who represent the national pride of the Motherland. Moreover, it is important to rely not only on historical material, but to focus on the

exploits of modern heroes, unselfish Service to duty, Service to the Motherland [7]. In the moral, Patriotic education a huge role belongs to the teachers from both schools and universities. Because the "spirit of the institution" is created by all teaching staff and each teacher individually, the psychological basis of such influence is the tendency of young people to imitate. According to the figurative expression of K. D. Ushinsky, an example is "a fruitful ray of the sun for a young soul, which cannot be replaced by anything" [8]. The ascetic of the Russian Orthodox Church Seraphim of Sarov stressed the importance of the presence of inner light in a person, so that thousands "were lit". If the teacher brings the young generation high moral ideals of Service, it will somehow leave a mark in the hearts of young people. The teacher should always remember the high mission of science and education that he also works "for eternity" [9]. Contemporary teachers should be guided in the first place by education and improvement, spiritual growth of the personality. And professional ethics also contribute to the development of "spiritual and moral culture of man".

V. ILLUSTRATION OF THEMES OF PATRIOTISM AND SERVICE ON THE EXAMPLE OF EDUCATIONAL WORK IN RUDN

Patriotism should become a principle of higher education. Modern scientific and educational activities should be considered "by University workers through the prism of awareness of the true mission of Russian education — education of the people and Service to the Fatherland. This value setting is fully reflected in the codes of honor of the teacher and Manager of the RUDN". [10]. The Russian University of friendship of peoples in the framework of educational activities, carried out a lot of work on Patriotic education of students at all levels. The Department of ethics also contributes to the solution of this noble task. Within the lecture Hall of the Department of ethics "Problems of morality in modern society", in addition to other topics of ethical orientation, five University colloquiums were held, dedicated to the theme of patriotism:

- "Formation of patriotism and tolerance among modern Russian youth" (18.04.2012);
- "The concept of patriotism in the representation of modern youth" (11.04.2014);
- "Where does the Motherland begin?"(25.11.2015).
- Ways and means of forming patriotism among modern youth 20.04.2018).

The eleventh University Colloquium of the Department of ethics was devoted to the theme "Moral height of Service" (12.04.2017). The topic of the Colloquium aroused a lively and genuine interest of teachers and students. The Colloquium was attended by students of different courses from 1 to masters and postgraduates of the faculty of Humanities and social Sciences, law and medical institutions, representatives of various fields: philosophy, law, state and municipal management, medical science. Traditionally, foreign students take part in the Colloquiums of the Department of ethics.

Reflecting on the complex and profound theme of the Service, the students made interesting reports and presentations, which revealed the phenomenon of the Ministry through the prism of the life and work of A. S. Griboedov, Maria Sklodowska-Curie, F. N. Plevako, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther king, Seraphim of Sarov, as well as on the example of the sisters of mercy of the Udmurt Republic. The reports were accompanied by heated discussions. The theme made the students think about the essence of the phenomenon of Service, the importance of this social phenomenon, the need to be useful to society and the country, to bring good and light to the world. What contributed to the presentation of the Department of ethics, based on the materials of Russian history, where in a colorful form were presented the acts and sayings of the great people of Russia who devoted their lives to the Service of the Motherland. Among them: Prince Vladimir, Yaroslav the Wise, Alexander Nevsky, Peter I, M. V. Lomonosov, A. V. Suvorov, A. S. Pushkin, patrons of Russia, P. A. Stolypin, Patriarch Tikhon, philosophers of the Russian abroad I. A. Ilyin and G.P. Fedotov, S.P. Korolev, founders and leaders of modern charity funds. And these are only a few of the glorious cohort of great people of Russia, the meaning of whose life was the Service of the Motherland.

Also, the topics of patriotism and Service are studied in the course "Professional ethics", read by teachers of the Department of ethics at the faculties and institutes of the Russian University of friendship of peoples. Students, representatives of different countries, peoples and cultures, make presentations illustrating examples of Service in various spheres of social reality in history and modernity in their countries. Turning to the phenomenon of Service allows you to think about the importance of the chosen profession, to look at it through the prism of Service. Understanding the important themes of patriotism and Service by students will certainly make our world better, brighter and more humane.

I.A. Ilyin noted: "...humanity lives as if in a single, continuous spiritual ether. Everything in the world is interconnected. Each evil thought poisons the air of the spiritual world, and vice versa, purity and the bright rays sent into the world are doing their good deeds...cleanse the spiritual air of existence." [11].

VI. CONCLUSION

The theme of Service is being particularly relevant for modern students. Today, more than ever, it is important to introduce young people to high spiritual values, to form the generation of conscious citizens and patriots of the Motherland, professionals for whom their work becomes a Service. Studies and real-life cases show that young people are ready and motivated for volunteer and charity work. History gives us renowned examples of great people whose lives became the Service to the cause, to profession, to people and Motherland. But it is important to convey to young people the idea that the Service often appears to be a quiet phenomenon. Driven by the internal motivation of Service to the business, profession, people and Motherland, such people do their job day by day faithfully and honestly, bringing the light into the world. No other life is imagined by

them. They don't start a video blog on YouTube and don't post photos illustrating their Service every day on Instagram. Their Service is quiet and imperceptible, but it does not become less valuable and meaningful. Service is a feat in the long-term perspective.

According to the author, the following values of the Service people can be distinguished: patriotism, humanistic aspirations, largeness of mind, high moral ideals, highly developed sense of duty, honor and dignity, sensitive conscience, altruistic motives, diligence, professionalism, priority of spiritual values over material, sacrifice. The important role of modern education is to introduce young people to these values. And the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia is making its worthy contribution to the realization of this noble goal.

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