

Substance and Essence of Civil Position of Graduates of Educational Institutions of Culture and Arts

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Abstract—This article explores the substance of an experimental study on the development of the civil position of graduates of educational institutions of culture and arts. A comparison has been made of the notions of “civicism” and “patriotism.” The substance and essence of the notion of “civicism” have been clarified. The focus is placed on patriotic upbringing of youth in modern conditions of development of the Russian system of education, particularly in educational institutions of culture and arts.

Keywords—civil position; higher school graduates; civicism; patriotism; upbringing

I. INTRODUCTION

This investigation presents two subjects, interrelated and interdependent by virtue of logic of tackling the assigned tasks and goals:

- Civil position and self-awareness of the Russian youth as a precondition for Russia’s development and its future.
- The substance and essence of the notion of “civil position.”
- Civil position of graduates of educational institutions of culture and arts.

Today, the issue of upbringing increasingly attracts interest of not only pedagogues, but also philosophers, enlighteners, economists, and politicians. V.V. Putin speaks thus about the upbringing of today’s youth: “The way we bring up our youth determines Russia’s ability to preserve and enrich herself. It determines whether our country will be modern, advanced, and rapidly growing without losing her originality in the very complex current situation. The problem of the upbringing of children and young people is always a burning issue because without it no intergenerational continuity, transfer of basic knowledge, spiritual and moral standards, and preservation of religious and cultural traditions are possible. Eventually, the future of civilization depends on who and how we bring up today.” [4]

Among the many segments of upbringing one draws particular attention and not without reason, this is the civil patriotic upbringing. It is a distinctly molded civil position that enables a person to feel his involvement in his country’s developments, and muster all his strength and stamina for

addressing any task for his country’s sake. Practice shows that a society in which all its members have a clearly defined civil self-awareness competently meets all challenges of time and steadily moves into the future.

The issue of formation and development of a person’s civil position remains important at all stages of formation and development of the Russian society. This is particularly true of the younger generation.

It must be noted that qualities that characterize a person with a mature civil position change depending on prevailing religious or secular convictions, the state’s social structure, persuasions and outlooks of a man. Nonetheless, one of the essential features of a person in any national community is his civil position. [5]

The issue of formation and development of the civil position draws attention of many domestic researchers who have their own views about its substance and essence. Many of them define the civil position as a personally significant trait that determines a direction in a man’s activities based on his rights, general human values, freedoms and commitments of a citizen in relation to his Motherland.

As noted above, the issue of formation and development of the civil position concerns in the first place Russia’s younger generation. Organization of socio-pedagogical work in this area has its specifics and fine points determined by an individual category (children, teenagers, and youth). The work towards forming and developing the civil position is organized and performed taking into account their age, level of social maturity, gender, outlooks, professional orientation and other factors.

II. ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPTS OF “CITIZENSHIP” AND “PATRIOTISM.”

The issue of development of the younger generation’s civil position has a long history in Russia. The formation of statehood is directly linked to the world outlook of citizens, which is manifest primarily in the desire to live and work for the good of one’s country. This issue has always been a matter of serious concern for the domestic pedagogues and psychologists who have made a significant contribution to the solution of this problem, which enabled the subsequent generation of scientists to rely in their research on the solid theoretical and methodological basis.

Modern researcher A.M. Andresyuk defines the notion under study rather fully, i.e. civicism is a component of human character whose maturity enables a person to feel sure in terms of social, moral, juridical and political categories. The main elements are moral and legal culture, sense of dignity, internal personal freedom, discipline, respect for and trust in state agencies and other citizens, performance of obligations combined with general human, patriotic, national and supra-national sentiments. [2]

The analysis of the numerous definitions of the notion of "civicism" has shown that it is rather capacious and sophisticated, having many other meanings and values that express the social core of man, his relationship to family, nature, his nation and the country. An important factor should be pointed out that concerns the specifics of the Russian cultural mentality, i.e. the substance of the notion of "civicism" is the notion of "patriotism."

Thus, many authors defining the substance and essence of the notion of civicism single out and juxtapose closely related notions, "patriotism" in the first place. It is possible to make a chain of notions integrated in a single semantic and value-related entity that forms a nucleus of the Russian culture: "civicism" — "patriotism" — "person" — "state" — "nation" — "homeland" — "Motherland" — "culture" — "country."

The notion of "patriotism", closest to civicism in terms of definition, is characterized as follows. This is a social sentiment and moral value, devotion to one's Motherland, aspiration to defend its interests, love of and pride for the country and its present and past. [16]

In the 18th century, during the French revolution of 1789-93, the term "patriot" became widely accepted. Strugglers for the people's cause and defenders of the republic fighting against the Motherland's traitors from the monarchists' camp called themselves by this term.

It should be noted that the ideas of patriotism engaged the minds of thinkers of the past in many cultures of the world. The ancient philosophers paid much attention to the ideas of civicism and patriotism, as Plato put it: "in war and at court, anywhere do what the Motherland commands." [13]

It must be stated that in our country the issue of fostering the younger generation in the spirit of devotion to the Motherland and the nation, dates from ancient Rus.

The marked manifestation of patriotic sentiments is encountered throughout entire Russian culture. For instance, in "The tale of Igor's campaign" the patriotic feelings are conveyed through the people's pride for their country, its greatness and importance for everyone. The key principle is based on service to the general national interests and the unity of Russia. The author of the "Tale" envisions Russia's unity as an ideal based on good will of allied relationship of all Russian princes.

Under Peter I the word "patriotism" (the idea of service for the Motherland!) had risen to special prominence. At first, an emphasis was placed, and understandably so, on the military aspect of patriotism. All through its history, from its

inception and onward, Rus and Russia had been waging defensive wars. The military patriotism was regarded as the highest form of love for one's people and country. Later on, the notion of patriotism became defined not only as warriors' valor, but also as a pride for one's Motherland and people. [11]

Historically, in our country the subject of love of one's Motherland has always been popular. Different domestic authors described the love of one's country and people by different means and notions showing the essence of patriotism. Depicting the Northern War in his treatise [14], P.P. Shafirov uses the notion of "patriot" in the sense of "the Motherland's son." F.I. Soimonov in his book "The nestling from Peter's nest" [14] also defines himself in the same sense. A.V. Suvorov used the term "compatriot" to convey the same idea. [17]

Many Russian thinkers, philosophers, pedagogues, writers, poets and statesmen wrote, argued, and tried to comprehend and express the phenomenon of Russian (Russia's) patriotism.

In all historical times, the outstanding people of our country considered patriotism to be an expression characterized by the desire for a free and prosperous country, which was the basis of the spiritual life of the Russian person. According to A.N. Radishchev: "... true man and the son of the Fatherland are one and the same... he would rather agree to die than to be an example of having no manners for others... he is filled with the tenderest love for the integrity and tranquility of his compatriots... overcomes all obstacles, tirelessly watches over the preservation of honesty, gives good advice and guidance... and if he is sure that own death will bring strength and glory to the Fatherland, he will not be afraid to sacrifice own life... he is noble, his heart is thrilled with tender joy, and he has the only Fatherland called..." [15].

N.N. Karamzin considered patriotism, first of all, to be the love for the Fatherland: "The love for the Fatherland can be physical, moral and political" [9].

Many modern Russian researchers note that patriotism is a natural phenomenon, which is necessary for the full existence of both the Fatherland and each compatriot; associated with the love of a man for his/her homeland, his/her devotion to the place, where he or she is born and raised, as well as the willingness to make every effort to prosper and ensure the national independence of the Fatherland [8].

It can be said that the feeling of patriotism among the Russian people is unique in its nature. Love for the Motherland of the Russian person can be compared only with love for his/her mother. Such phrase as "Motherland-Mother" cannot be found in any language of the world. These words express the whole strength of the patriotism of our people, their love for their Fatherland.

The main aspect of patriotism is represented by human activities, which are aimed at the realization of such a feeling of love for own Fatherland (Motherland), its expression in "serving the Fatherland."

III. THE ESSENCE AND CONTENT OF THE CONCEPT OF "CIVIL POSITION"

Patriotism is a moral category. The historical spiritual and moral values of the Russian culture and its people are the origins of the culture. It can be claimed that the vital position of the Russian person, style, quality and the way of life form his/her morality, which is the basis of patriotism. Morality and patriotism are remained in the Russian person throughout his/her life (mentality) thanks to persuasion, inner conscience, belief in the highest meanings and the values of human existence, but without significant public control and compulsion.

Patriotism is described as "an emotional attitude towards the Motherland – the feeling of love for the Fatherland, own land, cultural environment, history and traditions" in different dictionaries and encyclopedias. It is no mere chance that patriotism is one of the most indestructible feelings of our people. "Patriotism is the category of spiritual education, which is focused on the formation of the person, regardless of his or her religious devotion, culture of the Fatherland, society and the state" [12].

Careful analysis of various literatures on this issue suggests that a sign of the formed civic position is conscious "civic patriotism" or "patriotic civic loyalty." If the attitude of the individual to the homeland, as well as its historical past and present, forms patriotism, then the belonging of the person to this or that nation and his/her social and political activities are mostly combined with the concept of "citizenship."

"Patriotism and citizenship include the interrelated set of moral feelings and behavioral features: love for the Motherland, loyalty to the political system; following and multiplying the traditions of the nation; respect for historical monuments and customs of the native country; affection and love for native places; desire to strengthen the honor and dignity of the Motherland, willingness and ability to protect it; military bravery, courage and dedication; antipathy towards racial and national animosity; respect for the customs of the culture of other countries and nations, as well as the desire to cooperate with them" [12].

It can be claimed that such feelings, like civic patriotism and morality, among the Russian people are initial, according to the whole course of the history of the development of the Russian community. Today, these feelings are its sociogenetic basis, as well as the mentality of the Russian people and its culture.

The issue of civil and patriotic education of youth in the modern conditions is actualized and becomes a vital task of the Russian state and society, all its institutions and, above all, the education system. Today, Russia is experiencing significant difficulties of spiritual, moral, socio-economic and civil nature. As historical reality shows, the effective solution of such issues in Russia is possible only due to the love for the Motherland, respect for its traditions and customs, which is the main task of educating the younger generation in the family and the education system at all levels (preschool, school, professional and additional).

Thus, it can be said that there are three main components of patriotism:

- First component is the care that is recognized and expressed by the person, when providing the Fatherland with the relevant assistance by all available means. It allows developing positively as the person with the civil and patriotic consciousness.
- Second component is the responsibility of the person as the citizen of the country. It means the ability to accurately respond to the needs of the homeland, take responsibility for making decisions, as well as to coordinate personal and public interests.
- Third component is respect perceived within the person's ability to know and accept the Fatherland with all its advantages and disadvantages in the way it really is.

Thus, the analysis of the concepts of "citizenship" and "patriotism" in different philosophical and psychological-pedagogical studies showed that such concepts in various manifestations existed in Russia right from the appearance of the ancient Russian state. It was a long way of their establishment and development. After being formed as the feeling of love for the Fatherland and the readiness to defend it, patriotism and citizenship in the modern period are to be multidimensional and sociocultural phenomena and processes.

In the philosophical and social sense, "patriotism" is currently understood as an integral part of the internal development of man and the society as a whole. In the political aspect, patriotism is an integral part of the citizenship and the social and political life of the society, which significantly influences the formation and development of the person's civic identity. The pedagogical approach is focused on the educational potential of patriotism and its role in the education of the individual as the patriot of the homeland.

IV. PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN THE MODERN CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM, IN PARTICULAR IN UNIVERSITIES OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS

According to the influence of the world socio-cultural situation in Russia, there are processes that influence the economic, political and socio-cultural development. It actualizes the need to address issues of civil and patriotic education of the younger generation (children, teenagers and youth), as well as the formation and development of the citizenship among students in educational institutions of the country. All these aspects are connected with the preparation of the younger generation for life and work in the modern Russian society, considering the historical socio-cultural characteristics of the development of the Russian Federation.

Also, it should be noted that the country is in the process of increasing interest in the civil and patriotic situation in the country, interest in the historical past and the future of

Russia, which is a good basis for developing the civic position, among students.

Student age is characterized by the high level of social activities, interest not only in the professional activities, but also in all processes happening in the country and the world. Nevertheless, the profile of the university and the future profession play an important role in the formation and development of the civic position of students.

The development of the citizenship is especially significant for future specialists in the student period. It is the period, when the civic position of each student is strengthened, and the patriotic understanding of the world is formed. The process of developing self-awareness of the individual is improved due to the formation of upbringing and educational work with future specialists at the university. A more meaningful attitude towards the civic position of each student is established as a part of the process of self-determination, which allows students to form own position.

While considering the influence of pedagogical factors on the civic activities of students, S.I. Belentsov noted that various arts take a special place in the formation of the civic position of graduates of the universities of culture and the arts [3].

The specialists dealing with the issues, which are related to man and the world of culture note that different arts, in one form or another, form the world of man, influence its development, as well as the perception of the world. Such arts enter the life of every person from infancy: from the first lullaby to classical and modern music, from fairy tales and first books to films and performances, from first uneven circles drawn with a colored pencil and own drawings to the perception of masterpieces [6].

It can be confidently said that the education of persons, citizens and patriots is impossible without immersion in the arts of the country. Researchers note that the civic position of the person begins with the development of interest and the education on how to love the surrounding world, native nature, family, birthplace, native word, national language, past of specific nation, own state and its symbols.

V. CONCLUSION

The analysis of the theory and practice of pedagogical activities in higher education showed that one of the most important conditions for the formation of the civic position inside the student community of graduates of the universities of culture and the arts was the availability of qualified personnel able to implement ideas on the civil and patriotic education, organize and perform the relevant activities, and to be an example for students.

It can be said that, in the context of cultural knowledge, education in the universities of culture and the arts is the integrative and complex concept that has common bases and target orientations connected with the interrelation and mutual influences with broad sociocultural context, i.e. with economic, political, legal and other processes of the public life in each historical era [13].

According to the specifics, the inner world of future graduate of the university of culture and the arts should be based on the combination of the spiritual and moral life of the university with reasonably chosen meanings and the values of his or her future profession; development of the ability to communicate; civic identification of own identity and its relation to history, culture and the arts. In such a university, an important argument of education in the field of arts and culture may be educational activities, which involve the principle of creativity. The student wants to satisfy own needs (not only pragmatically, but also creatively), while striving for personal self-actualization, recognition and respect. The motives for obtaining education are not just the profession, but also the career, social status, self-realization, image improvement, mastering communication skills and making important decisions that characterize the citizen of the country.

Thus, the main thing in the development of the citizenship among graduates of the universities of culture and the arts, in the context of cultural knowledge, is a form of active development of the inner world by students. The factor that determines the personal and professional development can be claimed that the formation of the civic position of students of the universities of culture and the arts is a rather complicated and continuous process of mastering and accumulating the meanings and values of the Russian culture, which is formed gradually and has a continuous character based on deep historical roots.

The most favorable conditions for developing the citizenship among graduates of the universities of culture and the arts are:

- Well-formed educational and sociocultural environment of the university filled with the meanings and values of the Russian culture.
- Content of all educational courses under the main educational program of the university contains dominant motivational and semantic components, which are focused on the development of civil and patriotic feelings, as well as the self-consciousness of students.
- Process of vocational education at the university is fully integrated with the educational process, while forming a single social space, which also includes the cultural and leisure organizations of the city.

All of these conditions build a solid foundation for effective social and educational activities in the formation and development of the citizenship among graduates of the universities of culture and the arts.

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