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# POPULARIZATION OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS USING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY

# POPULARIZACIÓN DE LA EDUCACIÓN ESPIRITUAL Y MORAL DE LOS ALUMNOS MEDIANTE LA ACTIVIDAD SOCIAL Y CULTURAL

# POPULARIZAÇÃO DA EDUCAÇÃO ESPIRITUAL E MORAL DOS ALUNOS MEDIANTE A ATIVIDADE SOCIAL E CULTURAL

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**Resumo:** Este artigo analisa a abordagem regional para organizar as atividades do Instituto Estadual de Artes e Cultura de Belgorod, bem como o centro regional de educação profissional adicional (Centro Espiritual e Educacional em nome de Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov e sua mãe Sophia (virtudes cristãs Fé, Esperança e Caridade)) para popularizar a educação espiritual e moral da juventude estudantil. A base experimental da pesquisa foi o Centro Espiritual e Educacional em nome de Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov e sua mãe Sophia como uma unidade estrutural do Instituto Estadual de Artes e Cultura de Belgorod. Como resultado do estudo, os autores concluem que, apesar do fato de os jovens modernos não terem diretrizes claras de vida, eles são propensos às idéias ocidentais de atitudes dos consumidores em relação à existência. Eles também destacam a saúde, a família e a educação como os principais valores da vida e valorizam as pessoas, antes de tudo, a capacidade de resposta, a bondade e o intelecto. Para popularizar as qualidades espirituais e morais da juventude, desenvolvemos o programa "Somos um". O objetivo do programa é a atualização, apoio e implementação de processos educacionais relacionados ao trabalho eficaz no ambiente jovem, a formação de indivíduos e cidadãos capazes de se realizar na região, na



Rússia e em escala global; promoção do conhecimento humanitário e das tecnologias de formação de cultura no espaço cultural e educacional regional da região de Belgorod, na Rússia e no exterior. Os autores do artigo desenvolveram e substanciaram no processo de abordagens e recomendações de trabalhos experimentais que contribuem para aumentar a eficácia da educação espiritual e moral dos alunos. Esses materiais podem ser utilizados no processo de organização de atividades pedagógicas em instituições de ensino.

**Palavras-chave:** Espiritualidade; Educação espiritual e moral; Instituições de ensino; Centros espirituais e educacionais; Juventude.

Abstract: This paper analyse the regional approach to organizing the activities of the Belgorod State Institute of Arts and Culture, as well as the regional centre for additional professional education (Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia (Christian virtues Faith, Hope and Charity)) to popularize spiritual and moral education of student youth. The experimental base of the research was the Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia as a structural unit of the Belgorod State Institute of Arts and Culture. As a result of the study, the authors conclude that, despite the fact that modern youth do not have clear life guidelines, they are prone to Western ideas of consumer attitudes toward existence. They also highlight health, family and education as the main values in life, and they value in people, first of all, responsiveness, kindness, and intellect. In order to popularize the spiritual and moral qualities of youth, we have developed the program "We are one." The purpose of the program is the actualization, support and implementation of educational processes related to effective work in the youth environment, the formation of individuals and citizens capable of realizing themselves within the region, Russia and on a global scale; promotion of humanitarian knowledge and culture-forming technologies in the regional cultural and educational space of the Belgorod region, Russia and abroad. The authors of the paper have developed and substantiated in the process of experimental work approaches and recommendations that contribute to increasing the effectiveness of spiritual and moral education of students. These materials can be used in the process of organizing pedagogic activities in educational institutions.

**Key words:** Spirituality; Spiritual and moral education; Educational institutions; Spiritual and educational centres; Youth.

Resumen: Este artículo analiza el enfoque regional para organizar las actividades del Instituto Estatal de Arte y Cultura de Belgorod, así como el centro regional de educación profesional adicional (Centro Espiritual y Educativo en nombre de Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov y su madre Sophia (virtudes cristianas Fe, Esperanza y Caridad) para popularizar la educación espiritual y moral de los jóvenes estudiantes. La base experimental de la investigación fue el Centro Espiritual y Educativo en nombre de Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov y su madre Sophia como una unidad estructural del Instituto Estatal de Arte y Cultura de Belgorod. Como resultado del estudio, los autores concluyen que, a pesar de que los jóvenes modernos no tienen pautas claras de vida, son propensos a las ideas occidentales sobre las actitudes de los consumidores hacia la existencia. También destacan la salud, la familia y la educación como los principales valores en la vida, y valoran en las personas, en primer lugar, la capacidad de respuesta, la amabilidad y el intelecto. Con el fin de popularizar las cualidades espirituales y morales de la juventud, hemos desarrollado el programa "Somos uno". El propósito del programa es la actualización, el apoyo y la implementación de procesos educativos relacionados con el trabajo efectivo en el entorno juvenil, la formación de individuos y ciudadanos capaces de realizarse dentro de la región, Rusia y a escala mundial; promoción del conocimiento humanitario y las tecnologías de formación cultural en el espacio cultural y educativo regional de la región de Belgorod, Rusia y el extranjero. Los autores del artículo se han desarrollado y fundamentado en el proceso de enfoques y recomendaciones de trabajo experimental que contribuyen a aumentar la efectividad de la educación espiritual y moral de los estudiantes. Estos



materiales pueden utilizarse en el proceso de organización de actividades pedagógicas en instituciones educativas.

**Palabras clave:** Espiritualidad; Educación espiritual y moral; Instituciones educativas; Centros espirituales y educativos; Juventud.

### Introduction

The radical changes taking place in Russia cover all spheres of its life. The sociopolitical situation and settings, the intensified development of a market economy, the vigorous activity of the media overfilled with obscene and sometimes aggressive advertising, all that cause a drop in ethics and morality, stimulate the decomposition of personality and the transformation of spiritual and moral values.

High spiritual and moral education, as well as traditional values determine the level of culture, contribute to the implementation of gender issues and contradictions, the crisis of family and, finally, the lack of social ideology. What has not recently been possible has become the norm in the modern world. (Elchaninov, 2010).

The formation of high culture, patriotism, spiritual and moral education among young people is the most important task in the process of becoming a person. But today money and power have become the main values in the modern world, lies have become a manifestation of resourcefulness, and the concepts of freedom and democracy are being replaced by licentiousness (Spanova, 2007). Liberal-democratic transformations carry a massive base of culture and art. There is a devaluation of such life values as citizenship and patriotism, love and family, friendship and chastity.

The social and cultural changes of recent decades are viewed from two sides. On the one hand, our country gives young people the opportunity to develop new facets of cultural development and patterns of thinking, to be active, willing to change their lifestyle and work in new conditions. Socio-cultural and economic freedom gives youth equal opportunities in ensuring their material and social well-being. Creativity of youth is rapidly developing; the range of cultural opportunities is increasing. The younger generation gained civil liberties eliminating existing bans. Freedom of philosophical views and scientific creativity can be a source of self-realization and socio-cultural development for young people encouraging them to constructive work (Fominykh et al, 2018).



On the other hand, the youth has incorrectly defined this opportunity and freedom given to them. In our opinion, this is a significant drawback of our country. It is connected with the fact that young people are unable to take the right step forward in their development, and obvious manifestation of that is their spiritual and moral disorientation. To date, we can list a huge number of obstacles in the implementation of spiritual and moral attitudes. First of all, they are: a low level of spiritual and moral culture; the loss by the family of its inherent function of transmitting important cultural and life values to children; the absence of a common model of influence on the spiritual and moral education of youth of various social institutions: families, educational institutions, cultural institutions, the Orthodox Church, state and public structures (Fominykh et al, 2018).

In our opinion, in a university conditions it is important to integrate educational, extracurricular, and pedagogical activities into a single educational space in order to increase the level of spiritual and moral social training of students which are future specialists of the educational system and social protection of the population (Petrova, 2017).

### **Literature Review**

The theoretical foundations of the activity of spiritual and educational centres are reflected in the works of Patriarch Alexy II, A.S. Karmin, Patriarch Kirill, Deacon A. Kuraev, M. Olesnitsky, R.A. Paroshina, D.V. Pakhomova, P.M. Smirnova, O.P. Starshinova, and others.

The questions of theory and practice of spiritual and moral education of youth through the means, forms and methods of cultural and leisure activities were studied by A.D. Zharkov, V.A. Kovsharov, T.G. Kiseleva, Yu.D. Krasilnikov, Yu.A. Streltsov, V.M. Chizhikov, in the spiritual and educational centres by V. Legoida, V. Chaplin, Archpriest E. Shestun, and others.

The study of the problems at the regional level has received a significant contribution by the Archbishop of Yekaterinburg and Verkhotursky Vikentiy, V.I. Dobrynin, Archbishop of Belgorod and Stary Oskol, Ioann, V.V. Pavlovsky, hegumen I. Poluyanov, and others.

A significant part of modern scientists and practitioners positively evaluate the joint work of spiritual and outreach, and also educational centres. M.S Zhirov believes that the integration processes of these two areas are becoming increasingly relevant. "We have the right to consider this cooperation as a basic catalyst and a translator of universal human values and ideals into the youth environment. The education sector has truly unlimited possibilities in terms



of implementing the tasks of the activities of spiritual and educational centres. This joint activity gives rise to a valuable resource of moral education of a person" (Zhirov, 2004).

# **Materials and Methods**

Research methods were theoretical: bibliographic search method, system and structural-functional analysis, synthesis, analogy method; and empirical: observation, questionnaire, generalization of practical experience, and content analysis.

The object of study is the spiritual and moral upbringing of youth.

The subject for study is the process of spiritual and moral upbringing of youth in educational institutions.

Today, society is constantly searching for new forms of working with youth, and in this situation, in our opinion, it will be relevant to pay attention to such an organization as spiritual and educating centres which have tremendous sociocultural potential.

The administration of the Belgorod region was one of the first to realize the importance of opening spiritual and educating centres and their socio-cultural significance as factors of moral education, teaching of Belgorod residents, especially young people, in the cultural values of their country and their region.

Today in the region there are more than 60 spiritual and educational centres where children, youth and even older people master applied crafts, engage in creativity, learn the basics of Orthodoxy, their history, traditions, and culture.

So, on the basis of the Belgorod State Institute of Arts and Culture (hereinafter referred to as BGIIK), there is a regional centre for additional professional education (Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia (Christian virtues Faith, Hope and Charity)).

The spiritual and educational centre conducts diversified activities oriented, among other things, to youth. These are creative and intellectual competitions, quizzes, scientific competitions and seminars. The experience of the centre in organizing educational and upbringing work, organizing excursions in this direction can be very useful in solving educational problems (Guseva, 2019). A successful solution of diverse creative tasks requires a conscious, interested and active participation of young people in them. The solution to such problems becomes more effective when the interaction of the general educational institution and the Spiritual and Educational Centre meets the interests of all its participants.



The main tasks of the centre are:

□ meeting the spiritual and cultural needs of students, teachers, and employees of the BGIIK and the population of the Belgorod region in raising their spiritual and moral level;

- obtaining new knowledge about the spiritual, cultural and historical heritage of Russia and the Belgorod region.

□ raising the level of knowledge of heads and specialists of budgetary and cultural institutions;

- education in the field of spiritual security and educational activities.

□ organization of leisure activities that increase the spiritual and moral level for pupils of schools and students of the Belgorod region, pensioners, people with disabilities, and other categories of citizens on the basis of the Centre.

□ study and implementation of new forms of work with youth for institutions of additional education and cultural institutions of the Belgorod region.

 $\Box$  advisory activities.

For several years, an experimental interaction has been carried out between the BGIIK and the Spiritual Education Centre in the name of the saint martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia, aimed at shaping the spiritual and moral image of students, educating holistic and harmonious personalities.

The main goal of the interaction between the centre with students of the BGIIK is to uncover the pedagogical potential of spiritual culture.

As part of our study, we conducted a questionnaire among students of the BGIIK on the topic "Value Orientations of Youth in the Spiritual-Educational Centre in the Name of the Saint Martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their Mother Sophia in order to improve the spiritual and moral education of students."

The survey involved young people attending the spiritual and educational centre with a total of 50 people, and was represented by the age limits from 18 to 23 years.

The participants were offered an anonymous questionnaire consisting of 20 questions which were asked to choose one of the proposed answer options or to answer in any arbitrary form. The analysis of the questionnaire showed the following results:

75% of respondents answered positively to the question: "Do you visit the Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of the saint martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov, and their mother Sophia?", and 25% of respondents answered negatively (Fig. 1).



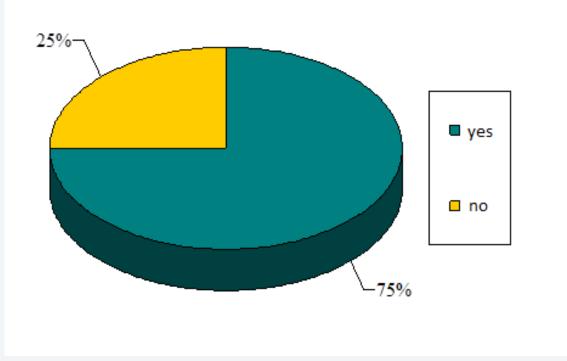


Fig. 1. Do you visit the Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of the holy martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia?

To the question: "What are the motives for visiting the Spiritual Education Centre?" 45% of respondents gave the answer "To participate in the creative team"." 15% of them responded "in order to join national and world cultural values". 12% of respondents said that they visit the institution to learn something new. 15% of respondents said that "I visit the centre to join the national and world cultural values." 12% of respondents came to the event to support friends - participants of the event. 7% of respondents came in to communicate with friends. 8% gave other answers. And only 1% visited the centre in order to while away the time.

As a result, as the answer to the question "Do you have a hobby?" respondents answered as follows: those who answered "yes" were - 69%, "no" - 31% of the respondents.

When answering the question "Do you like to participate in contests, shows, festivals?" respondents answered as follows: "yes" - 45%, "no" - 55%.

To the question "Are you persistent in achieving the goal?", The respondents answered "yes" - 45%, "no" - 55%.

After analysing the data obtained, we came to the following conclusions:

 $\Box$  most students have a clear goal in life;

 $\Box$  the greatest value for young people is health and family;



□ money is not a priority value of students, although a quarter of respondents consider living in abundance to be their main life value;

□ as to people, respondents value among them mostly such qualities as responsiveness, kindness and intelligence, but they do not value initiative.

Thus, we can conclude that, despite the fact that modern youth do not have clear life guidelines, and they are prone to Western ideas of consumer attitudes toward existence, they highlight health, family and education as the main values in life, and they value responsiveness in people, kindness, intelligence, as well as consider health, family and education as the main values for themselves. Spiritual and moral, and purely pragmatic material life goals are also characteristic for modern youth.

#### Results

After analysing the activities of the Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of the Holy Martyrs of Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia to polarise the spiritual and moral education of youth, we concluded that work in this direction is being carried out actively, however, in our opinion, the Centre's employees are not sufficiently using the potential of educational institutions of the city and region in organizing the work with young people.

Thus, in order to popularise the spiritual and moral qualities between youth, the BGIIK together with the Centre developed the program "We are One".

The purpose of the program is to support and implement educational processes that determine effective work with potential applicants, create conditions for the formation of an individual and a citizen who can realize himself in the regional environment, Russia and globally; promote humanitarian knowledge and culture-forming technologies in the regional cultural and educational space of the Belgorod region, Russia and abroad.

To achieve the above goals, the following tasks must be solved:

1) support for new educational programs combining fundamental training, research and project activities at all educational levels, competitive with the best world education standards oriented to the socio-cultural sphere;

2) attract talented young people regardless of their social status and place of residence in the spiritual and educational environment.



The main activities of the program:

- 1. Further improvement of the scientific and methodological support of the Centre, taking into account the requirements of the Federal state educational standards for training students.
- Introduction of modern educational interactive and information technologies into the educational process, including the creation of electronic teaching materials, funds for educational events, scripts, lessons, and excursions, taking into account age-related characteristics of perception, etc.
- 3. Joint activities within the framework of further vocational training, continuing education courses, primarily taking into account the needs of the regional cultural community.
- 4. Improving professional skills and qualifications, competitiveness of the Centre's teaching staff while creating the necessary organizational and managerial conditions.
- 5. Interuniversity (interregional) exchange of methodological experience, the creation of integrative and innovative programs, educational projects.

The main projects of the program:

- 1. "Discussion youth club."
- 2. "Russian Museum as a tool for studying Russian culture"
- 3. "Russian language improvement courses for Orthodox foreign citizens."

# **Discussion and Conclusion**

Harmonious spiritual development of each person, introducing the young generation to the origins of folk spirituality will be most effective on the basis of the development of interaction between the Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of the saint martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia and the Belgorod State Institute of Arts and Culture.

The program "We are one" is based on the study of the students' internal needs, on that how to perceive spiritual culture at different age stages as a necessary opportunity to form their own ideas about themselves and the world around them. Teachers of the BGIIK and methodologists of the Spiritual and Educational Centre in the name of St. martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lyubov and their mother Sophia are interested in revealing the degree of openness



of students' perception to cognition and acquisition of spiritual values at different stages of age development in order to further cooperation with the most enthusiastic category of students within the framework of such interaction (Kharebashvili, 2017).

According to the results of the program, students should know, be able to and understand:

- the history of introduction of Christianity into Russia, the famous and especially revered icons in Russia, the main Orthodox holidays, the creators and defenders of Russian culture and Slavic writing, especially the Orthodox worship;
- explain the reasons for the decision by Prince Vladimir Krasnoye Solnyshko to adopt Orthodoxy for Russia, use the studied terminology, apply the acquired knowledge in practice;
- explain how name days differ from birthdays; distinguish a prayer text from poems, icons from paintings;
- explain the meaning of Orthodox holidays.
- In addition, we can highlight the personal results of students:
- the formation of a positive attitude towards charity among young people, aimed at solving socially significant problems;
- formation in youth of a sense of responsibility "for a neighbour" and empathy;
- spiritual enrichment of youth, stimulating the interest of foreign students in Russian culture, traditions and language (Gafiatulina et al, 2019);
- disclosure and development of creative abilities, civic self-determination and self-realization, harmonization of students' needs;
- ability to monitor their words and deeds;
- mood for good behaviour and good relationships with others.

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