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On Key Vectors of Volunteerism Development in the Penal System Based on the Analysis of Current Scientific Research

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Abstract

Introduction: the article is devoted to the problem of developing volunteerism in the penal system. The relevance of the study is due to the growing interest of employees in participating in volunteer actions and the potential use of volunteerism in educational work with the staff of correctional institutions and educational organizations of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. *Purpose:* based on the analysis of modern scientific research, to show possible promising areas for the development of volunteerism in the penal system. *Methods:* general logical (analysis and synthesis, generalization, analogy); methods of scientific knowledge systematization (typologization, classification, interpretation). *Results:* the author dwells on modern scientific research on the phenomenon of volunteerism in the context of the possibilities of using their theoretical constructs and results in organizing the volunteer movement in the penal system. *Conclusions:* the analysis of the presented scientific sources and the research on volunteerism provide the necessary theoretical and empirical material for studying and identifying key areas for improving the effectiveness of volunteerism in the penal system. Areas of involvement in volunteer activities may include clear definition of the purpose of volunteer actions and projects; professional training and education; and providing training programs to volunteers. Participation in event volunteering should also be considered as a promising area. It is necessary to thoroughly study the impact of motivational and emotional components of the volunteer activity of employees and to adapt the results of scientific research on the reasons for non-participation in the volunteer movement of subjects of volunteerism to the conditions of volunteering in law enforcement agencies.

Key words: volunteerism; scientific research; development; cadets; staff; educational organizations of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia; penal system.

5.8.1. General pedagogy, history of pedagogy and education.

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Introduction

Volunteering is one of the most effective tools for successful social development and improving people's quality of life. In the penal system, the volunteer movement is widespread, its participants are engaged in various aspects of public life in the country. Volunteering as one of the priority areas contributes to spiritual and moral education of employees and formation of their humanistic worldview and allows them to gain the necessary experience of social interaction.

The undoubted advantages and opportunities of volunteerism in personal development and solving pressing social problems boost interest in it and attract attention of scientists from various branches of the humanities [1]. For example, the eLibrary contains about 13,560 publications on various aspects of volunteerism, while the Google Scholar – more than 15,900. As can be seen, the scale of appeals and scientific reflection on the phenomenon and practice of volunteerism has reached the limits worthy of a multi-volume anthology [2].

However, it is the study of available information resources, accumulated scientific knowledge and the use of the entire intellectual potential of the scientific community that can become crucial in determining the main vectors of volunteerism development in the penal system. This is the purpose of this article: based on the analysis and generalization of modern scientific research and their results, to show possible promising areas for the development of volunteerism in the penitentiary system.

Results

The phenomenon of volunteerism and all scientific problems associated with it are located at the junction of various scientific branches and are interdisciplinary. It is enough to make a brief review of the dissertation research on this phenomenon to make sure that it is diverse.

The history of the emergence and current state of volunteerism are touched upon in the scientific works of many researchers. So, L.A. Belyaeva gives a brief overview of the history of volunteerism in the pre-revolutionary and

Soviet periods, and also provides interesting studies of modern volunteerism with a comparative analysis of two age groups (18–24 and 25–34 years old). Her study is important for us, since these age groups correspond to the groups of cadets and young teachers of educational institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The researcher identifies types of volunteering activities of the designated groups, their social attitudes and real involvement in the volunteer movement, defines motivation models ("promotion", "capital", "values"), and factors constraining participation in volunteering. The author suggests that significant differences between the studied groups are explained by different sets of motives for volunteering [3].

E.A. Lugovaya studies the phenomenon of volunteerism in the context of the socio-cultural space of Russia [4], A.V. Sycheva - the development of civil society [5].

A cultural component of volunteerism is also presented in the dissertation research of F.V. Tsraeva, who suggests considering student volunteerism in the context of state cultural policy and giving specific recommendations for conducting its socio-cultural monitoring [6].

A sociological direction is presented in the dissertation research of V.V. Ovsii from the standpoint of the specifics of the formation and prospects for the development of youth volunteerism [7].

Economic aspects are presented in the dissertation research of A.V. Trokhina devoted to the formation and regulation of volunteer employment [8]. Also in the field of economics, M.S. Kruglova focuses on improving the management of volunteer organizations and specifically in relation to educational institutions of higher education [9].

N.V. Popova considers volunteerism from a philosophical perspective; she provides a socio-philosophical analysis of volunteerism as a type of social activity [10].

Psychological research is presented in the works of E.V. Ishkova describing determinants of personality types of orientation towards vol-

unteerism [11] and K.A. Palkin presenting characteristics of youth volunteers [12]. We also note the study conducted by A.E. Vorob'eva and S.I. Skipor on the dependence of psychological characteristics of volunteers and the focus of volunteer activity on helping people and helping animals (pet volunteers) [13].

A number of dissertation studies have also been conducted in the field of pedagogy. These are the works of L.V. Vandysheva [14] on the willingness of students – future social workers to volunteer and M.O. Kostyuchenko on the importance of volunteering in the development of students' social activity [15].

Pedagogical potential of student volunteerism is fully presented in the doctoral thesis of L.E. Sikorskaya, which can be described as a basic work in pedagogical research of the phenomenon of volunteerism [16].

In the analytical review of dissertation research on volunteerism, N.V. Guver focuses specifically on pedagogical research, mentioning also a legal aspect of volunteerism [17].

Undoubtedly, this is by no means a complete list of dissertation research, but it also clearly highlights the diversity and versatility of scientific research in the field under consideration. In our opinion, the most fundamental results of scientific research on the phenomenon of volunteerism are presented in the publications of M.V. Pevnei, who considers volunteerism under a managerial approach on the basis of higher education institutions in the Ural Oblast and the Sverdlovsk Oblast [18]. For our research, the conclusions regarding the specifics of students' motivation for volunteerism are also interesting [19].

Volunteering from the standpoint of value bases and motivation is considered in the articles by A.I. Shutenko, E.N. Shutenko, A.V. Loktev and A.B. Martynenko [2; 20].

So, we agree with the position of A.B. Martynenko, who believes that "volunteerism is an integral part of public life. At the same time, it is a complex construct that is fraught with emotional dilemmas, because the emotions of volunteers are of key importance for their activities. However, this topic is poorly covered in Russian scientific discourse, both meaningfully and methodologically" [20]. The researcher also identifies quantitative indicators of the emotional component of volunteerism through

online surveys of volunteers in various fields of volunteerism.

Today, political challenges are actualizing scientific research affecting various aspects of the special military operation. This fully applies to the research of the volunteer movement, as the special military operation conducted by Russia has led to the increase in the number of volunteers working in extreme conditions. The specifics of volunteerism in the conditions of free labor are reflected in the publications of R.I. Ziinurov and A.R. Tuzikov [21].

V.E. Petrov, A.V. Kokurin, and V.M. Pozdnyakov have conducted an empirical study to establish differences in psychological profiles of general humanitarian volunteers and "extreme volunteers" [22]. The researchers establish psychologically significant predictors that determine people's propensity for contrasting types of volunteer activities. The assessment of differences in the groups shows that "extreme volunteers" tend to be more responsible for the results of their activities, while "general humanitarian volunteers" tend to be more tolerant of others. The psychological portrait of the "extreme volunteer" is distinguished by characteristics of the value-motivational sphere of personality, such as patriotism, complicity, self-sacrifice, social involvement, and altruism [22].

Research on the reasons for respondents' non-participation in volunteer actions is also worth discussing. As our research on the involvement of penal system employees, veterans and their family members in volunteer movements and projects shows, this problem is also significant for employees.

A.V. Starshinova considers a formal approach to volunteerism as the main reason for non-participation. She notes that participation in the volunteer movement under the influence of external factors with uncomplicated or contradictory internal motivation causes dissatisfaction with their activities and their termination. The study of activities of volunteer associations existing at educational institutions has shown that it has turned into a mandatory type of extracurricular work for students disguised as volunteerism. The key contradiction of youth volunteerism is between its value content as a gratuitous voluntary activity for the benefit of society and the predominance of selfish motives for participating in it. The shift

in students' attitudes to volunteerism as a resource for personal development provokes an increase in problems in real practice. Formalism and overregulation of volunteer work leads to disillusionment with it; more than a third of volunteers leave volunteer associations due to loss or initial lack of intrinsic motivation [23]. These conclusions of the author can be the basis for understanding the directions of work on the formation or correction of motivation for the participation of penal system employees in volunteer actions.

The determinants of youth's willingness to volunteer and the study of psychological characteristics of students who are ready and not ready to participate in volunteer activities are presented in the works of M.N. Raskhodchikova and M.E. Sachkova. Their research covers students studying management and psychology in two Moscow universities. As a result, an author's questionnaire was developed to identify students' willingness to volunteer, which can be adapted and used in the study of the willingness of cadets to volunteer at educational institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia [24].

The issue of self-regulation of youth volunteerism is also relevant. It is considered by A.N. Tarasova, M.V. Pevnova, and D.F. Telepaeva from the standpoint of the logic of forming a culture of volunteerism [25]. Based on the analysis of the sociological survey of more than a thousand respondents, the authors consider the culture of volunteer participation of young Russians through the study of how young people integrate volunteerism into their life plans.

L.A. Belyaeva also identifies a number of factors constraining participation in volunteerism, namely indifference to the problems of society, a lack of time, insufficient encouragement and public recognition, which correlates with the data obtained in the course of our research in relation to the penal system employees [3].

In the context of our research on the motivation and attractiveness of participation in volunteer movements and actions for cadets and employees of educational institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, the results of which we will present in our next article, we consider publications characterizing an emotional component of volunteerism. I.V. Vasil'eva and M.V. Chumakov studied repre-

sentations of the emotional component of the image of volunteerism in relation to students of a psychological and pedagogical profile. Researchers emphasize that it is the emotional coloring of charitable activities that makes it possible to achieve sustained motivation and involvement in this process [26].

The issues of volunteerism development in law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, are not ignored by researchers. For example, O.S. Kravchenko and O.I. Gorodovaya analyze volunteerism of cadets of educational organizations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia [27], N.V. Ankundinov, V.V. Lukanin, S.S. Averin [29], O.S. Borozdina [30] – volunteerism in institutions and bodies of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. A.S. Il'nitskii and V.S. Prokhonov propose to use capacities of volunteerism in the field of crime prevention and anti-criminal practice [28].

N.I. Ulendeeva considers the volunteer movement from the point of view of its role in patriotic education of cadets of educational institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, emphasizing the importance of mechanisms and tools for patriotic education of cadets. She finds it important to organize patriotic events with students of secondary schools, lyceums, gymnasiums, first and second year students of vocational colleges of secondary vocational education, participants of military-patriotic clubs [31].

The article of O.A. Chopik, S.N. Lipatova, and O.E. Bayutova presents the experience of implementing the author's project "Training university students and youth at the school of Kuzbass eco-volunteer counselors and their involvement in work aimed at forming ecological culture of children in difficult situations", supported by the Presidential grant for the development of civil society in 2021. Cadets and students of the Kuzbass Institute of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia and the Kemerovo State University were actively involved in the implementation of this project [32].

Culture of social participation or volunteerism as a prosocial behavior is formed on the basis of a value-semantic complex and the semantics of human activity. It is directly dependent on spiritual and moral characteristics and attitudes of the individual. Motivation of volunteer activity

is important for culture, which is based on the personal meanings of a person's life [33].

Cognitive, emotional, and activity aspects are important in the development of volunteerism as a type of active social participation. The first one is formed through special or situational training, in which volunteers receive certain knowledge, certain skills of activity, ideas about the goals, values and results of the latter [34].

We support the point of view of A.N. Tarasova that the emotive aspect is related to psychological characteristics of the personality of volunteers, altruism and responsibility. It is important that volunteers assess their activities in this status. It manifests itself in a pronounced interest in volunteerism, determination in the presence of a stable motivation to carry it out, and a vision of its prospects. The activity aspect is related to the willingness to participate in it [25].

We have conducted a far from exhaustive analysis of current scientific research in the field of volunteerism, but it also allows us to identify trends in the development of volunteerism in Russia from the standpoint of various scientific approaches and identify key vectors of volunteerism among penal system employees and cadets of educational institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Conclusions

In scientific works devoted to the problem of volunteerism, there is a common understanding of the universality of volunteerism, which allows us to consider it as a tool of educational influence and solving various tasks of personal education. Involvement in volunteerism occurs through familiarization with universal and national values. Therefore, the search and iden-

tification of those special life priorities that may be the values of volunteer work comes to the fore.

Thus, it is obvious that the opportunities for young people to participate in volunteerism are significantly higher than the actual involvement in volunteer movements and projects, and this work needs to be intensified, social apathy reduced, and appropriate motivation for participation formed. The analysis of the presented scientific sources and the research carried out provide the necessary theoretical and empirical material for studying and identifying key areas for improving the effectiveness of volunteerism in the penal system. Areas of involvement in volunteer activities [35–39] may include a clear definition of the purpose of volunteer actions and projects; professional training and education; provision of training programs, seminars and trainings to volunteers. Volunteers should be provided with a variety of projects tailored to their interests, skills, and capabilities. Volunteers' participation in event volunteering should also be considered as a promising area, which today is gradually replacing permanent volunteer organizations and can significantly expand boundaries of staff and cadets' involvement in volunteerism. The task of involving motivational and emotional components of volunteerism also comes to the fore. Thoughtful and adapted to the conditions of volunteering in law enforcement agencies, using the results of scientific research on the reasons for non-participation in the volunteer movement of subjects of volunteerism will help reduce the number of employees and cadets who are unwilling or unable to repay their debt to society through gratuitous participation in charity events.

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