

Ethnic basis of moral beliefs

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Abstract: Ethnic traditions as a sociocultural phenomenon allowing to comprehend the national identity of peoples and universal norms in each culture which make a methodological basis for formation of moral beliefs of a personality are studied in the work. The model of formation of moral beliefs of seniors which has a systematic character is developed and carried out through the interconnected stages consistently replacing one another on each of which purposes, contents, methods and forms of its organization are defined. The world outlook structure of formation of moral beliefs of seniors which is revealed through the interconnected components: intellectual (the content of moral belief), emotional (development of feelings, estimated judgments), activity (familiarization with cultural values of peoples, education of the norms of the correct behavior in a society, development of steady outlook according to the acquired knowledge is studied.

[Kenenbaeva M.A., Asenova N.S., Zhumabaeva Z.E., Sakenov D. Zh. **Ethnic basis of moral beliefs.** *Life Sci J* 2013;10(7s):1217-1221] (ISSN:1097-8135). <http://www.lifesciencesite.com>. 193

Keywords: Ethnic traditions, moral beliefs of seniors.

1. Introduction

Formation of moral beliefs is a difficult process. Moral principles and norms serve as a regulator of relationships and behavior of people and together with esthetic views define the relation to the surroundings, forms of activity, its purposes and results. In turn ethnic traditions are also the mechanism which influences a personality morally and is capable to create the correct belief because this is the social experience saved up by the mankind in the course of all progressive activity [1]. In difficult world outlook structure of consciousness of a personality the process of formation of resistant moral beliefs is more successful at the senior school age [2]. At youthful age the main lines of outlook are formed and the first independent adult self-determination is carried out. Acquiring the system of knowledge and familiarization with cultural values are the main characteristics of the activity of seniors thanks to which, as J. Erkelens approves, the youth will receive the skills necessary to think and act respectively [3]. In the conditions of the moral crisis of the society it is very important to correctly organize the daily activity of students which would be the peculiar bringing-up soil connecting the ideas of consciousness with concrete acts [4]. Accumulation of moral knowledge makes a basis for development of beliefs and formation of steady motives for moral behavior. As beliefs are based on reasonable understanding of the moral need to personally follow certain norms of morals and rely on confidence of correctness and justice of moral principles by which a person is guided it is expedient to refer successful formation of beliefs to the senior school age. At the same time practical

experience proves that systematized knowledge based on ethnic traditions focused on universal ethical values and excluding ethnic exceptionality and ethical indeterminacy promotes formation of moral beliefs among students [5].

In Kazakhstan there is a certain tendency in the works of N. Sarsenbayev, S. Zhamansariyeva, K.N. Sarybekov to studying of national traditions and their use in preparation of seniors for family life, national customs and traditions and their influence on education of children and youth in the researches of A.H. Mukhambayev, S.I. Abishev, N.N. Podobed and others [6].

In researches of A.K. Imanov, N.V. Ivleeva, A.S. Kurmanbekova, G.Z. Musabekova, G.B. Ospanova, R.K. Atamanov, A.A. Kalyuzhnov, K.A. Ismailova, O.V. Zavalishina the problems of moral education of school and college students are studied [7].

Emphasizing the value of the above-named researches it is necessary to note at the same time that on the basis of ethnic traditions taking into account the present realities of development of the society, continuity of traditional and progressive education [8], future prospects of development of schools [9] it is necessary to consider formation of moral beliefs of seniors as a separate research. Ethnic traditions consist of the whole complex of the achievements of peoples in the field of material and spiritual culture [10]. We pay our attention to those ethnic traditions which have universal contents and promote identifications of an identity with representatives of a certain nation.

2. The research objective consists in theoretical justification and practical development of

the system of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions.

3. Methods

For the solution of the set objectives and verification of the initial assumptions the following methods of research were used: theoretical - analysis and studying of the problem in scientific literature, empirical - observation, conversations, questioning, discussions, interviewing, analysis of the best pedagogical practices, analysis of creative works of students, studying of school documentation, modelling.

4. Main part

During the research the model of formation of moral beliefs of seniors was developed.

The model of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions.

Objective: formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions.

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES:

– System-structural, Personal-focused, Ethno-culturological.

PRINCIPLES:

– continuity, determinism, personal approach, considering of ethnic factors, unity of consciousness and activity, tolerance.

COMPONENTS:

– Active

– Intellectual

– Emotional

CRITERIA:

– Motivational

– Cognitive

– Operational

INDICATORS:

– Seniors' manifestation of the interest to intercultural cooperation.

Understanding of the place and the role of moral beliefs in the hierarchy of ethnic traditions. Theoretical preparation for studying of new moral beliefs. Reflection of the following principles and the results of an ethnocultural openness.

– Aspiration to studying of ethnic traditions and understanding of the national identity. Aspiration to studying of the universal values. Instilling of respect for ethnic traditions. Manifestation of emotional activity of a senior in the pedagogical process

– Formation of abilities to embody the knowledge of moral beliefs in different types of activity. Ability to analyze positive attitudes to ethnic traditions. Ability to find universal relationships in an ethnocultural environment, maintaining a constructive dialogue.

RESULT:

– positive motivation and growth of the level of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions.

In the developed model the main components directed on formation of moral beliefs of the identity of seniors are presented. Each component promotes realization of the set objective and provides a result. For example the principle of determinism shows causal conditionality of national-psychological features by social factors influencing the process of formation. That is why in order to comprehend a concrete ethnocultural phenomenon correctly it is necessary to understand specific reasons and conditions which generated it. The methodological principle of unity of consciousness and activity gives a correct understanding of the essence of manifestation of ethnic traditions depending on regularities of a certain kind of activity in which a school student is involved. When studying any national feature the principle of personal approach demands considering that their bearer is always a concrete person and a representative of a certain ethnic community with characteristic feelings, thoughts, experiences, etc. Besides it is necessary to take into consideration the principle of considering of ethnic factors. The latter comes from the material life of people. When studying them it is important to be guided by demographic and statistical regularities to which they submit in their development thereby influencing the psychology of a person.

Thus the theoretical analysis of scientific works, studying of educational resources at the senior stage of school, the proved and developed model allowed to define the following pedagogical conditions of formation of moral beliefs of seniors: theoretical-methodological, psychology-pedagogical and organizational -pedagogical. These conditions assume accumulation of the necessary sum of knowledge, organization of a joint activity of seniors and the coordinating body of the educational process of a school, the maintenance of educational programs, forms and methods of practical activities.

On the basis of the developed model and the revealed pedagogical conditions in the course of the research a diagnostics on definition of the initial level of formation of moral beliefs of seniors was carried out. The analysis of the results of the ascertaining experiment showed the prevalence of a number of pupils with low and average level of formation of the required quality what confirmed the organization of the purposeful work.

The forming experiment included some interconnected stages: educational, reformative and generalizing and was carried out within the frames of a specially developed program in out-of-class activity of pupils «Moral imperatives are the basis for ethnic traditions». At each stage certain tasks were set which in the course of their successful implementation systematically led to the final result.

The active methods included observation, questioning, testing, the method of expert evaluations, conversations, etc.

The developed program had the purpose to show seniors the universal values in each culture and at the same time their national identity and uniqueness of each culture. At the same time school students acquired the necessary knowledge. Such goal-setting took place at the 1st stage of the practical-experimental work. The following set of knowledge is necessary for seniors:

- An objective basis of the life of any nation is the need for interaction and communication between people. There is a trend: the higher the intra-national and intra-group integration the more noticeable achievements in the economy and culture and the more intense communicative connections are;

- one of the main signs of the existence of a nation is its historical memory representing traditions, customs, legends of forefathers, the feeling of national unity i.e. familiarization with the spiritual mission of its kin, people, nation, Homeland. A person possessing historical memory understands the place in the spiritual relay of generations;

- the possibility of long existence of a nation is conditioned by functioning and continuous improvement of its internal contents which find expression in national consciousness and self-awareness, national values, interests, predilections and self-evaluations, national culture and language accumulated in ethnic traditions. Manifestation of all these components constitutes the life of a nation.

Formation of moral beliefs of seniors demands a skillful management of this process from teachers. Therefore with a view of their methodical preparation a series of training lessons within the subject area «Ethnocultural space of a personality» were developed and carried out. The main objective is to show the variety of social relations of the representatives of different nationalities.

At the second - reformative stage of the forming experiment the emphasis was made on the program recommended for seniors. These were not only lectures with conversation elements but also debates, panel discussions, presentations which developed the qualities of a personality and promoted formation of moral beliefs of seniors. As a result the students gained the knowledge within the following subject areas:

- «The principle «Zhety Ata» is the basis of a healthy and prospering nation»,

- «The day of morality»,

- «The cult of a mother is the property of all mankind»,

- «The cult of a father in different peoples»,

- «Yurta is the ancient symbol of Kazakhstan land»,

- «Under the common sky», etc.

Different types of exercises on development of moral beliefs contained a powerful educational potential:

- «How to introduce oneself» (school students should present themselves to an audience, tell something about themselves, arouse some interest. In order to do this it is necessary to think about what to say about oneself),

- «I am going to repeat everybody's names»,

- «How to please one's neighbors»,

- «I learn to guess the signs of emotions of my friends»,

- «The unique and universal in each culture»,

- «The week of morality»,

- «Dostar» and others.

The structure of the exercises on activation of moral categories «moral - immoral»: «*It is moral when..., it is immoral when...*» is constructed on the basis of the method of reflections and interiorization of concepts and the group analysis, it gives a chance to endure and comprehend the social value of the moral category, its occurrence not only in relation to them personally but also in their moral or immoral actions in relation to others.

The second object of the exercise is to turn this category into an *estimative label* i.e. into a habitual estimative word characterizing personal and somebody else's behavior. An essential component of this type of exercise is ascertaining of the result on the basis of an unfinished sentence «*It is moral when I..., It is immoral when I...*». An important feature of the exercise is that a teacher begins the sensual-logic analysis of the chosen moral category with a negative component of the categorial pair.

During the experiment training exercises on formation of tolerance were tested. Each person expects from other people manifestations of attention, care, patience, help etc. This was promoted by the exercises:

- «I like when people treat me...»,

- «Let's enjoy making gifts», etc.

Series of tasks made it possible to create a steady system of moral life guidelines practically among all students even in cases when they had opposite positions. The educational potential of these exercises is rather high. Observations in this aspect showed development of the feeling of trust and politeness among seniors, their informative interests became more profound, their horizons broadened and communicative abilities improved.

At the third - generalizing stage of the forming experiment the required qualities of seniors were improved within implementation of a cycle of

homerooms under the general name «Kazakhstan is our common home». At this stage of the practical-experimental work a general monitoring of the levels of formation of moral beliefs of seniors was carried out.

The final check showed rather good results. The students not only gained the knowledge of ethnic traditions of different peoples but were also convinced of their humanistic contents, uniqueness and originality. The dynamics of the increase of the levels of formation of moral beliefs of school students is presented in the table (1,2).

Table 1. Levels of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions at the stage of the ascertaining experiment

Classes	Levels				
	higher	above average	average	below average	low
Control	1,3%	4,7%	12%	32%	50%
Experimental	1,2%	5,3%	10,5%	30%	53%

Table 2. Levels of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions at the stage of the forming experiment

Classes	Levels				
	higher	above average	average	below average	low
Control	2,8%	9,9%	38,3%	25%	24%
Experimental	4,9%	20,1%	50%	18%	8%

Levels of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions at the stage of the forming experiment.

5. Conclusion

Conclusions and recommendations. The carried-out research in the direction of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions allows to draw the following conclusions:

1. Scientific-theoretical justification of the concept of "morality" as a special category and definition of ethnic traditions allowed to reveal the deep essence of the definition which is topical at all times but it gets a special value in the period of the renewal of the society and represents a new creative relation of a person to the surrounding reality in the

context of judgment of national identification of peoples and universal imperatives.

2. Formation of moral beliefs is a rather difficult process. Carrying out the regulatory function, as an important structural unit of an outlook, beliefs define the spiritual system of a personality, its orientation and values that is why the discovery of the essence of the concept "belief" represents a special relation of a person to the surrounding reality.

3. In the difficult world outlook structure of the consciousness of a personality the process of formation of strong moral beliefs is more successful at the senior school age. Recognizing that moral beliefs are an internal component of a personality and a motive for a certain way of behavior they have a special moral force which directs them on positive transformation of the world and people from the position of ethnic traditions.

4. The concepts and approaches existing in the pedagogical science in the direction of formation of moral beliefs formed the theoretical base in the development of structural-informative model of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions the methodological component of which included system-structural, personal focused and ethnoculturological approaches. The presented model provides an inclusion of all participants of the interaction in the pedagogical process and concretizes the notions of morality of senior school students on the basis of ethnic traditions.

5. The offered program of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions represents a logically complete system. A school is aimed at preparation of responsible citizens capable to independently estimate the situations occurring in the society and to build their activity according to the interests of the people surrounding them what is undoubtedly coordinated with ethnic traditions.

6. In the conditions of ethnocultural education acquiring the system of knowledge and familiarizing with cultural values are the main characteristics of the activity of seniors. A powerful educational potential of ethnic traditions as universal value principles becomes significant owing to the age and specific features which are the basis for the developed program and the offered technique of work.

7. A purposeful work on formation of moral beliefs of seniors demands systematic activity. The program assumes the use of an active technique and traditional interactive forms of work. The most effective ones are discussions, debates, preparation of presentations, conversations, observations which expand the communicative sphere of the interaction

of seniors concentrated on tolerance, trust and constructive dialogue as they influence formation of moral beliefs of school students. Moral principles and norms serve as a regulator of relationships and behavior of people and together with esthetic views define the relation to the surroundings, forms of activity, its purposes and results. Possessing high educational potential ethnic traditions are those mechanisms which influence a personality morally and are capable to create the correct belief because this is the social experience saved up by the mankind in the course of all progressive activity. The experience is based on ethnic traditions, such as: - Ethnic traditions of everyday life; - Ethnic traditions of ritual life [6, 7].

The conclusions set forth above allowed to make the following **recommendations**:

- the process of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions is expedient for carrying out systematically, purposefully and step by step

- the offered model and the program of formation of moral beliefs of seniors have a universal character, it is necessary to apply them in the pedagogical process creating for pupils certain conditions which dictate the need for manifestation of morality in any activity.

On the whole the results of the research can be potentially applied in drawing up of program methodical documents for teachers of schools, courses and seminars of professional development of pedagogical workers, and also during the further research of the problem of formation of moral beliefs of seniors on the basis of ethnic traditions.

Acknowledgement:

We express gratitude to the teachers and seniors of the schools of Pavlodar oblast for the help in implementation of the research.

The research was carried out with the grant support of Pavlodar State Pedagogical Institute.

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26/6/2013