

Goals and aspirations of the politically active youth in modern Russia (by case study of shifts of Rosmolodezh based on the federal children's center "Smena")

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Abstract. The submitted article is devoted to studying the life priorities of the politically active youth, acting within the formalized legal structures in modern Russia. The goals and aspirations dynamics of activists is studying herein become more familiar with the innovative technologies of work with youth. It also contains information about the question of presence of potential to realize the set goals as well as the perceptual model of self-fulfillment directions by activists themselves among the participants of gathering. The analysis of changes in points of view of young people concerning the means of set tasks solving as far as the integration in the educational process was conducted. The evaluation of worldview positions of the politically active young people is given. The basic tendencies in change of goals and aspirations of activists with the expansion of social experience scope are detected. The attractiveness degree of certain directions of work with activists was estimated, and also the research in the field this index changing depending on the time of stay in the camp was conducted. The issue about a potential using the potential of the project activities at the organization of work with youth activists is raised.

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Introduction

With each passing year the political realities of contemporary reality confirm ever more clearly the long-known axiom about the importance of youth policy for the present and future of the State and society. Growth of political and religious extremism, periodic disorders on the basis of interethnic conflicts, numerous state coups, called by the mass media as the "color revolutions" as well as an increase in the number of offenses committed by minors, – all those represents a consequence of refusal of the authorities to establish the interrelations with the rising generation [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7].

Even in the case of refusal from the destructive behavior patterns, the young people, which are not covered by the social activities, often turn into the indifferent mass of inhabitants deprived of their civic position, forming a breeding ground for the development of legal nihilism and corruption, slowing down the reforms, undermining the work of charitable organizations, complicating the efforts by the authorities and public figures on consolidation of citizens [8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14].

The recognition of the importance of youth policy for the Russian state and society is only the first step to the problem solving. The awareness of the importance of this task puts before the pedagogical society a question of the development of interaction technologies with the rising generation. This, in turn, requires the study of what exactly is the inner world of

the modern young Russians, primarily - of the young activist participating in the implementation of youth policy programs at the regional and federal levels, and how his consciousness can be changed under affects of the modern educational work technologies.

Methods

In the role of empirical material of the present study results of the interaction between Rosmolodezh and Sholokhov Moscow State University for the Humanities (hereinafter - SMSUH) for organizing and conducting the subject-oriented shifts for youth aged 14 to 18 years act by an example of asset gathering of youth and children public associations in Russia "Future Starts today!", which was conducted in November 4-10, 2013 based into the Federal Children's Center (hereinafter – FCC) "Smena" (Sukko village, Krasnodar Krai). Participants of that shift the activists have become of regional branches of All-Russian and international public associations, members of the Federal Register of youth and children's public associations, which received the government support.

An important component of the shift's program was the research work: age from 14 to 18 years has its own specificity which was necessary to take into account by the shifts organizers. That's why within the asset gathering "Future Starts today" a pilot study of participants of the profiled shift was conducted. These surveys were carried out under the

grant from the Institute of Politics, Law and Social Development SMSUH, which employees are authors of the article.

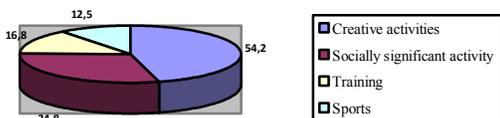
A set of scientific and special methods, including a survey in the form of questioning, analysis and synthesis, generalization, induction and deduction, and a systematic method, acted as a methodological basis of this research.

Main body

The original authors' purpose of survey was to reveal the interests and aspirations of participants of the asset gathering and to identify the potential ways to achieve them. To achieve it they decided to use two questionnaires with open questions. The gathering participants received the first one on hand during the first two days of shift, the second one – on the penultimate day of the shift. Such an approach allows us to trace how the activists' plans have changed for the time spent on gathering and to identify factors that affected change of the original decision. The study was performed with grant funds of the Institute of Politics, Law and Social Development SMSUH.

In the course of questionnaires materials study the authors set the following facts. Among the responses to the question "I'm interested in ..." in the beginning of the shift the creative activities (54 % of the total number of respondents) and the socially significant activity (34,80 % of the total number of respondents) lead.

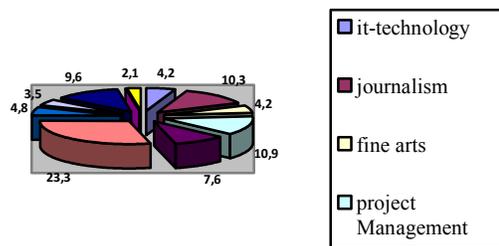
Figure 1.



At the conclusion of the shift the interests of the shift have changed: many participants of the asset gathering took a great interest in the training forms (23,35% of the total number of respondents) and the Project Management (11,75 % of the total number of respondents).

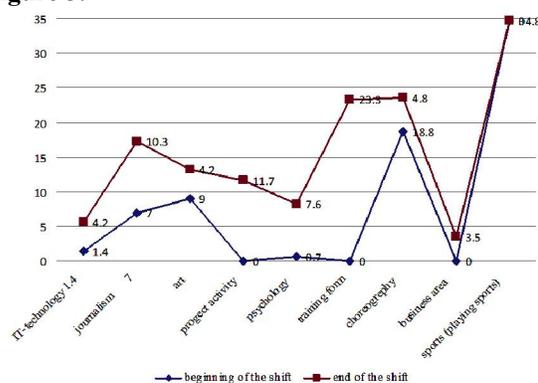
Such changes are likely can be explained by the fact that the training technologies, including the project activity are rather poorly developed within the walls of the modern Russian school, and due to this were unfamiliar to activists. In addition, it can be assumed that the choice of participants was influenced by familiarization with the career prospects related to the implementation of projects and participation in trainings.

Figure 2



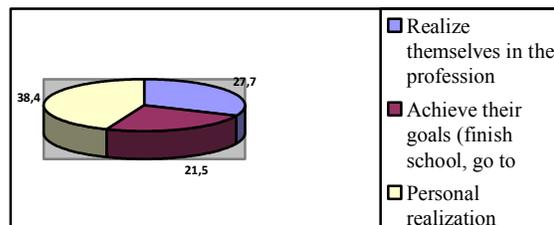
Also we cannot ignore the fact that exactly these technologies have been the main in the shift program implementation process. Figure 3 allows us to visually reflect the dynamics of interests change among the asset gathering participants.

Figure 3.



The analysis results of responses to the questions regarding goals and aspirations of the shift participants at the beginning of gathering are the great interest too. A priority target for 27.70% of the respondents was the realization of themselves in the profession, for 21.50% - the achievement of already set goals (see Figure below).

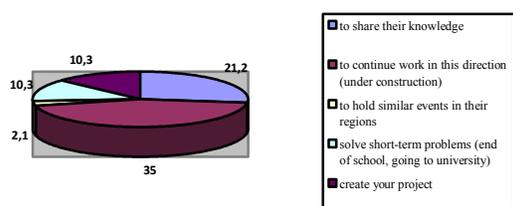
Figure 4



Such stratification shows that the majority activists are oriented primarily on success in moving up the career ladder and already fairly well oriented in the realities of life outside of school. An ambition, combined with pragmatism, can be considered as a manifestation of the leadership skills of traditional sense (different from the charismatic model), and it says for the high quality selection of the shift's participants.

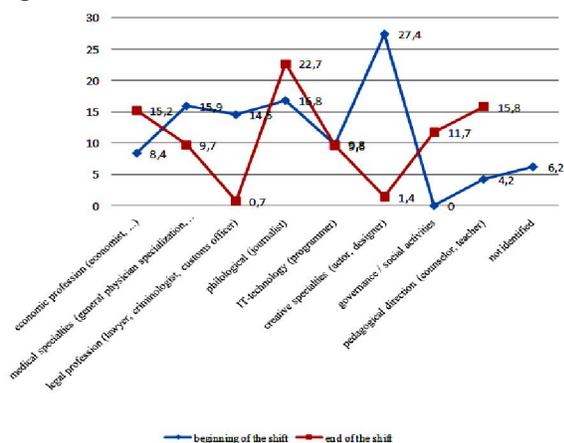
In the end of the shift we can again observe the significant changes in the goals and aspirations of participants of the asset gathering: 35.50% of the participants of the asset gathering expressed their desire to realize their project continuing their work in this direction (as the directions can be considered including those Federal projects of Rosmolodezh presented within the shift program). It is really important that more than 20% of the participants have decided to share their gained knowledge with the surrounding after the end of the shift. It means they estimated their stay on this gathering as the start of a new activity and were focused on the prospect:

Figure 5.



In the questionnaires both in the beginning and in the end of the shift we asked the asset gathering participants about their preferences in the area of profession choice. The obtained results are reflected in Figure 6.

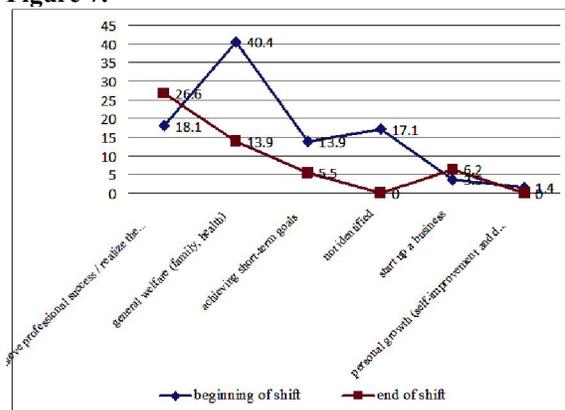
Figure 6.



In the end you may find that – in the beginning of the shift the creative professions were more popular among the participants of the asset gathering "Future Starts today!" (27.4% of the total number of the respondents). But in the end of the shift among the respondents have become popular such professional spheres of activity as: State administration and public activity (11.7% of the total number of respondents in the end of the shift vs. 0% in the beginning of the shift) and Pedagogic (counselor work, organization of work with youth)

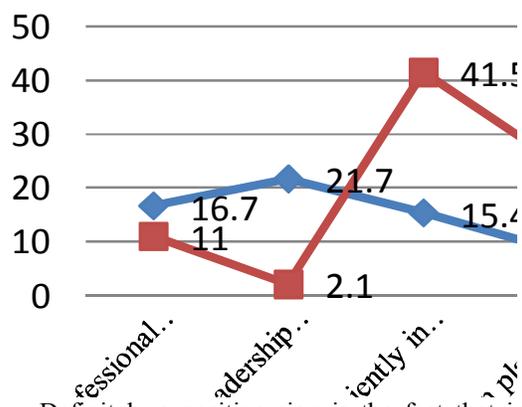
(15.8% of the total number of respondents in the end of the shift vs. 4.2 % in the beginning of the shift). We shall note if in the beginning of the shift there were 6.2% of undecided with their future profession, in the end of the shift there were no such guys. Thus, the impact of technologies applied on the gathering has led to the sharp activation of participants, the growth of interest on their part in the political and social work as a whole to the detriment of trendy specialties. Further the authors of this study examined the problem of how the shift participants are trying to achieve the set goals. The key to understanding that was the analysis of the asset gathering participants' dreams, reflected through the open-ended question in the questionnaires. You can see the results and the dynamics in Figure 7.

Figure 7.



The mismatch of goals and dreams among the respondents is obvious. For example, in the beginning of the shift we realized that the dominant goal among the participants was related to the realization of themselves in the profession, but at the same the majority does not dream about the matriculation into a good university, and about the general welfare (40, 4% of the total number of respondents). However, such contradiction can be removed by understanding exactly what the majority of respondents sees the guarantor to achieve a common prosperity with their career success.

In Figure 8, you can see that a lot of guys before the shift and in its beginning have relied in reaching their dreams on the leadership skills – it's the most popular answer (21.7% of the total number of respondents). In our opinion, this is another problem of leadership shifts in the regions, in which all participants, regardless of their achievements are called leaders and they broadcast the idea that the formal status received by them guarantees the success in the future [15].

Figure 8.

Definitely a positive sign is the fact that in the end of the shift, many participants have reflected on it is necessary to choose a specific destination of application of their leadership skills (e.g. the Federal projects of Rosmolodezh) (41.5% of the total number of respondents have reflected on this), to make a plan to achieve dreams, to analyze what resources are needed to achieve it, to think about where and how to find them (24.7% of respondents thought about that).

Conclusion

Summarizing the above, we can conclude that the majority of participants initially had an active life position. However, their aspirations did not have a precise shape and were mostly related to the fields of activities associated with the prestige in the eyes of the general public clearly. The activists' plans on the future were not backed up with the understanding of ways to achieve the set goal. Participation in the trainings and other technologies of work with the asset significantly increased the degree of ambition among the gathering participants, while giving them the necessary pragmatism and at the same time giving them the realization that the success achievement is quite compatibility with the socially useful activity.

Findings

The foregoing facts allow us to state that the majority of activists involved in youth projects initially meet the criteria applicable to them in the moral and volitional terms. In the process of inclusion in the implementation of new technologies to work with the younger generation such skills, including the employee loyalty feelings, is increasing among the majority of project participants. Simultaneously we can observe the rejection of negative stereotypes against a number of work directions such as pedagogical activity, Policies and etc. However, we

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can expect a similar result only in the case of innovative approaches application – the active use of trainings and project management, VIP-meetings, and etc.

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