

NATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Compassion is a feeling given to humanity from the Almighty and a person cannot live without it. Even small children who have not yet received sufficient education love animals and show compassion. If two boxers, while one of them is shorter and not very muscular in comparison with the opponent, the audience involuntarily begins to root for the weak, even if they do not know him and do not express their position verbally.

INTRODUCTION

1. A story about one patient with a serious illness and a doctor who looked after him.

Autumn came and winter was approaching, the diagnosis was disappointing, but hope still remained. So, the patient did not have much hope and it was really hard for him. The doctor saw this fact, but wanted to do his best, he was doing his job, his professional duty. Probably, it is also not only about professional duty, but precisely about the compassion he felt for this person.

In order to inspire him, he suggested watching a tree outside the window and said that sometimes something amazing is possible in this world. He drew the patient's attention to one of the few leaves that remained on the tree and were about to go after their brothers to become humus and earth. Nevertheless, the doctor said, something like this: look at this leaf and if it continues to grow on the tree, despite the winter, then you can survive, you will have such an opportunity.

MAIN PART

The patient agreed and began to watch this leaf through the window every day. When he woke up, he looked there and saw how the leaf still remained on the branch, while the rest had fallen off. This fact inspired hope and made me believe in the best, and so every day, for many days in a row.

As a result, the patient survived the winter and recovered. He continued to live and, probably, experienced some positive emotions, and maybe he was beneficial to others.

As it turned out, the doctor made his way to the branch at night and glued the leaf to the tree so that it would not fall off. He tried for the sake of giving another hope, tried as best he could. Probably, he really worried about his patient and really wanted only his good if he chose such an interesting method of treatment.

There are many examples in nature when some animal protects a weak animal from attack. However, what is expression of compassion in society? There are many examples from religious people who collect donations for socially vulnerable people. For example, all over the world there are videos of a faceless Muslim (he appears in all continents in a sports hood, does not show his face) distributing housing to the poor, paying debts to the disadvantaged, and so on¹. In Uzbekistan, at present, the same groups of people are also appearing (for example, the famous singer Sardor Rakhimkhon), who also help poor people. So what is the name of such an activity from a scientific point of view? In short, this is volunteering.

Today it is impossible to imagine a society without volunteer movements. Volunteering or volunteering is an activity carried out in the public interest that does not provide for a wide range of material incentives,

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaxPmXlK-cI>

including traditional mutual (personal) support, fundraising, formal services and other forms of civic participation.

Volunteers are citizens who carry out charitable activities in the form of gratuitous labor in the interests of the beneficiary, including in the interests of a charitable organization.²

Volunteering is always primarily aimed at helping vulnerable groups of the population (elderly people, homeless people, people with disabilities, victims of natural disasters and social deprivation). The roots of volunteer activity go back to the Middle Ages to military volunteers, disseminators of the Christian religion, subsequently turning their activities into charity.

In particular, volunteering in Uzbekistan has a centuries-old history, rooted in the minds as "hashar", as the most widespread form of public volunteering.

Today, many state and non-governmental organizations use the services and resources of volunteers, the most active Youth Union of Uzbekistan, the Red Crescent Society, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Agency for Youth Affairs, which actively attract volunteers when organizing major international sports competitions, conferences and seminars as interpreters accompanying and others. The services and resources of volunteers include a set of temporary, labor, intellectual, professional and other resources, the sources of which are volunteers. At the same time, it should be noted that material resources are not a volunteer resource.

Today, not only charitable organizations use the services of volunteers, but international companies and multinational companies Citigroup, DHL, Deutsche bank, Boeing and others. These companies not only use the resources of volunteers, but also train themselves personnel, as Western companies implement many programs related to education, when employees teach the poor, homeless. Many programs are related to educating people in the field of rights, regulations and financial issues³.

On November 6, 2019, in order to support volunteers in the Republic, the law "On volunteer activities" was adopted. According to the document, volunteer activity is a voluntary socially oriented, free will, socially useful activity carried out on a gratuitous basis in the interests of individuals or legal entities.

It includes:

- Individual volunteer activity;
- volunteering as part of a group of volunteers;
- volunteering through a volunteer organization.

According to the document, individuals who have reached the age of 18 can engage in volunteering. In this case, a written agreement can be concluded between the volunteer and the organizer, this condition becomes mandatory in the case when the time of volunteering exceeds 20 hours per month⁴.

The organizer of volunteer activities must provide the volunteer with overalls and reimburse his travel expenses to the place of the volunteer action and back, accommodation, meals, purchase of the necessary personal protective equipment, tools and other costs.

Today, the number of volunteer organizations is increasing daily, the scope and platform of their activities also differ.

² Белановский Ю. Корпоративное и социальное волонтерство. Опыт брендов и мнения экспертов. -М.: Омега-Л, 2017. – 320, – 7.

³ Белановский Ю. там же.

⁴ <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4624004>

The most common are social and humanitarian organizations whose activities are aimed at providing assistance to seriously ill people: "Kind Angel of the World.UZ", "SOS Urgent Volunteer Assistance in Tashkent", "Volunteers.Uz" and a number of others. Volunteers provide assistance in finding missing people, cleaning up areas from garbage, protecting stray animals, helping to buy medicines and collecting funds for expensive medical operations for the poor, etc.⁵

The special role of volunteers can be seen in emergency situations, in socially significant events, and others. For example, in many countries, social volunteering began to develop thanks to large-scale sports and other events, i.e. it is worth noting a certain dependence of this phenomenon on "events" or "incidents" that contribute to the unification of young people.

In particular, for Uzbekistan, the absence of these large-scale cases did not allow the development of Youth Volunteer Movements. So, for example, the volunteer activity of the Youth Union for three years was unsuccessful, meanwhile, various inert volunteer groups were initiated, which suspended their activities with the completion of a particular event, which was due to the lack of financial, legal, educational and methodological support from sides of the Youth Union of volunteer groups. At the same time, the absence of "cases" that could to optimize volunteer groups and ideas for later their development.

Meanwhile, a large-scale case of the development of volunteer groups was the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, which, without the role of the state, united citizens into groups in order to provide assistance to vulnerable sectors of society.

March 11 this year World Health Organization announced about the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The situation with the virus in Uzbekistan, it began to unfold from March 16, gradually began to introduce self-isolation measures, which affected all spheres of life of the country's citizens⁶.

The quarantine measures taken in the country led to the massive closure of schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, to layoffs, forced vacations with and without support. During the quarantine period, the unemployment rate in the second quarter is estimated at 15%, which is 2.3 million unemployed, while in the first quarter it was 9.4%, which is 1.399 million people, i.e. over this period, the unemployment rate has doubled.⁷

In the new realities of the pandemic, the state youth policy had to change and adapt to this situation in the country, in particular, continue to provide education, provide jobs, support socially vulnerable groups of the population, strengthen and develop business, as well as provide conditions for the activity of young people while maintaining social distance and isolation.

In a pandemic, many people need support. It was during these difficult days that the volunteers showed their courage.

In a short time, in the regions of Uzbekistan, small volunteer movements were created from the composition of young active and indifferent people. As part of various campaigns, donations were collected to support the elderly and to ensure the activities of regional volunteer headquarters to help people in the face of the spread of coronavirus infection.

From the first days of quarantine, volunteers helped socially vulnerable groups (elderly people and people with special needs) with food and various services (delivery, shopping, etc.).

⁵ [www.facebook.com /groups/volonteri.uz/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/volonteri.uz/)).

⁶ www.who.int/ru

⁷ www.gazeta.uz

Such volunteer organizations as "Time of Miracles", "Mekhrli Kullar", "Mehr va Ogibat", Solnyshko, volunteers of the Youth Union (the number of which exceeded 3 thousand young people by July 2020) and other organizations helped the population in every possible way during the pandemic.⁸

However, the activities of volunteer groups were suspended due to restrictions from April 1, 2020, individual charitable actions to help vulnerable categories of citizens with security measures, as well as in order to prevent duplication of assistance to the same citizens⁹.

Small youth volunteer groups were reorganized into a single "Call-center" (Call-markaz-1197) under the leadership of the Ministry for Support of Mahalla and Family and the Youth Union, which were subsequently formed in the regions of the country. Volunteers of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, Medical volunteers of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

and indifferent citizens, with charitable support from large and small businesses. Thanks to the folded work of volunteers, applications were received daily from more than 3 thousand applications from citizens who were provided with social assistance¹⁰.

The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only test of 2020. April 27 this year as a result of strong winds in Bukhara, people, buildings and cars were damaged. May 1 this year In the Syrdarya region, a flood occurred due to the breakthrough of the dam of the Sardoba reservoir, where about 70 thousand residents of the flooded settlements were evacuated. These trials further strengthened the volunteer movements to help citizens¹¹.

Events in the world and in the state have defused youth policy in the state, since it is volunteering that is the trigger that contributes to the development of both the society itself and its individual sectors, as well as the volunteers themselves.

For an individual, participation in volunteer activities contributes to self-realization and self-improvement, provides an opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience, which, of course, is important especially for young people, as well as the opportunity to feel socially significant and socially useful.

In turn, the work of volunteers helps the state to effectively solve the problems facing it and society, and also positively affects the social and economic development of the country as a whole, helping to solve socially significant problems and contributing to the development of civil society.

In the context of the spread of coronavirus, volunteers from the Medical Students Association (Phenomenon Uzbekistan Medical Students Association, doctors) played a big role with the support of the EZGU AMAL Foundation and the Youth Union of Uzbekistan as part of the campaign "Breathe, Uzbekistan!" advise patients about patient care.

The activities of the School of Volunteers, carried out with the support of the Youth Union, should also be noted. The main goal of the School is to support promising volunteers, in particular, improving leadership skills, team building, and management, writing projects, and their implementation, as well as increasing knowledge in the field of safe volunteering, etc. At the same time, it should be noted that during the pandemic, the School of Volunteers became a link between the Institutes: NGOs, volunteers, business and the state.

⁸ Data of the Youth Affairs Agency

⁹ <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/04/01/howto/>

¹⁰ Call-центр-1197

¹¹ uz.sputniknews.ru

At the same time, during a pandemic, in order to provide assistance to citizens on the initiative of young volunteers, with the support of the Agency for Youth Affairs, the *volontyor.uz* platform was created, where anyone can join a number of volunteers in Uzbekistan and help those in need¹².

Over the current period, the number of initiative groups has increased several times, in particular, the "Help by Physicians" Project, which included 6 TashMI students who offer their help in the form of consultations, injections, droppers, medicines (if there is not enough money). The volunteer project received more than a thousand applications per day, and then volunteers with Medics.

Another social project *Yaqinlar* ("Close" bot). The principle of operation of the bot is to provide assistance to those in need from a volunteer who wants to help, who is in a close distance from him.

It should be admitted that the pandemic became an "incident" that united citizens, created new volunteer groups, and increased the demand for Medical Volunteers. Of course, there were many attempts by government agencies to manipulate volunteers. However, a volunteer is a volunteer whose desire to help takes precedence over his personal interests, since he is driven by his motives.

Researchers of volunteer motivation identify numerous motives of volunteers that induce action, in particular: the desire to create a more just and free society, enthusiasm and kindness, the desire to be socially useful to other people, a caring attitude to what is happening around, the desire to realize oneself and their initiatives, the desire to solve problems of other people, the need for contacts with other people and others¹³.

The state has taken many measures to prevent volunteer movements, ranging from bans on volunteer activities to prohibiting treatment outside medical institutions for patients with coronavirus by inexperienced volunteer doctors, but the volunteers did not stop their activities, they looked for ways to solve this.

In addition to the motives, as the experts point out, important features of the conditional psychological portrait of the volunteer are the distinctive personality traits, that is, the psychological characteristics of the volunteers. The effectiveness, in general, of any activity largely depends on the individual characteristics of the person who is engaged in it, the very "human factor" that so often turns out to be decisive. At the same time, the very individual characteristics of a person are influenced by the type of activity that he is engaged in. This process is bi-directional. As a result, complex interweaving of the innate and acquired are formed, which make up the individuality of a person - this is a well-known psychological postulate. Scientists note such features as the presence of a special worldview; the activity of the personality itself in the acquisition of its own worldview; personal dynamism, i.e. willingness of the volunteer to change; values (inner harmony; spiritual freedom; development and self-improvement; cheerfulness and a sense of humor; breadth of knowledge and views); emotionality and psychological readiness for volunteering¹⁴. These are the qualities that help volunteers help others.

In this place, the period of the pandemic showed that society is ready to protect itself, and is always ready to voluntarily unite and help. However, the state is always ready to take measures to control inert volunteer groups.

¹² *volontyor.uz*

¹³ Азарова Е.С. Психологические детерминанты и эффекты добровольческой деятельности: автореферат. 2008г.

¹⁴ Бабичева А. Волонтерство: прошлое, настоящее, будущее. Самара 2016.

In this case, the latter is a problem for the development of volunteer movements, as it can eradicate the desire to help among volunteers. The period of a pandemic is a great example of the fact that not always the strong hand of the state can solve all problems, because in many decisions the main actor is citizens.

CONCLUSION

In this regard, volunteer movements should be further developed in Uzbekistan, in particular through:

- population of the volunteer movement among the youth;
- formation of a volunteer asset from among young people interested in volunteering, motivated to implement social projects in the city;
- increasing the social activity of young people;
- increasing the number of volunteers among young people;
- creation and strengthening of "professional" volunteer movements;
- replenishment of knowledge, skills and abilities among young people about volunteer movements and directions of volunteer work;
- strengthening the interaction of volunteer organizations with government agencies, public institutions, youth and children's public associations.

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