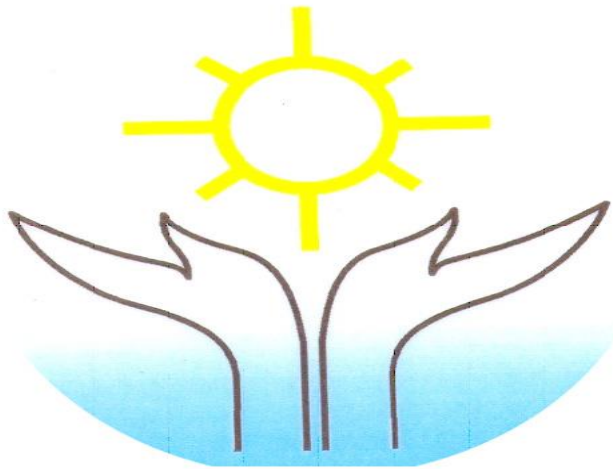


Motivation to education and readiness of students to help children



Alina Rogozhina

a graduate student at Udmurt State University
alina.rogo@mail.ru

Kirpikov Aleksei

PhD, associate professor at Udmurt State University

kirpi@udm.ru

Problem

The modern education system requires innovative approaches to training and educating children. The lack of highly qualified specialists at educational institutions and the new Federal State Educational Standard requirements make it necessary to improve the forms and methods of teaching. A new field of specialization has been introduced for bachelors: psychology of education, which is aimed at training specialists whose main task is the love for children and the willingness to come to their aid.



- The psychology of education is a field of specialization for training of bachelors whose scope of professional activities includes: education, social services, health and culture. Objects of professional activities include training, socialization, individual development of students, studying health, psychological and social support for students (3).



One group of students have from the very beginning a high learning motivation, their choice of this field was conscious (love for children, readiness for psychological support and counseling), and the second group comes here for various reasons by accident (on the advice of their parents or friends or because they have not passed exams at other departments).



- First-year students wrote an essay about the choice of this profession. A typical example of the changes taking place in the learning process is Sophia I.: “Initially, I did not like studying here, but after the first month of study I realized that I was glad to learn a profession involved in working with children, because during the training I get useful information not only as a professional but also as a future mother, aunt and grandmother. I have developed a great interest in children, which is beyond words, and the desire to work with them and to have children of my own. I have become aware of the importance of how one behaves when dealing with children, how one looks at them and speaks to them. It was not until I became a freshman and got insight into the mysterious world of children that I realized this”.

Results

- According to the survey, 45 % of students come here deliberately, and 66 % come by accident. However, based on interviews and analysis of students' essays, we can say that those students who arrive by chance are included in the educational process and change their attitude to the study in the course of training – they become willing to interact with children. For this purpose, teachers provide special conditions which develop a willingness to provide psychological assistance to children.

For the development of general competences of professionals, the following courses are taught for first-year students: introduction to the profession, psychology of development, and training in partner cooperation. It may be assumed that it is these courses that develop the students' interest in the profession of a psychologist, the desire to co-operate with children and to render psychological support to them (3).



Conclusions

- Thanks to the activities the students update and develop the readiness to provide assistance and support to children and families in general. Their values system, which is aimed at interacting with children, changes.



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