

Social and Educational Conditions for Adaptation of Former Military Personnel and Their Family Member

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Abstract This article discusses theoretical aspects associated with the systematic approach application to the implementation of a working model of the process of social adaptation of former military personnel and their families. This approach includes: studying and taking into account individual peculiarities of personality; the influence of different environments and adequate combining of individual and group awareness-raising forms of impact. The overall pattern of social adaptation will be instrumental in: the comprehensive planning of work on the basis of diagnostics and evaluation of social environment; coordination between all the subjects engaged in this process; development of modern technologies aimed at establishing social and pedagogical conditions.

Index Terms: social work, social management, social adaptation of the military.

Organizational system of former servicemen and their family members organizational system process grounds in the theoretical rationalization of human adaptation problem, systematic interdisciplinary approach to social and educational activities and social work, in determining the ex-servicemen and their families social adaptation nature, in analyzing the intrinsic characteristics of this process- being sometimes planned, sometimes spontaneous, in summarizing the working practice of those, working with this population.

Systematic approach has been used as a methodological basis of the innovational managerial work, whereby subjects are regarded as systems comprising of specific components aimed at revealing the wholeness, at disclosing communications type variety and their arranging in a single pedagogical system representing a relatively steady set of elements, organized to bring together people, spheres of their activities, functions performance, spatial and temporal networks, relationships, ways of interaction and their operational structure in order to achieve certain educational and rehabilitative goals and results, to fulfill certain planned tasks concerning education and training of an individual.

Systematic approach in elaborating the core components of social and pedagogical work methodology implies primarily an analysis of terms and factors relating to each element and constituting the material, socio-cultural, demographic and socio-psychological basis of the environment providing for the life of former servicemen and their family members. The complex of such deployments- systematically interdependent and reflecting the actual state of particular environment and training opportunities offered by such an environment- represents a comprehensive model of the operating "social space" with a view to its socio-economic and psycho-pedagogical potential, to legal, financial, staff and financial security.

The general framework of the systematic approach as a basis in the development of a comprehensive organizational technology of the social adaptation process as a starting platform for social and educational work development against the background of established conditions of the environment, could have, as an example, the following structure: mapping some set of elements pertaining to a particular environment against the object in a system, analyzing the features of communications and interactions components specific for a social system (subject - environment), determining system-forming connections ensuring subject's social system stability and client's /beneficiary's/ comfortably state analysis of the basic functional parameters of the very subject within a system, studying management activities within the spheres of environment, the degree of stability and optimality of its performance relative to the nature and specifics of methodological approaches and measures used in solving social and pedagogical issues and in developing modern, practice-oriented models of social work applicable to a variety of areas within the society.

In the development and implementation of this model we rely on the establishment of a wide system of training, retraining and qualification of social workers who, in accordance with their professional capacity, know how to find optimal ways to improve the mechanisms for social adaptation of individuals facing different conditions of life.

All this enables to introduce a common social work technology on the basis of which the system of staffing in the implementation of the process of social adaptation of

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former servicemen and their families to be also developed at all levels: personal, micro, meso, macro .

Quality staffing is one of the most important socio-pedagogical conditions for the implementation not only of social adaptation of former servicemen and their family members, but also for other similar projects and programs in the field of national social policies in force.

This system of theoretical and methodological approaches, based on the integrative knowledge of different sciences- philosophy, pedagogy, psychology, sociology, cultural studies, make it possible to determine the key socio-pedagogical conditions, which, as we assumed, will ensure the dynamics and efficiency of the process of adaptation of this group. (Fig. 1).

Consideration of the problem regarding organization of the process of adaptation of the studied class of people testifies to the presence of different trends and scientific approaches to the development of its theoretical basis, thus confirming the need for a comprehensive review of the process of social adaptation. Process of social adaptation can be viewed as an approach carried out at a number of levels, bringing together potentialities of the "system", "activity" and "process".

This working model of the adaptation process of ex-servicemen and their family members suggests a dynamic educational impact: both on the personality of former military personnel and members of their families and on the subjects, providing the process, also on social environment in order to create a mutually commitment-minded, active and focused adaptive process in view of the socio-pedagogical conditions conducive to its effectiveness.

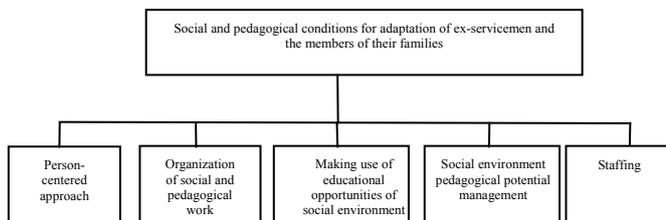


Fig.1. Social and pedagogical conditions for the adaptation of ex-servicemen and the members of their families

The overall pattern of social adaptation of former servicemen and members of their families, integrating pedagogical efforts of all separate entities, would allow:

- complex planning of the social adaptation work in view of subjective and objective characteristics of this population, based on the diagnostics and evaluation of social environment opportunities;
- coordination of activities of all entities providing the process;
- control (psychological and pedagogical analysis of outcomes and reflection of the adaptation process);
- development of modern technologies aimed at establishing social and pedagogical conditions for

social adaptation of former military personnel and their families.

In keeping with the nature of the social adaptation of former servicemen, including educational objectives: development of vital qualities and harmonization of environment, we can determine the basic criteria that attest to the effectiveness of the process of social adaptation, based on the implementation of this model of process organization, enabling to comprehensively assess the results of its practical implementation. Here may be included:

1. Social adaptation criterion- competitiveness , confidence in the stability of social welfare, successful transfer to an appropriate job, employee retention, stability of family relationships, career training level.
2. Criterion for social and psychological comfort of relationships- satisfaction with the relationship within the environment, job and wage satisfaction.
3. Psychological adjustment criterion- understanding of their own volitional capacity , actual control of personal conduct, the possible antisocial ties, development activity and initiative , attitude to work , degree of readiness for social self-defense.
4. Development criterion- readiness to change profession, to change entrepreneurship, competitiveness, self-confidence, psychological characteristics at the level of motivation, openness, friendliness, sociability, adequate self-assessment, degree of internal potential performance, responsibility, moral values: openness, honor and dignity, ability to team work, to render assistance, mutual aid, concern for people, disclosure of personal uniqueness of an individual.
5. Social conversion criterion- increasing the number of those willing to undergo retraining, increasing the number of people establishing their own business, reducing the number of task families.

In studying trends in "adaptation" concept development we can trace its evolution in several areas: philosophical, biological, psychological, social, and to identify a number of peculiarities in the behavior of an individual in problematic situations related to inclusion of adaptive mechanisms the nature of which is still little studied.

Any process of overcoming problematic situations (such as former servicemen and their family members are facing) can be seen as a process of social adaptation of an individual in the course of which he/she uses habits and mechanism of behavior acquired at previous stages of development and social adjustment, or finds out new behavioral and tasks-solving abilities, new programs and plans of intrapsychical processes.

In theoretical investigation of the process of social adaptation of former servicemen and their family members a special relevance acquires the study of mechanisms deployed in the development of socio-educational environment as a factor of social formation of personality, establishing human relations within the society (immediate environment of personality) .

Adaptive mechanisms of an individual can successfully perform their functions provided that they lead to person's adaptability to a social situation or environment. This task can not be solved without guiding the process of social adaptation, without seeking educational impact both on the individual and on the educational possibilities of the social environment.

Current state of the problem of social adaptation of former military personnel in the new economic environment is characterized by groups of features, supporting or creating obstacles to this process: related to macro environment and relationships within it, to the qualities of personality and the behavior of former servicemen.

The essence of social adaptation of former servicemen comprises in developing qualities of vital concernment, providing for the adaptability of these people in the new economic conditions and harmonization of the environment supporting the effectiveness of the process .

All this generates a need for a comprehensive socio-pedagogical approach to the problem of social adaptation of the citizens released from military service based on a well-grounded, practice-oriented model of the organization of the process of social adaptation.

Gathered experience on social adaptation of former servicemen and members of their families shows that successful resolution of the issues concerning retraining and readjustment in full accordance with the requirements of the labor market, constituting the basis of social adaptation, is impossible without the implementation of a set of target programs at national and regional level providing statutory regulation of the process of social adaptation, the absence of which precludes parallelism in the activities of authorities; without developing a comprehensive model of social adaptation of former military personnel, objectifying the integration of pedagogical efforts of subjects providing this process: family, schools, government, business and community organizations and social services.

The analysis of the theoretical problems of social adaptation , social pedagogy and practice of social work makes it possible to identify the key social and pedagogical conditions of effective social adaptation (at three levels: intrapersonal, micro and macro): person-centered approach, social and pedagogical work organization, making use of educational opportunities of social environment, social environment pedagogical potential management. By integrating pedagogical efforts of all subjects and using educational resources of social environment, this working model of the adaptation process will enable provisioning of social adaptation to this group of people and shall assist their transition from population needing social and pedagogical services into socially up-and-coming individuals.

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