

Activities of Cultural and Leisure Institutions Aimed to Develop Patriotism as a Value Orientation of Youth

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Summary

The article presents the results of a study into the practice of cultural and leisure institutions to develop patriotism as a value orientation of young people on the example of a particular socio-cultural institution. The study reveals weaknesses in the work of cultural institutions in this aspect, including the lack of systematic work on patriotic upbringing, insufficient work on the calendar of celebratory events of regional importance, and other issues. The authors conclude on the need to develop a comprehensive program for working with youth with an emphasis on club activities.

Keywords:

patriotism, value orientations, youth, patriotic upbringing, cultural and leisure programs.

1. Introduction

The formation of the socio-cultural space of any territory is impossible outside of culture and cultural values and meanings. In the development of patriotism as a value orientation of the younger generation, a special role belongs to the institutions of cultural and leisure type. For the purpose of patriotic upbringing, cultural and leisure institutions offer a specially organized complex of measures of a patriotic orientation that contain only positive culture-forming guidelines.

The problem of the study lies in the contradiction between the need of society in the development of patriotism among youth as a value orientation and insufficient justification of the potential of cultural and leisure institutions in practical work with this age group.

2. Methods

The problem of the development of patriotism as an important value orientation component is covered in a wide range of scientific works in various branches of science, including pedagogy, psychology, sociology, cultural studies, and more.

The general theoretical issues of patriotic upbringing and personality development are discussed in the works of M.M. Akulich, A.N. Vyrshchikov [1], V.V. Gavriiliuk, O.I.

Efremova, G.P. Zvezdina, V.N. Karandashev, A.N. Malinkin, A.G. Sanina, I.A. Khalii, and others.

For the present study, of importance is the problem of the formation of value orientations in youth, which has been considered as part of various sciences (sociology, pedagogy, psychology, philosophy, etc.) by such researchers L.M. Bozhovich, A.D. Zharkov, T.G. Kiseleva, G.W. Allport [2], and others.

The role and potential of cultural and leisure institutions in developing patriotism in the younger generation are disclosed in studies by Iu.K. Bakhtin, E.V. Gorbacheva [3], A.A. Zharkova [4], A.D. Zharkov [5], L.S. Zharkova [6] and others.

The problem of the development of patriotism in youth at the regional level is considered by T.P. Belikova [7], V.V. Korovin, G.O. Matsievskii, A. S. Fetisova [8], and other authors.

To assess the state of activities of cultural and leisure institutions in the city of Belgorod in developing patriotism as a value orientation in youth, we conducted a two-stage study on the basis of the Municipal Budgetary Cultural Institution Leisure Center (hereinafter – the Leisure Center). At the first stage, the planning and reporting documentation of the cultural and leisure institution was analyzed to identify the patriotic cultural and leisure programs offered, the frequency of their implementation for the young audience, and the attendance of these programs by young people.

At the second stage, a survey of young people was conducted to reveal their needs and interest in patriotic programs administered at the Leisure Center.

At the first research stage, the analysis was conducted based on the organization's work plans for the period of one year. The work plans were analyzed by months, which made it possible not only to identify the number of patriotically-oriented cultural and leisure activities for young people but also to compare the frequency of their implementation during each month.

3. Results and Discussion

The institution’s plans of cultural and leisure activities for the population of Belgorod, particularly the district served, as well as statistical data from the annual report of Form 7-NK, indicate that over the year, the Leisure Center

held a total of 417 events. Of these, 89 were intended for young people from 14 to 35 years old. The number of young visitors to the cultural and leisure programs carried out by the institution was 25,900 people. Of the total number of activities for young people, patriotic programs account for 11.9% (Fig. 1).

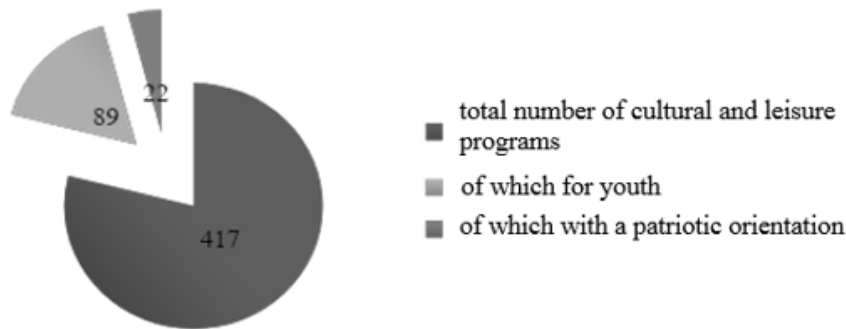


Fig. 1. Cultural and leisure programs for youth at the Leisure Center

Evidently, the current number of patriotic activities organized by the institution is insufficient. According to average statistics, every month, an average of 1.8 units of cultural and leisure programs of patriotic orientation are carried out for young people. This frequency we consider insufficient to implement a systematic approach in this area of work with the considered age group.

The majority of events, 76%, are entertaining in nature. In addition, the institution offers cultural and leisure programs of educational and prevention types – 12% and 1%, respectively. The Leisure Center’s work plans include a fairly wide variety of forms. The distribution of cultural and leisure programs for young people by forms is presented below (Fig. 2).

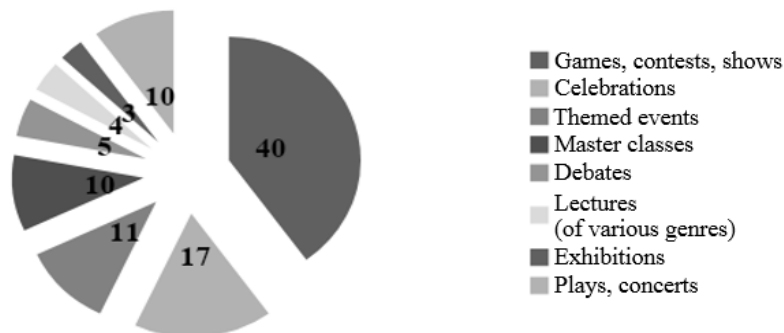


Fig. 2. Forms of cultural and leisure programs for youth at the Leisure Center (%)

A major part of events for youth is held by the Leisure Center online. This includes, for instance: Online action "Confessions of Love" (February), as part of which the employees of the Leisure Center congratulate those in love and confess their love to the devoted audience themselves; Online translation of Konstantin Tavolzhansky's play "Wrinkles", timed to the Day of the Disabled (December); Online performance "The New Year's Adventures of Cats in the Forest", Online New Year's concert "Winter Tale" (December); Online news bulletin "Year of the Basic Sciences" (March), and many others. Such a format expands

the reach of the audience, as well as allows for immediate feedback from the participants. Herein, it is worth noting that cultural and leisure programs of a patriotic orientation for young people are conducted by Leisure Center employees very rarely.

Notably, the implementation of cultural and leisure programs with a patriotic orientation for young people is intensified closer to festive dates. For instance, plenty of events are held in May, June, November, and February. These months correspond to annual national holidays: Victory Day of the Soviet people during the Great Patriotic

War (May 9); Russia Day (June 12; before 2002 – the Day of the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of Russia); the Day of National Unity (November 4); Defender of the Fatherland Day (February 23). The institution is also planning to hold events related to regional holidays, such as: Belgorod Oblast Education Day (January 6); the Gorin Day (January 9); the Day of the Tank Battle near the Prokhorovka Village (July 12); the Day of Belgorod's Liberation from the German Fascist Invaders (August 5).

Yet a number of important events are regrettably either not reflected in the plans of the cultural and leisure institution's work with youth for the development of patriotism, or are celebrated very sporadically in isolated, rarely organized forms. In our view, the range of cultural and leisure programs of patriotic upbringing for youth could be expanded by activities associated with such events as: Memorial Day of the builders of the Stary Oskol – Rzhava railroad (July 17); the Day of Victory of Soviet troops in the Battle of Kursk (August 23); Memorial Day of St. Ioasaph of Belgorod (September 19); Flag Day of the Belgorod region (October 14).

Further on, we cannot but note that the Leisure Center has no patriotic clubs. The value of such unions is their reliance on the interests and needs of their participants. Clubs of patriotic themes actively develop such personal value characteristics as collectivism, initiative, curiosity, humanism, the need to learn the history of the native land and significant state events, love for the native land, and many others. The creation of patriotic clubs will enhance the efficiency of work with the younger generation in the aspect of developing patriotism.

As part of the first stage of the study, we draw the following conclusions. The Leisure Center actively works with young people, including people with disabilities. Out of the total number of cultural and leisure programs, activities of a patriotic orientation make up less than half (11.9%), which in our opinion is not enough for systematic work for the development of patriotism as a value orientation of the individual. The work lacks consistency and is intensified at times of significant historical dates and events. In a number of monthly plans, patriotic activities for youth are not present at all (December 2021). The absence of patriotic clubs, in our opinion, further reduces the effectiveness of work on the development of patriotism in young people.

At the second stage of the study, we conducted a questionnaire survey of the Leisure Center's visitors from the youth population. The sample consisted of 100 people, which is every third active visitor to the cultural and leisure programs of the cultural institution.

Among the respondents, 30 individuals were male, and 70% were female. By age composition, the majority of respondents were from 14 to 18 years old – 78%, and the share of young people between 19 and 35 was 22%. The survey contained 15 questions, including demographic ones (gender, age, occupation). All the respondents noted that

patriotism is, first and foremost, the love of one's homeland. In this case, it is certainly logical that the respondents chose such options as: "Glorification of the victories of the Motherland" – 80 people; "Respect for one's motherland, pride for one's country" – 79 people; "Love for the native city, village, home" – 60 people; "Love for one's family, relatives" – 56 people; "Love for national culture" – 54 people; "Revival of the traditions of the Russian state" – 43 people.

The results of the survey show that the majority of the respondents understand the value aspects of the term "patriotism" and associate it primarily with love and respect for one's native land, loved ones, relatives, and national traditions.

Of interest are the results of the answers of respondents who chose such definitions of patriotism as: "Love for all mankind, humanism" – 43 people; "Striving for a safe global world" – 40 people; "Striving for social justice" – 21 people. It can be observed that respondents also link the concept of patriotism with social and global values. However, the number of selected options from this group is much lower. This gives cultural and leisure institutions grounds for reflection and real action on the opportunities to strengthen certain positions in the work with young people proceeding from the results of the survey.

The least number of respondents chose such options as: "Religious faith I profess" – 12 people; "Ability to live and interact in a team" – 11 people; "Revival of traditions of the Soviet state" – 9 people; "Love for the native ashes, love for the fathers' coffins" – 2 people. These results can be explained by the fact that younger people are little informed about Soviet traditions and the real picture of the Soviet social order. In this sense, a major part is played by mass media and subjective opinions, which can form young people's understanding of the Soviet period and their attitudes to it.

Patriotic values are conducive to a more sensible attitude to the socio-political events in the country's present, greater engagement in the life of the local community, and a higher level of personal social maturity.

Many respondents had a difficult time understanding the meaning of the answer option "Love for the native ashes, love for the fathers' coffins", which is reflected in the frequency of its choice. From the total sample of respondents, 2 people believe that patriotism is losing its relevance in the context of globalization, which also calls for attention from the subjects of the formation, upbringing, and development of personality, including institutions of the cultural and leisure type.

Regarding the choice of the definition of patriotism, the following answers were received (Table 1).

Table 1. Results of young people's choice of the most appropriate definition of patriotism

Definition	Response, %
Patriotism is devotion and love for one's homeland, for one's people. (Dictionary by Ozhegov and Shvedova)	35
Patriotism is the love of one's fatherland, arising from the awareness of the solidarity of interests among the citizens of a given state or members of a given nation. (Brockhaus and Efron Small Encyclopedic Dictionary)	32
Patriotism is a moral and political principle, a social feeling, the content of which is love for the fatherland, pride in its past and present, a readiness to subordinate one's interests to the interests of the country, a desire to defend the interests of the motherland and one's people. (Encyclopedia of Sociology)	18
Patriotism, in which the main point is the love of one's country specifically (that is, the separation of oneself from other states and peoples), is the reason for the incessant wars because it essentially gives one country or nation the right to oppress another in the name of its own power, wealth, and glory. Patriotism cannot be good. Patriotism is an unnatural feeling, artificially instilled in man. (L. Tolstoy)	10
A patriot is not one who praises the country, but one who can extremely firmly... say something	5

very heavy about the country... patriotism is not the endless eruption of love spouts, but it is something else entirely. (V. Posner)	
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This distribution of respondents' answers largely owes to the familiarity of the definitions frequently encountered both in literary sources and in daily life. Judging by the answers to the survey question, the respondents believe true patriotism manifests through: participation in the work of patriotic organizations; celebration of historical events and anniversaries; constructive criticism of the country's shortcomings; strengthening the family and raising children in the spirit of patriotism. These answer options are the most popular among the respondents. In this regard, cultural and leisure institutions need to intensify their work with young people on the formation and development of their patriotic values by creating patriotic clubs and associations of patriotic orientation and expanding the range of forms of cultural and leisure activities with representatives of this age group. In addition, more work should be conducted with families to further promote and reinforce family values and traditions.

The results of answers to the question: "To what extent, in your opinion, do the following forms of patriotic upbringing influence the formation of patriotic values in young people?" are provided in Fig. 3.

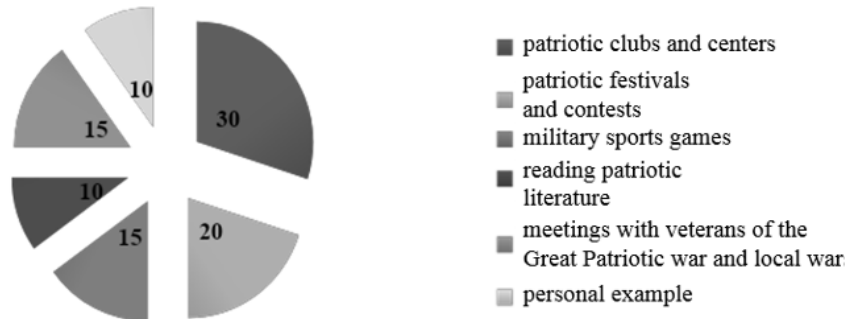


Fig. 3. Forms of upbringing that affect the development of patriotism according to youth

Our preliminary conclusions are confirmed by the respondents noting that for them, a priority in the development of patriotism are patriotic clubs and centers and patriotic festivals and contests. In addition, among the demanded and interesting forms of upbringing are meetings with veterans of the Great Patriotic war and local wars, military sports games, reading patriotic literature, and personal examples.

Most of the survey participants (76%) responded that there are true patriots among their acquaintances who could serve as role models. In this regard, it is important for cultural and leisure institutions to identify such people,

build communication with them, and invite them to meetings with young people.

In order to determine the characteristics of patriotism, the respondents were asked whether a person could be considered a patriot with a certain attitude toward the situation. The results show that the majority of young people interpret actions and deeds in accordance with patriotic values. However, there remains a significant number of young people who do not fully understand the responsibility for the fate of their homeland and its people. This group requires special attention from the subjects of the formation, upbringing, and development of personality.

The largest share of respondents says that they have often experienced a feeling of pride for their country (94%). However, which is alarming, 6% of the youth find it difficult to answer this question. This may be due to not only ignorance of their heroic history, but also the informal processes occurring in society and the effect of the opinions of certain anti-social individuals on the worldview and value orientations of young people.

4. Conclusion

The conducted study demonstrates that aside from the work performed by the Leisure Center with respect to the patriotic upbringing of the younger generation and the development of patriotism as a value orientation, there are also some shortcomings in the institution's operation. Among these weaknesses is the lack of consistency in the work on patriotic upbringing, the absence of patriotic unions, insufficient work on the calendar of celebratory events of regional importance, the inadequate number of cultural and leisure programs for young people in the online format, and the fragmented and cyclical nature of patriotic work with young people. Therefore, we suggest that the development of a comprehensive program with an emphasis on club activities will promote the development of patriotism as a personal value orientation among young people and minimize the existing drawbacks.

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