



OVERVIEW

Possibilities of Using Virtual Space as a Resource for Implementation of Social Initiatives

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Можливості використання віртуального простору як ресурсу для реалізації соціальних ініціатив

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Возможности использования виртуального пространства как ресурса для реализации социальных инициатив

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Abstract

Background: The publication highlights the features of experimental research on the use of cyberspace as a resource for training future social workers to implement social initiatives on a voluntary basis during the risks associated with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Possibilities of using virtual space in the social sphere are analyzed.

Purpose: To determine the possibilities of using cyberspace for the implementation of social initiatives and training of social workers in the context of the spread of social risks.

Materials and Methods: The study used methods of observation and oral questioning of higher education students, as well as content analysis of the activity of users of virtual space.

Results: Important components of the professional characteristics of a modern social worker who provides social services in the context of the spread of social risks in modern society are identified. Emphasis is placed on the content characteristics of the created virtual space and the possibilities of its application in the social and educational activities of a social worker with various vulnerable groups (orphans and children deprived of parental care, people with special educational needs, single elderly and senior citizens, also young people in conflict with the law, families in difficult life circumstances, etc.). The need to take into account when creating an adaptive professional-oriented space features of different age and social characteristics of both recipients of social services and their providers significantly increases its socio-cultural capabilities and contributes to the preservation and strengthening (social, psychological and spiritual) components of the health of all actors who interact in this space.

Conclusions: Provided are the results of the study of the impact of cyberspace on motivation of the interest of future specialists in the social field to carry out the relevant professional activity, as well as opportunities to ensure the development of their professional competence in this area of professional activity.

Keywords: cyberspace, future social workers, social initiatives, volunteering.

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Introduction

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the search for new opportunities for the implementation of social initiatives that increase the resources not only of social sphere's clients, but also of social service providers themselves has become especially relevant.

The analysis of scientific literature and practice of training specialists for social work in conditions of increased social risk made it possible to find out that researchers have studied the following issues: risks of modern society; social risks and social protection of the population; social-psychological and social assistance in crisis situations; work on preservation and strengthening of human health; the use of information and communication technologies in the process of professional training of future social pedagogues and social workers. However, the issues of preparing future social workers to use the opportunities of cyberspace for organizing social initiatives in the context of social risks have not been fully explored and need to be studied.

The aim of the study. To determine the possibilities of using cyberspace for the implementation of social initiatives and training of social workers in the context of the spread of social risks.

Materials and Methods

The study used methods of observation and oral questioning of higher education students, as well as content analysis of the activity of users of virtual space during the implementation of the project "Ethnoworld".

Results and Discussion

The analysis of the scientific literature on the problem of the use of virtual space in the provision of social services has shown significant prospects in this area. Thus, Volynets (2016, p. 126) notes that "virtualization causes the emergence of new phenomena, a variety of forms of leisure and an unprecedented increase in the quality of recreational services, leading to the development of leisure culture, including in virtual forms". Scientists note that at the present stage of development of society, when global transformations and social risks are common, cyberspace actually complements the socialization of the individual and expands the possibilities of self-realization. Virtual space allows a person to be the creator of the virtual world, which more satisfies his own needs than the surrounding world, which is more hierarchical and structured (Palchynska, 2016, p. 24).

The use of cyberspace in the social sphere has become even more important in the context of the spread of social risks in today's changing world, especially after the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the provision of social services in the usual format was impossible and, in order to provide resources for vulnerable, social services providers were looking for additional ways to carry out this activity through virtual networks. In such circumstances, social work to preserve and promote the health of social service users is one of the most important activities of social workers. In order to ensure this type of professional

activity, social workers carry out social and educational influences to prevent various risks in the lives and activities of vulnerable groups, so the work aimed at creating and disseminating in the virtual space of interaction with users of social services a variety of preventive information.

An important aspect of the work of specialized social institutions that provide social services to vulnerable groups (orphans and children deprived of parental care, children and youth with special educational needs, single elderly and senior citizens, children and youth in conflict with the law, families in difficult life circumstances, etc.) is the organization of social and educational recreational activities, which allows you to organize their meaningful and interesting leisure. It is for the organization of meaningful leisure of various vulnerable contingents of the population that the organization of social and educational cultural and leisure virtual space with the use of ethnopedagogical means has great advantages. The rich potential of ethnocultural traditions allows for socio-cultural influences when interacting with audiences of different ages, and cyberspace – to combine different actors, regardless of their individual or social characteristics, as well as territorial location. In order to carry out virtual interaction, future specialists in the social sphere need to acquire additional professional competence to carry out the appropriate type of professional activity, which necessitated the search for effective ways to ensure it.

Based on the results of scientific works by Dusavitsky (2012); Ilyin (2002); Melnyk (2002; 2019); Melnyk et al. (2021); Melnyk and Pypenko (2017) and own scientific research (Kostina, 2018a; 2018b; 2019; 2020), we have identified a research hypothesis about the possibility of using supporting professionally-oriented virtual space for the implementation of social initiatives on a volunteer basis and increase the motivation, interest and level of professional competence of future social workers to carry out professional activities in social education using ethnocultural traditions by taking into account:

- 1) opportunities of virtual networks as convenient space of interaction in the modern world;
- 2) the benefits of joint implementation of the virtual network as a means of mutual development and mutual enrichment during the organization of leisure;
- 3) the potential of ethnopedagogical tools as a source of socio-pedagogical influence and development of socially significant values and socially acceptable responsible behavior.

In order to provide the above important conditions for the creation of virtual space, we implemented a social project "Ethnoworld", during which a diverse team of future professionals and their curators was created to organize volunteer initiatives, which included the following blocks: ethnopedagogical treasure workshop; theater workshop; media workshop. The implementation of the social project gave users of social services of Charity Foundation "Caritas-Kharkiv" the opportunity to get acquainted with the ethnocultural traditions of the peoples of the world,

learn about ethnocultural holidays, folk customs, as well as the possibility of using ethnopedagogical tools in modern life.

Immersion of social service users in the created virtual space allowed to spend leisure time effectively and meaningfully (solve crossword puzzles, participate in quizzes and master classes, get involved in watching social and cognitive videos, etc.), to spread their knowledge and ethnocultural experience in conditions when the usual communication between social workers and clients was limited due to the consequences of coronavirus disease spread. Applicants for higher education, which provided content for the exchange of information through a virtually created space of cultural and developmental interaction gradually acquired not only the skills needed to organize social work in a virtual environment, but also developed their own personal and professional qualities (communication, responsibility, purposefulness, ability to work in a team, organizational skills) and interest in implementing social initiatives on a volunteer basis.

Conclusions

Diagnosis of applicants for higher education after the implementation of the project showed that: all 100% of respondents during the survey increased motivation and interest in social initiatives on a volunteer basis, and there was an increase in professional practical competence in this area; 83% of respondents after the end of the project expressed a desire and prepared materials on their own results in the project to participate in a scientific-practical conference of young scientists; 58% – became organizers of master classes during participation in scientific and practical conference.

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Conflicts of Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests.

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Анотація

Вступ: У публікації висвітлюються особливості експериментальних досліджень щодо використання кіберпростору як ресурсу для навчання майбутніх соціальних працівників до добровільної реалізації соціальних ініціатив під час ризиків, пов'язаних із поширенням пандемії COVID-19. Аналізуються можливості використання віртуального простору в соціальній сфері.

Мета: Визначити можливості використання кіберпростору для реалізації соціальних ініціатив та навчання соціальних працівників у контексті поширення соціальних ризиків.

Матеріали і Методи: У дослідженні використовувалися методи спостереження та усного опитування студентів закладів вищої освіти, а також контент-аналіз активності користувачів віртуального простору.

Результати: Визначено важливі складові професійних характеристик сучасного соціального працівника, який надає соціальні послуги в контексті поширення соціальних ризиків у сучасному суспільстві. Наголошується на змістових характеристиках створеного віртуального простору та можливостях його застосування у соціальній та освітній діяльності соціального працівника з різними вразливими групами (діти-сироти та діти, позбавлені батьківського піклування, люди з особливими освітніми потребами, самотні люди похилого віку та пенсіонери, також молоді люди, що перебувають у конфлікті із законом, сім'ї, які опинилися у складних життєвих обставинах тощо). Необхідність врахування при створенні адаптивного професійно-орієнтованого простору особливостей різних вікових та соціальних особливостей, як одержувачів соціальних послуг, так і їх надавачів, значно збільшує свої соціокультурні можливості та сприяє збереженню та зміцненню (соціального, психологічного та духовного) компонентів здоров'я всіх суб'єктів, які взаємодіють у цьому просторі.

Висновки: Надано результати дослідження впливу кіберпростору на мотивацію інтересу майбутніх фахівців у соціальній сфері до здійснення відповідної професійної діяльності, а також можливості забезпечити розвиток їх професійної компетентності у цій сфері професійної діяльності.

Ключові слова: кіберпростір, майбутні соціальні працівники, соціальні ініціативи, волонтерство.

Аннотация

Введение:

В публикации освещаются особенности экспериментальных исследований использования киберпространства в качестве ресурса для обучения будущих социальных работников реализации социальных инициатив на добровольной основе во время рисков, связанных с распространением пандемии COVID-19. Анализируются возможности использования виртуального пространства в социальной сфере.

Цель: Определить возможности использования киберпространства для реализации социальных инициатив и обучения социальных работников в условиях распространения социальных рисков.

Материалы и Методы: В исследовании использованы методы наблюдения и устного анкетирования студентов учреждений высшего образования, а также контент-анализ активности пользователей виртуального пространства.

Результаты: Выявлены важные составляющие профессиональных характеристик современного социального работника, оказывающего социальные услуги в условиях распространения социальных рисков в современном обществе. Акцент делается на содержательных характеристиках создаваемого виртуального пространства и возможностях его применения в социальной и образовательной деятельности социального работника с различными уязвимыми группами (дети-сироты и дети, лишённые родительской опеки, люди с особыми образовательными потребностями, одинокие пожилые люди и пенсионеры, а также молодые люди, находящиеся в конфликте с законом, семьи в трудных жизненных обстоятельствах и т. д.). Необходимость учета при создании адаптивного профессионально-ориентированного пространства особенностей разных возрастных и социальных особенностей, как получателей социальных услуг, так и их поставщиков, значительно увеличивает его социокультурные возможности и способствует сохранению и укреплению (социальных, психологических и духовных) компонентов здоровья всех субъектов, взаимодействующих в этом пространстве.

Выводы: Приведены результаты исследования влияния киберпространства на мотивацию интереса будущих специалистов социальной сферы к осуществлению соответствующей профессиональной деятельности, а также возможности обеспечения развития их профессиональных компетенций в данной сфере профессиональной деятельности.

Ключевые слова: киберпространство, будущие социальные работники, социальные инициативы, волонтерство.

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