

Specifics of Formation of Comfortable Socio-Cultural Environment as Factor in Formation of Well-Being of Modern Students

Nadezhda Gritskikh
Irkutsk State University

Irkutsk, Russia
anris@list.ru

Ekaterina Reshetnikova
Irkutsk State University

Irkutsk, Russia
eresh80@mail.ru

Valentin Zagorodnyi
Irkutsk State University
Irkutsk, Russia
lic-kric97@mail.ru

Abstract—The article presents the data from studies conducted by employees of the laboratory of psychological, economic and cross-cultural research of the Institute of Social Sciences of Irkutsk State University. The article examines the social well-being of students from two viewpoints: economic and socio-cultural, which is most prominently highlighted. The article provides the authored definition of the concept “socio-cultural well-being”. It was revealed that under the conditions of socio-economic reforms, foreign policy instability and socio-cultural transformations, the need to study social and cultural well-being have increased significantly. The attention is focused on the value orientations of modern students and their status characteristics. Based on the research, an innovative method is proposed for the solution of the problems of a comfortable social and cultural environment. The method consists in the organization of club activities in a territorially separate creative space, which will allow solving the problem of achieving the well-being of modern students. The authors used data from several studies on these projects of scientific foundations in the Russian cities of Abakan, Vladivostok, Irkutsk, Kemerovo, Kyzyl, Tomsk, Ulan-Ude, Chita, Yakutsk. The total number of respondents was 2000 people.

Keywords—youth; socio-cultural well-being; comfortable sociocultural environment; creative space and club activity

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of well-being in modern society is formed through a complex of vital factors, which are an interdependent system of human personal qualities that one is ready to apply in order to achieve one's goal and comfortable environment provided by the state. Social well-being is such condition of society, determined by the ethno-methodological conditions of people's life, in which a person satisfies one's daily personal needs while remaining confident in the future. As I. V. Babayan and E. I. Pashinina point out, “social well-being includes two basic characteristics — socio-cultural and economic well-being, which can be achieved as a result of vigorous work in terms of introducing innovative production

technologies, distribution of goods and services, and subsequent consumption of goods only under the condition when social relations change as a result of value transformations” [3, p. 15].

Modern scientists (N. K. Gorshkov, N. E. Tikhonova, and others) pay due attention to the study of economic well-being, which is directly associated with the concept of “quality of life”. Experts note that “a prosperous person is characterized by such features as: education, good job, access to modern information technologies, the ability to travel around the world, to buy quality products and clothing, and to increase income” [3, p. 17]. In our opinion, in the context of sociocultural transformations (for example, the transition from collective consciousness to individualism, egocentrism, and the deformation of traditional family values), the need to study sociocultural well-being has increased significantly. At the same time, young people, as the most involved in the process of social and cultural transformations, represent particularly vulnerable social groups.

II. MAIN RESEARCH RESULTS

When considering the concept of “sociocultural well-being” in more detail, it is possible to decompose it into two components, namely, the sociocultural environment and the comfort of being in it. In the Soviet period, the sociocultural environment was a component of a single worldview dictated by the state. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the worldview, as a single concept of cultural universals, disintegrated into many components, one of which is socio-cultural values.

The combination of sociocultural values and the sociocultural environment of the modern young person is interdependent. The sociocultural environment of an educational organization, as confirmed by the studies of E.A. Burdukovskaya [7], E.E. Drozhzhina [8], V.P. Peshkova [9], M.N. Filatova [10], contains significant reserves for ensuring

integration of personal and professional development of a student, the formation of one's general and professional competences, the development of skills to productively construct one's own life space in the context of accumulating socio-cultural experience of effective action in the profession and society as a whole [6]. One of the main goals of a higher education institution is to model the socio-cultural environment of student community since this environment forms a self-dependent person and a professional.

In order to study this interdependence, the employees of the laboratory of psychological, economic and cross-cultural studies of the Institute of Social Sciences of Irkutsk State University are conducting a longitudinal sociological study. The last cross-section for 2018 shows that moral and humanistic values, such as respect for relatives and friends (9.11 out of 10 possible), marriage and family (8.55 out of 10 possible), love and friendship (8.31 of 10 possible) gradually become less significant, however, still retain their leading positions among the surveyed students (Table I). The last place among youth values is the interaction with the natural environment (6.30 out of 10 possible). It indicates insufficient attention to environmental issues and human interaction with the environment, low involvement in tourism.

Among the least significant values the following ones are also noted: leadership and authority in youth environment (6.35 out of 10 possible), as well as good relationships between people of different nationalities (6.71 out of 10 possible). These indicators point to the self-esteem of a personality, humanism and inter-ethnic tolerance that are insufficiently formed among young people. The solution of these problems is possible with the convergence of social institutions. Thus education comes to the fore as an important determinant of social well-being.

TABLE I. EVALUATION ON A TEN-POINT SCALE OF SIGNIFICANT VITAL VALUES (1 – MINIMUM POINT, 10 – MAXIMUM POINT)

Possible answers	%
Interesting job	7.85
Respect towards parents, relatives and close friends	9.11
Family, marriage	8.55
Love and friendship	8.31
Good relationships between people of different nationalities	6.71
Health, sport	7.38
The ability to communicate with peers, interesting people, including through the Internet	6.58
Study, self-education	7.54
Independence of opinions and actions, personal freedom	7.83
The possibility of creativity, self-expression	7.05
Leadership, authority in youth environment	6.35
Interaction with the natural environment	6.30

Note: p<0.05; p<0.01***

Nowadays in the Russian education a number of serious actions of an ideological nature are being undertaken, the recipients of which are young people. Thus, in public schools there are such public organizations as the Russian movement of schoolchildren, the united youth army and others. Socially significant events of patriotic nature are organized on a regular basis: a summer cereal season, parades of the combat step and others. This process, in our opinion, should have a system-ideological character and be reflected in the activities of not

only general educational institutions, but also institutions of secondary, vocational and higher education.

In world practice, higher educational institutions pay considerable attention to the specifics of the formation of a socio-cultural environment. Thus students of major universities in the United States, among the key needs, highlight the group integration. "Those who feel the need for group life want to join the group structure and accept group roles, join the associations. To achieve this, they will renounce personal freedom, privacy and free time." [2] "For the youth of Kazakhstan, the values of ideals of the socialist system are leveled. The material well-being, wealth and prosperity is on the first place – 58.5%; the second place is given to one's health and health of their loved ones – 49.9%. The third place is assigned to happiness and love – 43.6%; the fourth place belongs to well-being and prosperity of the country – 23.5%; and the last place is assigned to social justice – 20.9%" [4, p. 108].

The interviewed Russian students note (Table II) that the formation of patriotism and interethnic harmony, as a factor of social well-being, occurs in the family (7.85 out of 10 possible), at schools and educational institutions in general (6.55 from 10 possible). The Internet and social networks occupy, respectively, the second and third positions (6.30 out of 10 possible). Thus, there is a growing threat from the information and telecommunications environment, which manifests itself in the ideological shifts of young people in perceptions of the role and place of a person in society. This state of affairs requires that educational institutions and the state as a whole develop new forms and methods of work with students.

TABLE II. OPINION ABOUT THE LEVEL OF THE INFLUENCE OF SOME SOCIAL INSTITUTES ON THE FORMATION OF PATRIOTISM AND INTERNATIONAL CONSENT

Possible answers	%
School, educational institutions in general	6.55
Family	7.85
Labor collectives	5.09
Youth organizations	5.29
Local television	5.21
Russian television	6.14
Local printed media	4.48
Russian printed media	5.14
The Internet, social nets	6.30

Note: p<0.05; p<0.01***

For their development, the forms of civil actions and actions of Russians (Table III) were investigated. Despite the significant influence on the youth of the media and the Internet, 45.2% of the respondents prioritize immediate meetings with participants of the Great Patriotic War. This underlines the inviolability of traditions and tribute to the heroism of the ancestors. 41.7% of the respondents noted participation in events of military-patriotic education, 41.2% of the respondents participated in volunteer actions aimed at defense of nature. These indicators show that the student community has expressed the need for self-actualization in these areas.

TABLE III. IMPORTANCE OF THE FORM OF CIVIL ACTS AND ACTIONS OF RUSSIANS

Possible answers	%
The participation in the production of goods of domestic industrial and agricultural corporations (import substitution)	40.8
Ready for Labour and Defence preparation	18.3
Tourist trips to the places of labor and military glory	23.6
The participation in the events of military-patriotic education	41.7
Nature protection volunteers	41.2
The meetings with participants of the Great Patriotic War	45.2
Taking care of the families of front-line soldiers and labor veterans	34.4
The performance of national traditions and rituals	28.5
The use of national clothes at events	12.4
The participation in the work of patriotic youth organizations	29.2
The participation in actions and events against extremism and terrorism	25
The participation in law enforcement on the streets	18.3
The participation in informal youth associations	3.2
Other	1.5

Note: $p < 0.05^*$; $p < 0.01^{**}$

In a broad and narrow sense of this concept, social well-being basically means bilateral interest of citizens and the state. First of all, every person is interested in personal well-being: the level and quality of life, the comfort of the social environment, income, health, etc. In turn, the state must care about the social well-being of its citizens: economic well-being, the level of social support, overall standard of living, developed medicine, a high level of patriotism as a tool for relieving social tensions and inter-ethnic conflicts. As a result of the undertaken study, it can be concluded that in the Russian Federation ideas and bills on the part of the state are weakly correlated with interests of individual citizens. Accordingly, to realize the idea of patriotic education of the population, it is necessary not only to realize the idea of patriotism by means of vertical influence of the state on all subordinate structures and mass propaganda, but also to develop an institute of club student activities, one of whose goals will be the realization of patriotic ideas through its activity.

In a more detailed analysis of foreign experience and data of sociological research, there is necessity in socialization of student youth in the framework of diverse activities of student clubs. It is possible to identify main objectives of the club activity:

- development of citizenship and patriotism, support of moral principles and values;
- expansion of the boundaries of research activities among students;
- humanization of youth and implementation of creative abilities;
- self-actualization of students in environmental and sports areas.

Club activity acts as a necessary imperative of socialization of an individual, an indicator of proper self-identification, a starting point for the personal growth of young people. It forms moral foundations and active citizenship. It is also necessary to note that club activities are

inextricably related to leisure. As A. Surovitskaya notes, leisure for young people is a part of the life process that a person freely possesses and which can be used for free activity and development, which indicates the increasing role of leisure in the process of the formation of value orientations of the younger generation [14, p. 4]. Club activity combines traits of cooperativity, solidarity, self-identification and makes it possible to fully meet the socio-cultural needs of students.

This type of activity is aimed at the formation of one's worldview, tolerant consciousness, the value system, personal, creative and professional development of students, self-expression in various spheres of life, contributing to the provision of adaptation in sociocultural environment of international community, raising civil self-awareness and social responsibility [5].

Comparing the tasks and experience of domestic and Western club associations, it is possible to conclude that nominal purposes of clubs are identical, but the mechanisms and methods of their implementation are different. In our opinion, the main difference is the absence of an ideological component in Russian student associations, and if it is present, then there is no correlation with government programs in youth policy and value orientations of government policy.

In Irkutsk State University, there are more than 20 clubs and departments, some of which were created on the initiative of the university administration, and others on the initiative of the students themselves. At the university, a comfortable social environment was formed, including through club activities, namely: organizing cultural events (for example, the annual event dedicated to the birthday of the university, the Autumn Ball, Club of the Funny and Inventive games), sports events (for example, sports competitions on various sports, mass tourist trips), scientific events (for example, ISU Science Week), socially significant events (for example, volunteer actions, garbage collection and tree planting).

These areas of club activities allow students to assign certain status characteristics. In order to identify them, a study was conducted, the results of which revealed that for modern young people the most significant status characteristics are: belonging to status social groups / communities – 50.0%; the presence of profitable relationships – 47.27%; high level of education – 44.5%; reputation / prestige of an individual – 42.72%. The least significant status characteristic is traits of high social status ("People's Artist of Russia", "Honored Worker of Culture", etc.) – 3.63% (Table IV).

Since the reference status characteristics of students contribute to the formation of a comfortable social and cultural environment, the main task of a university is to support club movements with the obligatory correlation of the purposes of a university and clubs, the creation of a territorially separate creative space. The creation of such platform will solve the problem of the lack of targeted unity of segmented club associations that pursue their local objectives. Territorially, a separate creative space must meet the following requirements: system, territorial and economic accessibility; a full time cycle; versatility of the possibilities to meet its internal status needs; the comfort of the socio-cultural environment. According to M.K. Gorshkov the main motive of

dissatisfaction among young people is the dilapidated condition of old cultural and sports institutions (structures) and the absence (or a small number) of new, modern ones [11, p. 202].

TABLE IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF STATUS CHARACTERISTICS FOR MODERN YOUTH

Possible answers	
Belonging to status social groups / communities	50.0
The presence of profitable relationships	47.27
High level of education	44.5
Individual Reputation / Prestige	42.72
Economic capital	39.09
Expert influence (the importance of authoritative opinion for others)	27.27
Accessibility to the implementation of powers in various fields	23.63
Belonging to the elite (political, economic, regional, etc.)	18.18
High social status ("People's Artist of Russia", "Honored Worker of Culture", etc.)	3.63

Note: $p < 0.05^*$; $p < 0.01^{**}$

The essential problem of many universities in Russia is the absence of this creative space. This problem is aggravated by the fact that there are external sites that contribute to the increase in the segmentation of clubs and the loss of the motivation of students to engage in club activities, which subsequently adversely affects their comfort in socio-cultural environment and socio-cultural well-being in general. As an example, we can say that in Irkutsk there are many different sports associations (clubs, sections, etc.) offering their services to students for a fee. According to the results of the study, it was revealed that the key factors affecting dissatisfaction with sports, science, socially significant projects and creativity are the high cost of services and Hobson's choice.

The most vulnerable students are nonresident living in a dormitory. Their need for sports can be satisfied only by visiting sports sections that are a part of the structure of the educational organization.

III. CONCLUSION

The study of international and Russian experience, as well as data from a longitudinal sociological study of the laboratory of psychological, economic and cross-cultural studies of the Institute of Social Sciences of Irkutsk State University show that a student club is one of the most promising forms of the formation of a comfortable social and cultural environment of a modern student community. A modern innovative method of the organization of club work is the creation of a territorially separate creative space in areas of the largest concentration of student dormitories, educational buildings. The creative space should be organized taking into account the following requirements: consistency, territorial and economic accessibility, a full time cycle, the versatility of the possibilities to meet their internal status needs, as well as the comfort of social and cultural environment. Due to the above mentioned facts, status characteristics and, accordingly, socio-cultural well-being of modern student youth will be fully achieved.

Thus, the specificity of formation of a comfortable sociocultural environment of well-being of modern student youth consists in the following:

- development of civicism and patriotism, support of moral principles and values necessary for socio-cultural development of an individual;
- close proximity of the university infrastructure to the student's immediate place of study (sports grounds, cultural and leisure centers, student research centers, the medical building, etc.);
- economic accessibility of the university infrastructure, that is, a correlation of the price for services and the actual income of students;
- support for all-round development of a student's personality using innovative programs of working with youth, an individual approach to the educational process, creation of student associations initiated by the university, as well as support for student club initiatives;
- stimulation of student youth to achieve success in research, sports, social, creative and educational activities by means of various support programs;
- realization of positive social experience, which is necessary both for creation of a comfortable social environment and formation of positive views on life prospects of youth.

The specifics presented above must be taken into account when the university forms a strategy for developing a comfortable sociocultural environment, because therein lies successful all-round development of both the university and the youth as a whole.

Acknowledgment

The article was supported by the RFBR grant project "Economic Patriotism as an Object of Interdisciplinary Research in Psychology and the Resources of its Formation among Urban and Rural Youth (by the Example of the Population of Eastern Siberia)" (2018–2020).

References

- [1] L.S. Shilova, "Modernization of Russian health: Expectations and reality," *Sociology and Society: Global Challenges and Regional Development: Proceedings of the IV Regular All-Russia*, pp. 4445-4453, 2012.
- [2] O. Demkiv, "Social capital: theoretical foundations of research and operational parameters," *Sociology: theory, method. Marketing*, No. 4, pp. 99-111, 2004.
- [3] I.V. Babayan and E.I. Pashinina, "Social well-being of young people in the socio-economic conditions of modernization," *News of Saratov University. New series. Series: sociology. Political science*, No. 1, pp. 15-22, 2016.
- [4] V.D. Kurganskaya, V.Yu. Dunaev, and M.S.-A. Shaykemelev, "Quality of life and ethnocultural education of Kazakh youth," *Social experience of the Komsomol and its importance for the modernization of Russia: Irkutsk*, Ottisk, 2018, 328 p.

- [5] L.V. Orinina, "Main aspects of the formation of the socio-cultural environment of the university by means of educational activities," *Young Scientist*, No. 2, pp. 813-815, 2014.
- [6] V.I. Gorshenin and L.G. Pak, "Pedagogical support of professional socialization of a future middle-level specialist in an educational organization," *Bulletin of the Orenburg State Pedagogical University*, No 2 (22), pp. 285-291, 2017.
- [7] E.A. Burdukovskaya, A.A. Shumeiko, and N.K. Schepkina, "Personal development of a student in the socio-cultural environment of a university," *Blagoveschensk: Amur State University*, 2006.
- [8] E.E. Drozhzhina, "Matrix of socialization of the individual in the socio-cultural environment of the university," *Bulletin of VolSU, Series 7: Philosophy. Sociology and social technology*, No. 7 (13), pp. 132-137, 2011.
- [9] V.P. Peshkova, "Pedagogical resources of the socio-cultural environment of an educational institution," *Bulletin of the Northwestern branch of the Russian Academy of Education*, No. 1 (13), pp. 36-39, 2013.
- [10] M.N. Filatova, "Designing the socio-cultural environment of a university: Theoretical and methodological aspect," Moscow: Russian State University of Oil and Gas n.a. I.M. Gubkin, 2012.
- [11] M.K. Gorshkov and F.E. Sheregi, "Youth of Russia: a sociological portrait," Moscow: TsSPiM, 2010.
- [12] V.A. Reshetnikov, "Komsomol as a phenomenon of Soviet civilization," *The social experience of the Komsomol and its significance for the modernization of Russia*, Irkutsk: Ottisk, pp. 23-28, 2018.
- [13] Yu.V. Svorotova, "Socio-cultural environment of a pedagogical college as a factor in the formation of students' readiness for professional activity," *Institute for Educational Development Strategy of the Russian Academy of Education*, Moscow, 2017.
- [14] A.V. Surovitskaya, "Social organization of youth leisure: Regional-municipal aspect," *Mordovia State University n.a. N.P. Ogarev*, Saransk, 2010.
- [15] T.V. Mikhailova, "Professional value orientations: On the question of the content of the concept," *Kazan Science*, No. 8, pp. 105-107, 2012.