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*The Problem of Professional
and Legal Training of Social Pedagogues*

Problem zawodowego i prawnego kształcenia pracowników socjalnych

ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the problem of the training of social pedagogues for social and legal protection of the individual. The works of Ukrainian and foreign scientists that present discussions on the training of specialists of socio-pedagogical work to advocacy have been analyzed in the paper. It has been found that professional and legal education of social pedagogues in today's conditions becomes the key to effective realizing the social and legal protection of various population groups, including children and youth.

Key words: social pedagogue; professional legal training of social pedagogues; socio-pedagogical work; legal culture; legal competence

INTRODUCTION

The question of effective training of social pedagogues to different aspects of future professional activity, in particular to social and legal protection of childhood, attracts today considerable attention of the world and the Ukrainian scientific community. In fact, this task and duty, in accordance with the actual queries of society and state, is determined as the main point for all social and socio-pedagogical work assignments. As a result of this we have the accumulation of scientific works that present discussions relating to the training of specialists of social and

socio-pedagogical work to legal protection activity with different categories of population, including children and young people, and also these works represent the different aspects of investigated problem. Nowadays among Ukrainian and foreign scientists active researches in this area are conducted by M. Harashkin (2010), M. Horbushina (2007), J. Kichuk (2010), I. Kovchyna (2008) A. Korotun (2010), A. Molchanov (2008), G. Sadryslamov (1999), O. Shulga (2006) and others, indicating undeniable social importance of the issues of social and legal assistance of adults and children, the importance of proper training professionals as well as conducting a systematic analysis of the theory and practice of legal education, defining its basic problems and ways to overcome these issues.

In the works of the above-mentioned researchers, first of all, the attention is focused on understanding problems of the implementation of social and legal protection of adults and children and also on deepening the understanding advocacy functions of social pedagogues in the context of identifying essential characteristics of their advocacy work. This work is presented by scientists as a professional activity aimed at protecting human rights and child assistance, increasing legal culture of children, their parents and teachers, and the formation of their beliefs, values orientations and outlook on the basis of respect for human rights as well.

ANALYSIS OF THE WORKS OF SCIENTISTS ON THE PROBLEM OF PROFESSIONAL AND LEGAL TRAINING OF SOCIAL PEDAGOGUES

In the present circumstances, as Harashkin (2010), Korotun (2010), Molchanov (2008), Shulga (2006) and others notice, that the problem of mastering legal culture by future specialists of social work acquires exceptional importance because the nature of their activity is directly related to the issues of human rights protection. That is why social pedagogue must efficiently solve professional tasks of social and legal support, provide social and legal services, make decisions regarding the fate of man as well as, on a legal basis, choose appropriate social technologies.

Analysis of the works of the scientists mentioned above suggests the focus of their efforts primarily on determining functional and structural composition of legal competence or legal culture of a social work professional as a prerequisite for his or her further successful advocacy work and also on founding a set of pedagogical conditions of its formation. In most cases, legal culture or legal competence of social pedagogues is considered as part of their general professional culture, that defines legal personality orientation in the context of professional activity, or as a personal and professional characteristics that reflects the ability based on values, knowledge and experience of solving social and legal problems of people according to their juridical status, to the priority of human rights and le-

gal interests, according to state ideology in professional socio-pedagogical work, to its deontology, ethical principles, regulatory limits and standards.

In the lists of professional knowledge that are presented by Ukrainian scientists, the necessary legal knowledge base of social pedagogues is defined. This base includes the knowledge of basic rights of children and young people in international documents; the knowledge of the functional content of social institutions that implement protective activity of personality; the knowledge of the content and functions of a social pedagogue in the context of protecting the rights of a client; the knowledge of the responsibilities of family, school, other institutions that take part in the process of the development of the individual; the knowledge of Ukrainian legal system and legislation.

Legal professional competence provides the ability of a specialist to successfully resolve social and educational problems according to the legal documents to protect the rights and interests of a client. As an integral attribute of the individual of social pedagogue, legal competence is based on the legal values of society, it is an expression of willingness to use the system of legal knowledge and skills in the process of the implementation of social and legal protection of man and the child, legal education of students and their parents, while revealing such professionally important qualities as legal activity and responsibility.

In modern scientific literature, the training of future social pedagogues for advocacy is considered as an integral educative process aimed at acquiring by students experience of social and legal protection of different groups, mastering competencies and values needed for the creative development and implementation of social and legal technologies in various areas of social work. Analysis of the researches shows that the main ways to achieve greater efficiency of the legal training of social pedagogues today are:

- addressing of content and technological implementation of their profile training to the requirements and specifics of social work in the legal field of professional activity;
- stimulation of socio-moral and professional-legal development of their personality by organizing educational environment that supports legal settings and social and legal values (respect the law, focus on human rights and freedoms, legality, etc.);
- implementation of legal education of students during the whole period of their studies within their educational, scientific, social and cultural activities and the activities during practice;
- use of a set of interrelated educational technologies that take into account the specificity of pedagogical advocacy process as a social space for professional self-realization of a social pedagogue;

- practical orientation of training, which manifests itself through student participation in a complex of logical interrelated specialized socio-educational field practices that reflect different types and levels of advocacy of socio-pedagogical staff.

Among Ukrainian scientists, a valuable contribution to the development of the problem of professional training of future social pedagogues to legal protection of the population in general and children in particular has been made by Kovchyna (2008). In her fundamental research, a deep analysis of the problem of training specialists of this field to socio-legal activities has been conducted as well as the experience of foreign countries in this sphere has been summarized, a model of social pedagogues' legal education has been developed and tested.

In general, the scientist considers social and legal protection as one of professional activities of social pedagogue aimed at implementing the rights and interests of the individual, and the training for its implementation first of all as the transfer of information about legislated social norms. On the basis of this activity, the formation of knowledge and skills with the aim of their further introduction into social environment of the individual is made. A valuable achievement of the scientist became the development and testing during future social pedagogues' practical training of the model of socio-legal activity that contains personal educational programs of social and legal guidance, including "Fundamentals of social and legal protection of personality" (1st year), "Self-protection of the individual" (2nd year), "Socio-pedagogical prevention of crimes among youth" (4th year). These programs provide the formation of adequate knowledge and skills and also technologies of their application in practical human rights protection activities of social pedagogues.

These issues can be traced in the study of Kichuk (2010), who also makes efforts to search for solutions to urgent problems of professional legal training of future social pedagogues as a precondition for their effective work to protect the rights of the individual. The training for advocacy, according to the scientist, primarily provides the formation of students' skills to take – based on juridical norms – professional decisions, which are based on their ability to navigate in juridical phenomena.

In his study, the scientist has identified pedagogical conditions, which significantly improve the quality of professional training of future social pedagogues for legal protection of man, including: individual's awareness of socio-professional significance of legal competence; actualization of legal education of future professionals; organization of positive communication within the subsystems "law lecturer – student", "student – social pedagogue (professional) – supervisor", "student – students group – future specialist"; stimulation of reflexive dominant of the process of interaction of future social pedagogue with a client during the

practice-based training. In general, to optimize training students of specialty “Social pedagogy” for future advocacy, the scientist offers nine courses with different topics, having put them into practice and proved their effectiveness.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, realizable researches of home and foreign scientists, once again, lead to the importance of the problem of social and legal protection of population and especially childhood as the most vulnerable category; actualizing the searches of new training ways of social sphere specialists to its realization; assisting the deeper comprehension of the process of forming students’ legal competence in the process of their professional training in different educational establishments; exposure of its positive lines and give an opportunity to take advantage of this experience in solving urgent questions of social pedagogues’ legal education in Ukraine. Their analysis gives an opportunity to realize the essence of legal protection activity in the system of social and socio-pedagogical help in Ukraine and abroad; to find out an aim and task of training specialists to its implementation; to understand maintenance and technology of the training. These works assist the comprehension of basic problems of professionally-legal education of social pedagogues and help to indicate factors conditioning the effective solving problems of social and legal protection of different groups of population, including children and young people, and also present methods and possibilities of their overcoming.

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STRESZCZENIE

Artykuł poświęcony jest zagadnieniu kształcenia pedagogów społecznych do prawnej i społecznej ochrony jednostek. Przedstawiono w nim analizę prac ukraińskich i zagranicznych naukowców ukazującą dyskusję na temat przygotowania specjalistów pracy socjo-pedagogicznej do rzecznictwa prawnego. Wykazano, że zawodowa i prawna edukacja pedagogów społecznych staje się dzisiaj gwarancją ochrony społecznej i prawnej różnych grup, w tym dzieci i młodzieży.

Słowa kluczowe: pedagog społeczny/pracownik społeczny; kształcenie zawodowe pedagogów społecznych w zakresie prawa; praca socjalno-pedagogiczna; kultura prawna; kompetencje prawne