

Social and Cultural Significance of Recreation in Preschool Child Development

Statement of the problem. Contemporary social and cultural life of Ukrainian society has been lately characterized by a number of negative processes such as loss of spiritual and moral values, the exclusion of children from art and culture, reducing the financial security of culture and modern cultural and recreational centers, the lack of specific policy in the organization of children's cultural and recreational activities. However, there is a high level of commercialization of children's leisure i.e. there is a set of commercial recreational facilities and clubs for both all-round development of a child and interest. There are also so-called "areas of children's activities", paid children's sections and clubs.

All these factors worsen the situation in such an important part of children's lives as recreation depriving our children of proper childhood.

The phenomenon of leisure is a subject of traditional interdisciplinary research carried out within the framework in the theory of the humanities (sociology, psychology, pedagogy, philosophy and cultural studies). Meanwhile, in theoretical and practical terms of Ukrainian sociology the problem of child's recreation is one of the least studied.

Analysis of previous research. Theoretical basis of studying this problem is grounded on scholars' works in different fields of science. Thus, sociocultural significance of leisure is highlighted in the works of V.Y. Bochelyuk, A.D. Zharkov, T.I. Kovalchuk, O.V. Ponukalina, A.V. Sasyhov, I.P. Sydor et al. The impact of sociocultural environment on child's development is explained in the works by E.N. Gusynsky, E.O. Fleryna, R.M. Chumicheva et al. The nature and characteristics of children's leisure is described by I.I. Boychev, N.V. Kochubei, A.V. Pervushyna, O.N. Khakhlova, T.I. Chernihovets et al. Cultural and recreational activities of children are discussed by S.M. Honcharuk, N.V. Kochubei, O.M. Petrovsky, V.M.

Rozin, O.H. Sevan et al. The value of leisure in child's socialization is emphasized by M. Ariarsky, B. Tytov, Y. Kleyberh, M. Poplavsky and et al.

The purpose of the article is to reveal the sociocultural significance of recreation and show its impact on the formation and development of the child at preschool age.

The main material of the article. Since birth a child begins to develop as a social being. Social environment is a source and condition of this development. Parents and close ones help to interact with the surrounding reality. Child's interaction with the environment, first of all with the social environment, micro environment, and assimilation into human culture play an important role in his/her developing and becoming a personality.

Basic qualities and characteristics of the child as an individual are formed at preschool age. Also, communications and relationships are established in this period, which forms the core of a personality. This period is characterized by the fact that steady inner world and models of behaviour are formed and the fact that the child can be considered a personality is stated [4].

At preschool age child begins to use moral norms in his/her behavior. His/her moral conceptions and evaluation scale are formed. There develops a certain attitude to him/herself and his/her capabilities. Thus, during the preschool period the child goes through a long way of development from identification with the environment to the discovery of his/her inner life and consciousness [4].

Until recently, children's recreation was considered to be a minor part of their lives. A characteristic feature of both the society and families with children was a wrong attitude to leisure and recreation as something unimportant, secondary, and not a determining factor in a person's life. Global shifts in human consciousness that occurred in the late XX early XXI century affected the understanding of the value of leisure. There arise scientific concepts of free time. Such directions of scientific knowledge as leisure studies, sociology of leisure and leisure education are being developed. Therefore, nowadays leisure activities of children and adolescents are becoming of high importance.

Recreation is a special sphere of children's socialization, which is a good place for realizing their interests and needs, personal and social roles. This area is also important for developing activity and creative initiative. The search for new values and goals through free choice activities is carried out. Recreation is defined as a distinct sphere in the life of individuals and society that has a great opportunity for the child's upbringing, formation and development of personality, gaining experience in solving everyday problems. Value orientation, cultural needs, tastes, emotional and volitional sphere of children and young people are formed through leisure activities [2].

Recreational activities of children and adults refer to an activity that creates the cultural and recreational environment that harmoniously integrates art, travelling, and holidays. It is also a chance for personal self-realization that promotes free creative assimilation into cultural values, personal development, and in general this is the reason for the development of a society. The culture of recreation can function and demands two essential elements such as the individual with his/her system of values, needs, interests, orientations, attitudes and an appropriate level of sociocultural environment that ensures the implementation and realization of the optimum potential, interests and needs of the individual.

Sociocultural environment either excites stimulating the potential activity of the individual or represses, restrains, puts back, and distracts him/her from his/her self-realization [3].

As for recreational environment of the child, on the one hand, it is created for children by adults, and, on the other hand, it is the result of the children's activity. These are two inseparable processes. It cannot be stated that only adults are those who create such environment, the children themselves create it as well, encouraging adults to certain actions.

Understanding the value of recreation for children in many ways is determined by close people and family. Positive or negative example of adults can define the child's attitude to spare time and developing certain forms of cultural and recreational activities. These behavioral examples can also encourage understanding

of their value for his/her own self-development or creating a bad habit of spending his/her own free time without any purpose.

N.V. Kochubei provides several levels of child's leisure environment. According to his idea this is the micro-environment of the family, mesoenvironment in a kindergarten or in a center of children's creativity and social macro-environment [3].

Thus, in a family a child adjusts to certain types of recreation and leisure activities. Family leisure practices are related to adult work schedules, to their level of income, their aspirations and desires, and have some temporal definition, i.e. every day, every week and every year. Every day implies a variety of activities with the child that may include reading books, having a rest without watching TV, walks and active games outdoors. It is necessary to mention that it also requires the creation of such environment where child's various creative abilities can be manifested and revealed due to a free choice of a particular activity. Subject and spatial environment is essential for the formation of the child's personality, his/her comprehensive development, and creation of aesthetic, emotional and psychological comfort [3].

Family traditions are most often to be expressed every week (common trips to the countryside or to the forest, visiting a variety of cultural and recreational facilities and institutions, etc.). In a family where certain traditions are produced and maintained folk culture, customs and rituals are distributed. All these rituals, traditions and customs have not only aesthetic, but also moral, educational function, and they bear the burden of certain social regulatives.

Spending a holiday together is meaningful for child's development and strengthening family relationships. Unfortunately, more often than not the importance of this period is underestimated by parents. This is the very period when the family has the opportunity to travel, to explore the world, to gain new experiences and positive emotions, to be involved in the beauty. Thus, this is the way parents and their child can develop themselves fully as individuals with a broad outlook.

In leisure activities kindergarten staff is represented as the main communication link between the individual and society. Classes in children's groups are performed at a higher level of activity that is not limited only to gaming activities. Kindergarten encourages a child to learn cultural values, to master skills and abilities of communication both with their peers and adults. An effective way of complete harmonious development of the individual is to engage preschoolers into artistic and aesthetic activity, which includes graphic (painting, sculpture, appliqué work), music (singing and dancing), theatrical (participation in children's costumed holidays, roles in scenes), art and language activities (reciting poems humoresques). These activities serve as a positive and emotional enrichment and cause emotions of joy, excitement, inspiration, and displace anxiety, tension, and feelings of helplessness [1].

Thus, children's groups meet child's communicative needs and interests in emotional contact and empathy, in the information, in uniting efforts for joint actions. It is important for participants in children's groups to share their success with their parents and to interact constantly with each other.

As for the public level of recreational macro-environment, it should be noted that it is the level of the child's informal contacts with the surrounding world. Values, patterns of behaviour and communication are formed in the process of informal communication, various games, entertainment activities, activities according to the child's interests. Values and models of behaviour function in the recreational communities and do not always coincide with those that family and kindergarten try to instill. Informal communication with other members of a society is the perfect environment for the development of children's friendship, sociability, and psychological autonomy.

The main objective of this level in recreational environment is building the conditions for creative, intellectual and physical development of children in free time. The objective also implies the introduction of new forms and methods of children's leisure life and meeting their cultural and spiritual needs. There are various groups, schools, clubs to every special interest and sports sections that help

to perform the mentioned task. Going to clubs, groups, and participation in collective games and amusements provides the opportunity for children to appear in the new social positions and roles that are different from those they perform in everyday activities.

However, this level is the most commercialized, and as a result, unfortunately not all children are able to attend clubs, groups and sections.

Conclusions. Thus, the conclusion suggests that the pre-school age is the time of an active socialization of the child, his/her development and interaction with adults and the peers, awakening moral and aesthetic feelings, entering the culture.

Child's activity in his/her free time is directed to the immediate formation of his/her identity, i.e. what makes him/her a personality. Free time is usually aimed at the development of creative abilities and inclinations, raising the cultural level, the aesthetic, moral and physical improvement of the child.

Children's leisure embodies both national, ethnic and regional, family and children's traditions (spiritual, holiday, art, game), reproduces child's outlook contributing to the realization of diverse needs of the individual (cognitive, communicative, creative, aesthetic, recreational, and hedonistic).

Attracting children to assimilate into sociocultural values and active way of having rest in leisure time, there takes place a contribution to the complete fulfillment of children's creative energy and potential. Thus, their activity, initiative and intensive development of individual abilities are awakened.

Collective activities and children's entertainment in leisure hours, reading together, going to the cinema, theaters, museums expand children's horizons and develop their optimistic attitudes to life.

References:

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