

PATRIOTIC EDUCATION PARADIGM IN UKRAINE

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Abstract: The paper deals with various aspects of patriotic education at secondary and higher educational establishments of Ukraine. The study analyses the latest regulations related to the national patriotic doctrine, compares the results of their implementation at the secondary and tertiary level of education and provides illustrations of patriotic education in different countries.

Key words: patriotic education, national identity, patriotic doctrine, secondary and higher educational establishments

Patriotism is about the dignity of a nation, the love of the Motherland, the language, the people, and the history of your country. However, with the global spread of multicultural idea over the past decades, the crisis of patriotism is observed in many countries. Nations that encourage multiculturalism can reap tremendous benefits from democracy, rapid development and technological progress resulting in higher standards of living and life quality. Since globalization and cosmopolitanism are the driving forces of these processes, the national idea nowadays is focused mostly on economic development of a particular country. Hence the national identity is very often lost in multicultural surroundings.

But if the country is captured by the enemy, and the national dignity is suppressed, the issue of patriotism gains ground. And that is evidently the case in Ukraine. For many years, the idea of patriotism was considered the factor that rather disunited than united the nation and viewed as the topic not worth paying attention to.

Patriotic education of young generation was to a great extent ignored in Ukrainian educational establishments, whereas in many economically developed nations this aspect was declared a top priority. The analysis of cultural and educational literature on the topic and the comparison of educational concepts display the patterns of patriotic education in different countries. For instance, in many educational establishments of the United States of America, an academic day begins with The Vow of Flag Devotion [2]. Contributing much to the national identity and patriotism, the USA Military Forces are viewed by the young Americans as a trustworthy institution. Similarly, the patriotic education is strictly verified by the Communist Party in China. 50 hours of patriotic lessons per academic year are obligatory for all Chinese schools. In Great Britain, the major source of patriotic education is Scout organizations and teams, which are very popular there. Equally in France, the children and youth are very closely integrated to the Army that is a patriotic institution as well. Young people are encouraged to visit military camps and communicate with soldiers, thus learning the peculiarities of military life [3]. Furthermore, in 2018 the President of France E. Macron declared the prospect of military service for the children aged between 10 and 16 [6]. So, we can assume that patriotic education constitutes an integral part of educational system of many prosperous economies.

There's an increased demand for such experience to be implemented in Ukraine these days. The legislation framework of patriotic education in Ukraine incorporates a set of decrees and strategies adopted by the President of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science, such as "Arrangements Aimed at Improving National-Patriotic Education of Children and the Youth" (2015) and "Some Issues of National-Patriotic Education in Educational Establishments of Ukraine" (2022) [4]. And as matter of fact, patriotic doctrine is intensively employed by Ukrainian secondary schools. School children are engaged in many events which bring forward informative messages about the value of the native language, the land and the people who live in Ukraine. They take part in volunteering activities in order to give a hand to Ukrainian Army and help the people who became victims of the murderous war.

Ukrainian children are growing under conditions and circumstances which make them patriotic, and schools promote their active involvement with the Ukrainian national principles and ideas. Moreover, patriotic education is realized through academic process at subject classes.

At the same time, the situation at higher educational establishments of Ukraine is different. The day before the full-scale Russian invasion, “The Development Strategy of Higher Education in Ukraine for the years of 2022-2032” was adopted [1]. This is a detailed guideline for reconstruction and reforming the Ukrainian higher education system in the after-war period. The accomplishment of the tasks put by the Strategy will allow us to diminish the destructive consequences caused by the invasion. The document contains 5 main strategic aims to achieve. These include a learner-centred approach, general competence development, legitimate culture, physical activities, students’ academic mobility and others. But patriotic doctrine hasn’t been mentioned at all. It is obviously wrong since the Ukrainian university students are very patriotic-oriented young people, who long to continue the patriotic traditions of the secondary education, enhance their knowledge about the country they live in, honour national values and contribute to the welfare and victory of Ukrainians in the war. We have a hope that due to the time requirements and circumstances pressure some amendments concerning patriotic education in the Ukrainian higher educational establishments will be soon introduced to the Strategy. This is a top priority issue both for the young generation in Ukraine and the Ukrainian national security policy.

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