
SPIRITUAL AND ETHICAL CULTURE IN THE SYSTEM OF SECULAR AND ECCLESIASTICAL HIGHER EDUCATION

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(Received 7 June 2017)

Abstract

Education, as one of the functions of social development, determines the effective interaction of all its components. It is obvious that social partnership of the Russian Orthodox Church and the state educational institutions is in demand today more than ever, especially in the development of value orientations. The article describes the experience of the interaction between secular and ecclesiastical higher education as a strategically meaningful direction of development of spiritual and ethical culture in higher education on the example of cooperation of Altai State University and Barnaul seminary. The article represents the results concerning the educational, scientific and cultural activities. It emphasizes the necessity of federal and regional target programs to support the patriotic, spiritual and ethical education of Russian citizen, the urgency of increasing the number of budget places on humanitarian fields of study in higher education, the need for a unified information platform for the promotion of traditional Christian moral values among young people and students.

Keywords: spiritual, ethical culture, secular, humanities, enlightenment

1. Introduction

The realities of modern life encourage society to a constant search for harmonious forms of existence of different spheres of human activity. Increasing the level of informatization of society, the globalization of the economy and social relations lead to significant changes in the traditional way of life. It is clear that for this reason the reform process became a kind of a permanent sign of modern life and the activities of both public and many private institutions.

The interests of the state should extend not only to the improvement of political, economic and social mechanisms. In the conditions of the emerging post-industrial society, the spiritual and aesthetic component of the development of the human personality is important.

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The human personality, every individual life should not be excluded from the motivational component of modern reforms. After all, the basis and the main goal of any society is the creation of conditions for the harmonious development of personality, based not only on the principles of providing constitutional rights, but also on the formation of human dignity in the broadest sense of the word. It immediately arises the question about what is related to human dignity itself and what is not. This issue is beyond the scope of the topic, but it needs a new philosophical-anthropological, philosophical, ideological and psychological conceptualization. The scientific solution of the problem of public choice that Russia faces from the turn of 1980-1990, when the socialist system has collapsed and the communist ideology has lost its vitality, should be considered namely from these standpoints. The strategic question of choosing a new national idea periodically comes to light in public discussion, but it is still difficult to talk about achieving any progress in this direction. It is impossible to choose a national idea. This is not a task for a single generation and it is clearly seen in the history of many developed countries. But the basis for the formation of the newest national idea must be established right now.

The role of higher education in the formation of future national idea's basis cannot be overemphasized. Higher education system, in addition to the training of specialists, should solve the problem of formation of positive imperatives in the field of spiritual and moral values, which prevailed in the Russian mentality for a long time. These values include such categories as the value and uniqueness of human life, the responsibility for the freedom of choice, love for the homeland. To this end, an important thing is reliance on the cultural and historical traditions. We have to admit the fact that currently the only carrier of authentic traditional Russian culture is the Russian Orthodox Church in the name of the believers and the clergy. It should also be added that many believers are active participants in social processes and it proves their active life position. There are representatives of political, economic, cultural establishment, sincerely setting themselves up as the representatives of the Orthodox outlook. Institute of regimental chaplains has recently been restored in the Russian Army. This shows the necessity and importance of cooperation between government agencies with representatives of the Orthodox Church.

Altai is a unique cross-border region where Altai State University has more than twenty years of experience in cooperation with the Barnaul eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church on the formation of patriotic, spiritual and moral education of youth and students in the spirit of traditional Christian moral values. Proof of this fact are the scientific publications of Siberian researchers T. M. Stepankaya [1, 2], S.V. Zemlyukov [3], Y.A. Kreydun [4, 5], L.I. Nehvyadovich [2], A.L. Usanova [6], I.V. Chernyaeva [7], K.A. Melekhova [8], E.A. Popov [9] and many other authors.

2. Methods

Author's research concept includes the use of complex methods to the study of the interaction of secular and ecclesiastical systems of higher education. The main theoretical and methodological approaches are: historical and systematic, formational, complex. The main methodological ideas of the article are the principles of dialectics. The study of higher education was based on the principles of historicism, development, determinism, logical sequence. Conceptually important for research are the works of S.V. Zemlyukov [3], T.M. Stepankaya [2], I.V. Chernyaeva [10], in which the spiritual and moral culture serves as strategically important direction of development of modern Russian education.

3. Results of the study

In 2006, after the transformation of Barnaul religious school into a seminary, collaboration with the University expanded and now it is implemented on the basis of synthesis of two knowledge types - scientific and worldview - and, correspondingly, two cognition types - the way of reason and the way of faith.

Cooperation in the field of education has started in 1996, when one of the first admissions on the specialty 'Theology' in Russia was carried out in Altai State University. Among the lecturers were, as required by the state educational standard, the clergy representatives who had sufficient educational qualifications. The Department carried out not only educational, but also research activities, and held large-scale scientific and practical conferences. In particular, in 1999 one of the conferences was devoted to the anniversary of Altai Spiritual Mission. It was attended by secular and Church historians from all over Siberia. The conference made impact on the active study of Christianization of the Siberian peoples in different aspects and at different levels from school reports to the master's and doctoral theses. During the years of active work, the Department of Theology educated professionals working not only in government, but also in the Church structures. This is also very important, as a priest who has university education and works with the community of believers, can make a significant contribution to the spiritual and ethic education of a flock.

Changing the principles of government subsidies to higher education led to the fact that admission to the specialty 'Theology' was put on hold because of the lack of budget places. General 'narrowing of the education field' in the area of Humanities in higher education should be noted. Reduced admission quotas for such education areas as Philology, History Art, Religious Studies actualize today the problem of staff willing and able to implement the objectives of the state policy of spiritual and moral development of Russian citizen. Note that the competence forming during the development of educational training programs of the highest qualification (Master's programme, postgraduate study) does not

cover mastering knowledge, aimed at in-depth study of Russian history, Russian language and Russian culture which are the components of the spiritual and ethical culture in higher education.

In this context, it is necessary to make maximum use of the experience of Altai State University's scientific and pedagogical schools in order to conduct fundamental research in the field of Humanities, art and culture, as well as additional education and extracurricular forms of cooperation. A special role in this process is played by the Faculty of History, Faculty of Mass Communication, Philology and Political Science, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts, the Centre of culture and education, and the Science library. The content of joint projects of classic university and seminary regularly becomes the subject of public debate. Eleven scientific conferences, seminars, round tables and other public events have been held just over the past three years.

Thus, as a result of cooperative work of classic university with the seminary, university spaces of Altai became the regional centres of All-Russian celebration of Saint Sergius of Radonezh's 700th birth anniversary (2014), the 1000th anniversary of Saint Vladimir repose (in 2015), the 1000th anniversary of the Russian presence in Holy Mount Athos (in 2016). A general significant result was the annual cooperative carrying the Days of Slavic Written Language and Culture, Christmas, Cyril and Methodius Readings. Herewith, classic university is the venue for the main plenary session of the Readings. As part of the scientific-practical conference of young scientists 'Youth – to Barnaul', Barnaul Seminary is an organizer of the section 'Orthodox and spiritual culture of Russia', which is attended not only by students, but also by Altai pupils.

Every year, at the premises of Altai State University Scientific Library an event dedicated to the Days of Orthodox Book in Altai takes place. This event is usually prepared by teams of Mass Communication Philology and Political Science Faculty and Barnaul seminary. Thus, the students are able to explore the masterpieces of ancient Russian literature and new works of contemporary Orthodox writers. It expands views of future philologists, journalists, culture and art workers about the traditional Russian writing culture.

The interesting is experience of Orthodox quizzes in Chinese, which are held annually for students from China by Barnaul Seminary. This work contributes to the cultural adaptation of foreign students and their better understanding of Russian culture. Obvious example of foreign students' inclusion to Russian artistic heritage is the international creative competition 'Illustrate poems and tales of A.S. Pushkin', and the International academic competition on the Russian language 'The Wonderful World of Slavic word'. It should be noted that these projects are implemented within the framework of the federal target program 'The Russian Language' [2].

Interaction expansion of secular and religious education in university is connected also with the subject of the on-going research. The priorities of Faculty of History include the history of Orthodox curacies in Altai, Altai Spiritual Mission, the genealogy of population, including the clergy. In cooperation with Barnaul seminary, archaeological excavations are under

preparation at the place of destroyed Barnaul Cathedral in order to search for foundations. The results of this study should help answer the question about the possibility of restoring the main architectural structure of the historic part of Barnaul in the original location.

Altai State University Faculty of Arts has become a major scientific and educational centre for the study of religious culture and art in Siberia [8]. Over the past 10 years candidate and doctoral dissertations were defended there in the Dissertation Council on topics of missionary and rural church architecture of the south of Western Siberia, the reconstruction of the lost Barnaul temples' iconostases. Currently, graduate students under the guidance of classic university Faculty of Art professors and Barnaul seminary explore such little-studied forms of Christian art as Siberian bells, synthesis of arts in the liturgical space of a temple, book miniatures in manuscripts of Old Believers and Byzantine heritage in the modern temple construction of Siberia [4].

From 2015 until the present time, Altai State University and Barnaul Seminary have implemented youth programs in order to counter the spread of religious extremism, ethnic and cultural intolerance among youth, including educational and awareness programs, publications in mass media. Students of the university and seminary are actively involved in discussions as: 'Working with foreign students and applicants for the prevention of extremism and xenophobia among foreign students', 'The State, Russian Orthodox Church and society against narco-aggression', 'Intersection of destiny. Orthodoxy: freedom of choice?'. As a result of discussion, the panellists agreed on the inclusion of the course 'State laws on religion' in the curriculum of lawyers and clergymen.

It is important to note that since the integration of the course 'Fundamentals of religious cultures and secular ethics' in the curricula of schools, Altai State University made a venue for advanced training courses on the program 'Formation of a school teacher readiness to teach the course *Fundamentals of religious cultures and secular ethics*'.

4. Discussion

As the experience of interaction has shown, the cultural and educational projects are effective forms of cooperation [1]. This is determined by the contemporary concert and exhibition infrastructure of the university, as well as by the high artistic level of expositions of exhibitions, musical concerts, theatrical productions, and creative meetings. The participation of well-known musicians, writers, actors, professional direction and a wide range of topics led to popularity of events in the secular and in Church communities.

Thus, since 2011, Faculty of Arts, together with the Diocese of Barnaul, organized regional art exhibition 'We praise the bright holiday of Christmas' in classical university art gallery 'Universum'. The purpose of the exhibition is not only the formation of interest of schools, gymnasiums, lyceums pupils in the origins of traditional Orthodox culture, but also the support of the family as a spiritual and moral foundation of society, because under the terms of the contest,

jury particularly note the family works done by representatives of different generations. This idea is continued in thematic music concerts, organized by the Centre of Culture and Education of Altai State University ‘Music Dynasties of Barnaul’ and ‘Music lessons for students’. Among the thematic cycles, programs dedicated to the Russian Church music hold specific place. The works are performed by the Academic Youth Chapel Choir of Altai State University, Barnaul Seminary Choir, University Philharmonic Orchestra of Russian folk instruments, chamber string orchestras and guest soloists from the leading concert organizations of Siberia.

5. Conclusions

Thus, the interaction model of higher secular and higher spiritual educational institutions, which is worked out within twenty years of cooperation of Altai State University and Barnaul Seminary, covers a vast range of activities. This fact highlights the invariance of spiritual and ethical education foundations, based on traditional Russian culture, the living carrier of which is the Russian Orthodox Church. Cooperation between classical university and seminary has a great potential to expand in all the relevant areas of education, research, patriotic and educational activities.

Proposal of Altai State University and Barnaul seminary on the improvement of this work:

1. Professional community should consider the possibility of request to the relevant authorities regarding actions for federal and (or) regional target support of the program of patriotic and ethic education of Russian citizens.
2. In order to preserve the traditions of classical university education in the field of spiritual and ethical education, there is a need to apply to Ministry of Education and Science to replenish lost budget places on humanitarian areas of training in university.
3. It is necessary to consolidate the segmentary specialized websites into a united federal information platform ‘Patriotic education and spiritual and ethical culture in higher school’, which will promote the development of information system, popularization of traditional Christian moral values among young people and students.

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