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Russian and British volunteering

People have always needed help and nothing changes from year to year. There are always those who need help, but not everyone responds to their call. There are always people who will not turn away from you in a difficult moment. Someone sends humanitarian aid to other countries, someone tries to help people from their city in any possible way, and someone creates entire volunteer groups. Volunteering is an activity that is aimed at providing gratuitous services to a person or group of people who are not relatives of the volunteer, without calculating the monetary compensation. This definition defines the value of volunteerism most accurately. Currently, volunteering is widespread in many English-speaking countries, but unfortunately, in Russia the situation is different, this type of social activity is not popular. That is why it is so required and important to understand the reasons for the popularity of this direction abroad and put in practice the foreign experience in our region and even in school. School is a vital stage in the social development of young people, and that is why it is required to make them understand the importance of volunteering in order to form a completely different generation of people.[2]

To understand the features of modern volunteer movements in Russia and Europe, you should refer to the history of volunteerism. It originates from ancient times. It is based on religious values ("love your neighbor"), which became the basis for the mass selfless work of religious communities. Gratuitous, altruistic labor is based on the historical phenomenon of mutual assistance of primeval people, the formation of social norms of solidarity for the survival of related groups and communities.

Volunteers play an important role in the life of society. In today's world, there are problems in different spheres of life which cannot be solved without the help of volunteers:

- AIDS prevention; promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- Conservation of nature and preservation of environmental cleanliness;
- prevention and control of smoking, alcohol and drug addiction;
- assistance to the elderly, disabled, orphans, the poor, migrants, refugees, homeless people and others who need material and moral support;
- improvement of streets, houses, green areas;
- Assistance to animals, maintenance of reserves and zoos;
- conducting educational talks with young people in order to prevent free sexual relations and teenage prostitution;
- Internet volunteering, an example of which is Wikipedia;
- assistance in the organization of charity concerts and various festivals;
- assistance to law enforcement agencies, medical personnel, rescuers;
- technical support.

Comparing volunteer movement in Russia and in the UK, there are some obvious differences between the Russian system of volunteerism and the Western.

Children's volunteering In Russia, you will not see children's volunteering because in the understanding of our society children are members of the community who need help. At the same time, it is forgotten that children are future citizens and the formation of a responsible civil society is impossible without the appropriate education of the younger generation. Children's volunteer activities can take the form of caring for the environment (for example, maintaining cleanliness and planting trees in the yard, cleaning water bodies), supporting a new student at school, helping the homeless.

There is a volunteer group "Donors to Children" in Moscow the participants of which organize club classes in the hematology department, children's competitions and trips to the theater. Moreover,

they have initiated fund raising to find bone marrow donors and medicines. They just come to play with the children and chat with their parents.

Family volunteering The reason of this movement in Great Britain, unlike in Russia, lies in the culture and education of future citizens in the spirit of family volunteerism. In the United States, there is even a Family Volunteer Day, which is celebrated on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This event not only brings family members together, but also allows them to make a joint contribution to the development of the local community.[1]

Inclusive volunteering The only work to help the disabled in Russia is to make their life in the society easier. But often these people have a lot to share with us. In Great Britain, the process of including people with disabilities in full-fledged public life has long been practiced.[3]

An important role in the development of Russian volunteerism was played by the Abilimpics movement which promotes career guidance, motivation, quality education and successful employment of the disabled and.

At the heart of any volunteer movement is the old principle: if you want to feel like a person – help another one. Today, there are hundreds of thousands of volunteer movements around the world which aim at providing voluntary unselfish assistance for those who need it.

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