

Nadezda Mikheeva

St. Petersburg State University

namik9@gmail.com

ADOLESCENT'S SOCIAL COMPETENCE AS A PERSONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY IN CONDITIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

The family is the first and most important socialization institute in the life of every person. It influences his personality during all his life. Consequences of the present financial crisis can course new family problems or increase those ones which already exist. Therefore different technologies of a social work with families and children become especially urgent in times of crisis.

As far as an adolescents' social well-being directly depends on that one of their families young people perceive family problem's influence coursed by the economic crisis. Conditionally, two groups of such problems can be marked out.

I. Shortage of resources

1. Family income decrease. This makes a family economize their financial means in everyday life.
2. Parents' free time decrease: if they have to work extra hours, the time for communication with children and a social control upon them decrease.

II. Psychological problems

1. Parents' emotional exertion and stress because of a family income decrease can course family conflicts.
2. Parents' negative emotions and directives (anxiety, pessimism, skeptical evaluation of their children's life perspectives in unstable economic conditions) can be mastered by their children.

Families with children should have an access to different kinds of social services in order to prevent difficult life situations or be able to cope with them. Preventive social work technologies, for example those ones of adolescent's social competence development, also promote children's social adaptation to financial crisis consequences.

In common sense *social competence* can be defined as an integrative personal virtue which shapes in a process of socialization and unites capacities, knowledge, skills and practical actions and permits a person to enter to a complex milieu of a modern society (Kelasiev 2008, 148). For adaptation to crisis consequences adolescents should have first of all basic knowledge about social institutes and processes, social reflexion, social and communicative skills, behavioral strategies in typical situations, a capacity for resisting a negative milieu's pressure and different threats for their health and personal development. If young people have these knowledge and capacities they are able to realize better their personality and professional preferences, to get an access to actual useful information, to expand a social contacts network, to organize their leisure in a constructive way. Adolescents' social competence is an important condition of their inclusion in developing milieus (a family, a school, and different leisure organizations) which are typical for their age. These milieus possess resources which are necessary (especially during the economic crisis) for personal development and effective socialization of young people.

The basic milieus for the adolescents' social competence developing are the family and the school. However, they are not always able to prepare young people for living in unstable and changing conditions. That is why in addition to their pedagogic influence it is necessary to use different technologies of adolescents' social competence rising: educational programs,

trainings and also *audiovisual* methods which include developing computer games and social video films. Audiovisual technologies are aimed to primary young people's deviant behavior prevention. These methods are indirect because they do not give a direct assessment of adolescent's behavior. Instead of this, they are aimed to developing their social reflexion, social and analytical skills which help a person to assess different social situations and possible ways of behavior in them. Empirical approbation of author's audiovisual technologies of young people's social competence developing showed that in general adolescents perceive them positively, with an interest, and support an idea of using such technologies at a school preventive social work.

References

Kelasiev, Viacheslav 2008: *Social work developing as a direction of a young generation's deviant behavior prevention*, St. Petersburg: Scythia Print