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Disabled youth as a special social group

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Abstract: The article discusses the boundaries of youth, and their interpretation by international organizations and scientists. Various definitions and terms of disability are studied in detail, the characteristic features of youth with disabilities as a separate social group are highlighted.

Key words: youth, disability model, children with special needs, people with disabilities, abnormal children

With sufficient confidence, we can point to a clear lengthening of the periods of adolescence and youth in modern societies. 1.8 billion young people aged 10-24 live in the world[1], more than ever before in the history of mankind. In different countries and cultures, the process of socialization is uneven. Therefore, the boundaries of youth at different time intervals and under certain socio-economic conditions for the development of the country are determined in different ways. For example, at the beginning of the XX century. this age was determined from 10-12 to 20 years, and at present, from 17 to 28–30 years[20].

The UN, UNESCO classify boys and girls aged 17 to 25 years as this social group. Sociologists of a number of countries, in particular the USA, distinguish the period of youth from 12 to 24 years old, while subdividing young people into "youth" (12-18 years) and "young adults" (18-24 years) [3].

In the 1970-1980s, as a result of the acceleration, lengthening and complication of the process of socialization, the age limits of young people have significantly expanded and now lie in the following limits: the lower - between 14 and 16 years old; upper - between 25 and 30, and in some countries - between 25 and 35 years.

A number of well-known Russian scientists (in particular, I.S. Kon, V.N. Boryaz) believe that the age limits of youth from 16 to 30 years old, adopted in the 1960-1970s, no longer reflect the real social processes taking place in society, and therefore push the age limit to 35 years. I. Cohn, in his youth, distinguished youthful (from 14–15 to 18 years) as a period between childhood and adulthood, giving him the following definition: "Youth is a socio-demographic group, distinguished on the basis of a combination of age characteristics, characteristics of social status and the resulting and other socio-psychological properties.

Youth as a certain phase, the stage of the life cycle is biologically universal, but its specific age limits, associated social status and socio-psychological characteristics are of a socio-historical nature and depend on the social system, culture and the laws of socialization inherent in this society”

The scientist N.M. Latipova defines youth “as a socio-demographic group of society, endowed with socio-psychological sets of characteristics, features of social status and properties that are determined by the level of socio-economic and cultural development, as well as features of socialization in society”. This definition reveals youth as a separate part of society with its own characteristic features of development, the features of which are associated with the development processes of society itself.

The concept of “youth” is also based on the characteristics of the psychological development of a person. According to scientists, at about 14 years old, a person begins to become aware of his social connections and his place in society.

By the age of eighteen, the formation of the basic psychophysical characteristics of a person ends, and by the age of 24, the processes of growth in the human body are completed and the social status of the person is formed. V.V. Bovkun identifies five groups of young people: teenagers - 14-15 years old; pre-youthful - 16–17; early youthful - 18–20; mid-youth - 21–25; older youthful - 26-30 age[4]. Необходимо принять к сведению также неоднозначность молодежного возраста и относительно социальных ролей молодых людей, специфики их деятельности.

At the same time, characterizing the problems of youth, at the fortieth session of the UN General Assembly, attention was also paid to the fact that “young people play a double, at first glance, contradictory role, on the one hand, they actively contribute to the process of social change, and on the other - are his victims”. It follows that young people, being the engine of progress, can lead to a regression of society.

The upper limit of youth, with all its conventions, implies precisely the age at which a young person becomes economically independent, able to create material and spiritual values, to continue the human race. And this means that all these conditions should be considered in close unity, interdependence, and even more so without any idealization. For example, it is known that many young people become economically independent (capable of earning livelihoods, self-sufficiency) before the age of 28 age[5].

Of course, this does not preclude receiving economic assistance from parents, relatives, friends, and at a later age. In this regard, it seems that the border of youth (28 years) is largely due to the period of graduation, obtaining a profession, i.e. completion of preparation for productive work in any field of activity

The complication of life requires more thorough preparation for it; however, the “long childhood” was initially the most important sign of the formation of human civilization. In this regard, the definition of both the content and boundaries of the period of youth should be multifactorial[6].

The approach connecting the definition of youth age with the concept of “working capacity” is widely used. From this point of view, childhood is a period when people are not engaged in productive labor; youth is the time to choose a profession, study.

The modern period is characterized by a long transition to adult status in comparison with the Middle Ages in connection with the lengthening of human life. So, biological, technological factors limit the ability to assign one or another value to the age stages. Youth, from this point of view, are those whom society considers youth. Therefore, we need to talk about the sociality of age, i.e. a decisive role in its definition of precisely sociocultural factors[7].

Youth age is determined depending on the prevailing historical events, the development of the country, the standard of living of the population and other factors. According to statistical studies, young people in the CIS account for less than a quarter of the total population of the Commonwealth. This indicator varies among the CIS countries as follows: from 21% in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to 31% in Tajikistan and Uzbekistane[8].

Given the annual growth in the number of young people in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the state is doing a lot of work to create conditions for young people in the field of education and employment. One of the first legislative acts adopted in our country after independence was the Law "On the basics of state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated November 20, 1991. On its basis, on September 14, 2016, the Law "On state youth policy was adopted»[9], which defines the system of socio-economic, organizational and legal measures implemented by the state and providing for the creation of conditions for the social formation and development of the intellectual, creative and other potential of young people from 14-30 years old.

Age as a criterion for identifying specific groups makes it possible to determine two subgroups within the group of young people with disabilities: people aged 14 to 18 years and directly young people with disabilities aged 18 to 30–35 years. At the same time, the designation of the lower age limit of 18 years is due to the fact that, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, people with disabilities under 18 years of age have the status of “child-disabled person”, and the age limit of a group of young people with disabilities 30–35 years old is determined by the content of regulatory documents.

A special criterion for distinguishing a group of young people with disabilities compared to youth without restrictions is the difficulty of socialization, education, its inclusion in society, self-determination in a personal, professional, family plan. In persons with disabilities, the indicated difficulties are supplemented by physical and mental health problems that limit their capabilities and complicate their socialization and functioning in society.

The concept of «a person with disabilities” is gaining its wide meaning through the development of social disability model, as a result of which public awareness of disability, the rights and characteristics of persons with disabilities is increased.

A person with serious health problems is called an invalid in normative documents and colloquial speech. A «disabled person» is a person who, due to violations he has, experiences social inequality in any form, i.e. disability is a form of social inequality.

Along with the concept of «disability» are applied such as «limited ability», «atypical state of health», «special needs». These terms indicate that there is no strict connection between the legal fixation of disability, which is always inevitably limited due to financial and economic limits, and the actual shortages of strength, health, social and personal resources that prevent an individual (sometimes his immediate social environment) from living normally and develop in society[10].

Consequently, the environment formed by the majority of persons without disabilities creates barriers to the full and active participation of persons with disabilities in public life.

According to the international classification of the functioning of restrictions (IFC), the following definition of restrictions on the possibility of participation is given: these are problems that an individual may experience when involved in life situations. The presence of restrictions on the possibility of participation is determined when comparing with the participation of an individual without restriction of life in a given culture or society[11]. Отсюда следует, что ограничение участия индивида с нарушениями в развитии выявляется при сравнении участия других индивидов, не имеющих инвалидности.

The laws and regulations of many Western European countries on persons with disabilities use the term “young people with special needs”. This term arose from the biopsychosocial disability model that combines the two models[12], – medical and social.

So S. Olafsson notes that the definition and interpretation of physical disability depends on the disability model. Under the medical model, people with disabilities need care, care and treatment due to their limited ability to participate in society[13].

E. Vyahakkuopus and V.Z.Kantor emphasize that the educational opportunities of the disabled, according to the medical model, are limited, and special correctional institutions with special training conditions are created for them. They improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, but lead to their isolation.[14]. From a medical point of view, young people with disabilities need care and care, however, from the standpoint of the social model, they need to create conditions for their life, taking into account the peculiarities of the development of their body.

The Declaration on the rights of persons with disabilities, adopted by the United Nations in 1975, States that the term "disabled person" means any person who is unable to meet all or part of his or her needs for a normal personal or social life due to a lack, whether innate or acquired, of his or her physical or mental capabilities». This term describes any person who has physical or mental abnormalities that differ from the norm.

According to D. A. Leontiev and L. A. Alexandrova, in the XX century in English – speaking countries, the concept of «disabled» was replaced by a more

«soft»-«disabled» («deprived of the ability to do something»). Later, a corresponding concept appeared in Russia – "persons with disabilities»[16].

Currently, the term "persons with special needs" and persons with disabilities are also used in relation to people with disabilities. In the 1970s, the term "handicap" was replaced by the Anglo-Saxon "handicap", literally «hand in the hat». Handicap is a game where participants performed actions with a bandaged hand, which limited the possibilities of others and allowed them to compare their temporary situation with the irreversible situation of the disabled [17]. The adaptation of the Handicap concept to international agreements in many European countries has determined the civil position of society members towards people with disabilities.

The meaning of the term "limited opportunities" in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the same for children and adults, but it is set out in various regulatory documents of the country. Children with disabilities are "children who are entitled to statutory social benefits and support due to developmental disabilities".

Children and young people with disabilities are included in a broader group, designated by a series of phrases that carry a certain meaning, but do not always reflect the state of children and the problems arising from this state: "children with special needs", "children with developmental disabilities", "children with disabilities", "special children". L. I. Akatov gives the following definition of the term "abnormal children": these are children who have significant deviations from normal physical and mental development caused by serious congenital or acquired defects or diseases, and need special conditions of education and upbringing [18].

However, L. Pozhar notes that "abnormal children and adolescents are children and adolescents with difficulties in social functioning resulting from the deficiency or lack of an organ, its function and process, with specific features and characteristic difficulties in knowing the world around them and in communicating with people, as well as with specific features of their personality formation»[19]. In General, these two concepts are identical, since they reflect the difficulties of perception of the environment due to their psychophysical characteristics. To date, the scientific terminology does not use the expressions "abnormal children", "defective child", they are replaced by "children with special needs", persons with disabilities.

E. V. Yarskaya-Smirnova introduces the term "atypical child", developed on the basis of the socio-cultural theory of atypicality. The phenomenon of an "atypical child" is formed and transmitted by the entire social environment. It is characterized by the diversity of the historically formed ethno-confessional, socio-cultural macro-and micro-society in which an atypical child undergoes socialization.

In 2017 The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev in the Annex To the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 1, 2017 No. UP-5270 provides for the use of the term "person with disability" in regulatory documents»[2]. Thus, the term "disabled person" has been replaced in the legislative plan in order to improve the system of support for

persons with disabilities and strengthen guarantees for the protection of their rights and freedoms, which provides for the development of a draft Law" on the rights of persons with disabilities". In addition to the term "person with disabilities", the term "person with disabilities" is also used.

The author of the study identifies young people with disabilities as a separate social group due to the fact that they are characterized by the following features: - whether there is an explicit physical or intellectual limitation; - dependence on relatives, society, and the state due to their inability to adapt to the environment; - training in special boarding schools, contributing to their further disintegration in society and the possibility of their interaction only with their own kind; - increased fear, lack of confidence in their abilities due to their physical limitations.

Accordingly, young people with disabilities, as a special socio-demographic group with limited opportunities due to physical, mental, sensory and mental disorders, were formed as a result of the "social disability" of both the individual and society as a whole. "Social disability" refers not only to physical barriers that lead to segregation of persons with disabilities, but also to society's unwillingness to communicate with special people, formed on the basis of conservative stereotypes that lead to unconscious discrimination against people with disabilities.

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