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SOCIAL POLICY IN UKRAINE: FEATURES AND MECHANISM

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Abstract. *The article deals with the mechanisms of social policy regulated by the regulatory framework of the state and describes the existing models of assistance. The society has to adapt the existing «standards» to the needs of people with disabilities and people with special needs (as it demonstrated by examples in Germany, the United Kingdom and China), so that they do not feel hostage to the circumstances and have limited opportunities. That means an important moment in harmonizing the mechanism of state actions in social policy is the «removal» of periodically emerging contradictions and timely reforms. The material is aimed at improving the level of knowledge about social policy and forms of provision of social assistance in Ukraine.*

Keywords: *country, social policy, mechanism of policy, social assistance, special needs, people with disabilities.*

Introduction. Politics is a complex phenomenon. Throughout the history it had a significant impact on the fate of peoples and countries. Modern stage of society development is characterized by significant impact of politics on all spheres of social life [11]. In politics the interests of different social groups and formations are often «intertwined», important issues of human existence are concentrated and conceptualized, and their solutions are generated [8; 16; 19].

The domestic policy of a country is aimed at solving and managing the social processes taking place in the country. In this context the social policy is a part of domestic policy. Social policy is the state actions aimed at solving the problems existing in society, establishing a certain balance between the representatives of various social institutions with regard to their social values and social relations.

The aim of social policy is also to mitigate the social conflicts caused by the decline of citizens' welfare. Solving the entire complex of the above-mentioned problems can be achieved on the basis of social legislation [9].

Analysis of literary data and statement of the problem. Society must adapt the existing «standards» to the needs of people with disabilities and people with special needs so that they do not feel themselves the hostages of circumstances and limited capacity. One of the important areas of social policy is to allow people with disabilities to get an education that can be realized by distance learning. In Ukraine many universities offer a variety of distance learning courses and develop electronic textbooks and other e-learning tools to provide this process [6].

The first mechanism of social policy was to create a regulatory legal framework that provides social protection for the public. For example, an important step in shaping social policy in Ukraine was the adoption of the Law of Ukraine «On Protection of Childhood», which first defined the term «child», and the term «children with disabilities» meant a group that requires urgent assistance from both the state, and society as a whole.

The second mechanism of social policy is associated with the redistribution of material resources, agreeing of organizational efforts aimed at providing and enhancing the correspondent life quality of existing categories of people through charity development. «The system of social services for pensioners and single disabled individuals is operating at the local level. Territorial Centers provide such kind of activities as: the provision of food, consumer goods and pharmaceutical products etc. at the expense of recipients; the delivery of food, pharmaceutical products, consumer goods etc.; the provision of transport service, social patronage, call to a doctor etc.; the organization of consultations regarding physical and social health; the provision of medical and health-improving services and work therapy; the provision of cash and in-kind benefits; the provision of consultations on existing legislation» [2, p. 63].

The third mechanism of social policy is associated with the guarantees at the country level. So, in Great Britain, that chose institutional-redistributionist model or the «model of welfare state», the government created all the necessary living conditions for people with special needs by providing them with financial aid; by setting up community aid centers, the country supported civic organizations of this particular category of people. People with special needs and people with disabilities started to be considered as equal members of society, and the country's resources are distributed in such a way as to help them live a full-fledged life in community, as money is budgeted from

the country's resources to provide such people with food, and different kinds of services. The country has a ramified system of social services: family centers for those who raise children with development defects; centers of temporary stay for children with special needs; small houses for studying and living of young people with special needs, etc. The services of social centers for such people are free. Medical services are also publicly-funded.

Discussion of results. «According to the information of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, low competitiveness of disabled at the labour market is still an urgent problem. Most of available at the Public Employment Service vacancies for disabled offer minimum wages. Another serious problem is an absence of specialized or adapted jobs at enterprises. Usually disabled individuals desire to work at home, but there are almost no employers' proposals on use of home labour of disabled. In Ukraine disabled persons prefer to work at home because public infrastructure is poorly adjusted for their comfortable transportation (there are no stairs adjusted for wheel-chairs, as well as no special devices in public transport and buildings). In 2007 revisions of prosecutor department revealed mass violations of rights of disabled children. The requirement of the Law of Ukraine «On rehabilitation of disabled persons» is not executed because of a lack of coordinated activities of medical institutions, and authorities on labour and social protection. Individual programs of rehabilitation of disabled children are absented in the majority of revised institutions. A right of children on provision with technical and other rehabilitation means is not realized. That is why only 10% of disabled children are rehabilitated in fact. Also, prosecutor revisions revealed absence of furniture, adequate nutrition, and tools for defect attack and physical development in boarding houses. Multiple violations of legislation on the state social assistance to disabled persons and pensions have

been uncovered. General Department of Public Prosecutions investigated and analyzed reasons of observed violations of legislation and rights of disabled children through inspection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Fund of Social Protection of Disabled Persons. According to results, divisions of this department do not have real information on situation with social and pension provision of disabled persons» [2, p. 67].

Solving the problems of people with special needs and people with disabilities in our country (in the context of well-known military actions) has fallen on the shoulders of volunteers and civic organizations. In the context of specialists' training in «social work» within the framework of the discipline «Ethnoculturology and family household culture» [17; 18] we suggest to consider the variants of the tasks called «Unbroken spirit» [7].

Conclusions. «Opportunities for direct experience of the world of work through part-time jobs or work experience are not only very rare, but almost non-existent for learners with disabilities. This implies that selfpresentation skills may have remained underdeveloped in the majority of the learners with disabilities. In the current highly competitive employment selection processes, employers may not even tolerate some patterns of behaviours often tolerated within the segregated settings where many learners with disabilities receive their education and rehabilitation. Therefore, these learners will require comprehensive career guidance and counselling that will enhance the development of their vocational self-concept and decision-making self-efficacy, if they have to be ready for inclusion in the world of work within their communities... Recent researches worldwide indicate abysmal outcomes for individuals with disabilities describing adult lives without employment, recreation and leisure, or community living options for the majority [3, p. 364].

Today in the world there are several models of social assistance for these

two categories of society [20; 5]. Within the medical model the social assistance provides: patronage of people at home, medical care, provision of medicines, sanatorium therapy, disbursement and benefits guaranteed by the state. One must not forget about creating the conditions for free movement of these categories of people; providing them with legal, psychological and medical counseling; teaching children with special needs in secondary schools; help both categories in vocational guidance and employment, in self-realization and self-assertion.

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СОЦІАЛЬНА ПОЛІТИКА В УКРАЇНІ: ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ТА МЕХАНІЗМИ

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Анотація. У статті розглянуто механізми соціальної політики, регульовані нормативною базою держави, та описуються існуючі моделі допомоги. Суспільство має адаптувати існуючі «стандарти» до потреб людей з обмеженими можливостями та людей з особливими потребами (як це продемонстровано на прикладах у Німеччині, Великобританії та Китаї), щоб вони не ставали заручниками обставин. Матеріал спрямований на підвищення рівня знань про соціальну політику та форми надання соціальної допомоги в Україні.

Ключові слова: держава, соціальна політика, механізм політики, соціальна допомога, люди з особливими потребами, люди з інвалідністю.