THE MAIN INSTRUMENTS OF POPULARIZATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN GEORGIA [USING THE EXAMPLE OF PARENTS]

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Abstract- Vocational education is still unattractive and undesirable sphere in Georgia as it is Post-Soviet country. It is caused by many of subjective and objective reasons. The following of them are the most important:

- Massification of academic education
- Active intervention of parents in the process of choosing profession of their children and trying to motivate them to get the academic education
- Irrelevant requirements of labor market
- Disarrangement of vocational educational programmes and existing defects in professional qualifications framework
- Problems in social awareness and orientation on the pseudo-education

The parent's attitude is the main thing in the process of choosing profession by the students. Accordingly, we consider that increasing of the parents' awareness is one of the most important factors in the process of popularization of vocational education.

As we were interested in this issue, we interviewed the parents of 8th and the 9th grades students to display their attitude in the case of choosing future professions of their children.

The article will be focus on the above-mentioned issues. On the base of the interviews results we will analyze the parents' attitude on choosing professions of their children.

In the conclusion we will write the recommendations how to make the effective popularization of vocational education.

FOREWORD

Formal or informal teaching process of young people occurs in schools and in their families as well. Coordinating work with their parents and parental involvement in the process of choosing future profession is one of the main parts of effective and improved vocational education.

There are plenty of problems in Vocational education in Georgia in spite of recent reforms in this sphere. According to the law of vocational education, the main mission of this direction is to provide economics with labor power which is able to place in Georgia and in the international areas. Furthermore vocational education should provide to create reliable system of individual vocational education that could be available for everyone. It should increase the index of employment in the country and guarantee the social security.

Parents are the most available resource for school in the process of children's professional orientation. On the one hand they are the most important and reliable advisors for their children in case of choosing future profession. On the other hand the parents can change the conception of professional orientation of schools relying on their private professional biography, their own initiatives, ideas, advices and offerings.

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Werner Sacher, the most important expert in educational working with parents, has worked out six degrees of standard in the process of working with parents on the basis of results of the international comparative research. You can see these six degrees of standard below.

Forms and opportunities of parents' effective and sustainable involvement in the process of professional orientation:

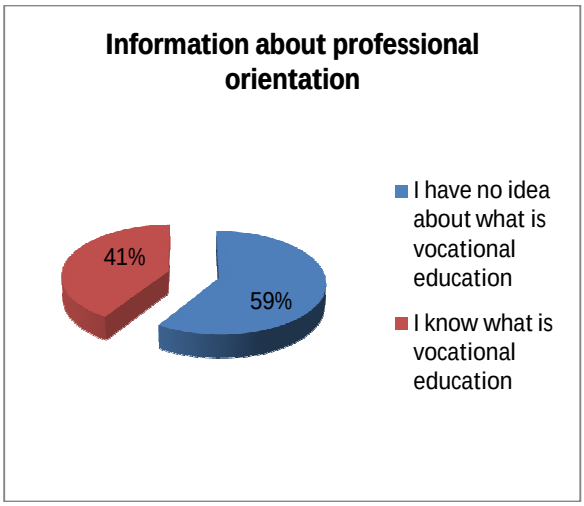
- Standard 1. creating the delightful climate at school
- Standard 2. interchange the information between the teachers and the parents
- Standard 3. mutual collaboration between the teachers and the parents in the process of education and upbringing
- Standard 4. only the powerful parents can guarantee the optimal supporting
- Standard 5. sharing the power with the parents
- Standard 6. collaborating with community and region

ANALYSIS OF GEORGIAN REALITY

In 2016 Georgian human resource management center interviewed 1952 respondents (257 students of professional college – 13.2%, 345 students of university – 17.7%, 1350 school students 69.1%). The aim of this research was to study the situation in the sphere of carrier planning and consulting. According to the quantitative research the main part of the respondents has no idea about what is carrier consulting or they have less information about this

sphere. 41% of them approximately have idea what is the professional orientation. They can explain the meaning of the carrier consulting and what is the profit for the profession researchers.

The results of the research about the professional orientation knowable in the young people are in the diagram below:



The other countries' experience in the respect of parental involvement

There was the great reform to develop the vocational education in Great Britain in 2014. "Only one-quarter of parents judge vocational education to be worthwhile" [Edge Foundation, 2014]. "70% of young people turn to parents for careers advice" [Freshminds, 2014]. Consequently, there were different recommendations to increase the parents' awareness. "Parents also need a greater awareness and understanding of current vocational qualifications and routes into employment. The introduction of an integrated application system for vocational and academic qualifications similar to that currently used for university entrance would help support this. It would serve to promote parity of esteem with academic qualifications. Other ways to increase understanding and 'win hearts and minds' could include a national government advertising campaign (and further local authority- and school-led initiatives) challenging perceptions of vocational education as 'second-rate' to academic education. Such a campaign could highlight success stories of young people's preferred routes to employment and the vocational nature of many university courses." (National Foundation for Educational Research, 2014)

Societies and culture can influence on choosing and attitudes of people. In the country of Nigeria, their people mostly choose a job due to their social standards and level in their society as well as looking to satisfy their friends and associates under-mining their aptitude for the course [Okorie, 2011]. The lower socio-demographic groups have less confidence in VET programs. This is because they themselves have been seeing themselves at the bottom level of social hierarchy, and so they do not believe that the VET programs can help in improving their work prospects than the upper level of society [Euroborometer, 2011]. VET students are more spontaneous about their decisions in education and mostly follow more on their peers decisions, this is due to their parents and family have to struggle for the resources required to make the 'exact' educational decisions for their children. [Freire&Giang, 2011], whereas Parents' influence can be about 34% the decisive reason [Sube, 1981].

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According to UAE NATIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGY 2015, the Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training [ACTVET] launched 'EmiratesSkills' program which aims to raise awareness of career-based technical education among young Emiratis by organizing competitions, events and technical career activities.

In Hong Kong national government and VET providers made some arrangements to increase parents' awareness. First, they guaranteed to give information to all the parents. They used media and advertise the VET programs. They also used the internet resources, they created Facebook web-page in 2014 and there were 35 000 follows in February 2015. These people had daily information from this web-page. An interactive corner was developed in the dedicated parent zone in the VTC website to provide first-hand information to parents. They were able to write their comments and emotions about vocational education. VET providers created VET mobile application which has downloaded 20 000 times for January 2015.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The research was carried out in Tbilisi, Kakheti and Rustavi, Georgia. There were about 200 respondents in the research. They were parents of 8 grade students. According to the research, 80% of the parents exactly know their children's sphere of interest, and the rest 20% frankly confess that they do not know about the interests of their children.

We were interested in how often the parents have conversations about future professions with their children. 91% said that they regularly discuss about

that problem, 9% told us that they could not manage to speak about future profession with their children.

On this question "What kind of education do you prefer for your child: vocational or academic?" 52% of respondents said "academic" meanwhile 48% said "vocational". We were interested in if the parents give the stimulus to their children to choose the certain professions due to different reasons. For example, whether it is prestigious or not, is it easy to find job with this profession and so on. According to the research, none of respondents have the preliminary attitude towards any profession and they do not influence over their children in this case. The final question was if they like to practice their children in different industrial units and in companies instead of school lessons during two weeks. 100% of parents had positive answer. In addition, they all have desire to employ their children during summer and winter vacations.

CONCLUSION

However, according to the analysis of current situation in Georgia as well as different countries' experience and results of research it is clear that the parents' involvement in the process of choosing future profession and to increase of their awareness toward vocational education is very important. Obviously, Strengthening of this field is the prerogative of the authority. Reforming in this direction, having objects and correctly planned strategies and approaches is the main factors those reflect positively in the young people's future professional skills. Coordinating work with the parents and guaranteeing of their involvement is the main part of effective and improving vocational education.

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