

МЕДИЧНА ОСВІТА

DOI: 10.21802/artm.2022.1.21.115

UDC 378.147+614.253.4

STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC VALUES FORMATION – A GUARANTEE OF HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY

A.V. Biben

*Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Department of Orthopedic Dentistry,
Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9867-4278, e-mail: Andrijko07@gmail.com*

Abstract. Today's student youth is a supporter of democratic changes and, consequently, of democratic values. However, the contradictory nature of modern values and the student community diversity necessitate the strengthening of purposeful influence on their awareness, which should be fulfilled in the context of freedom as a universal factor in personal development.

The purpose of our study is the necessity to form democratic values of student youth and the priority ways of this process in the context of educational activities as part of the success of training in higher education institutions. Special attention should be paid to such priorities of medical university students, which are established not only at the semantic, organizational, functional, communicative levels of the educational process, but also through macro- and microenvironment, mass media, Internet technologies, as well as extracurricular activities of higher educational institutions, which includes the activities of student youth in self-government organizations, clubs, volunteering.

Democratic values embody the importance of democracy as a worldview ideal, its attractiveness to most people, the reason why democracy is worth defending, making it an element of the political consciousness of millions of citizens and gaining new supporters around the world.

Core values include freedom, responsibility, solidarity, dignity, constitutional state, parliamentary democracy, and justice. The above-mentioned values are guaranteed by fundamental, political, cultural, or social rights and freedoms.

The list of democratic values is especially relevant during democracy formation, which is accompanied by a change in society, the creation of a new social ideal based on democratic values, and the development of educational activities. It is especially relevant to involve broad sections of the population – parents, teachers, government officials – to main democracy ideas understanding: freedom and responsibility, human rights and the ability to defend them, the involvement of every citizen in social processes, and social justice.

Education is a process on which the future of the nation depends. In addition, a well-planned educational process is a necessary condition for its quality, which involves teachers, educational technologies, methods, tools (visual aids, textbooks, technical devices, etc.), educational management. The higher medical institution provides general cultural and professionally oriented students' training, determines the amount of special knowledge, skills, and abilities sufficient to solve typical tasks of a doctor, including the ability to use theoretical knowledge and practical skills, provide medical care, and assess the impact of disease development factors.

Of particular importance in this process are the extracurricular activities in higher education institutions, which include youth work in student organizations: student parliament, student union, student scientific society, society of young scientists, European Medical Student Association, Dental Students Association.

Such organizations contribute to the readiness of future specialists to work in modern conditions, their socialization, development, democratic values.

Keywords: student, youth, democratic values, education.

Introduction. The concept of democratic values implies that each person and, all in all, society are realized in a certain social environment as a result of socio-political action and unfold through the relationship of "good" and "evil", through the real, practical embodiment of democratic norms.

Modern democracy, in addition to personal, individual human freedom, covers the real conditions and opportunities for socio-political activity, the right to act and choose at one's discretion, freedom of speech, conscience. The very notions of "freedom", "openness", "tolerance", "justice", "humanism", and "charity" are most often perceived as leading, basic democratic values.

At the beginning of the XXI century, the world community was on the path of finding new values related to mutual understanding, cooperation and coexistence.

Tolerance along with solidarity are of particular importance nowadays [1].

The aim of our study is the necessity to form democratic values of student youth and the priority ways of this process in the context of educational activities as part of the success of training in higher education institutions.

Researchers identify the following values inherent to democratic citizenship: peace, human rights, equality, freedom, justice, interdependence, pluralism, and sustainable development. These values are directly related to the main criteria of the guidelines inherent to democratic citizenship: openness, cultural and social diversity respect, readiness to share and delegate tasks, trust, honesty, devotion to the truth, self-respect, and respect for others, uncertainty, ambiguous and unresolved situations tolerance, the

persistence as the ability to express their views clearly and boldly, democratic leadership, which is expressed in involving others in making decisions, teamwork, and cooperation.

Scholars point to the following values that need to be instilled, spread, and developed in a democracy:

- citizenship include the development of social consciousness and individual dignity, the ability to realize the interests and protect them taking into account the interests of society as a whole;
- competence and responsibility – focus on civic vigilance and awareness, understanding that the "consumer" attitude to the democracy achievements can lead to their loss;
- freedom – liberation from dependence, oppression, political, cultural conditions for the development of personal abilities and aspirations realization;
- constitution and constitutionalism – the ultimate guidelines, principles of social coexistence in a democratic community;
- freedom of conscience, freedom of speech;
- human dignity, respect for which improves society, glorifies human;
- moral autonomy is the right for free and impartial self-determination;
- privacy, non-interference in private life;
- civic association orients a person to a stable and conscious interest in social life, solidarity, trust, mutual support, willingness to coordinate actions together to protect social interests;
- social order, which is based not on the rejection or prohibition of conflicts, but on their permanent regulation using procedures, guidelines, awareness, and experience.

The list of democratic values is especially relevant during democracy formation, which is accompanied by a change in society, the creation of a new social ideal based on democratic values, and the development of educational activities. It is especially relevant to involve broad sections of the population – parents, teachers, government officials – to main democracy ideas understanding: freedom and responsibility, human rights and the ability to defend them, the involvement of every citizen in social processes, and social justice.

All democratic values develop the basic value of democracy – the freedom of the individual, which has an indisputable priority, including the priority over the state. In a democracy, the latter cannot impose on the individuals the goals and values of their life. The state only has to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, creating the necessary legal norms and institutions for their implementation.

Education is a process on which the future of the nation depends. In addition, a well-planned educational process is a necessary condition for its quality, which involves teachers, educational technologies, methods, tools (visual aids, textbooks, technical devices, etc.), educational management. The higher medical institution provides general cultural and professionally oriented students' training, determines the amount of special knowledge, skills, and abilities sufficient to solve typical tasks of a doctor, including the ability to use theoretical knowledge and practical skills, provide medical care, and assess the impact of disease development factors [2].

At the same time, modern student youth is a supporter of democratic transformations and values. Traditionally, the factors of its democratic values formation are as follows:

- a) factors of the socio-political environment (macro-environment);
- b) the influence of the immediate environment (micro-environment – families, peers);
- c) the influence of the media (including Internet technologies) and culture;
- d) the factor of education, upbringing, and democratic self-education of the individual.

The way of life as a factor of democratic values formation of young people is multifaceted in its structure. Gradually mediating from deep, general, necessary connections and relations to those which are limited only by a certain narrow sphere of students' communication, it promotes their transformation into internal, inherent to the younger generation qualities, and character traits. The choice and comprehension of democratic values offered by society are determined by their importance for future doctors. Because of this, among the equally reinforced democratic values, student youth always chooses only those that they assess as necessary objects, goals, and means of meeting their own needs. After gaining experience through practical testing and confirmation, such values are consolidated as the value orientations of the youth environment. Nevertheless, practice is not only a criterion for democratic values testing but also a factor in their constant reassessment, renewal, and change. The transformation of Ukrainian society has led to significant complications, public life differentiation, and individualization of needs, interests, and values of student youth. Above-mentioned issues significantly complicates its social integration today.

One of the main factors of values formation is media. Because of media, certain values, worldview stereotypes, and patterns of behavior are propagated among different categories of the population, because of which common tastes and forms of cultural consumption are spread in society. They have the most noticeable influence on ideas formation concerning the current state of society, and the level of existing social justice.

In a democratic society, the most relevant task of the media is the mass introduction of values based on respect for the rule of law and human rights, and the ability of citizens to resolve conflicts peacefully. Therefore, during political socialization, due to the media owners, young people often fall under their manipulative influence, which is dangerous for conscious and objective information perception.

Recently, along with traditional media, the Internet has had a huge impact on the minds of young people, as it has become accessible to almost everyone, unites large groups of people, forms a circle of interests and communication, and stimulates the development of interpersonal relationships.

The Internet has enormous potential for democratic values spreading, as it provides unprecedented access to information and expands communication opportunities. Due to the rapid penetration of information technology in all spheres of public life, the Internet occupies a central place among the means of obtaining the necessary

information and plays a significant role in shaping the values of modern youth. The idea of a virtual society emerges and spreads through the Internet.

At the same time, the possibilities of Internet communication are not limitless. Unfortunately, their development has little effect on the level of citizen involvement in making decisions regarding political and legal issues. The existence of cyberspace demonstrates that today it mainly serves not as a forum for citizens concerned about socially significant issues but as a forum for groups excluded from public policy. In essence, e-democracy experiences the same problems as traditional one – the problems of passivity, disinterest, and incompetence [4].

The formation of democratic values of young people in the educational system is fulfilled through all aspects of the educational process, at all its levels – content, organizational, functional, and communicative. Obtaining a profession is not just a process of mastering a general or private skill but also a systematic and successful acquisition of knowledge and skills [5].

At the content level, all students have access to full-fledged educational content, which reflects the objective and critical coverage of problems, concepts, phenomena; the content of objects expands and deepens; a wide selection of alternative textbooks, manuals, additional and supplemental literature are provided. At the organizational level, the decentralization of management is done by the education system; flexibility, the openness of directions, types, structures of education, and equal chances for all children are provided. At the functional level, active teaching methods are introduced. At the communicative level – it is the relationship between teacher and student, manager and teacher, the organization of communication within the educational institution; cooperation between the university and public organizations.

The experience gained by students in higher educational institutions affects the democratic values formation and competencies of the future specialist, so the perfect implementation of innovative teaching methods allows opening students' thinking to innovative approaches, forms their independent opinion. In this case, the teacher performs not only planning and organization functions but also they motivate and control learning and acquisition of knowledge [6]. Extracurricular activities in higher education institutions deserve special attention in this context. The democratic values of future specialists are manifested through students' self-government activity because, in the process of such activities, the leadership qualities of young people are revealed.

Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University pays special attention to the formation and improvement of democratic values. There are the following student organizations to implement the above-mentioned:

1. Student Parliament is the central body of student government at the university. It is a form of management in which students at the level of the academic group, year of study, faculty, dormitory, student unit of a higher education institution have the right to decide on internal management independently.

2. Students' Trade Union Committee is a voluntary non-profit public organization of students and post-graduate students of the university. Their purpose is to represent, implement and protect the educational and socio-economic rights and interests of its union members.

Students' Trade Union Committee provides an opportunity to protect the rights and interests; the chance to participate in the management and the real life of the university; if necessary, receive financial assistance.

3. Student Scientific Society is part of the scientific department of IFNMU. The Student Research Society was founded in 1950. It has a branched structure. The scientific director of the Student Scientific Society is Professor N. M. Voronych-Semchenko, Doctor of Medical Sciences. This organization has about 35 medical students from medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy faculties. The students themselves, including the chairperson of the organization, scientific and information work assistants, and secretary of the Student Scientific Society Council, hold key positions.

4. Young Scientists Association is part of public self-government at the university, a self-governing body of young scientists and scholars under the age of 35. This organization protects the rights and interests of university employees or students. In particular, the Young Scientists Association supports academic activity, scientific ideas, innovation, and experience exchange.

5. The European Medical Students' Association (EMSA) is a politically neutral, non-governmental, independent, and non-profit organization operating in geographical Europe. EMSA was founded in 1991 in Brussels, Belgium. The association represents students from separate medical universities in Europe. Today, there are more than 20 medical universities from 62 European countries. EMSA seeks to improve the health and quality of health care by acting as a link for cooperation and knowledge exchange between European medical students in the fields of medical education, science, ethics, and European integration. At the European level, EMSA is represented by the EMSA European Council, which includes: the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary-General, the Directors in the following fields: Medical Education, Medical Ethics, Medical Science, and European Integration.

6. Dental Students Association began to work in Ivano-Frankivsk. It is the Ivano-Frankivsk branch of the Association of Dental Students. This organization was created to meet and protect the legitimate social, creative, and other common interests of members of the organization and promote the professional level of dental students. The association is a full member of the European Dental Students Association (EDSA), which was founded in Paris in 1988. EDSA is a non-profit and non-political organization. Its main goal is to help European students collaborate and share experience. The main medical goal is to promote and improve dental health. Today, the organization has more than 65,000 members in 26 European countries.

In IFNMU, students' self-government aims to solve the following tasks: to promote the active position of future doctors in the realization of their rights and freedoms; to develop the ability to make a plan of activities; to stimulate activity, to involve in carrying out educational activities and creation of situations which would fulfill initiatives of each student, create opportunities to act independently, to realize the potential; to develop abilities, to form the ability to analyze and regulate one's behavior, to apply the acquired knowledge in real life.

It is expedient in IFNMU to acquaint students with an important aspect of work – volunteering, the

essence of which is to create an organized system where everyone can become an active representative of their community. For this purpose, various volunteer activities are held, where students apply voluntarily to carry out activities that benefit other people and society as a whole. Volunteering of future doctors involves their participation in solving environmental problems of the region, protection of civil rights, organization of sports and cultural events, assistance to veterans, the elderly, the disabled, the poor, the socially vulnerable [7].

Concurrently, the scientific club is a typical example of a democratic organization based on participants' equality. Presumably, each person has the potential for development, and this person should control their learning process, participating in joint activities.

Comprehensive self-education through the individuals' viewpoint also plays a significant role. During self-education, democratic values are manifested in the students' attitude to other people, to themselves. Education, self-education, friendship, love, relationships with parents and teachers – everything happens under the influence of this process. Duty, justice, responsibility, tolerance, and other democratic values reflect all relationships. A relevant component of self-education is self-study as a means of satisfying one of the main needs of the modern human – constant erudition expanding, general and political culture improving, meeting intellectual needs, maintaining mental capacity. In the process of self-education, a person learns about not only the world and human relations but also about themselves, develops their intellectual abilities, willpower, self-discipline, and identifies the democratic values that they learn.

In general, the specifics of university students' democratic education in modern Ukraine is that it should be aimed not only at the reproduction of democratic values in society but also at the formation of a new system of public values. Democratic education is a vital component of future physicians' training. They should not only master the ability to live a full life in a democracy but also reproduce this ability concerning future patients.

Improving the quality of education is the most important problem, which is largely due to the processes of globalization and internationalization, as well as the individualization of the student's personality. Nowadays, the realities reveal the gap between the needs and requirements of society to the specialist and the actual level of their socio-professional training. There is a problem between the need to ensure the relationship between universities and the ability of future doctors to navigate freely in the socio-cultural spheres of public life, their willingness to change. New issues arise, including the responsibility for the results of their actions, for the fulfillment of their human and professional duties. Therefore, finding ways to improve vocational training in higher education institutions is an urgent problem.

Selective studies have led to the conclusion that a deep understanding and development of feelings in which the student experiences their belonging to the community: the ability to perceive the environment, understand their importance and role in society, express their attitude to needs, interests, outlook and society development – an effective and efficient direction in improving the future doctors' education. Such feelings contribute to the normative

system of behavior regulation in the civic and professional development of the individual. Young people defend their opinion, motivate the advantages of their propositions, reveal the weaknesses of opponents, choose convincing arguments for proof or retraction, learn to think critically, logically, and practically, do not forget their human social destiny, learn certain rules of social functioning, realize their success, regulate behavior, reveal the nature of world changes, their needs, ability to work for themselves and for society [8].

In the process of educational interaction, communication is the most important way to form democratic feelings, which characterize everything that the student has experienced, identifying themselves with the team. This is a positive belief of the inner self in society, connected with public and professional duty and responsibility for the actions, independent understanding of the surrounding reality events, formation of personal qualities that allow successful integration into the complex social environment, the ability to learn new things quickly and the desire to change for the better. These include feelings of patriotism, cooperation, tact, a tendency to prevent conflict, confidence, responsibility, peace striving, harmony, spiritual unity, initiative, tolerance, intelligence, and diligence.

The feelings that the individual experiences during the vital activity contribute to the development of worldview potential and student's ability to professional intellectual and social interaction. Students' classroom activity encourages the beginning of the self-knowledge process, cultivates the student's abilities as a direct condition of the educational process [9].

Penetration of certain beliefs into consciousness helps students to choose the beneficial activity that provides self-realization, directly related to the willingness to work considering the goals and interests of classmates in fulfilling their tasks. The space in the classes for students is introduced to show initiative, freedom of thought and speech, responsibility, and is complemented by trust and encouragement of everyone to be creative.

Students examine, seek the truth independently through logical operations that motivate them to cooperate, act as an organizer, learn to plan and implement their research and development activities, highlight the main thing, see the problem of the study, formulate a hypothesis, define tasks and means of their realization, realize their success, identify causes and eliminate difficulties, make conclusions, compare different views, find the truth and useful information, confirm scientific facts and experiments. Such feelings not only strengthen and increase students' potential but also direct them to the future, the valuable professional suitability outlook. Dominant feelings at this level are as follows: optimism, scientific novelty, mobility, entrepreneurship, spiritual unity [10].

Improving future doctors' professional training during classes, which have been tested for many years of experience and showed stable high results, is a modern, and effective way to reduce the contradiction between the needs and requirements of modern society to the specialist and the actual level of training in a higher education institution.

They stimulate the inner need for self-determination, help to understand the value of society and individual interests coincidence, focus on the individuals' potential

development, self-development, assess the suitability of professional and public duties to meet their interests, and for positive and progressive social prosperity.

The future doctor needs to fulfill the tasks acquired during the democratic values training, medical activities, which are the measure and the main criterion of their professional suitability. So future doctors' communication skills (ability to contact people, conduct interviews, surveys, give treatment recommendations) largely determine the success of their work [10]. Analyzing the essence of medical communication, researchers agree that the modern doctor is not only the bearer of specialized knowledge but also a person who is constantly evolving, with some valuable experience, moral and ethical principles, and communication models.

Conclusions. During our study, we found that special attention should be paid to the medical students' democratic values formation. They are established not only at the content, organizational, functional, communicative levels of the educational process, but also through macro- and micro-environmental factors, mass media, Internet technologies, self-education. Of particular importance in this process are the extracurricular activities in higher education institutions, which include youth work in student organizations: student parliament, student union, student scientific society, society of young scientists, European Medical Student Association, Dental Students Association.

Such organizations contribute to the readiness of future specialists to work in modern conditions, their socialization, development, democratic values.

References:

1. Syladiy I. The main factors of democratic values formation of student youth. Higher education of Ukraine. 2017; 3:76-83.
2. Kostyshyn A. Specialized secondary education – the basis of higher education quality. Art of Medicine. 2020; 4(16):114-119. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21802/artm.2020.4.16.114>.
3. Kudryachenko A. Fundamental democratic values and their impact on the civil society development in Europe. 2015; 2:3-7.
4. Andrushchenko V. The problem a new teacher forming for a united Europe of the XXI century. K. 2017. P.1099.
5. Kostyshyn A, Kostyshyn Z, Lukach U, Boychuk-Tovsta O, Repetska O, Panchak O. Motivation peculiarities of dentists' continuous professional development. Art of medicine. 2021; 4(20):124-128. DOI: 10.21802/artm.2021.4.20.124
6. Kostyshyn A, Ozhogan Z, Kostyshyn Z, Ilnytska O, Shturmak V. Features of future doctors' professional competence formation in current conditions. Art of Medicine. 2021; 3(19):109-114. DOI: 10.21802 / artm.2021.3.19.109
7. Budnik O. The problem of future specialists' democratic values forming. Young scientist. 2015; 2(17):210-213.
8. Oleksenko V. Formation of social feelings in students. Higher education in Ukraine. 2018; 2:71-76.

9. Andrushchenko V. Education without violence. Higher education in Ukraine. 2017; 3:7-12.
10. Kostyshyn Z, Kostyshyn A, Lukach U, Ilnytska O, Repetska O. Communicativeness of future doctors – an important factor in qualified care. Proceedings of the scientific-practical conference with international participation. Current issues of educational process quality improvement. Yaremche. 2021 Sep 24. P.89.

УДК 378.147+614.253.4

ФОРМУВАННЯ ДЕМОКРАТИЧНИХ ЦІННОСТЕЙ У СТУДЕНТІВ – ЗАПОРУКА ЯКІСНОЇ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ

А.В. Бібен

Івано-Франківський національний медичний університет, кафедра ортопедичної стоматології, м. Івано-Франківськ, Україна, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9867-4278, e-mail: Andrijko07@gmail.com

Резюме. Сучасна студентська молодь є прибічником демократичних перетворень, а отже і демократичних цінностей. Однак суперечлива природа цінностей новітньої доби та неоднорідність студентського загалу зумовлюють необхідність посилення цілеспрямованого впливу на їх усвідомлення, який має відбуватися в контексті розгортання свободи як загальнозначущого чинника розвитку особистості.

Метою нашого дослідження є необхідність формування демократичних цінностей студентської молоді та пріоритетні шляхи цього процесу в умовах навчальних занять як складової успіху підготовки фахівців у закладах вищої освіти. Особливу увагу заслуговують такі пріоритети в студентів медичних університетів, які утворюються не лише на змістовому, організаційному, функціональному, комунікативному рівнях навчально-виховного процесу, але й через фактори макро- (вплив суспільства та політичних процесів) та мікросередовища (вплив сім'ї та групи однолітків), засоби масової інформації, інтернет-технологій, а також позанавчальну діяльність вищих навчальних закладів, що охоплює діяльність студентської молоді в органах самоврядування, гуртках, волонтерство.

Демократичні цінності уособлюють значущість демократії як світоглядного ідеалу, привабливості її для більшості людей, те, заради чого демократію варто захищати, завдяки чому вона є елементом політичної свідомості мільйонів громадян та здобуває нових прихильників в усьому світі.

До базових цінностей відносять свободу, відповідальність, солідарність, гідність, рівність, правову державу, парламентську демократію та справедливість. Кожна з окреслених цінностей забезпечується фундаментальними, політичними, культурними або соціальними правами та свободами.

Ключові слова: студент, молодь, демократичні цінності, освіта.

Стаття надійшла в редакцію 22.02.2022 р.
Стаття прийнята до друку 24.03.2022 р.