MODERN SOCIETY AS AN ENVIRONMENT OF YOUNG SPECIALISTS

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Abstract. The article analyzes the integrated potential of macro and micro level in the formation of a modern young professional. The multidimensionality of the factors influencing on the young professionals will determine the future of society, where young professionals will be transferred to the professional category. For young professionals life world is made up of professional values and other aspects of life and the experience of interaction with other actors. Beliefs and values, and therefore the life world of young professionals are constantly changing in the search of condition, leading to constant development, based on today's realities. From the one hand author examines the impact of macro-level as social space in environment of young specialist, and transformation processes that determine the adaptation to the new conditions of society. From the position of the micro-level is considered categories of the life-world, the role of values in shaping the personality of the young specialist.

Keywords: young professional, social space, the life-world, transformation, values.

Young specialists have always been of special interest for researchers and practitioners. It is because of the fact that innovative potential, which is based on the newest knowledge acquired at a higher educational institution, is focused at this group. Furthermore, young specialists determine perspectives of development of specific organization and economy in general as they will make a major part of their labor resources in future. Currently it is of particular interest to analyze various approaches to analysis of young specialists as the most flexible and changeable social group. Multidimensionality of the factors influencing young specialists will further determine future of the society when young specialists move to the category of specialists. A complex macro and micro level analysis to have a general picture in consideration of all influence factors has special significance.

Influence on social subjects of the social environment is described in the works of P.A. Sorokin, T. Parsons. So, Parsons introduces such terms as “territoriality” and “resident placement” which are considered by him as some determinants of life activities of social subjects. P.A. Sorokin wrote about influence of the social environment: “All generations while living in groups consciously and unconsciously set the pattern of relationships of their members; such relationships crystallized, settled and resulted in what organization of this group is called”. Influence of social space on social subjects is covered in the works of P. Bourdieu, who shows social space as a reasonably constructed diagram. Not applying the term “social space”, in fact, its models and stages of structuring are described by К. Marx, M. Webber, E.O. Right, F. Parkin and others.

Special vision of influence of the social environment which may be useful while researching young specialists is presented in the works of E. Husserl, J. Habermas, who developed a term “life world” and determined it as a factor of personality development. Life world is a central term of “later” philosophy of E. Husserl which means overcoming narrowness of the horizon of a strictly phenomenological approach by reference to conditionality of consciousness by the world motives of its constitution.

While explaining the essence of the situation of communicative action Habermas started to use Husserl’s term "Lebenswelt", "life world" more and more widely and misinterpret it, and combine it with the term "symbolic interactionism" of G.Mead. Lebenswelt in conformity with Husserl is understood as a "trustworthy ground of everyday life and experience with regard to the world"; it is also some integral knowledge which is somewhere on the background of the life experience (before some time) and which does not have any problem conflicts. As opposed to epistemological concepts appealing to the ideal uninterested observer Habermas leads his theory of action to clarification of such real prerequisites as “physically” of a real individual, his life in the society, his subjectivity united with the tradition. Habermas is inspired by the fact
that the life world is a real horizon and permanent wing of the everyday communication, everyday experience of the people.

There is no doubt that various aspects of analysis of hypostasis of the individual as the environment of his social subjects are different as of today. However, integral analysis that combines macro and micro levels of analysis with regard to formation of a young specialist under current conditions is presented rather weakly. Therefore, the goal of the article is to discover potential of the aforementioned levels in formation of a modern young specialist. Achievement of this goal seems to be achievable through application of a descriptive methodology and matching macro and micro constructs.

A modern individual as the environment for formation of a young specialist represents a rather complicated conglomerate of various phenomena affecting all social subjects. That is the reason why it should be considered on multidimensional basis.

Using potential of a combination of theoretical structures, first of all, a modern individual can be represented through the prism of social space it is formed of. In the most general form social space is one of the types of space (equally with physical, economic, political, educational, environmental, symbolic and others); a combination of processes, relations and relationships in the social sphere hierarchically linked with each other.

Philosophers, social philosophers and sociologists understand that the social space is a socially “developed part of natural space as the human habitat; territorial aspect of life activities of the society and the objective world of a human; characteristics of the society structure from the point of view of location of social groups and segments, conditions, possibilities of their development and others” (Wane, 1999, p. 580).

Those who apply structural and functional, system and synergetic approaches analyze social space as “overindividal” reality, system of structured social relations. Substantialists understand social space as a combination of substances (individuals, groups) united by social relations. P.A. Sorokin considers social space in the context of social stratification and social mobility. T. Parsons introduces the terms “territoriality” and “resident placement”. P. Bourdieu represents social space as a reasonably structured diagram, fields of imperious interaction, flow of various types of capital (symbolic and others). Globalists single out the term “large space”. Followers of an activist approach consider the space of human activities, dynamic state of the society, social proceduraly.

In our opinion, while studying young specialists an integrated approach, which is offered by P. Sorokin and allows systematic analysis of the processes for formation of young specialists, is dominating. Therefore, while developing issues of individual’s impact on it we shall closely consider interpretation of social space by P. Sorokin.

Problems of social space are studied by P. Sorokin in volume two of the “Systems of Sociology”. He determines it as the system of public relations where a person has a special place in accordance with the coordinate system of social space as compared with the coordinate system in mathematics. Sex, age, race, citizenship, religious affiliation, property status and others were considered by P. Sorokin as such social coordinates. As a result, social space is considered as multidimensional: “A human can simultaneously be Russian, orthodox, member of the cadet party, journalist by profession, member of a hunters' club, etc. It means that an individual is a member (subscriber) of multiple social groups”.

So, according to P. Sorokin social space is a system intragroup and intergroup relations between the individuals. In P. Sorokin’s opinion, both social class and circle of amateur photographers are equally important for a sociologist.

P. Sorokin declines division of the society based on one of the indicators (class, nationality, race, professional, etc.) as simplified attempts. He provides classification of social groups on the basis of multiple indicators. According to the classification of P. Sorokin young specialists is a cumulative group combining indicators of professional, property as well as status and legal elementary groups, which is characterized by common interests. However, such groups undergo serious changes and the processes generating them require special attention.

There is no doubt that there are processes of transformation of the social space in a modern society which directly affects young specialists. According to S.L. Kataiev, transformation is a process when the society gets new traits which are in line with modern requirements. There are changes in life standards, patterns of behaviour and needs. Changes in all spheres of society life are partially accompanied by negative phenomena.
Category “transformational society” allows taking a more balanced approach to characterizing essence of the processes ongoing in the society.

This period demands from the people to have increased flexibility of reactions to changes. Young and educated people are more able to do so. Thus, these categories of the people better and quicker adapt to new events and they themselves become generators of social, political and economic innovations. To some extent, this category may also include young specialists more different in terms of innovative thinking and who better adapt over the course of the relevant changes.

“Business “people of old formation” can achieve success using previous standards of behaviour only within a short period of time. There are not so many examples when the people who had formed in past were able to generate new approaches to the activities inside them and succeed. Young and educated specialists are holders and creators of new rules and regulations. Such institutional transformations are considerable factors of society transformation. It is inevitable that social innovations are initiated during the course of transformation which contact previous structures and generate final result. According to its nature the transformation cannot be deemed to be the crisis. It is a normal process inherent in modern societies. It is a peculiarity of both social and economic development inherent in the entire world” (Seibert, 2001, p. 228).

Thus, on a macro level an individual builds social space of young specialists in different aspects and on multiple levels, which is transformed according to the time requirements. Young specialists are more adapted to the changes over the course of transformations as they act more flexibly than the representatives of previous generations.

In the context of modern angles of social subject analysis it is seemed to be important to review young specialists through the prism of the category “life world” which allows concentrating research focus on micro environment of young specialists and make their understanding deeper. In the definition of the life world young specialists become a part of subject to subject analysis of interaction between different social subjects.

The term “life world” was implemented by E. Husserl and according to his understanding it is the “only actual world”, “actual specific surrounding world” (Umwelt) we live in, the soil and horizon of both theoretical and practice beyond theory”; “always committed, always having the meaning of knowingly real”.

According to the interpretation of J. Habermas a life world is considered as a the world of action which is common for the people (Lebenswelt); it is a world developed “intersubjectively”, i.e. within the interaction of the people.

“Life world” of social community, including young specialists, is always seeking for relatively permanent condition (under the terms of impact of changes in the public development on it) in order to implement social needs of the people. Transformations on all spheres of the public life result in gradual change of perception of the surrounding reality by young specialists. The structure of the life world is stipulated by objective and subjective differentiation of representations of reality and perception of life events both at the level of the individual and social community.

A category of the life world in this sense becomes some integral term which connects micro and macro levels of analysis of young specialists. In this sense one may agree with L.G. Ionin that every “life world” has its own form. Life form is the “way to satisfy needs; institutes regulating joint life and standards of behaviour with respect to the others… Life forms are not some timeless moral norms they are historically changeable and historically stipulated rules of perception, judgment and behavior”.

Organization of the “life world” is manageable and is determined as the reaction to events, which results in the processes of restructuring and change of the “life world” under the influence of public changes via regulation, coordination and ordering of its elements. The system of value orientations plays an important rule there.

It can be mentioned that in the youth environment, which young specialists belong to, selected and recognized values predetermine attitude of young specialists to the environment, and represent a factor of their development. Young specialists who choose and believe in specific values discover, represent and experience the reality on their own. According to it the values, which are selected and believed in, are a factor stimulating life activity and helping them to participate in the public and professional life. Values play an important role in formation of a person’s identity, encouraging acting, solving problems, which is essential for formation of identity of young specialists and structuring of their strategy on their own in order to succeed. As a result, “values allow understanding the value of their own personal existence.
So, the life world as a combination of preferences, assessed values and social experience important for the subject is a complicated and relatively changeable formation which is stipulated by both internal characteristics of the subject and external impacts. Order if feasible in it as a result of the “order of subordination” through the controlling parameters which include the following: social behavior, option to select an action, personal opinion and others.

For young specialists life experience consists of the values in the professional and other spheres of life and experience in interaction with other actors. Views and values, i.e. the life world of young specialists, are always changing while searching for the condition leading to sustainable development on the basis of current realities.

Thus, a modern individual can be considered at least from two positions from the point of view of his impact on young specialists. From macrosocial point of view he can be analyzed as social space structured by unified principles of life activity of social subjects and requirements to them. From microsocial point of view – a combination of life worlds construed by social actors and interacting with each other. As a result, young specialists are under the influence of social formations of different levels, which raises specific requirements to analyze them.

References