

The dependence of senior students' career choices on age and psychological characteristics

Orientation to the future can be considered to be the main psychological characteristic of secondary school senior students. It concerns different sides of mental life. Senior student is on the verge of social maturity. Educational activities become educational and professional, they realize professional and personal aspirations of both boys and girls. Senior students' leading motives are related to self-determination and preparation for independent life, to further development and self-education. These motives become personal and significant.

Because of the implementation of the idea of specialized education of the secondary school senior students, the latter face the important problem of choice of their future occupation.

Secondary school senior students finally become physically mature. In terms of age the problem of determination has been fully examined by L. Bozhovych.

Works of L. Bozhovych give detailed understanding of the psychological nature of self-determination. Firstly, she notes that the need for self-determination appears at a certain stage of ontogeny – the boundary of the adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18, and explains this need by the logic of a teenager's personal development. Secondly, the need for self-determination is taken as a need for the formation of a certain semantic system, which combines the ideas about the world and the person itself. Thirdly, self-determination is inseparably connected with such essential characteristic of the adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 as orientation to the future. Fourthly, self-determination determines career choice.

M. R. Hinzburh considers the characteristics of self-determination to be oriented to the future, and points out to its connection with the values. "Accepting or rejecting certain social values, defining some of them as "one's own", and the others as "someone else's", a person forms his own system of values and determines his own position".

To sum up, we can say that self-consciousness, outlook and understanding of one's own value appear to be the key structures of teens' consciousness that allow them to knowingly choose their future occupation.

The formation of this structure, as well as the capacity for reflection, allows to sensibly evaluate one's abilities, to coordinate them with one's values, intentions and aspirations, to set the goals and to determine ways of their achievement.