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## The altruistic behavior: characteristic of future teachers of inclusive education in Russia

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### Abstract

Authors consider the problem of lack of altruistic behaviour of the future teachers of inclusive education in Russia. According to the conception of altruism of P. Sorokin altruistic behaviour can assist in healing of “special children” and their social rehabilitation. This study presents the results of applied research on the matter “The impact future young teachers’ altruism on relation to education of the disabled in Russia”. The better participation of future teachers in education of the disabled requires the transformation of altruistic behaviour. The importance of this conclusion is proved by data of investigations of P.A. Sorokin.

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### 1. Introduction

The problem of revealing the altruistic essence of inclusive education is strengthened at the present stage of the development of society. The interpretation of many pedagogical and sociological categories is changing. Term “altruism” associated with help of disabled and desire to educate disabled is more significant than other categories.

According to official statistics, there are over 13 million disabled people in Russia, or approximately 9% of the population. It is evident the number of people with disabilities is huge. In the article we try to find the answer on question, why a lot of future teachers and social workers do not want to help people with disabilities.

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### 1.1. Description of the previous research on the same topic

Various aspects of the theory of altruism in inclusive education are considered in works of Russian researchers. In particular, the concept of altruism is presented in the monograph of Rurikov “Three desire: love her yesterday, today and tomorrow” (1967). Two volumes of “Philosophy of Love” have published in 1990. This work presents the study of this phenomenon, for example, articles of Chanyshv (1990), Streltsova (1990). However psychological aspects of this topic hardly expressed in the literature.

Our research is based on the theory of altruistic love of P. Sorokin (1967) which maintains that altruistic love is the main power in society. His elaborate scientific analysis of altruistic behaviour with regard to its higher and lower forms, its causes and effects, its human and cosmic significance, and its core features constitutes the first study on this topic.

In the fundamental work “The Way and the power of love” Sorokin classifies the manifestations of the superconscious phenomenon of altruistic love and offers methods and techniques (for example, the method of good deals), which help the formation of altruistic love and provide its dominance in inner world and human behavior. Sorokin reveals the main actors - producers of altruistic love: certain types of people, social groups or institutions. Among these factors the family is the most important. Family spontaneously has become the most effective institution of human altruization. This level of altruization in the family, which is expressed in the love of parents to children, determines physical and mental health of children and their altruistic behavior. This statement is well proved by two different groups of evidence. On the one hand, a large percent of children unloved and rejected by their parents become physically and mentally disabled people in comparison with children who were loved by members of their families. On the other hand, “a study of all Christian Catholic and Russian Orthodox Saints shows that some 70% of them belong to the fortunate type of altruists. These came from harmonious families and were encouraged by their families in their activities which eventually led to their sainthood” [Sorokin, 1967, p. 198]. Thus according the theory of altruistic love the level of altruization in the family determines altruistic behavior of children which come from these families. Altruistic love can help in solving problems of inclusive education.

### 1.3 Definition and operationalization of the basic concept of altruism

Altruism is defined as both sacrificial connection with other and an sacrificial act with a purpose to help another person. Altruism is a related notion (İşmen & Yidiz, 2005). Enç and Hançerlioğlu defined altruism as “a state of love directed towards others instead of egoism and self-indulgence” (Enç, 1990; Hançerlioğlu, 1978). Altruism is important factor teachers’ moral and professional success (Scott & Dinham, 1999) and factor of appearing and development inclusive programs.

Altruism as act of behavior is considered as prosocial act (Boehm, 1979). We can agree with Onatir’ point of view that the main criterion for altruism is the intention to help (Onatir, 2008). Intention to help and responsibility is the important chrematistics of person who tries ultimately satisfies himself for benefits of disabled persons. Thus altruism is the system of social behavior which is based of moral values of mercy, humility and desire to help other people. Altruistic behavior is philanthropic actions. “To do good deals for goodness” is the main idea of altruistic behavior.

There are six kinds of love according the concept of altruism of Sorokin (1967): (1) religious love refers to perceiving the love of God; (2) ontological love refers to the instrumentality of love or loving to unify, harmonize, elevate, enrich, and empower; (3) ethical love refers to identification of love with such values as goodness, truth, and beauty; (4) biological love refers to love expressed sexually through passions; (5) psychological love refers to love experienced emotionally through giving or receiving empathy, sympathy, kindness, and benevolence; (6) social love refers to love as manifested in meaningful interactions or relationship with others, as driven by sharing, helping, and altruism.

Sorokin described the five dimensions of love:

- The intensity of love ranges between the “zero point” and “infinite love” (with hate, according to Sorokin, constituting its own separate intensity vector).
- The extensity of love ranges from love of oneself to love of all humankind and all sentient beings.

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