

VOLUNTEERING MEANS BENEVOLENCE

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The modern society needs people who can independently make decisions in a situation of their own volition, can co-operate like a single team, be active and creative, and have a sense of responsibility for the destiny and success of the country and its socio-economic prosperity. In this context, the special priority is got with a problem of development of social activity of youth movement. Leading contemporary educators, psychologists, philosophers, and sociologists believe that a voluntary public activity today not only can help to solve many social problems of our society, but will contribute the development of socially considerable qualities of young boys and girls and mould the active life position.

The word "volunteering" literally means a volunteer willing. Volunteering or volunteer activity is mutual assistance and self-help, formal provision of services and other forms of participation, which are carried out voluntarily for the benefit of the general public without expectation of monetary reward. Volunteers, from the point of view of the law of independent Kazakhstan, are individuals who carry out charitable activities in the form of gratuitous performance of work, provision of services (volunteer activities). Volunteers have played and continue to play a significant role in promoting progress and improving the overall well-being of developing countries, both through national programs and United Nations programs for humanitarian assistance, technical assistance, respect for human rights, democratization of society and consolidation of peace. A volunteer can be any person who wants to devote his free time to voluntary work, as well as who has such a quality as responsibility. Today volunteering is widespread in many countries of the world. The main directions of volunteer teams are diverse:

- assistance to the elderly, street children, homeless people, people with disabilities (disabled people), migrants, refugees, former prisoners;
- ecology (planting flowers, flower beds, lawns, bushes and trees, ecological marches, cleaning up garbage and pollution of water bodies);
- improvement and arrangement of yards, sites, city streets;
- prevention of alcohol and drug addiction;
- human rights activities (protection of the rights of socially unprotected groups of citizens);
- preservation of historical and cultural heritage;
- assistance in the field of physical culture and mass sports (promotion of a healthy lifestyle);
- assistance to animals, voluntary assistance to zoos and reserves.

Since ancient times, the system of volunteering was the principal method of manning the army in some states. For example, during the period of the 18th to the first half of 19th century, volunteer battalions and regiments existed in such countries as France, Austria, Hungary and Italy. They were the main part of the

regular army. However, the things with the system of volunteering have changed greatly in the second part of the 19th century. You know, that in the UK, since 1961, the system of volunteering remained as the way of manning the army and then to the regular army.

Do you know, how the word “TSB” is treated? So, it means the person voluntarily entered the army. We can mention the fact, that the word “volunteerism” and the word “volunteer” have completely different concept.

Volunteering is a social service the general idea of it is as old as the word “society”. Fortunately, the mankind doesn’t remember the society, which would be irresponsible and disinterested to the idea of voluntary. There were a lot of good people in the society. Such people wanted to know the way of self-realization, they wanted to improve their life standards and the communication with other people was also the essential part of their life.

In the 20th century the word “volunteering” acquired the meaning of a universal social phenomenon. The first volunteer project was in France after the First World War, exactly in 1920. It was the participation of the German and French young people, who restored the farm destroyed by the war. Since that time volunteering became popular all over the world. Today the volunteering is a form of civic participation, the way of collective interaction and an important part of a democratic society.

At the initiative of the Head of State, 2020 has been declared the Year of the Volunteer in Kazakhstan. The traditions of volunteerism, selfless help to those who need it, in our country have deep historical roots and have always been supported, but in recent years the volunteer movement is gaining special strength - more and more people understand that it is in their power to do good and change the life around them to the best. The theme year is precisely aimed at making volunteering massive, constructive and as effective as possible.

The republican front-office of volunteers Birgemiz (Together), which opened in the capital on the basis of the EXPO-center, is one of the important initiatives that can ensure the qualitative growth of the domestic volunteer movement. Coordination and public monitoring of volunteer projects, popularization of the movement will be carried out at the new site. Volunteers will be able to study here. The President got acquainted with the front office, with projects in seven main areas of his work (Asyl mura, Bilim, Saýlyq, Sabaqtastyq, Taza Álem, Úmit, Qamqor), as well as with the online platform Qazvolunteer.kz, which is designed to unite all volunteers in Kazakhstan.

After Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met with representatives of the volunteer movement in Kazakhstan. Moreover, in addition to the volunteers who gathered directly at the EXPO center, their “colleagues” from all regions of the country took part in the event - they joined the conversation via video conferencing, had the opportunity to talk about their projects and understanding the essence of volunteering. After listening to them, the Head of State noted that he was very touched by the speeches, wished the volunteers success in their future activities and shared the news.

“I agreed to become an honorary ambassador of the volunteer movement in Kazakhstan,” Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev announced. - I have the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. But this status - the honorary ambassador of the country's volunteer movement - I think is no less important. This is a great honor for me. Let's work together.

The head of state stressed that the country's achievements and victories directly depend on the active actions of patriotic citizens who perform useful and important deeds every day. There are already a lot of people who are actively and permanently involved in the volunteer movement in Kazakhstan. However, according to Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev, there may be much more citizens willing to volunteer at the call of their souls. And the task of the state is to help them get involved in this movement.

The President stressed that for the effective development of volunteering, the support of those involved in this activity is needed. He also said that the efforts of the state will be aimed at creating a favorable environment for the active development of the volunteer movement.

He also said that it is planned to create volunteer associations in universities, colleges and schools in Kazakhstan. In addition, the Unified Volunteer Portal has been updated, which contains all the information about new projects and opportunities for participation in them. According to the President, all this will form a stable and effective infrastructure network of the volunteer movement in the country.

References

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