

ARE STUDENTS INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN BRICS ACTIVITIES? A PRACTICAL CASE STUDY.

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Abstract.

The session "The Role of Youth in Preserving and Developing Civilization Values and Rights of the BRICS nations", held by the author of the article together with experts within the framework of the BRICS Forum in 2024, showed the importance of such event as a public discussion platform for discussing the interest of young people in participating in socially significant projects, introducing their own initiatives into the practice of universities. The study of the results demonstrated that the students participating in the session positively assess the content of the discussions held from the point of view of the possibility of forming positive social practices of ideological orientation, focused on identifying the characteristic trends of modern social development. At the same time, the special role of higher education in forming respect among young people for national traditions and worldview, cultural and religious characteristics of the peoples of the Russian Federation and the peoples of friendly countries was noted.

Keywords: social practices, BRICS session, youth cooperation, spiritual and moral values.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Many people remember that the "snark" is a fictional character in the poem "the hunting of the snark" by the English writer I. Carroll, who was hunted by all the other characters. It is difficult to say whether the "snark" actually existed, since no one saw it, and only heard about it. However, it could not be found: "they sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care; they pursued it with forks and hope; They threatened its life with a railway-share; they charmed it with smiles and soap." [1]

Today, one gets the complete impression that our former western partners have declared a new campaign for the "snark". At the same time, the "snark" that is being hunted today is Russia. The poem was written by I. Carroll in 1876, but it still sounds relevant today. In our opinion, it is appropriate to recall the concept of the VUCA world, which offers ways of acting in a constantly changing, unstable, chaotic and unpredictable military environment. For example, in business environment. The term began to be used after the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, and with the onset of the pandemic and in modern geopolitical conditions, the term has acquired particular relevance [2]. Returning to the analogy with the "the hunting of the snark", we can safely say that in modern conditions a new BRICS "ship" with a team of 10 has been created, restraining the "hunting" process. It is the BRICS countries that defend their own national priorities and values in their policies, develop and strengthen national cultural components. In connection with the recent political aggravation initiated by representatives of the Anglo-Saxon world around our country and the countries of the global majority, a correct youth policy that leads to the desired results, implemented by the BRICS countries, is of particular importance.

Today, the public institutions of the BRICS countries and, first of all, the education system, face the main task of promoting national and family values among the youth, forming patriotism and other important priorities.

Why is it important for young people to actively participate in the work of the BRICS institutions and other socially significant projects? In these cases, we are not just talking about young people receiving information, but about the socialization of young people, tearing them away from gadgets, calling for reflection and analysis, and finally, for intergenerational dialogue. Participation in socially significant projects allows young people to present themselves, be heard, receive a referential assessment of their position from experienced speakers, and promote new projects. Nevertheless, this is a two-way street. It is obvious that the older generation values the participation of young people in BRICS events and other projects in order to hear directly about existing problems, take into account different opinions, answer questions, and then take this into account when forming current youth policy.

In 2024, Russia chaired the BRICS association under the motto "strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security." Our country held more than 250 events in different cities of the Russian Federation. As part of the preparation for the BRICS Civil Forum 2024, the meeting of the working group "Vision 2050: Values and Rights of Peoples" was held in Moscow to prepare recommendations on the BRICS Civil Agenda to the leaders of the BRICS nations. The importance of studying the culture of friendly countries, traditional values, and human rights was emphasized at the working group meeting. The education sector in this regard is of particular importance. The proposed political solution is to adjust school curricula in the BRICS countries based on the cultural heritage, the greatest cultural achievements of these countries on the basis of reciprocity. At the same time, experts also noted that most of the BRICS countries and, more broadly, the countries of Asia and Africa, previously classified as third world countries, had close ties with the USSR, and many specialists studied in Soviet educational institutions. These countries are still largely guided by the standards that Russia is now moving away from. This is an important issue in preserving and promoting traditional values. It is necessary, first of all, to know and understand how these countries and regions are structured, what they are "sick with", what internal and external challenges they have [3].

The BRICS Summit in 2024 was held in Kazan, Russian Federation. For the first time it was held in an expanded format, with the participation of new countries. Indonesia joined BRICS in 2024 and became the tenth full member of the organization.

Yet another important event in 2024 was the BRICS Youth Summit held in Ulyanovsk, Russia. At the summit a declaration was adopted, which included proposals and initiatives to strengthen educational cooperation within BRICS within the framework of existing institutions, and to hold annual meetings of BRICS young entrepreneurs taking into account the interests of the new member countries of the organization. We all agree that youth is the engine of progress, so cooperation between young scientists, diplomats, doctors and other professionals of the BRICS countries comes to the forefront. Such opportunities were provided by the Economic Congress of the VI International Municipal Forum of the BRICS countries, which was held in November 2024 in St. Petersburg. As part of the business program of the forum, the author of this article has organized a session "The Role of Youth in Preserving and Developing Civilization Values and Rights of the BRICS Peoples", which happened to be a unique platform that introduced young people to successful cases of international cooperation, innovative projects and social initiatives. The agenda of the organized session included a discussion of priority areas of youth policy: development of the value system of the peoples of the BRICS countries; youth cooperation of the BRICS countries; implementation of the main provisions of the declaration of the BRICS Youth Summit 2024; formation of spiritual and moral values of youth as the basis for youth policy of the BRICS member countries; the role of art in the formation of spiritual and moral values of youth; the role of higher education in developing respect for the national mentality, cultural and religious characteristics of the peoples of friendly countries; the role of tourism in developing cooperation between the youth of the BRICS countries. Leading Russian and foreign scientists, youth policy experts, educators and cultural experts, representatives of municipal councils of the BRICS countries, and representatives of the volunteer movement took part in the session. For example, the representatives of China, who spoke at the session noted that the spiritual and moral values of Chinese youth, are a fusion of traditions, socialist ideals and modern challenges. The idea of the "Great Revival of the Chinese Nation" not only denotes the economic and political revival of China, but also focuses on restoring cultural identity and confidence in its own traditions and heritage. The values of hard work are deeply rooted in Chinese culture and philosophy. They originate in the Confucian tradition, where self-improvement, diligence and discipline are considered important qualities that ensure personal and social prosperity. In his speech at the session, the representative of India noted that Indian youth, like the youth of many countries, under the pressure of the values of Western civilization, must maintain a balance between traditional Indian values and the liberal values of the West. Vedic and non-vedic education in schools and universities in India is especially contrasting. Education is aimed at forming a sense of self-identity in young people, while emphasizing the importance of the values of traditional moral culture. In India, especially among young people, there is an active social struggle for the process of integrating traditional national and modern ideologies, which is especially evident in such areas as culture, medicine, and education. These processes emphasize the role of India in the unification of BRICS as a connecting bridge between innovative technologies and traditional cultural patterns.

In our opinion, for greater representativeness, it is appropriate to cite the results of the study conducted among young participants of the BRICS session, previously published in a number of scientific articles by the author.

The cited article notes that the purpose of the study was to determine the level of interest of young people in participating in socially significant projects through participation in events such as the brics session, which can further contribute to the introduction of their own social initiatives into the practice of universities, as well as help self-expression and the formation of a sustainable and socially responsible worldview of the younger generation [4].

2. METHODOLOGY.

An anonymous sociological survey of students and postgraduates who took part in the session "the role of youth in preserving and developing civilization values and the rights of the brics peoples" was chosen as the research method. The anonymity of the survey made it possible to obtain sincere answers from respondents, which were assessed on the likert scale. The survey involved 19 respondents who had to choose one of the answers to the questionnaire questions: completely agree, partially agree, not sure, partially disagree and completely disagree.

3. RESULTS.

Below are some of the questions from the questionnaire and the results of the analysis of the respondents' answers.

Q1. Do you agree that students' participation in events such as the brics forum session "the role of youth in preserving and developing civilizational values and rights of the brics peoples" contributes to the implementation of your own initiatives in social practice?

The overwhelming majority of participants (63.2%) are confident that brics forums give them the opportunity to implement their projects. This indicates the demand for such platforms for the practical application of ideas. However, every tenth respondent (10.5%) remained with doubts - probably due to the lack of support mechanisms after the event.

Q2. Higher education plays an important role in developing respect for the national mentality, cultural and religious characteristics of the peoples of other countries in young people.

The majority of respondents (57.9%) are absolutely sure that higher education plays a key role in fostering respect for cultural diversity. This confirms the importance of academic programs aimed at intercultural dialogue. However, every tenth respondent (10.5%) could not give an unambiguous assessment, which signals the need for a more visual demonstration of the results of such work - for example, through the publication of research or the organization of open discussions.

Q3. The issues on the brics session agenda generally revealed the role of youth participation in university initiatives aimed at forming spiritual and moral values.

The majority of respondents (57.9%) acknowledge that the brics session agenda emphasizes the role of youth in university initiatives aimed at forming moral values, but 31.6% remained unsure, which indicates the need for a clearer focus on practical tools - for example, how to transform discussions into concrete actions. At the same time, the absence of negative assessments (0%) confirms the prospects of the chosen topic

Q4. Do you agree that the speeches of speakers and experts at the brics session helped participants better understand the significance of the civilizational values of the peoples of the brics countries?

The survey results show a mixed assessment of the presentations at the brics session: 42.1% of participants fully acknowledged their usefulness for understanding civilizational values, but the same number (42.1%) could not give a definite assessment. This result points to the need for a clearer structure of the presentations and the inclusion of practical examples that would make abstract concepts more accessible to perception. At the same time, the absence of negative assessments confirms the correctness of the chosen direction of work.

Q5. The discussions held within the framework of the brics session and the information provided to the participants on international youth cooperation revealed opportunities for young leaders of the brics countries.

Almost 70% of the participants noted that the discussions and information at the brics session helped them see the prospects for international cooperation. However, every fourth (26.3%) remained with

doubts - this is a signal to supplement the program with specific tools for implementing initiatives, for example, grant competitions or mentoring programs.

Q6. Events like the brics session motivate you to actively participate in various social practices that represent relevant forms of support for social experience.

Brics sessions have proven their motivational power: 47.4% of participants stated their readiness for active actions after the event. However, 21.1% did not feel a clear connection between the discussions and real opportunities.

Q7. The brics session provided young people with the opportunity to develop positive social practices with a Worldview focus, focused on identifying the characteristic trends of modern social development.

Brics session successfully fulfills its mission as a platform for developing social practices: 73.7% of participants confirm its role in understanding modern trends. However, 21.1% of respondents remained unsure, and this indicates the need for a clearer translation of ideas into practice.

Along with this, it seems interesting to give an example of some reviews, namely the review of a master's student, a participant in the session: "the speeches of the speakers and experts clearly demonstrated the uniqueness of the cultural, historical and social values of each brics country. This allowed the participants to learn about the diversity of civilizational approaches, as well as to see points of contact that contribute to strengthening mutual respect and cooperation. The forum inspires young people, showing that their activity can influence global processes. In addition, the discussion of topical issues, for example, intercultural dialogue, helps to form a responsible worldview in young people and motivates them to participate in social practices. Meetings with experts and representatives of other countries broaden horizons, provide practical tools for the implementation of their own ideas, and also emphasize the importance of solidarity and exchange of experience between the brics countries," lisa k., master's student at st. Petersburg state politechnic university

4. CONCLUSIONS

The results of the analysis of respondents' answers and the opinions of the session participants showed that such events inspire young people, showing that their activity can influence global processes. Of course, meetings with experts and representatives of other countries and intercultural dialogue broaden horizons, provide practical tools for implementing one's own ideas, and also emphasize the importance of solidarity and exchange of experience between the brics countries, demonstrating the diversity of civilizational approaches. There is also no doubt that the discussion of current topics helps to form a socially responsible worldview among young people and motivates them to develop and participate in modern socially significant practices. Continuing the work started, the author, together with partners, is preparing an event within the framework of the program of the vii international municipal brics forum, which will be held in 2025 in st. Petersburg. Topic of the discussion: "science, intergenerational dialogue and education of youth as interrelated factors influencing the self- determination and development of young people in modern society." scientists and young specialists from universities in the russian federation and brics countries, business representatives, youth policy specialists, students, and journalists are invited to participate in the event.

The importance of conducting such work, open discussions not only within the framework of brics events, but also in other formats, determines the reality in which we live. We are all on a big journey called life, and it is very important for all of us to be together in this journey, as one team. Brics provides everyone with such an opportunity.

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