

Extracurricular Inclusive Education Activities at Orphanages

Marina Tyuleneva

Independent Researcher, Russia

Abstract

One of the most troublesome issues in Russia is a considerable amount of orphans. These children live in specific institutions – orphanages – that are subsidized by government. Having limited assets, it is not always possible to supply orphanages with human resources and provide students with a modern education. Moreover, children at orphanages experience lack of social activity and remain isolated from society due to isolation of such institutions. Being social orphans in childhood, they experience social abandonment as adults. These children often choose low-prestige jobs and struggle with all kinds of social interaction. This article will address the problems of inclusive education for children living in orphanages. It will also suggest a strategy of extracurricular education that might be a solution to the educational problem and, additionally, a guidance for acquiring social skills and connections. The main area of knowledge that seems suitable as a good educational program in this context is IT, as one of the most rapidly developing areas with numerous working places. Along with the basic skills in IT, such areas as design, programming and cybersecurity will also be considered, as well as their value for social skills development among children at orphanages. The program might give children the opportunity to acquire useful knowledge that can be considered as the first step towards obtaining a professional education, and scalability of the educational approach could introduce inclusive learning throughout Russia.

Keywords: orphanage, inclusive education, computer science, learning and studying, extracurricular activity