SCIENTIFIC Research

ELECTRONIC ISSUE

ON THE PARADIGM OF SCIENCE *SOCIAL ACTIVITY*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The social activity, as a kind of human practice, is a very old one. On the other side, the *professional social work* (especially in the methodological and technological point of views), is a quite new practice. The social activity theory, methodology and technology are developed "under pressure of new humanistic wave" still since the Second World War.

Unfortunately, the professional social activity generally is developing spontaneously. It is based either on the theory and methodology of other society sciences, or it is without a theoretical base – by means of intuition and experimental results and data, respectively. Even some scientists tolerate an approach without theory, argue that "*helping (i.e. social activity) is art*". It is not surprisingly that in social works are observed multiple and various problems, which make difficult the practice of social workers. One decision of this problem is **treating social activity not only as a practice, but as a science.**

The aim of the present paper is to propose an approach on the science social activity paradigm.

2. TASKS OF SOCIAL ACTIVITY THEORY

The first task on development of social activity theory is that, related to *construction of its paradigm*.

The second task is to prove a statement that *social activity is an independent science* among other society sciences, with own objects and subjects, topic themes, methodology and technologies.

The third task is to make clear *the place of the social activity in other society's sciences*.

All tasks are the subject of scientific researches in our study *On the theory of science Social activity* [3]. In this paper we consider only the firs task.

3. THE PARADIGM OF SOCIAL ACTIVITY

The task for constructing a paradigm of science *Social activity* is a fundamental one. It is impossible to be a scientific problem for only one researcher. In our recently published monographic work *The Basics of the Social Activity and Work* [2], we offer one variant of this paradigm, like a base of discussions. In the present paper we will discuss the topic themes and statements considered in above mentioned monograph.

3.1. The tasks of paradigm construction

We use thesaurus definitions from the epistemology related with meta-concepts: *paradigm, methodology, technology, approach, principle, method, tools,* etc. So it is a possible to construct "*the tree of the paradigm*" (Fig. 1) and to determine tasks of construction the paradigm of science *Social activity* (see ref. [2], pp. 5-11):

1. Definition of social activity themes

    a) definition of basic terms: social welfare, failure and problem;

    b) determination of:

- objects of social work and control;
　　　　- subjects of study;
　　　　- subjects of social work and control;
　　c) definition of:
　　　　- basic (category) concepts of social activity;
　　　　- operative (thematic, conceptions and others) concepts of social activity.
2. Determination of the social activity methodology
　　a) definition of the approaches and principles for a research, determination and
　　　realization of:
　　　　- social work (protection and support);
　　　　- social control (politics and management);
　b) definition of the methods and tools for research, determination and realization of:
　　　　- social work (protection and support);
　　　　- social control (politics and management).
3. Construction of the social activity technologies*, in relation to:*
　　a) goals and resources;
　　b) tasks;
　　c) connection the methods and means in procedures and technology;
　　d) professional records of social workers.
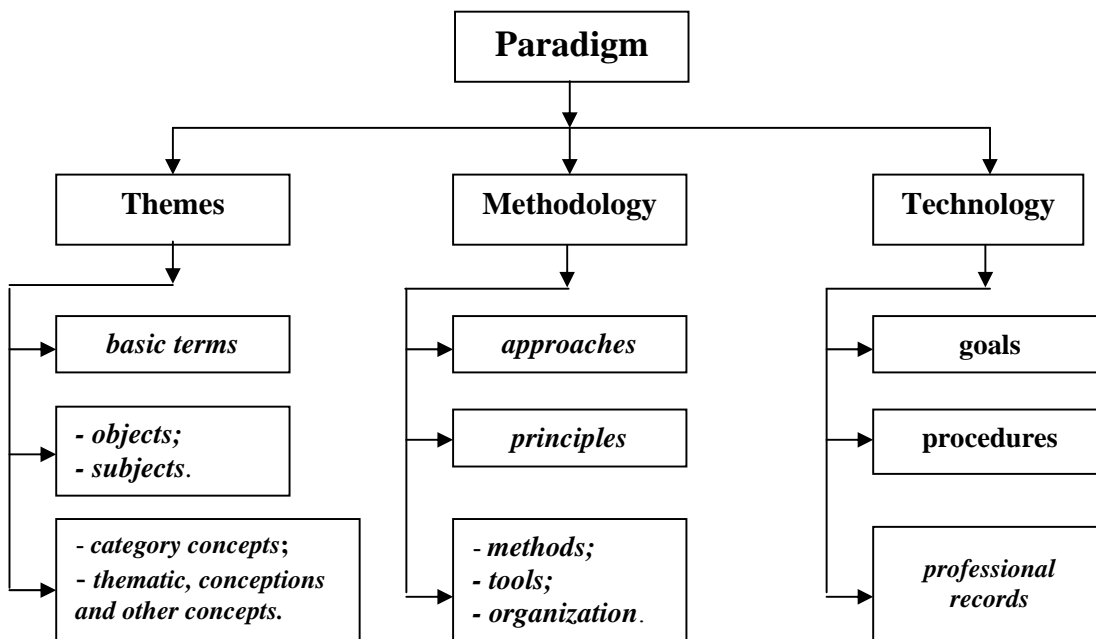In the present paper we consider the first two sub-tasks.

Fig. 1. Tree of the paradigm

3.2. Themes of social activity
In my opinion, the social activity themes include:
● two double terms: {*social welfare - social failure}* and {*social – socialized problem*};
● category concepts:

○ *social activity* and its components: *work and control; protection and support; politics, strategy, tactics and management;*

○ basic social relations: *solidarity, justice and responsibility; humanity and exigency; interaction and expertness*;

● *objects and subjects*;

● *thematic, conceptions and other operative concepts*.

3.2.1. First double terms - *social welfare and social failure* – are connected with two possible global goals of the social activity. That is why, these terms are the most important elements in our social activity definition:

The social activity is a process of human actions and relations, connecting either with social welfare attain and support or with a social failure limit to possible minimum.[1]

Second double terms - *social problem and socialized problem* –there is also a basic meaning for the social activity theory. We consider (see ref. [2], p. 13) that:

The social problem is the discrepancy between the normative determinate living wage needs/rights and tools/manners for their satisfaction.

By this definition we accept the following:

- presence of living wage needs and rights for persons, families and groups (materials and socio-cultural), that are determinate by a law rights or moral norms;

- absence or shortage of resources, tools and manners for satisfaction of their needs and rights.

In social activity problems we include the so-cold *socialized problem*, i.e. the personal problem reform in social problem by the socialization. There are more details on this problem, as follows:

- all problems in society generally are personal, without them, that are negative resultants from society (military or civil) obligations or from the labour activity;

- in a process of civilization development, under the pressure of humanistic ideas and acts, some personal problems are socialized – for example, an invalided persons in way of live, "make equal" with law rights on the military invalids.

3.2.2. The category group of social activity concepts includes this activity and its components: social work, protection and support, as well as social control, politics, organization, strategy, tactic and management.

The definition of category concepts practically differentiates and identifies the social activity. It helps us to develop a methodology and technology for each of its components.

In our already mentioned monograph we propose and give reasons for definitions of all category concepts (see ref. [2], pp. 14 – 17).

3.2.3. The second task for social activity themes development is about specifying its objects, subjects and themes.

Usually the objects and subjects are practically applied elements of some activity, and the themes – its theoretically applied elements. However, things in the social activity are much more complicated (see ref. [2], pp. 11-16 and pp. 18-39):

- *objects* of social work are the persons, families and groups having social failure (i.e. they are discriminated, disintegrated, maltreated, etc.), a *theme* – one or more states/elements of a failure (poverty, unemployment, discrimination, etc.);

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[1] Now for our country more realistic is the second goal – decreasing the social failure to possible minimum.

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- as the social work is a practical one, the elements of social failure are *objects* of a social control (more exactly of a social politics), and a *theme* of social control (politics) is, for example, the kinds of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, etc. In the social work they are sub-theme for study and taking decision;

- *social control subjects* are social organizations (public, private and no-governmental one). Their official, *social workers,* have two roles - *mediators in social protection* and *subjects in social support. Social clients,* respectively, are objects *for social protection* and they are included in a modern system-interactive approach of a social support as *subjects for their problem decision*.

This change of roles requires their carefully explanation.

A) The social problems and objects are interconnecting, but between them there are "*a dividing line*" and it depends on presence or absence of law rights and subject control. But such dividing line is not a "*hard*" one, permanently social problems are developing in social objects. A set up of a social object is going on the way, shown in Fig. 2. The evidence is given in our monograph (see ref. [2], pp. 18-38).
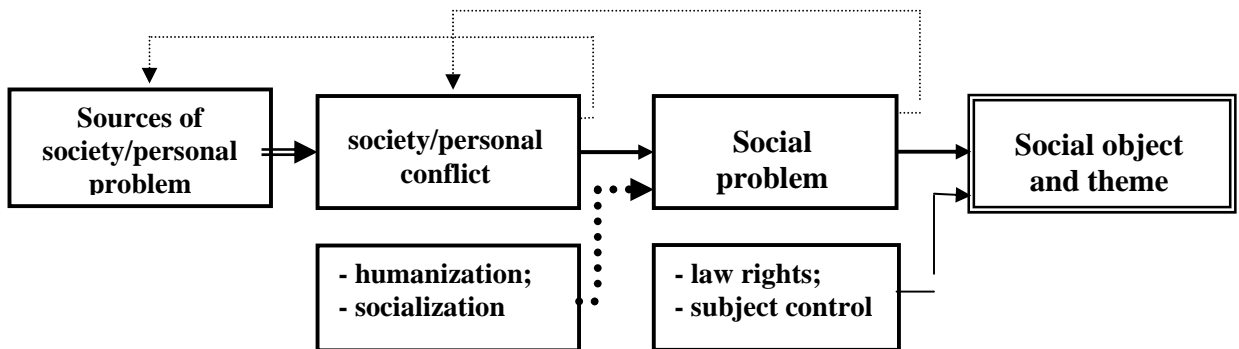

Fig. 2. A diagram for set up of social activity objects

In this monograph we are defined the social activity objects and themes by two criteria – as a nominal social themes (Table 1) and as objects of social work organizations (Fig. 3).

Table1. Normative determinate themes of social failure

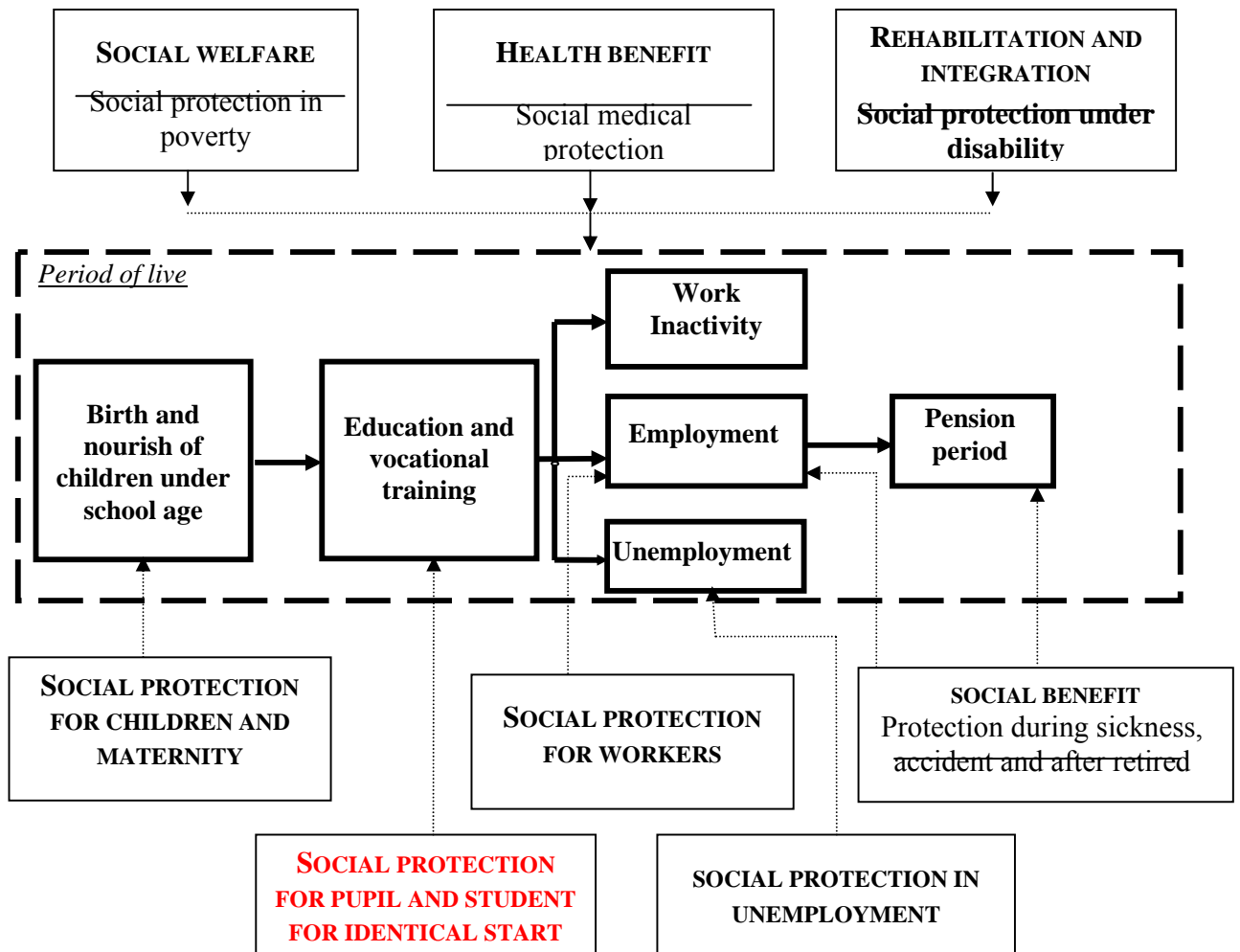| |
|---|
| A) Socio-physical degradation (outcasts; absolutely poverties; physical helplessness) |
| B) Socio-culture disintegration (specific poverties; deprivation/restraint of social service, etc.) |
| C) Labour discrimination and disintegration (unemployment; hard and unhealthy work, deprivation of salary, deprivation/restraint of leave and lunch rest, unpaid overtime and night work, etc.) |
| D) Education-vocational discrimination and disintegration (deprivation/restraint of qualitative education and qualification by financial, ethnic, political, cultural and other reasons) |
| E) Medical discrimination (deprivation/restraint of modern health protection by financial, ethnic, political, cultural and other rezones) |
| F) Disintegration of communities (compulsion physical and cultural isolation) |
| G) Violence (physical maltreat, sexual abuse) |

Fig. 3. Social protection for persons, families and groups

B) On the base of so determinate objects and themes, it is possible to define the social activity subjects more successful. The organizations, departments and specialists, who realize social work, in my opinion, should be the same:
- *organizations for social work with*:
  = poverties and unemployment's;
  = persons with physical and mental problems;
  = children with social problem and a risk of the same problem;
- *departments and specialists for social work with*:
  = lonely old people;
  = victims of violence and violators;
  = alcoholics and drug addicts;
  = deviate's and delinquent's (including in prisons);
- *organizations for social-labour control under employment's;*
- *organizations for social and health insurances and benefits (by sickness, accident, retired and unemployment).*

3.2.4. The last problem of such themes development is that for operation concepts definition. Definitions however are so many and they are connecting with social activity technology. Because of that we will only mark them here.

The thematic concepts are connecting with social objects. Such are, for example, the following:

- *poverty and unemployment;*
- *deprivation, discrimination and disintegration;*
- *sickness and disability;*
- *violins, abuse with alcohol and drug, deviate and delinquent behavior*, etc,

The conception terms are connected with principles, goals, criteria and tools for social work and control realization. They are as follows:

- *social help and benefit, social care and subsidy, social normalize and checking, operativeness and prevention;*
- *social education, consulting and therapy, individual, family and group social work;*
- *others.*

In the theory and practice are used combinations of over indicated concepts, such as: *absolutely and specific poverty, socio-culture poverty, lime of poverty,* or *labour mediation, long-time unemployment, professional education,* or *invalid's support, rehabilitation and integration,* etc.

3.3. The social activity methodology

The second group of tasks for social activity paradigm development is for its methodology construction. These tasks are as follows:

- *approaches and principles construction*;
- *methods and tools construction.*

The social activity components (work, control, etc.) are so different and various. That is why it is necessary to decide tasks under the separate components – for social work (protection and support) and for social control (politics and management).

The approaches, principles, methods and tools of social activity components are so many that we will indicate them here. They are substantiated in detail in our monograph (see ref. [2], pp. 50 -56).

3.3.1. Approaches and principles of social protection are considered in ref. [2], as follows:

a) the basic protection approaches are:

- *immediate protection for people in social problem;*
- *protection with normative instructions and oversight of there observe for people in social risk;*
- *preventive protection with:*
  = *social insurance for social benefit;*
  = *social education for adequate social behavior.*

b) the social protection principles are:

- *respect for human dignity of a protected, combined with law and economic norms keeping, with requiring for personal responsibility, initiative and active actions from social clients;*
- *non-admission of discrimination or favours by the characteristics as: sex, age, education, qualification, social origin, group affiliation, convictions, defects, etc.*
- *non-admission the violate of basic political principles for social solidarity and social justice;*
- *activity discovering of persons, families and groups with social problems.*

3.3.2. Approaches and principles of social support

a) the basic support approaches are:

- *system-interacted* ([2], pp.43-46 and p.149);

- *multimodal and multiethnic* ([1], pp.168-186 and pp.212-272).

b) the social support principles are [2]:

- *well-meaning attitude to social client, combined with exactingness;*

- *surmounted a social and communicative barriers of client;*

- *clients will activity for action;*

- *work with "two" client: the one - real client and the other – imaginary, his social environment.*

3.3.3. Roots and methods of social protection [2]:

a) the basic social protection roots are:

- direct roots: social benefits, helps, services and appliances and subsidy work places;

- indirect roots: social low rights, supervision for theirs keeping and society informing;

b) the social protection methods are:

- immediate giving:

  = social benefit, in the presence of insurance;

  = social help and service for poverty, chronic sic man, lonely old people, children in risk, etc.;

  = labour mediation, professional consulting and education, motivating and psychology support, subsidy work places, etc. for unemployment's;

  = medical-social rehabilitation, social integration, employment, education and qualification, benefits, helps and pensions for invalids;

  = services in the home social environment or similar to it, justice protection and humanist treat, police protection and integrate education for children;

  = protection against maltreat and negligee for all people and mainly for children, women and old people;

  = psycho-physiology and psycho-social services for persons with mental problems;

  = prevention against deviate's and delinquent's and humanistic treat of persons with the same behavior;

- social low rights and supervision for their keeping in:

  = negotiation of labour low-attitudes;

  = negotiation of work time, lunch interval and vacancy;

  = negotiation of equitable salary;

  = assurance a security and hygienic work places;

  = special protection for minors, women and labour readjusted;

- prevent social, medical and labour (against unemployment) insurance for social benefits.

3.3.4. Roots and methods of social support [2]:

a) the basic social support roots are:

- actually: well-meaning and psychic pressure;

- technologically: behavior analysis, diagnostics, negotiation with client, future behavior planning, supervision and discussion;

b) the social support methods are:

- medico-therapy methods:

  = psycho-therapy;

  = transaction-therapy;

= existent-therapy (classical, logo-therapy, gestalt-therapy);
- behavior modification methods:
 = classical behavior-therapy;
 = operant-therapy;
- interactive methods:
 = client-centered therapy;
 = cognitive therapy;
 = rational-emotive therapy;
- combined (eclectic) methods.

Finally, instead of deduction, we will repeat that there is a necessity for development of social activity theory, methodology and technology – for satisfaction of social workers and control specialists needs.

References
1. *Ertelt, B.J., Schulz, W.E.* Consulting in education and profession, Leonberg, 1997
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3. *Lekov, K.,* On the theory of science Social activity, South-West Leaves, Blagoevgrad, 2007, (in the press)