

Local Studies in the System of School Historical Education

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Abstract

The aim of the article is to comprehensively study the place and role of historical local studies in the system of historical education of general educational institutions in Ukraine. Being a component of national education, historical local studies contributes to the revival of regional traditions and nation's consolidation. Nowadays historical local studies in Ukraine has become a powerful means of the Ukrainians' national self-awareness awakening, their national-historical memory, without which the process of establishing independent Ukrainian statehood would be impossible.

Key words: general secondary educational institution, school history education, textbook, syllabus, curriculum, civil society, competence approach, local studies

Nowadays scientists and teachers are actively working on the problem of modernizing teaching history, without disturbing the balance between modern educational trends and long existing teaching and educational traditions. Recently, scientists, authors of syllabuses, and teachers have paid considerable attention to determining the optimal ratio of the study of national history and the history of the native region. Through knowledge and understanding of the regional history events, a student is to become aware of the past, its connection with the present, and understand general historical processes as a whole. Therefore, in order to solve these tasks, it is important to consider the previous experience and the current state of formation of the local studies component of the national history course in the school history system in Ukraine.

The aim of the article is to comprehensively study the place and role of historical local studies in the system of historical education of general educational institutions in Ukraine.

The role and place of local studies in the educational system, the specification of its content, functions, forms and methods of local studies work were the subject of many prominent local lore historians' thorough researches (I. Bezkoravainyi, O. Dibrova, F. Zastavnyi, M. Kostytsia, M. Krachylo, O. Savchenko, V. Serebrii, I. Sokolova, P. Tronko). The current

period of the “local studies renaissance”, triggered by the works of Ya. Zhupanskyi, M. Kostrytsia, M. Krachyl, V. Krul, V. Oboznyi, P. Tronko, O. Shablii, P. Shchyshchenko, has wide prospects. It is characterized by the use of local studies material at history lessons, the strengthening of local studies work and the study of social sciences based on the implementation of the local studies principle, the combination of deep national traditions of humanitarian education with a focus on universal humanistic values and standards. The evidence of this is the introduction of a course on the native region history in schools of all country regions and the creation of teaching aids and textbooks on this subject.

Today, the state highly rates and supports local studies, as it forms the spiritual basis of state-building processes in independent Ukraine, contributes to national and cultural revival, the formation of a national worldview and patriotism, that is why its organization in school is of the utmost importance. The need to teach historical local studies arises from normative requirements for the educational process organization, and continuous historical education in Ukraine [3].

At the state level, a number of systematic measures for the development of historical local studies have been developed: The Decree of the President of Ukraine “About methods of supporting the regional studies move in Ukraine” was issued; the “Program for the Development of Local Studies” aimed at its implementation was approved. Local lore and history museums, carrying out active exhibition activities, presenting numerous sights from the history of this region, and conducting archaeological expedition and search works in the territory of this region; school libraries, representing a significant amount of local history literature; public organizations, in particular the National Union of Local Lore Researchers of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments, the Ukrainian Culture Fund do a significant job of studying and promoting the history of the native region.

According to the secondary school syllabuses on the history of Ukraine during the period of independence, separate lessons are devoted to the study of the native region history by chronological periods. At the same time, in various regions of Ukraine, additional courses in historical local studies were introduced into the educational process. Based on the methodological foundations of modern historical education, the history of the region is defined as a structural component of national history programs, as an addition to the compulsory course

of the history of Ukraine, and as a separate course that is part of the variable part of the curricula of general education institutions of different regions of Ukraine [1].

Theoretical considerations and experience of local lore work testify to the large and versatile functional possibilities of local studies, which can be conditionally divided into didactic and educational. The didactic functions of local studies consist in enriching professional knowledge and practical skills, turning to a wide variety of auxiliary disciplines, seeing general history through the prism of local events, combining theory and practice, encouraging independent research work, expanding and deepening the worldview, mental abilities, general education and erudition and involvement in public activities. The inclusion of a local studies component in the systematic course of national history significantly enriches students' understanding of the era, creates conditions for understanding and directly feeling the peculiarities of the life and way of living of the population of past centuries, contributes to the comprehension of historical information based on more eventful and concrete factual material. Local lore material, being an important component of the system of knowledge on national history, serves as a means of concretizing general historical events and a means of activating students' cognitive activity [7].

Historical and local lore material in the school history course is recognized as an important means of visualization in teaching, which contributes to the students' development of observation, thinking and language, involvement of their own experience, independent observations and reflections on the historical past of their native land. Included in the content of the compulsory course, it can become an effective means of developing independent thinking, checking students' awareness and strength of knowledge [6]. The historical and local lore material collected by the students themselves is of high didactic potential, because in the process of local studies research, students learn to think creatively and outside the norm, form their own opinion, systematically study certain issues, they can discover new facts, arguments, information, clarify the details of already known phenomena and events.

Thus, the local studies component in the teaching of the history of Ukraine is the means that visualizes, concretizes, supplements the content of the compulsory course, forms thorough knowledge of the subject, promotes students' active cognitive activity aimed at mastering the social experience and cultural values of the immediate environment, develops interest in history as a whole. In our opinion, students' acquisition of knowledge about the history of their native

land is the stepping stone from which horizons are opened for mastering the hierarchy of personal, national, civic and universal values [2].

Today, the idea of local studies is widespread and relevant in the educational, historical and pedagogical field, since local lore material occupies one of the important places among the means of education of a comprehensively and harmoniously developed personality. The importance of historical local studies is to promote comprehensive education, in particular: legal, moral, aesthetic, physical, patriotic, national and public [5]. Historical and state thinking, national identification and self-awareness of future generations were, to a large extent, formed and continue to be formed on the historical and local lore material and the works of local historians of different times. At the same time, a comprehensive study of the socio-economic conditions and historical features of the native land is one of the most effective means of forming young people's active life position on the basis of their multifaceted perception of the national idea content, it contributes to a solid and conscious mastering of the basics of science, the formation of a worldview, the education of high universal humanistic qualities, a sense of civic duty and responsibility to society [4].

Therefore, historical local studies allows maintaining the ethnic evolution continuity, the national experience succession, and passing on the accumulated wealth of national values to the next generations. The high level of citizens' national dignity can consolidate the nation. And this is impossible without fostering love and respect for the native land, history, customs, and culture. Therefore, being a component of national education, historical local studies contributes to the revival of regional traditions and nation's consolidation. Today, historical local studies in Ukraine has become a forceful way of the Ukrainians' national self-awareness awakening, their national-historical memory, without which the process of establishing independent Ukrainian statehood would be out of the question.

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