

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS IN THE RUSSIAN NORTH: EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS

Biomedical Research Institute of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov has been conducting research into emotional and behavioural disorders of children over 15 years. Based on the regional educational environment needs, complex assistance for children with such disorders is considered by us as receiving new knowledge about clinical features of emotional and behavioural disorders, staff training and retraining, children's rehabilitation and treatment, giving consultative support to the child's social environment, that is, Biomedical Research Institute and Sodeystvie Centre of a child's development competences work in research, educational and practical spheres.

Emotional and behavioural disorders are related to the child's central nervous system neurobiological and functional features, the aetiology and pathogenesis of which are integrated. Therefore, the Institute staff focuses on neuro- and psycho-physiological methods in these disorders research. The Institute is successful in applying for different grants. The results of research into emotional and behavioural disorders are presented in numerous publications, including the publication list of the Russian State Commission for Academic Titles, methodological recommendations, study guides and monographs. The Institute staff members regularly take part in different conferences in Russia and overseas.

Since 2005 we have been running special courses programmes such as Behavioural disorders of children and teenagers, a professional training programme for educational and rehabilitation organisations staff – ADHD, Tourette's and Asperger's syndromes. These programmes cover both modern views of aetiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and the results of the

Institute research into the issue, analysis of extensive experience in assisting children with emotional and behavioural disorders and their families.

Since 2007 the Arkhangelsk Region Ministry of Education and Science has been commissioning the Institute professional courses for educational organisations staff. At present more than 70 specialists from the Arkhangelsk Region and Nenets Autonomous Okrug educational organisations have received knowledge about contemporary methods of diagnosing and treating emotional and behavioural disorders. Professional courses are a part of the international project implemented with partners from Norway. After completing the professional courses learners are awarded with a state certificate of professional training (72 academic hours) and an international certificate in accordance with the Bologna process provisions.

Research and education activities are closely connected with practical support given to children with emotional and behavioural disorders. Effective rehabilitation and treatment of children depends on efforts of various specialists – doctors, teachers, psychologists, as well as on a wide range of non-medical technologies and the active involvement of the family and social environment into achieving positive results.

Sodeystvie Centre of a child's development competences was established by the NArFU Rector's order № 799 dated 05.12.2011. It is a successor of the Sodeystvie research educational centre established at the Child's Development Institute in September 2001 by the M.V. Lomonosov Pomor State University Rector's order. At present a psychologist, a psychotherapist, a paediatrician, a neurologist, a special education teacher and a speech pathologist work in the Centre. Children with emotional and behavioural disorders are supported in accordance with international acts in the sphere of children's rights, federal laws, decrees of the RF President, resolutions and regulations of the RF Government, decisions of the Arkhangelsk Region Ministries, the Statute of NArFU named after M.V. Lomonosov, the Statute of Biomedical Research Institute and the Statute of Sodeystvie Centre. The Centre is financed by the

regional budget within the framework of the state contract between NArFU and the Arkhangelsk Region Ministry of Education and Science, which makes highly professional special assistance free and available to all children in the Region.

Every year around one thousand children have a check-up in Sodeystvie Centre (more than 700 of them for the first time). Many children undergo diagnosis and rehabilitation activities. Teachers visit the Centre too in order to coordinate work and rehabilitation measures in concrete cases. Apart from consulting, diagnosing and rehabilitating work, the Centre deals with the child's family and social environment, family and group therapy, courses and seminars for teachers and parents.

At present Biomedical Research Institute has significant research experience in the sphere of diagnosing and rehabilitating support of children and teenagers with different educational needs, as well as with emotional and behavioural disorders; experience in applying results to the practice of regional schools in Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk, Novodvinsk towns. Such work is done to a lesser degree in municipalities, therefore, children living in remote northern areas have a limited access to special diagnosing and rehabilitating assistance.

Establishing a regional network of children's distant consulting is relevant both in theoretical and practical terms and corresponds to the development priority of NArFU named after M.V. Lomonosov: «Northern (polar) medicine and health care». Implementing the research-based model of the distant consulting regional network for children with emotional and behavioural disorders in remote areas of the Northern Arctic region will have results that can be disseminated in other Russian regions. We have developed the model of a distant consulting regional network for children with emotional and behavioural disorders. It consists of two resource centres and regional psychological, medical and pedagogical commissions in municipalities.

Participants of the distant consulting network are a resource centre in the Biomedical Research Institute – Sodeystvie Centre of a child's development

competences, staff of NArFU developmental physiology and healthcare science department; the resource centre of the central psychological, medical and pedagogical commission; regional commissions in municipalities; parents, caregivers, legal representatives of a child with special educational needs.

The process of cooperation between all participants of the distant consulting regional network for children with emotional and behavioural disorders will involve preparing and harmonising the following: a child's individual educational route; guidelines for specialists in children's psychological, medical and pedagogical support; guidelines for a child's parents. Major research and practical results achieved by Sodeystvie Centre of a child's development competences will be later published in methodological recommendations, articles in reviewed Russian or international journals, scientific papers collections and conference materials.