

STATE MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION OPENNESS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Tatiana Rezer

Abstract

Principle of information openness provides access of citizens to information concerning their rights and obligations, ensures transparency of activities of public authorities and educational organizations and provides the possibility of responsible choice. Information openness in education system of Russia grows and approaches to 100 %. State management in a field of education in Russia is focused on observation of legal requirements for information openness.

98 educational institutions were examined for compliance with state requirements for information openness by using analysis method of present research. 11 areas of information support at official websites were examined according to 67 sections. The research generated a rating of 98 secondary vocational education organizations under the competence of the Ministry of General and professional education of Sverdlovsk region. In Russia state management in the field of information openness is supported by appropriate legislation, however, facts of incomplete availability of information at official websites of educational organizations have been revealed, there are contradictions in the Federal laws that hinders the feedback between consumers of educational services and educational organization.

Key words: educational organization, state management, information openness.

JEL Code: H75, I2, I21

Introduction

The subject of present research was due the request from information society for full information about educational organization and practical necessity to research the effectiveness of state management in the field of information openness at official websites of educational organizations.

Issues concerning information openness are widely discussed in all spheres of life: from politics and state administration to social service of the population. Implementation of principle of information openness in all spheres of life provides access of citizens to

information, ensures transparency of activities of public authorities and educational organizations, possibility of responsible choice (Kankanhalli, Zuiderwijk & Kumar Tayi, 2017; Kromidha & Córdoba-Pachón, 2017; Matveev, 2013), and on the other hand, formalizes the activities of educational organizations and educational authorities. At the same time adaptability of information openness based on use of network information technologies, electronic information resources, especially resources of the Internet, acts as a major factor of modern education openness, which can be considered as one of the strategies of educational organizations development. However, as practice shows, these resources are used in certain specific manner and do not always meet requirements of legal and information culture. Diversity of types and kinds of educational organizations, conditions and requirements of education complicates the process of choice of education for many people. Due to this situation people search for necessary information using modern computer technology. Factors that stimulate transition to a new format of interaction between the citizen and the society are as following: increased attention from society since the subject of education is interested by each individual, thinking about education is a reflection about own future.

The most important tools for ensuring information openness of secondary vocational education organizations are official websites at the information and telecommunication network Internet that meets requirements of state educational policy. Official website of educational organization is created in order to provide information about organization's activities and for interaction with public. Active government policy in a field of information openness of education is manifested by adopted relevant regulatory legal acts, which must be observed in full in accordance with established rules. An obligatory requirement for availability of official website, strict regulation of its structure and content, clear definition of information content and formats of its' representation defined by modern approach to information support at educational organizations websites. Based on the data prevailing in the education system of Russia during last 3-5 years, namely, from monitoring and sociological surveys, conducted by the National research University "Higher school of Economics" it was established that the information openness in education system grows and approaches to 100 %. We can say that in this respect the education sphere is ahead of other social services (Mertsalova & Kosaretsky, 2013).

However, analysis of state tasks fulfilment in the field of information openness of secondary vocational education organizations revealed that their openness is not enough, which led to the present research. Practice shows that regulatory requirements to the content important for submitting to websites of educational institutions currently are not observed in

full. Information needs of citizens in obtaining reliable data on educational organization and quality of education are stay unmet. So there is a need to study existing problems in the field of information openness of secondary vocational education organization from the standpoint of development and formalization of activities purposed to ensure it.

1 Method

98 educational institutions were examined for compliance with state requirements for information openness by using analysis method of present research. 11 areas of information support at official websites were examined according to 67 sections. Availability of an information object is a quantitative criterion which describes the fact of placing information at the website. Rating of information object availability has two values: 1 point - available, 0 points - not available. The maximum number of points – 67 points equal to the number of sections for information support at official website that according to a scoring system is equal to 100 %.

On the basis of availability of information a Coefficient of information availability (K) was applied. Analysis of this parameter was carried out according to criterion of "Availability/absence". The procedure of assessment through the assignment of the Coefficient of information availability was calculated for each official website of secondary vocational education organization in the Sverdlovsk region out of selected set of sites. An integral assessment of official websites information openness was calculated in percentage (Tab. 1).

Tab. 1: Coefficient of information availability

Criterion	Assessment	Description
K = 90-100 %	High degree of information availability	All set of required data is represented and all required information is available in full
K = 50-90 %	Medium degree of information availability	All set of required data is represented but required information is available not in full
K = 30-50 %	Low degree of information availability	Only fragmentary information is represented

Source: the table was developed by the author

Ranking of information openness of educational organizations official websites was formed based on calculated K-values from the first to the last in descending order. In case that two or more sites have the same K-value they occupied the same place in ranking by alphabetical order. Ranking of information openness of official websites was the main result of present research as well as determination of problems in structure and content of the website.

Implementation of information openness in educational institutions is carried out within the frameworks of Concept of openness of Federal Executive authorities in Russia (Resolution of the Government No. 93-R dated 30.01.2014). Information openness is a satisfaction of information needs of consumers of educational services by providing full and accurate information about organization, its activities, providing opportunities for the feedback from the consumers of educational services for the purpose of increasing organization's efficiency (Mertsalova, 2015; Notman, 2015). Secondary vocational education is provided by educational organizations, usually by colleges and technical schools including those in small towns of Russia, which have their own characteristics and specifics (Badulescu, Kolozsi, Badulescu & Lupau, 2016; Jēkabsons & Sloka, 2015; Rezer, 2013). Paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Federal law No. 273-FZ stipulates that educational institutions provide open and accessible information resources, containing information about their activities and ensure access to such resources by placing them in information-telecommunication networks, including official website of educational organization in the Internet. Paragraph 2 of article 29 of the Federal law No. 273-FZ determines the list of required information that must be available and accessible (Federal law No. 273-FZ dated 29.12.2012). As an enhancement of article 29 of this law there is paragraph 4 of the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government No. 582-III dated 10.07.2013 "On approval of Rules for submitting information at official website of educational organization in the information-telecommunication network Internet, and information updates about educational organizations" which stipulates that information at the official website can be represented in text and tabular forms, and in the form of copies of documents according to requirements to the structure of official website and format of information representation established by the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science (Resolution of the Government No. 582 dated 10.07.2013). The main tool of methodological support of secondary vocational education organizations in respect of observance of applicable legislation requirements to publication of information at official websites is Rosobrnadzor order No. 785 dated 29.05.2014 "On approval of requirements to the structure of official website of educational organization in the information-

telecommunication network Internet and to the format of information representation" (Order of Rosobrnadzor No. 785 dated 29.05.2014). In accordance with this order the website of educational organization must include a special website section consisting of 11 areas and 67 sections. Updating information at official website of educational organization is carried out in accordance with amendments to the current legislation and to organizational structure of educational organization.

2 Results

The research generated a list of 98 secondary vocational education organizations in the Sverdlovsk region, which are under the competence of the Ministry of General and professional education of Sverdlovsk region. Analysis of information support documents at official websites revealed that only 14 secondary vocational education organizations were almost fully submitted required information to their official websites having information openness over 90%. Six organizations of secondary vocational education have a very low degree of available information and their information openness is less than 50%. Thus 66 educational organizations representing 67% of the total number of examined organizations do not provide version of their official website for visually impaired people, which is prescribed by the letter of Rosobrnadzor No. 07-675 "About forwarding of methodical recommendations on supplying information about educational organization in public resources taking into account requirements of legislation in education" (Letter by Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science No. 07-675 dated 25 March 2015).

The highest rates of information compliance to legal requirements showed 6 official websites of educational institutions of secondary vocational education in the Sverdlovsk region. Information openness of their official websites ranges from 93% to 96%. The lowest number of points according to documents analysis scored two official websites of educational organizations. These educational organizations have the lowest degree of information availability and information openness of their official websites is 19% and 39% accordingly. The overall quality of researched websites according to the criterion of information availability K can be evaluated as "satisfactory". A maximum of 100% achieved none of the participants in ranking. Analysis of documents revealed main reasons of for this are lack of required information or required information is provided with violation of applicable legislation requirements to its representation.

Conclusion

Conducted analysis of 67 sections of information support at 98 official websites of secondary vocational educational organizations by the example of those in the Sverdlovsk region allowed us to formulate the existing problems as following:

1. Violation of Federal law – information about the activities of education organizations at the official websites is not provided in full.

2. Implementation of provisions of the Federal law № 152-FZ "On personal data" limits the excessive amount of information, so the consumer cannot contact interested structural unit or particular teacher, since the official website does not specifies particular contact details. It hinders the feedback between the consumers of educational services and educational organization.

3. Discontent of information needs of citizens in obtaining reliable information due to incomplete degree of information openness.

4. Demand for specialists having new competences, legal and information culture, as well as experienced in information and educational technologies.

In our view, overcoming of problems identified in the research is possible by formation of structural units responsible for information openness in educational organizations or by training specialists to obtain necessary knowledge in a field of information technology and experience in research activities in a field of providing access to information about activities of secondary vocational education organizations. Today information openness of educational institutions should be considered as a powerful vector of organization development, because by ensuring information openness integration of all types of resources occurs: administrative, personnel, technological, technical and social, which are united by a common purpose to obtain complete and accurate information. Research demonstrates that the website of educational organization is a powerful technological resource and a tool for ensuring information openness. At the same time all types of information documents provided at the website must comply with state requirements and applicable legislation which requires, first of all, studying regulatory frameworks in this field.

References

Letter by Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science No. 07–675 dated 25 March 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.consultant.ru>.

Badulescu, A., Kolozsi, L., Badulescu, D. & Lupau, C. (2016). Strengths and weaknesses in local public administration in Romania. Preliminary research results. Proceedings of the *10th International Days of Statistics and Economics (Prague, Czech Republic, September 8-10, 2016)*, 62-71.

Concepts of Openness and Open Access. Published in 2015 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Paris: UNESCO

Jēkabsons, I. & Sloka, B. (2015). Municipalities and social responsibility, Salaspils municipality case. Proceedings of the *9th International Days of Statistics and Economics (Prague, Czech Republic, September 10-12, 2016)*, 665-666.

Kankanhalli, A., Zuiderwijk, A., & Tayi, G. K. (2017). Open innovation in the public sector: A research agenda. *Government Information Quarterly*, 34(1), 84-89.

Kromidha, E., & Córdoba-Pachón, J. (2017). Discursive Institutionalism for reconciling change and stability in digital innovation public sector projects for development. *Government Information Quarterly*, 34(1), 16-25.

Matveev, V. (2013). Razvitiye pravovogo regulirovaniya informatsionnoy otkrytosti obrazovatelnykh organizatsiy [Development of legal regulation of informational transparency of educational institutions]. In: *Otkrytost obrazovaniya: raznyye vzglyady – obshchiye tsennosti* [Education openness: various views - common values]. Moscow: Publishing house of the higher school of Economics, 121-131.

Mertsalova, T. & Kosaretsky S. (2013). Informatsionnaya otkrytost ofitsialnykh saytov regionalnykh organov upravleniya obrazovaniyem: osnovnyye rezultaty issledovaniya [Informational openness at official websites of regional bodies of education management: the main results of the study]. In: *Otkrytost obrazovaniya: raznyye vzglyady – obshchiye tsennosti* [Education openness: various views - common values]. Moscow: Publishing house of the higher school of Economics, 13–27.

Mertsalova, T. (2015) Informatsionnaya otkrytost sistemy obrazovaniya: voprosy effektivnosti gosudarstvennoy politiki [Information openness in education system: the effectiveness of public policy]. *Educational Studies*, 2, 40-75.

Notman, O. (2015). Organizing the effective interaction in the Field of management education: the Experience from action research. Proceedings of the *9th International Days of Statistics and Economics (Prague, Czech Republic, September 10-12, 2016)*, 1201-1209.

Order of Rosobrnadzor of the Russian Federation No. 785 dated 29 May 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.consultant.ru>.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 582 dated 10 July 2013.

Retrieved from <http://www.consultant.ru>.

Resolution of the government of the Russian Federation No. 93-R dated 30 January 2014.

Retrieved from <http://www.consultant.ru>.

Federal law No. 273–FZ dated 29 December 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.consultant.ru>.

Rezer, T. M. & Sarychev, A. M. (2013). Osobennosti razvitiya malogo goroda v Sverdlovskoy oblasti [Specifics of development of small cities in the Sverdlovsk region]. *Issues of state and municipal management*, 1, 225-233.

Contact

Tatiana Rezer

Ural Federal University named after the first President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin

Yekaterinburg, Mira St., 19, Russia, 620002

tmrezer@mail.ru