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The notion of tolerance and key approaches to its definition are analysed in the article. Author makes an attempt to theoretically substantiate the necessity of studying the phenomenon of tolerance and to determine the main approaches to its definition.

The problem of tolerance today is one of the central issues on both global and national scales. The relation of tolerance and intolerance is in some sense eternal for mankind, because it comes from the world of different subjects. Tolerance is the integral characteristic from the point of view of its quality, content analysis and genesis. There list of scholars, such as S. Bratchenko, V. Zolotukhin, N. Kapustina, N. Kruglova, V. Lecturing, V. Petrov, G. Semashko, K. Wayne etc studied the problem of tolerance.

"Tolerance" is defined as "property, ability to tolerate anything, suffer anything". More comprehensive definition that reveals the moral essence of tolerance is given in the dictionary of ethics: "Tolerance and moral qualities of the personality, describing tolerated interests, beliefs, beliefs, habits in the behavior of other people. It is expressed in the desire to achieve mutual understanding and reconciling the diverse interests and points of view without the use of extreme measures of pressure, mainly the methods of explanation and persuasion. It is a form of respect for another person, recognition of her right to their own beliefs, to be different". Oxford dictionary defines tolerance as "the willingness and ability to accept without protest or interference with a person or thing". In modern research, the term "tolerance" is understood as the recognition of the others' right to respect for their personality and identity; it is the willingness to accept other opinions, the right to be different, otherness; a tolerance of beliefs, customs, and opinions of others (individuals, groups, society, state).

Article can be used in the educational process realized by the national projects for the development of ways of optimization of social and youth policy, further development of social and cultural projects of formation of cultural capital of youth and formation of the highest manifestations of tolerance.

Considering the notion of tolerance, it becomes clear that it is present in all spheres of human lives, it concerns not only the relations to others but to oneself as well, to the conditions in which we live, to the desire of change and improvement. *Key words: tolerance, intolerance, the principles of tolerance, the notion of tolerance, the impossibility of understanding, personal tolerance.*