

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOCIOCULTURAL COMPETENCE FORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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The relevance of the study lies in the need to train professionals who possess not only the knowledge and skills in the field they are studying, but who are also capable of fulfilling themselves in dynamic activities in the modern world. The universal processes of global integration have put new demands on the individual, whose main asset must be human culture, common human values and the ability to communicate with one another despite national differences.

The aim of the research is to determine the level of formation of individual components of sociocultural competence in the students of the Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov.

Material and methods. The research was based on the work of Belarusian and Russian scientists studying the development of sociocultural competence among students. The following methods were used in the study: analysis, synthesis and pedagogical experiment.

Findings and their discussion. At present, the expansion of international cooperation is a priority not only at the level of the Governments of the countries of the world, but also at the level of the various economic entities and even individual individuals. A modern specialist realizes that professional development is impossible without increased international cooperation, which primarily consists in the ability to communicate with people from different cultures. Communicative and sociocultural competences become one of the most important criteria for the success of a specialist's work.

The acquisition of socio-cultural competence, as a possession of the totality of knowledge, skills and qualities necessary for intercultural communication, in accordance with social and cultural norms of communicative behavior, forms the basis for professional mobility, It brings a specialist to world achievements and increases the possibility of professional self-fulfillment. In order to establish a more effective and long-term professional relationship, it is necessary to know not only the foreign language but also the sociocultural characteristics of the partner country with which the cooperation is conducted. Consequently, a well-developed sociocultural competence is an important factor in the recruitment of a candidate, promotion, etc.

In the most general approach, sociocultural competence includes pupils' knowledge of the national cultural characteristics of the countries in which they are studying the language and the rules of speech and non-religious behavior in

typical situations. Sociocultural competence also includes the ability to conduct one's speech in accordance with that knowledge and one's own values.

According to Academician A.G. Asmolov, the very concept of social culture implies the attitude towards education as a leading, predictive institution of development of society. He believes that two fundamentally different approaches are possible: either education comes at the tail of society, solves the problem of adaptation, reproduction of the existing way of life, or - and here a completely different logic - performs impertinent, «scalded» functions in proposing projects for the future. Education in a sociocultural sense is the design of the future [1].

We organized a pilot experiment among students of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Humanities and Language Communications of the Educational Institution «Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov». The students were asked to perform several tasks, including selected sociocultural materials. These materials were presented as banners, placed along the outer perimeter of the university, and stands in the educational building 1 of the university («Scientist of P.M. Masherov – man of the year of Vitebshchina», «BGU remembers» and others).

The following pedagogical results were expected:

- To identify the key problems of the sociocultural situation;
- Create a linked text setting out the context of the sociocultural situation presented in different genres (excursions, essays, travel notes, interviews, speeches, etc.);
- To be able to identify the problems of modern society that the information material is intended to solve.

The results of the pilot experiment did not show significant differences in the responses of students from different specialties. The main shortcomings of the responses include:

- Lack of socio-cultural background knowledge;
- The inability to make coherent statements using such features in the construction of a text as logic, deployment, coherence and expressiveness, which demonstrates a lack of communication skills;
- The lack of development of one of the key skills of 4K competences (Soft skills): critical thinking.

Having studied the Educational Standards for Higher Education in the Republic of Belarus [2], we have found that the development of sociocultural competence is actually envisaged by the legislator only when studying foreign languages in the Practical Course of the first foreign language (a professionally oriented module for specialization «teaching»). However, no specialized legal course contains sociocultural competence in the list of competences required by a future jurist. It also does not exist in disciplines for international law professionals that are directly relevant to dealing with a foreign element in various forms. As a result, we have professionals with certain difficulties in productive intercultural communication.

In our view, a modern university is no longer just a higher school focused exclusively on training and the development of science; it is a platform for the development of a fully developed personality. Institutions of higher education may also become the nucleus of the development of sociocultural competence as one of the key personal abilities of a modern professional.

Conclusion. Thus, in order to meet the needs of the modern labor market and to develop the various areas of social and political life, institutions of higher education are faced with the task of training more than just broad specialists with the necessary knowledge of the language, The customs, traditions and culture of both the Republic of Belarus and foreign countries. It is the university that can and should play a key role in developing socio-cultural competence among learners, regardless of the type of education received.

1. Asmolov A. G. Educational Optics: Sociocultural Perspectives / A.G. Asmolov ; [Artist. O. Bogomolova]. – M.: Education, 2012. S. 360
2. On the approval and implementation of educational standards for higher education: Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 30 August 2013. 88 // MASTER STANDARD. Legislation of the Republic of Belarus / National. Legal Information Centre. Res. Belarus. – Minsk, 2021.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND STUDENT HEALTH

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The modern world is filled with a variety of digital information, it replaces such analog ones as books, personal communication, outdoor games, etc. Thus, the increase in the introduction of digital technologies, as well as the impact of digital information on the health of students, is becoming an urgent problem in the modern world.

The aim of the study is to determine the volume and structure of digital technologies affecting the health of students.

Materials and methods. In the course of the research, theoretical and statistical methods were used - analysis of scientific literature, analysis of the results of surveys, methods of collecting and processing information; and empirical methods - conversation, questioning.

Adults do not always attach much importance to what games the child plays, what music he listens to and what he watches on the Internet. Therefore, children from an early age are faced with a large flow of the most diverse information that is presented on television, on the Internet, etc. Thus, children are