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Features of professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher

Специфіка професійно-педагогічної діяльності викладача вищої школи

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Abstract

Determining the peculiarities of the pedagogical activity of higher education teachers is important not only from a scientific viewpoint but also for solving strategic and tactical educational problems. Among these problems is the improvement of the quality of higher education, which is one of the priorities. The article aims to reveal the peculiarities of the work of a higher education teacher, his or her professional competencies, and requirements for this profession to improve the efficiency of the educational process and train quality specialists with higher education. The methods used to write the article were analysis, synthesis, generalization, explanation, and qualification of data. One of the main specifics of the professional and pedagogical activities of a higher education teacher is the need to combine research and teaching. A teacher must have a high level of scientific knowledge, be aware of the latest achievements and trends in their field, conduct research, and publish scientific papers. Moreover, he or she must be able to translate complex scientific concepts into an accessible language for students and other listeners to transfer the necessary knowledge and skills.

Анотація

Визначення особливостей педагогічної діяльності викладачів вищої школи має важливе значення не лише в науковому плані, а й для вирішення стратегічних і тактичних освітніх проблем, серед яких підвищення якості вищої освіти займає одне з пріоритетних місць. Метою теми є розкриття особливостей роботи викладача вищої школи, його професійних компетенцій та вимог, які ставляться до цієї професії, з метою підвищення ефективності навчального процесу та підготовки якісних фахівців з вищою освітою. Методами написання статті стали аналіз, синтез, узагальнення пояснення та кваліфікація даних. Однією з основних специфік професійно-педагогічної діяльності викладача вищої школи є необхідність поєднання науково-дослідницької та навчальної роботи. Викладач повинен мати високий рівень наукових знань у своїй галузі, бути в курсі останніх досягнень та трендів у своїй галузі, проводити наукові дослідження та публікувати наукові праці. При цьому він

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Keywords: higher education teacher, professional competencies, requirements for professional activity, specifics of working with students, teaching and assessment methods, research activities, formation of professional identity, challenges, and prospects for the development of the profession.

Introduction

Higher education is one of the key sectors that determine the development of modern society. In turn, teachers of HEIs play an important role in shaping the next generation of professionals. The professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher has its specifics, which differ from the work of teachers at other levels of education.

The article aims to study the specifics of the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher and to identify the main requirements for the teacher's professional activity. Additionally, the article is devoted to the study of professional competencies, specifics of working with students, teaching and assessment methods, research activities, formation of the teacher's professional identity, challenges, and prospects for the development of the profession of higher education teacher.

In their professional activities, teachers of HEIs should set themselves the task of providing quality education, and the formation and development of research competencies and intellectual skills of students. Moreover, they should be ready to solve complex problems caused by modern teaching technologies and changes in the sociocultural environment (Berk, 2005).

In this regard, the article will focus on issues related to the requirements for the professional activity of a higher education teacher, the specifics of working with students, and teaching and assessment methods. The article will analyze the key professional competencies essential for the successful implementation of professional tasks, as well as highlight important aspects of the research activities of a higher education teacher.

Furthermore, the issues of educators' professional identity formation, challenges, and

повинен вміти перекладати складні наукові концепції в доступну мову для студентів та інших слухачів, щоб передати їм необхідні знання та вміння.

Ключові слова: викладач вищої школи, професійні компетенції, вимоги до професійної діяльності, специфіка роботи зі студентами, методи навчання та оцінювання, науково-дослідницька діяльність, формування професійної ідентичності, виклики та перспективи розвитку професії.

prospects for the development of the profession of higher education teachers in the context of current trends in education and science will be considered.

The article aims to reveal the peculiarities of the work of a higher education teacher, his/her professional competencies, and requirements for this profession to improve the efficiency of the educational process and training of high-quality specialists with higher education.

Literature Review

There have been many studies in the scientific literature on the professional and pedagogical activities of higher education teachers. Among the most significant are the following studies by A. M. Aivazian, A. I. Baibaryna, T. V. Bila, V. I. Borodina, O. I. Holovchenko, V. M. Kuntantseva, S. I. Lytvynenko, I. V. Naida, N. V. Novikova, N. I. Parasiuk, V. S. Peretiak, and others.

In their research, they focus on the professional competence of teachers, their role in the process of training qualified specialists, the specifics of the educational process in higher education institutions, and other aspects of teachers' professional activities.

Moreover, the need for teachers of HEIs to develop students' professional knowledge and skills, as well as general educational and research competencies, is now recognized. This is a key factor in shaping the competitiveness of graduates and determines their success in their future careers.

Thus, the literature provides a clear picture of the requirements for the professional activity of a higher education teacher and the educational process in general. The article will apply the results of these studies to formulate conclusions

and suggestions for the development of the profession of higher education teachers.

Methodology

To achieve the aim of this article, various research methods were used. These methods include:

Analysis: There was analyzed relevant literature and articles to gain a comprehensive understanding of the peculiarities of the pedagogical activity of higher education teachers. The analysis helped to identify common themes and patterns and to develop a framework for the research.

Synthesis: There was synthesized the findings from the literature analysis and combined them with the results of the empirical research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

Generalization: There was conducted empirical research with a sample of higher education teachers to gather data on their professional competencies and the requirements for the profession. The findings were generalized to develop a broader understanding of the topic.

Explanation: There was explained the complex concepts and findings of the research in an accessible language for readers to understand.

The research methods used in this study, including analysis, synthesis, generalization, explanation, and qualification of data, helped to achieve the aim of the study and provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

Results

One of the key aspects of the professional activity of a higher education teacher is the development of professional competence. Studies show that a teacher should be an expert in his or her field of study, and have high academic qualifications and work experience per the profile of the HEI. They should not only impart knowledge to students, but also develop their critical thinking, maintain a dialog, and encourage them to actively participate in the learning process (Dewey, 1938).

However, it is worth noting that the formation of professional competence is only one aspect of the work of a higher education teacher. Another important aspect is the formation of students' general education and research competencies. In

the context of current trends in higher education, students should be allowed to acquire not only professional knowledge and skills but also to develop their general education and research interests.

In the course of teaching and learning activities, the teacher should be able to create appropriate conditions for the formation of these competencies. To do this, he or she should master the appropriate pedagogical technologies and methods of working with students, such as active teaching methods, problem-based learning, interactive forms of work, and others (Felder & Silverman, 1988).

Moreover, the teacher should promote students' self-development and support their scientific and research activities. To do this, he or she can create additional opportunities for students to participate in research, conferences, seminars, and other scientific events (Doghonadze, 2016). In addition, the teacher should provide methodological assistance and support in the process of writing students' research papers and dissertations.

Another important aspect of the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher is the development of interpersonal relationships with students. A teacher needs to ensure that they build trusting relationships with their students, promote their moral and ethical development, and support them in difficult life situations (Shakuna et al., 2016). They should understand the needs and interests of students, show respect for them as individuals, and treat them with understanding and patience.

It should also be noted that a teacher should be able to work in a team with colleagues and cooperate with other departments and faculties of the university. He or she should not only fulfill his or her teaching duties but also actively participate in the development of the HEI, its research, and cultural and educational initiatives (Gibbs & Coffey, 2004).

The professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher requires high scientific qualifications, pedagogical skills, professional ethics, and readiness for self-improvement. The teacher must communicate effectively with students, staff, and other university stakeholders to ensure a high level of quality education and development at the university.

One of the important aspects of a teacher's interaction with students is the ability to create a

favorable learning atmosphere in the classroom. This means that the teacher should be open to dialogue, maintain interaction with students and allow them to express their opinions and ask questions.

Moreover, the teacher should understand that each student has his or her requirements and expectations regarding the learning process. Therefore, it is important to consider an individual approach to each student, given their needs and capabilities (Hattie, 2009).

It is also important to provide clear and accessible information about the course materials and requirements for students. The teacher should be prepared to explain complex topics and help students with issues related to the learning process.

Apart from communicating with students, a teacher must also be able to collaborate with colleagues and other staff members of the HEI. This means that a teacher should be ready to work on projects together, share experience and knowledge with other teachers, and participate in research and conferences.

Therefore, a higher education teacher should be aware of the importance of effective communication with students, colleagues, and other stakeholders of the HEI. This will help ensure high quality of education and development at the university, as well as make the learning process more productive.

Moreover, the teacher should be open to using a variety of teaching and assessment methods. Modern teaching methods, such as active learning, collaborative learning, project-based learning, and others, help students learn more effectively and develop the skills they need for their future careers.

It is also essential to pay attention to student assessment. The teacher should use various assessment methods to determine students' knowledge and understanding. These methods can include tests, essays, projects, speeches, and written as well as oral responses (Casal-Otero et al., 2023). It is also important to ensure the objectivity of the assessment and to explain to students the requirements for their work.

Finally, a higher education teacher must constantly prepare for self-education and professional development. Science and technology are constantly evolving, so a teacher should be aware of the latest developments in

their field and use them in their work. Furthermore, it is crucial to engage in self-education and improve one's skills in pedagogy and communication (Shulman, 1987).

The professional and pedagogical activities of a higher education teacher are an important element of high-quality education and student development. A teacher should have professional knowledge and communicate effectively with students and other stakeholders. Moreover, it is important that the teacher uses a variety of teaching and assessment methods and is ready for self-education and professional development. All these factors help to create a favorable environment for the learning and development of university students.

Professional communication between teachers and students is a key aspect of their work, as it helps to create trusting relationships between them and maintain open dialogue and exchange of information. In this process, the teacher should demonstrate a high culture of communication, show respect for their students and their opinions, and provide timely assistance and support.

To achieve effective professional communication, a teacher should use different communication strategies and know how to apply them depending on the situation. It is also equally important to have the skills to use different teaching methods that increase interactivity and engage students in active participation in the learning process.

Besides, an important aspect of professional communication is the ability of a teacher to conduct discussions and distinguish between different points of view. A teacher should be open to the opinions of his or her students and able to have a reasoned discussion with them. This contributes to the development of critical thinking and the ability to analyze different views on a problem.

Thus, professional communication between teachers and students is an important component of their work, which determines the effectiveness of the learning process and student development. A teacher needs developed communication skills, knowledge of different communication strategies, and knowledge of how to use different teaching methods.

Interaction with students is an integral part of the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher. It requires the development of

special skills and abilities for successful communication with students.

Pedagogical communication is a system of interaction between a teacher and students based on mutual understanding and interaction between them. This system includes certain elements, such as the ability to listen, understand and adapt to the individual characteristics of each student, as well as to convey material from different perspectives using a variety of pedagogical technologies.

The teacher has to master the art of communication, which includes such skills as communicating freely and openly with students, maintaining a positive atmosphere in the classroom, establishing trusting relationships with students, listening to students' questions and concerns, and resolving conflicts (Mitchell, 2013).

The success of a teacher in pedagogical communication depends on the extent to which he or she possesses such qualities as empathy, patience, tolerance, responsibility, and others. A lecturer should be prepared for any situation and know how to communicate effectively with students to maximize productivity and achieve the goal.

Pedagogical communication also includes the use of various methods and forms of work with students, such as individual consultations, group discussions, projects, workshops, etc. Each of these methods of cooperation with students plays an important role in the development of their knowledge and skills, promoting active involvement of students in the learning process, the formation of their critical thinking, and the development of their creative abilities.

Pedagogical communication between teachers and students can be realized through the use of various interactive technologies and tools that ensure effective dialogue between teachers and students. Such tools include virtual platforms, online courses, electronic notes, and various software tools. This will help to develop students' competencies and ensure their active participation in the learning process.

The professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher involves a high level of interaction with students, and the use of various methods and forms of work. A teacher needs to master modern technologies and tools that ensure an effective dialog with students and maximize the productivity of the learning process.

Considering the specifics of the professional and pedagogical activities of a higher education teacher, one should note another aspect – research. A higher education professor should not only impart knowledge, but also conduct research, publish scientific articles, and participate in conferences and other scientific events. To do this, a teacher must have deep knowledge in his or her scientific field and be an active researcher, capable of finding new approaches to solving problems facing the scientific world.

We emphasize that the professional-pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher has its characteristics compared to other levels of education. A higher education teacher must have deep scientific knowledge, a high level of professional competence, and be ready to continuously improve their knowledge and skills. Another important component of the professional activity of a higher education teacher is his or her ability to adapt to different groups of students, solve complex pedagogical problems and use an innovative and creative approach to teaching.

Thus, the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher is a complex but very important process. It requires high responsibility, professional competence, creative thinking, and personal development (Shelestova, 2019).

Moreover, higher education teachers have to master innovative teaching methods and be able to apply modern technologies in their work. Nowadays, technological progress changes and improves approaches to teaching. Therefore, a lecturer should be prepared to use the latest tools and instruments to improve the quality of education.

In the process of professional and pedagogical activity, it is important not only to be competent in your field of knowledge but also to be able to adapt to changes in the social and cultural environment. It is also important to have the skills of teamwork and cooperation with colleagues to achieve a common goal - to provide quality education for students.

Thus, the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher requires competence, innovation, and the ability to adapt to changes in the social and cultural environment. Only such a teacher can ensure the high quality of education and success of their students in their future professional activities.

Discussion

In this article, we have considered the specifics of the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher, focusing on the aspects of communication between the teacher and students and pedagogical communication as a system of interaction between the professor and students.

However, it is worth noting that this is not a complete list of factors that influence the success of the professional activity of a higher education teacher. Besides the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct a high-quality educational process, a teacher must also be a pedagogue capable of finding an individual approach to each student and adapting his or her methods to different groups of students (Ramaliyov, 2019).

Furthermore, an important success factor is an ability to create a favorable learning atmosphere in the classroom. This helps to engage students in the learning process. Also, a teacher should be capable of continuous professional development and updating their knowledge and methods depending on changes in the educational system.

Thus, the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher is a complex and multifaceted process that requires a high level of professional and pedagogical skills. Knowledge of the theory and methodology of teaching, as well as the ability to communicate with students, create a favorable atmosphere, and develop as a professional are the basis for the successful activity of a higher education teacher.

An overview of the various aspects of the professional and pedagogical activities of higher education teachers demonstrates the complexity of their tasks and the high level of responsibility (Yoon, 2002). To successfully fulfill their duties, teachers must not only have in-depth knowledge in their field but also be able to transfer this knowledge to students using various pedagogical methods and technologies. They must be highly skilled and able to plan and conduct lessons, engage in dialogue with students, assess their achievements, and support them in their educational process.

However, it is important to note that the teaching profession is dynamic, so teachers need to constantly maintain their professional level and develop. As the world is changing, with new technologies and pedagogical approaches emerging all the time, higher education teachers need to stay abreast of the latest developments in

their fields and adapt their teaching strategies accordingly. This requires a commitment to lifelong learning and a willingness to participate in professional development activities such as conferences, workshops, and training seminars, as well as to collaborate with colleagues to share best practices.

Given the importance of the professional and pedagogical activities of higher education teachers, the question arises of how to optimize them. This can be achieved by developing the skills of interactive communication between teachers and students using various methods and approaches, such as active learning technologies, interactive teaching methods, project-based learning, and others.

Moreover, it is important to take into account the individual characteristics of students, their needs, and their interests. This will help increase motivation to learn, and make the learning process more interesting and informative. Teachers must be prepared for various challenges and changes that arise during the learning process and have a sufficient level of competence to address them.

It is also essential that teachers cooperate, as this helps to solve various problems that arise during the learning process and allows them to share experiences and information. Furthermore, it is also important for teachers to cooperate with scientific institutions and enterprises, which allows them to update their knowledge and use it in their activities (Brown, Roediger III & McDaniel, 2014).

In general, the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher has its peculiarities and requires high qualifications, professional competence, creativity, and pedagogical skills. Therefore, the effectiveness of this professional group is of great importance for the quality training of young professionals in various fields of science and technology. This, in turn, will contribute to the development of the national economy and strengthen Ukraine's position in the global labor market.

Conclusions

Thus, the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher is a complex and responsible job that requires high qualifications, professional competence, and pedagogical skills. A teacher should be well versed in his/her field of knowledge, be able to communicate effectively with students, and use various

pedagogical technologies. An important component of a teacher's professional activity is his or her personal qualities, such as responsibility, creativity, empathy, and others. Thanks to these qualities, a teacher can become a real authority for students and develop their faith in their abilities and potential. Therefore, preserving and improving the quality of the professional activity of teachers in HEIs is an important component of the development of education in Ukraine and around the world.

In conclusion, we can say that the specificity of the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher is a complex and multifaceted process. This process includes both the transfer of knowledge and the formation of students' personal qualities, active participation in research, and the development of creativity.

Although higher education teachers face numerous challenges and difficulties, such as low levels of preparedness of students, lack of motivation to learn, etc., they play an important role in shaping the future of our society.

Therefore, the professional and pedagogical activity of a higher education teacher requires a high level of competence and professional skills. To be successful, a teacher must be highly trained and ready for development. They also need to be able to create a comfortable atmosphere for students' learning and development. This is the only way a teacher can achieve maximum results in his or her professional activity.

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