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Ukrainian Society and Covid-19: the Influence of the Pandemic on Educational Processes in Higher School

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Abstract: The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is one of the global problems of humankind and has a significant influence on political, socio-economic and educational processes. It is noted that the social isolation and the social distance of the teachers and students of the institutions of higher education has transformed the ways and habits of their lives due to the long quarantine events. The security measures caused new features of the educational environment. The distance learning has been actualized as a possible way and an important form of the distance education. The institutions of higher education of Ukraine have rapidly developed and formed their own approaches to the educational process in the last two months (pandemic). Therefore, the distance learning, which maintains a balance between the theoretical and the practically oriented training of the future specialists, is technically organized at Ternopil National Economic University. The organization of the education on the modern online platform "Moodle", which is directed at effective the providing active parity education in the distance format, is described. The indicators (the effectiveness, the accessibility, the resource intensity, the promptness, the democracy in communication, the integrative software) of the quality assessment of implementation of the distance learning in the educational process are specified and identified within the platform.
It was concluded that each Ukrainian student and teacher underwent a reassessment of their own educational values in the conditions of self-isolation: a virtual educational environment can never replace the direct educational contact of a teacher and students in a teaching audience.

Keywords: *society; pandemic; future specialists; high school; educational process.*

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1. Introduction

The present-day civilizational changes, that are taking place in the pandemic of COVID-19, are characterized not so much by the new historical era as by the intense manifestation of social problems of new quality, that are facing the future. The approval of postmodernization is linked to changes taking place in the world. It is impossible to consider the phenomenon of a pandemic without knowing how the disease conquers the person and why the person is capable of resisting it.

The highlighting of the civilizational basis through the counterbalance of "humanity / environment" directly leads to the problem of the pandemic in the context of modern global processes and everything that is happening with humanity under this influence. On the one hand, multiple tragedies are associated with the pandemic of coronavirus: human deaths, social, economic and political decline, and so on; on the other hand, the pandemic is the impetus that drives humanity to move on, to find ways out of these extreme catastrophic situations.

A pandemic is changing the whole world and each of us from inside, because of uncertain condition of the global state of civilization of the late 2019 and early 2020. The emergence of an infinite number of uncertainties testifies that human civilization is dealing with a "new world order", with an anxious and fragile planet.

The pandemic of coronavirus has exhausted the growth of the previous educational model that is why it is difficult to talk about its consequences for higher education. The postmodernist tendencies connected with its fundamental changes are clearly manifested in the field of education. The changes foresee a rejection of the classical tradition according to which their essence is associated with order and stability. This proposition of values can no longer be the foundation of education, because it is not possible to predict effective study of students and gaining specialized competency knowledge by them in modern unstable world.

The postmodern philosophy of education refers to a fundamentally new image of the student's personality and his/her place in the University. The uncertainty of the educational situation is forcing leaders of universities to find effective alternatives and to calculate best-case scenarios to focus on specific educational actions and successful outcomes in the future. Full-fledged teaching and professional communication of the teacher with the students with the help of technical means and electronic technologies is the way out of this situation. The principles and techniques of thinking that

develop on a methodological basis of synergy and derive from the idea of nonlinearity serve as a foundation of the new Ukrainian model of educational reality in the context of a coronavirus pandemic. Today's system of educational values is directed at a rethinking of the nature of pedagogical interaction in which the idea of bilateral parity relations comes instead of the unilateral influence of the teacher on the students in the teaching audience.

2. Distance education in Ukraine: the discussion views of scientists on the problem

The creation of a system of distance education and provision of increased access to world information resources is the fundamental basis for the modernization of education in Ukraine for the period up to 2021, as it is outlined in the National Strategy for the Development of Education (Presidential Decree No. 344/2013). Distance education in accordance with the concept of development of distance education in Ukraine is an important form of education, which is realized mainly by the technologies of distance learning (Regulations on Electronic Educational Resources, 2012). Distance learning is concidered in the monograph of I. Kozubovskaya, V. Sagarda and O. Pichkar as a purposeful interactive, asynchronous process of interaction between subjects and objects with one another and with the means of learning, and moreover such learning is indifferent (Kozubovskaya, Sagarda & Pichkar, 2001).

The principles of distance learning in higher education institutions of Ukraine were studied by O. Andreev, K. Bugaychuk, N. Kalinenko, O. Kolgatin, V. Kukharenko, N. Lulkun, L. Lyakhotska, N. Sirotenko, N. Tverdohlebova (Andreev et al., 2013) and A. Khutorsky (Khutorsky, 2014); psychological-pedagogical principles were analyzed by O. Bartosh, I. Kozubovska, M. Babynets, S. Shpenyk (Bartosh et al., 2012), V. Kukharenko, S. Berezenska, K. Buhaichuk, N. Oliynyk, T. Oliynyk, O. Rybalko, N. Syrotenko A. Stoliarevska, (Kukharenko et al., 2016) and E. Polat, M. Bukharkina, M. Moiseeva, A. Petrov (Polat et al.,, 2002); the activity of the teacher in the system of distance learning was studied by N. Fokin, M. Ivchenko, N. Sirotenko, R. Artemyev (Fokin et al., 2017); methods, forms and means of creating of distance courses were considered by O. Karelina (Karelina, 2004) and M. Golovan, V. Yatsenko (Golovan & Yatsenko, 2001); technologies of development of distance education were analyzed by V. Bykov, V. Kukharenko, N. Sirotenko, A. Rybalko, Yu. Bogachkov (Bykov et al., 2008) and I. Bloshchinsky, I. Drozdova, T. Zavgorodnya, I. Melnychuk, L. Rebukha, I. Savchak, Yu. Falshtynska

(Melnychuk, Drozdova, Savchak & Bloshchynskyi, 2019; Melnychuk, Rebukha, Zavgorodnia & Bloshchynskyi, 2018; Falshtynska, 2016).and others conducted problematic professional discussion on varieties of educational process, including distance learning in their scientific and professionally directed works.

Despite a great amount of scientific researches, modern distance education in Ukraine evolved rapidly, formed its own scientific-methodological foundations and worked for real in the last two months (during the coronavirus pandemic) (Baytiyeh, 2019; Learning keepsgoing, 2020; Cambridge University Press, 2020; "COVID-19 Educational Disruption", 2020). It is difficult to talk about its positive consequences for the professional training of specialists in higher education now.

The purpose of the study is to highlight trends in the development of distance learning in the institutions of higher education of Ukraine in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. System of Distance Learning in the Online Platform "Moodle": Advantages and Disadvantages

Ukrainian high school has been living in quarantine for the second month. Due to security measures regarding the non-spread of COVID-19 coronavirus infection, the conditions for organizing the training of future specialists changed at Ternopil National Economic University. University teachers are advised to organize distance learning, according to the order of the rector on the introduction of quarantine. The "Moodle" online platform (https://moodle.tneu.edu.ua) promotes the technical organization of distance learning, maintains a balance of theory and practice and various types of tasks. It provides classes according to the schedule, supervises student attendance and completes assignments in online success logs. This kind of distance learning offers students the opportunity to view presentations on specific subjects of the academic disciplines, to pass testing, to work out additional theoretical material independently, to perform tasks for independent work, to discuss problematic questions in forums, etc.

A modular principle that allows fully implementing the work program of the academic discipline is based at the program of distance education on the online platform. Quality of introduction and application of distance learning in the discipline "Social Psychology" (Head of the course Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor L. Rebukha https://moodle.tneu.edu.ua/course/view.php?id=1423) can be judged in the "Moodle" platform on the following indicators: effectiveness

(determines the level of students' acquisition of knowledge, the possibility of its using in solving practice-oriented tasks); accessibility (all students, regardless of their location, are able to study distantly at a convenient time and place); resource-intensive (no need to attend lectures and practical classes, small material and resource costs); promptness (rapid transfer of educational information to students); democracy in communication at the level of "student-teacher" and " teacher-student" (establishing parity relations between participants of distance learning); integrative software - the availability of advanced tools that integrate the use of distance learning technologies (Osadcha, Osadchyi & Kruglyk, 2020), such as Viber, e-mail, web-based classes, etc.

Despite the positive qualities of distance education in the Moodle system, it requires the teacher a strong motivation of students for self-organization and the ability to work independently. The convenience of the online platform "Moodle" under quarantine restrictions allows the teacher to gain a new experience of effective management of the distance learning process, and gives students the opportunity to plan their studies.

The COVID-19 pandemic is about to end. It is still unknown what lessons will be learned from it by the humanity. However, university teachers and students have realized that the mass desire of government officials to reduce the cost and transfer into virtual form large number of educational disciplines is not justified. One of the challenges is finding a balance between virtual and real meaningful communication, professional activity and genuine interpersonal interaction.

4. Conclusions

Pandemic as a social event puts a person on the brink of life and death. The pandemic is revealed with the help of dialectical methodology through the manifestation of unity and contradiction in the existing world. Security measures, caused by COVID-19 coronavirus, in the form of self-isolation by every citizen of the country, have forced institutions of higher education to switch to a new mode of study. Distance learning, especially its organization, has become a real challenge for Ukrainian education.

Conducted theoretical research has shown that conducting classes in the online platform "Moodle" in the conditions of quarantine implies a change in the nature of the educational process, which is student-oriented. The modular principle is taken as the basis of the distance education program, where the creation of effective e-courses and the development of didactic foundations of distance learning is the main in its organization. The

obtained data of the conducted distance learning from the discipline "Social Psychology" in the system "Moodle", made it possible to distinguish the indicators of evaluation of each discipline under restrictive quarantine conditions.

Thus, the globalized Ukrainian society, having survived the social isolation caused by COVID-19, will learn to appreciate higher education based on real, full-fledged relationships and acquired knowledge in the auditory.

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