DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH AS A BASIS FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS’ METHODOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

THE ACTIVITY APPROACH AS A BASIS FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS’ METHODOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Abstract. The article analyzes the content of the activity component of the methodological competence of the teachers of pre-school educational institutions in the system of continuous education and noted that the activity approach provides the opportunity to develop holistic integration models as well as to identify basic functions, elements, components, their relationships and interconnections, system-forming factors and the functioning conditions in static and dynamic aspects. All professional competence structural components are aimed at the preschool teacher’s practical activity, in particular, the capacity for solving specific pedagogical situations. The objectives of methodological competence development in preschool teachers are achieved in the process of professional training and retraining, the improvement of methodological tools for methodological work. The activity approach is the basis of preschool teachers’ methodological activities and should ensure the formation of readiness for self-development and continuing education, modelling and construction of social environment for personal development in the education system, active cognitive activity. The principles of methodological work organization: relevance, unity of theory and practice; scientific character to the conformity with modern scientific achievements in various fields; the unity and interconnection of all directions of teachers’ professional development; goal orientation, consistency, succession, a mass character, and collectivity; the methodological work transformation into a part of the continuing education system, teachers engagement into various forms of methodological; creation of favorable working conditions, the availability of free time for the teacher’s creative activity; efficiency, flexibility, mobility and an individual approach requiring, the creative nature of methodological work, the creation of a methodological work system in a preschool institution; continuing teachers’ self-education, qualified assistance provision both in theoretical and in practical matters; improving teaching effectiveness.

Keywords: activity, activity approach, professional activity, pedagogical activity, methodical activity, methodical competence, motivation, acknowledgment, goal setting, teacher’s professional competence, pre-school institution, activity-oriented concept of teaching, the personal component, situations of professional communication, activity component, pedagogical thinking.

DEЯЛЬНІСЯНІЙ ПІДХІД ЯК ОСНОВА МЕТОДИЧНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ

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INTRODUCTION

General articulation of the issue and its relevance to important scientific or practical tasks. Increasing the level of the preschool teacher’s professional becoming and development necessitates the improvement of existing and the development of new innovative activity methods boosting the level of methodological competence. The systematic self-analysis of the educational process is the basis for regulating one’s own pedagogical activity. It increases the expedience of professional actions reducing the element of spontaneity. The activity approach provides the opportunity to develop holistic integration models as well as to identify basic functions, elements, components, their relationships and interconnections, system-forming factors and the functioning conditions in static and dynamic aspects. Operational thinking formation facilitates the ability to variably construct and adjust professional activity, to find the optimal combination of pedagogical tools, forms and methods of activity. From the standpoint of the activity approach, the idea that a personality is formed and expressed in activity is becoming topical. The activity structure and types determine the structure of an individual’s inner world, therefore, in professional activity their mental qualities, consciousness, skills and world perception are developed, social integration and individualization become apparent, the inner world is disclosed, and the components of methodological competence are actively realized.

The analysis of recent research and publications considering the aspects of the investigated problem and serving as a basis for the author’s conclusions; defining uninvestigated parts of general matters. The formation of methodological competence is studied in psychological and pedagogical science from different perspectives, in particular, on the basis of the activity approach implying the unity of personality, consciousness, activity and the interaction of activity and communication. The scientific foundations of the general activity approach theory are characterized in the papers by K. A. Albukhanova [1], B. G. Ananiev [2], A. A. Bodalev [3], L. S. Vyhotskiy [4], V. V. Davydov [5], O. M. Leontiev [6], S. L. Rubinstein [7].

The major objective of the activity approach in M. S. Kahan’s terms is to arouse in a person the interest in a subject and the learning process as well as to develop self-education skills [8]. The outcome should be cultivating a person with a proactive attitude to life, not only in learning but also in real life. As I. A. Ziminia [9] claims that an individual is able to set goals, solve educational and life problems and be responsible for the result of their actions. The most relevant aspects of the studied problem were considered in terms of methodological activity organization in preschool institutions by K. L. Krutit [10], O. L. Korneeva [11], O. M. Dobosh [12], Yu. V. Syrova [13] and others.

The analysis and generalization of theoretical sources shows that the existing studies on content and methodological approaches to the effective preschool teachers’ methodological activity organization based on the activity approach in order to ensure the formation of readiness for self-development and continuing education, design and construction of social environment for personal development in the education system are insufficient.

METHODOLOGY

The methodological basis of the research was developed based on taking into account the provisions of competent, environmental, system-activity scientific approaches. Article purpose statement (setting objectives). The article aims to analyze the essence of the activity approach as the basis of methodical activities of preschool teachers.

Problem statement. The main tasks of the research are to consider methodical activity as an important component in the educational infrastructure of a preschool education institution; identify leading areas of methodological activity directly contributing to the formation of teachers’ professional competence; to disclose the content of the preschool teacher’s methodical activity, based on the activity approach.

Methods, techniques and technologies used. To achieve the goals and objectives of the article, a number of research methods were used: analysis of scientific psychological and pedagogical literature to establish approaches for assessing and interpreting the content of preschool teachers’ methodological activity, based on an activity approach; comprehending and generalizing the best pedagogical experience of educators to analyze the studied problem; hypothetical-deductive method – to formulate the hypothesis, to substantiate the scientific research of the problem and justification of the results.
children’s successful socialization is particularly urgent. Readiness for pedagogical activity is based on professional competence expressed in the availability of special knowledge and skills, as well as the special characteristics of the preschool teacher’s personality.

Within the activity approach, the person is considered as 1) personal qualities acquired in the socio-cultural environment in the process of joint activity and communication, subject-social relations and conscious activity; 2) conscious individual, that is, a person capable of conscious behavior organization and self-regulation. The essence of the activity approach is that «the real process of human interaction with the social environment is investigated ensuring the solution of certain vital tasks» [14].

Interaction with others in the joint activity is the most important condition for educators’ development and them mastering social and professional experience. According to M. S. Kahan, in the process of social contacts it is created a learning community of people with certain knowledge who are ready to acquire new information in the process of communication with each other, cooperative cognitive activity [8]. In this case, the communication function as a means of forming professional competencies comes to the forefront. This approach enables to form the perception of professional activity as a means of achieving life success, personal self-realization.

In S. L. Rubinstein’s terms, the underlying idea behind the activity theory is formulated as follows: «not consciousness determines activity, but activity determines consciousness» [7].

O. M. Leontiev clarifies Rubinstein’s position: «Consciousness is not simply manifested and formed in activity as a separate reality – it is embedded in activity and is indissoluble with it» [6], which allows to distinguish three basic parameters of personality: how wide an individual’s connections with the world are (through their activities); the degree of hierarchy of these relationships transformed into a hierarchy of sense bearing motives (motives-goals); the general structure of these relationships, more precisely, motives-goals.

There are three main activity types: play, training and work. The purpose of the play is the activity itself, not its outcomes; training is an activity aimed at acquiring knowledge and skills; work is an activity that aims to produce something. The outcome is an eventual result, a state in which the need is met (wholly or partly). Activity outcomes can be auxiliary elements.

An individual and activity are inextricably linked. Activity is a necessary prerequisite for human life. At the same time, there is no activity without a human being. Only a person capable of the creative transformation of reality, or themselves and their social connections is capable of labor, spiritual and other transformative activities.

Human activity is carried out in life environment (production, domestic, natural surrounding). At the same time, activity is an individual’s active interaction with the environment. The activity structure in which each component follows the other in time is usually represented linearly: Need → Motive → Goal → Means → Actions → Outcomes.

The most developed classification of human needs belongs to the American psychologist A. Maslow who divided the needs into primary or innate and secondary or learned. They, in turn, are further divided into: physiological – needs for food, water, air, clothing, warmth, sleep, cleanliness, shelter; safety – property independence, job security, confidence in the future, etc.; social – the desire to be a part of and to be involved in any social group or a team. The hierarchy of needs has been constantly changed and complemented by different psychologists. A. Maslow himself in the later stages of his research added to it three additional groups of needs: cognitive – for knowledge, skills, understanding, academic research (cultural), the desire to discover new things and for self-knowledge; aesthetic – the desire for beauty, harmony and order; transcendence is a selfless desire to help others in spiritual self-improvement, in their desire for self-expression [15].

The motive is a need-driven, conscious inducement that substantiates and explains the activity. If a need is understood not simply as a need, but as a guide to action, only then it will become a motive. As a rule, needs are mediated by interests, traditions, social attitudes. In complex activities, there is usually more than one motive. In this case, the main motive is identified which is considered to be the driving force. The goal is a conscious idea of activity outcomes, the future prediction. Any activity involves goal setting, that is, the ability to set objectives on one’s own. An individual is able to form their own programs, creating something that has never been in nature. However, the goal can be complex, and sometimes it takes a number of intermediate steps to achieve it. Ideas about intermediate results are called tasks. Thus, the goal is broken down into specific tasks: if all the tasks are solved, then the overall goal is achieved.

Means are techniques, actions, objects used over the activity course. Means should meet goals in two senses. Firstly, means should correspond to the goal. In other words, they cannot be insufficient or redundant. Secondly, means must have to be moral: immoral means cannot be justified by the goal nobility. If goals are immoral, then the entire activity is equally amoral.

The action is an element of activity with a relatively independent and conscious objective. Activity consists of separate actions. The German sociologist M. Weber identified the following types of social actions: rational-purposeful as actions that a person clearly understands and realizes taking into account all tools and possible obstacles; value-rational as actions based on moral and aesthetic values, beliefs and principles; affective as actions done under the influence of strong feelings (fear, hatred); traditional habit-based actions often made on the basis of customs, beliefs, and patterns with an automatic response [16]. Activity is based on the first two types of actions since only they have a conscious purpose and are of a creative nature. Affective and traditional actions can significantly influence the course of activity as auxiliary elements.

The outcome is an eventual result, a state in which the need is met (wholly or partly). Activity outcomes can be individuals themselves because in the course of the activity they develop and change.

Professional activity is a human specialty in a particular field. Skills and abilities are determined by how much a person is absorbed by work. There are 4 main professional activity functions:

– Creation of financial or spiritual values.
– Obtaining material resources to facilitate life in society.
– Promotion of others’ development.
– Transformation of the environment

Knowledge, experience and skills in one’s specialty are required for mastering professional activity more successfully. Each person in their work receives a certain result reaching the goal of professional activity.

Pedagogical activity, which is the teacher’s educational and pedagogical influence on children for the purpose of their personal and intellectual development, will be professional if:
– it is intentional;
– it is handled by a person with the necessary knowledge to implement it;
– pedagogical activity is purposeful.

Among the preschool teacher’s professional functions there can be distinguished the following:

– creation of pedagogical conditions for successful chil-
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CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions and directions for future research. Thus, the activity approach is the basis of preschool teachers’ methodological activity. The leading characteristics of methodical competence directly contributing to teachers’ professional competence formation are professional development, accumulation and generalization of one’s own experience in the areas of professional activity. preschool teachers’ methodological activity content lies in: compiling steering documents; planning of educational work with children; development of visual, didactic and control materials; contribution to pedagogical experience; generalization of one’s own experience in the area of professional activity; participation in scientific conferences and seminars.

Methodological activity is the most important component of educational infrastructure (along with scientific support, staff’s training and retraining, the formation of educational environment) which aims to support the normal course of the educational process in the preschool institution – to facilitate its restoration. The methodical activity objective is to create such an educational environment in a pre-school institution where the teacher and teaching staff’s creative potential would be fully realized. The activity approach should ensure the formation of readiness for self-development and continuing education, modeling and construction of social environment for personal development in the education system, active cognitive activity.

From our perspective, directions for future research on this issue lie in determining the effectiveness of preschool teachers’ methodological activity forms in the conditions of continuing education.

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