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The Role of the Teacher in a Virtual Learning Environment

Роль вчителя у віртуальному навчальному середовищі
Динаміка змін сучасного світу, глобалізація та інформатизація зумовлюють необхідність інноваційних змін в парадигмі освітньої системи. У статті розглядаються основні переваги та функції віртуального освітнього простору, де змінюється роль викладача. Інтеграція платформ віртуального навчання в традиційний навчальний процес дозволить вирішити ряд питань, головним чином - підвищити мотивацію, розвивати критичне і логічне мислення у студентів.

Ключові слова: *віртуальне навчальне середовище, викладач, студент*

Globalization, digitalization and constant changes of the world make it necessary to rely on innovations in education system. The research deals with the advantages and functions of a virtual learning environment in which the role of a teacher has changed. The integration of virtual learning platforms into the traditional process of study results in increasing motivation, developing students' critical and logical thinking.

Key words: *virtual learning environment, teacher, student*

Changes in all spheres of life are so intense and quick that education system must pay constant attention to innovations in science, technology, and information. The topicality of the research is based on the fact that the role of a teacher should be rethought in the context of a new education system.

By virtual education space we understand such kind of space that can be widen into the outer world. It opens the outer spheres through learners' activity when senses, emotional, and intellectual abilities are involved.

Virtual learning environment includes the information content and communicative scope of local, corporate, and global computer systems that are used in learning/teaching process. Moreover, virtual learning environment can be used directly (face-to-face) and indirectly (virtually).

Virtual learning environment embraces innovational and traditional technologies, information resources, and modern software. The main functions of virtual learning environment are giving specific information, communication function and monitoring knowledge and skills.

The role of a teacher in a virtual learning environment is very important. Firstly, a teacher organizes the process of study in a new space with the help of innovative technology (internet-counseling; participation in forums, blogs, web-quests, chats; teaching how to organize student's personal learning space, ect.). Secondly, a teacher becomes the author of a specific e-course of study. Thirdly, a teacher turns into a consultant providing professional support in the process of study. Fourthly, a teacher functions as a virtual psychologist who helps to arrange comfortable condition for learning. The fifth point is that a teacher structures the forms and activities of learning process that match the goals and content of e-course. It is worth mentioning that very often a teacher elaborates this course, thus, he must predict the chain of his own actions in order to develop a strategy and policy of learning activity, and the forms of teaching. Next, a teacher is a

colleague and co-worker. And finally, a teacher involved in the process under discussion is being taught himself because self-study and mutual study are the main attributes of innovation in the framework of lifelong education.

There are a lot of advantages of virtual education environment. We can mention flexibility, economic efficiency, module adjustment, new role of a teacher, practical use of innovation potential of virtual education environment, interactivity, productivity and effectiveness, individual approach to learners, motivation, and dynamic participation of students in the process of study.

It is noteworthy that integration of traditional education process and innovative virtual forms of study is of great importance nowadays. Such combination has a very promising potential in future because it increases the level of education, answers the need of the country in qualified specialists, and develops academic and professional mobility of authority.