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CHARACTERISTICS OF A TEACHER

IN THE CONTEXT OF VIRTUAL EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT

Modern social and economic processes and demands of post-industrial information society give the new tasks of development for the education system. A teacher must improve his knowledge and skills together with the scientific progress and, moreover, he has to be ahead of this progress in his own professional development. The research is aimed at describing the most important characteristics of a teacher in virtual education environment. The topicality of the problem mentioned above is proved by the fact that the role of a teacher in virtual education environment has been constantly changing.

The topic about the use of information technologies in the process of study, in other words computerization of education, is popular among researchers (Вайндорф-Сысоева 2010; Горелова 2003; Костенко 2013).

A teacher acquires new competences and skills. Firstly, a teacher conducts distance learning and structures his learning course in virtual education environment. Secondly, he organizes teaching through the internet using modern facilities of net communication. Finally, a teacher uses advantages of the net for his own professional development, self-study, in-service training, obtaining the information about various innovations.

The role of a teacher in virtual education environment has been constantly changing. In a new form of communication virtual discussion has such kinds of criteria as preciseness and shortness of information that lead to the development of logical and abstract thinking of students. The priority directions for educators today are individualization and practical orientation. These directions are useful for modern education principles because productive combination of the system of life-long study, professional development and practical skills of students help them build their own trajectory for the innovative work. A teacher acquires the important role in the use of new technologies such as project methodology which is the theoretical basis of virtual education. All educators construct pedagogical internet environment taking into account technological, administrative, and financial resources. Moreover, a teacher has to structure virtual education environment that must be flexible and open and then, he must adjust to individual disagreements and take into account personal needs of learners – that demands the elaboration of the new concept and methodology of study.

It is worth mentioning that t teachers working in virtual education environment differ from teachers working face-to-face in a traditional environment. Firstly, they have indirect communication in the process of study. Secondly, they use virtual education environment to find materials and realize back connection with the students. And finally, such kind of teachers support and correct students' activity and they try to cooperate with learners bearing in mind their motivation component of study.

There are some specific characteristics of teachers in virtual education environment (Вайндорф-Сысоева 2010, 45-46). At first, we should mention professional competence, i.e. knowledge of his subject, usage of different resources of additional information and innovations. A teacher has been constantly improving his professional development including self-study and self-development. Nowadays this in-service training is important because the quick and rapid development of information society results in the changes of technologies and the content of study. If a teacher is behind this process of quick changes he is behind the progress in education process. At the same time an educator must use traditional methods of pedagogical activity and he should organize control of the process of study (different types of tests; group and individual forms of control, ect.)

A teacher uses technologies of information and communication (basic computer literacy, ability to work with Internet-resources). Successful distance learning completely depends on the level of teacher's professionalism. That is why a teacher must be the real artist in professional use of e-technologies. Educators also should have the methodology of interactive study courses and programs elaboration. We should bear in mind specific peculiarities of virtual education environment, thus, a teacher chooses the principles very carefully and uses them in his teaching.

Teachers in virtual education environment have the ability to see technological, organizational, social and economic, pedagogical, informational, and communicational resources for getting the highest level of results.

Thus, there must be a clear differentiation of a teacher's role and characteristics in the context of traditional face-to-face learning and his specific features in a new virtual education environment. We are sure that online communication cannot replace face-to-face contacts and it is better for educators to combine the best characteristics of two forms of communication. We can conclude that the process of learning and teaching in a virtual education environment demands a different type of a teacher as distance learning involves a high level of interaction between a teacher and a student.

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