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FEATURES OF HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION IN UKRAINE AFTER THE WAR

The war in Ukraine shocked the entire world. Children, adolescents, and young people are experiencing strong anxiety and fear for their health and lives, as well as for the lives of their loved ones. Over the past two and a half years, they have been accompanied by unimaginably difficult experiences, new and previously unknown feelings and emotions, which they cannot endure without the help of adults, without risking their physical and mental health and sense of security. Every day, information about the threat is broadcast through all media channels, reaching both children and students from Ukraine, whether they are living in our country or studying remotely.

Providing real, supportive aid to all those who especially need the assistance of teachers, educators, psychologists, and counselors – whether in schools, higher educational institutions, or psychological-pedagogical consultations – has become an enormous challenge. Teaching staff in secondary schools and universities must be prepared and ready, both organizationally and psychologically, to take on new responsibilities and feel accountable to children and students in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

In the post-war period, the conditions for practical and laboratory classes, medical and other supplementary activities must also be adjusted. A special approach is required for discussions with students, particularly about the war and its consequences. In higher medical education, it is essential to consider students' emotions, provide reliable information about the current situation related to the war and its effects in Ukraine, tailored to the age and comprehension abilities of the young person. It is important not to induce unnecessary fear or anxiety in students but to give them space to share their feelings and emotions. It will be helpful to suggest ways to cope with the psychologically challenging situations, burdens, and fears, and to closely observe students to provide them with psychological-pedagogical support.

The current situation (information about the political context, the sources of the conflict, and its consequences in the post-war period) should be presented using only verified sources of information. When talking to students, their need to express different emotions should be acknowledged, and their decision on whether to discuss the war should be respected. These conversations with students should reinforce their sense of security and inform them that Ukraine is receiving support from around the world, including humanitarian aid, aimed at rebuilding the country. These discussions should not evoke additional fear or anxiety but provide space for them to share their feelings and emotions. The medical university lecturer must be prepared to point out ways to overcome the psychological challenges, burdens, and fears.

The Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Enhancing Modern Education

Information and communication technology (ICT) tools have significant potential for organizing independent student work, providing access to a vast array of information resources, interactive materials, and opportunities for communication. The main resources that facilitate the mastery of a subject and the completion of independent tasks include the Internet as a source of information, which provides access to various materials, from text documents to video lessons and interactive courses. Search engines and educational platforms help students quickly find the necessary materials. Online courses and learning platforms, such as Coursera, Udemy, and Khan Academy, play an important role by allowing students to choose courses that match their interests and academic goals.

Open online courses (MOOCs) on platforms like edX or Coursera offer free university-level courses, allowing anyone interested to deepen their knowledge. Video lessons and webinars on platforms like YouTube help learners to better grasp specific topics, providing detailed information and a deeper understanding of issues. Interactive learning resources, such as virtual laboratories, educational games, and simulations, make the learning process more engaging and effective. Forums and communities allow students to exchange ideas, receive support from experts, and discuss academic questions.

ICT tools in modern education offer several key advantages that significantly improve the learning process. First and foremost, **accessibility** is one of the most important benefits. The Internet provides students with quick and easy access to a wide range of educational resources, allowing them to study any subject in depth, regardless of time or location. This removes many traditional barriers to education and opens up opportunities for lifelong learning. Second, **interactivity** plays a crucial role in making the learning process more engaging and dynamic. Students can actively participate in their education through interactive tools, simulations, and real-time feedback, which increases their motivation and interest in the subject matter.

Thus, ICT tools create a stimulating and effective learning environment, promoting a deeper understanding of the material and enhancing students' engagement. They offer flexible learning paths, allowing learners to tailor their education to personal needs and preferences, which is particularly valuable in today's fast-changing world. Moreover, the use of digital tools fosters the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills, which are essential for success in the modern workforce. By integrating multimedia resources and interactive elements, ICT can make complex subjects more accessible and engaging. Additionally, it supports collaborative learning by enabling students to connect with peers and experts globally, enhancing their educational experience and broadening their perspectives.