

## **DEVELOPMENT OF SOFT SKILLS OF FUTURE TEACHERS IN THE PROCESS OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

In the education system worldwide, conditions are created for the development of modern key competencies in future specialists. The basis for these competencies is the formation of soft skills. Soft skills are a set of skills that ensure successful participation in the work process and high labor productivity. Many nationals (O. Abashkina, N. Bezlyudna, E. Hayduchenko, N. Dudnyk, N. Zhadko, T. Kozhushkina, K. Koval, S. Nakhod, N. Stepanova, L. Familyarska, I. Yasna, etc.) and foreign scientists (S. Boyd, K. Dweck, G. Claxton, R. Hipkins, M. Chambers, etc.) have studied the essence, content, meaning, and classification of soft skills. However, the issues of soft skills formation among future primary school teachers remain insufficiently disclosed. These competencies ensure close cooperation, interaction in a group and team, and the achievement of success in work.

"Soft skills" is a sociological term that characterizes a list of personal characteristics associated with effective interaction with other people, communication, negotiation, erudition, creativity, and a high level of self-organization (Familyarska L., 2017, p. 43).

L. Koval considers the development of soft skills as a factor in the successful employment of education seekers and attributes to them the ability to clearly define tasks and formulate goals, solve problems and make decisions, positive thinking, and optimism, the ability to focus on the client and the final result (Koval K., 2015).

N. Bezlyudna and N. Dudnyk believe that it is the high level of development of soft skills that contributes to the formation of a free, energetic, and independent personality of the teacher (N. Bezlyudna, & N. Dudnyk, 2022, p. 139).

The educational environment of the university allows developing the soft skills of future primary school teachers on the following professionally important

principles: the ability to be honest and open in relations with students; mutual respect; responsibility, readiness to answer both for one's own words and actions, and for the words and actions of one's students; the ability to perceive another person's position; openness, honest, tolerant communication.

Soft skills are closely related to the ability to be a leader, which is a professionally necessary quality of a teacher. Leadership, as the ability to lead a group or team, means recognizing the right to make responsible decisions. Soft skills include empathy for a person or group of people.

As the basis for the development of "flexible" skills of future teachers - primary school teachers, we took the "4K Model," which is called the "Four Cs." Critical thinking involves the ability to navigate information flows and draw correct conclusions.

Creativity is the ability to imagine and develop fundamentally new approaches to solving problems, to express ideas. Creativity allows you to assess the situation from different positions, make non-standard decisions, and feel confident in changing circumstances.

Communication is a vital skill for professionals in all industries. Communicative soft skills are manifested in the teacher's ability to effectively interact with students, their parents, and colleagues.

Coordination (cooperation) is closely related to communication. This is the ability to determine a common goal and ways to achieve it, assign roles, and evaluate the result.

For the full-fledged formation of a complex of soft skills in future teachers, it is necessary to change the methods, forms, and technologies of interaction between teachers and students of education. In our opinion, technologies based on humanization and democratization of pedagogical relations have the greatest importance for the successful formation of soft skills in students; these are gamification, e-learning (electronic learning), m-learning (mobile learning), project activities, research technology, training technologies, etc.

The educational activity of students organized in this way contributes to the disclosure of the personal characteristics of each participant in the educational process: first, it develops the ability to think logically and critically, to look for non-standard ways and new approaches to solving problems; secondly, it arouses cognitive interest, strengthens professional motivation, and activates educational activities; thirdly, it has a positive effect on the emotional state of future teachers.

Therefore, for the effective formation of soft skills in future teachers, it is necessary to restructure the pedagogical interaction in the institution of higher education on an innovative basis.

**Key words:** soft skills, institution of higher education, professional training, primary school teacher, critical thinking, creativity, communication, coordinating with others, innovative educational technologies.