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Zhao Xixi

Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU)

Scientific supervisor: Malashenko E.A.,

Ph.D. in Education, Associate Professor

Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Belarus State Economic University (BSEU)

malashenko@bseu.by

DEVELOPMENT OF ESSENTIAL PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR FUTURE PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATORS

Abstract: *This study examines the historical and cultural foundations of psychology education in China and the Republic of Belarus, highlighting how cultural values and national identity shape educational practices and societal attitudes toward mental health. In China, psychology education reflects the influence of philosophical traditions like Confucianism and Taoism, whereas in Belarus, it combines Soviet educational influences with post-Soviet reforms. The research explores the key professional competencies required for future psychology educators, including cognitive, pedagogical, interpersonal, and applied skills. It underscores the importance of cross-cultural communication, ethical awareness, and emotional management in fostering effective educational practices.*

Key words: *Psychology education, communicative competencies, cognitive competencies, pedagogical competencies, cross-cultural communication, teacher training.*

Чжао Сиси

Белорусский национальный технический университет (БНТУ)

Научный руководитель: Малашенко Е.А.,

кандидат педагогических наук, доцент

Минск, Республика Беларусь

Белорусский государственный экономический университет

malashenko@bseu.by

РАЗВИТИЕ КЛЮЧЕВЫХ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ КОМПЕТЕНЦИЙ У БУДУЩИХ ПРЕПОДАВАТЕЛЕЙ ПСИХОЛОГИИ

Аннотация: *В исследовании рассматриваются исторические и культурные основы психологического образования в Китае и Республике Беларусь, подчеркивая, как культурные ценности и национальная идентичность*

формируют образовательные практики и отношение общества. В Китае психологическое образование отражает влияние философских традиций, таких как Конфуцианство и Даосизм, в то время как в Беларуси оно сочетает влияние советского образования с постсоветскими реформами. В работе исследуются ключевые профессиональные компетенции, необходимые будущим преподавателям психологии, включая когнитивные, педагогические, межличностные и прикладные навыки. Особое внимание уделяется важности межкультурной коммуникации, этической осведомленности и управления эмоциями для повышения эффективности образовательных практик.

Ключевые слова: *психологическое образование, коммуникативные компетенции, когнитивные компетенции, педагогические компетенции, межкультурная коммуникация, подготовка преподавателей.*

Psychology education is a vital field that not only shapes the understanding of human behavior but also influences the development of mental health practices and educational frameworks within different cultural contexts. This study explores the historical and cultural foundations of psychology education, focusing specifically on China and the Republic of Belarus. By examining the evolution of psychology as a discipline in these regions, we aim to illuminate the unique influences that have shaped their respective educational landscapes.

In China, the development of psychology has been deeply intertwined with its rich cultural heritage, including philosophical traditions such as Confucianism and Taoism. These cultural values have not only informed the theoretical underpinnings of psychology but have also affected societal attitudes toward mental health and psychological practices. Understanding this historical context is crucial for appreciating the current state of psychology education in China.

Conversely, the Republic of Belarus presents a different trajectory marked by early Soviet influences and subsequent post-Soviet reforms. The interplay between traditional Belarusian values and modern educational practices highlights a unique approach to psychology education that reflects the nation's evolving identity. Analyzing these cultural influences provides insight into how national identity and societal norms shape educational relationships and methodologies.

In addition to historical and cultural contexts, this study addresses essential professional competencies required for future psychology educators. As the field continues to evolve, it is imperative that educators possess a diverse skill set encompassing cognitive, pedagogical, interpersonal, and practical competencies. These competencies not only enhance the educational experience but also ensure that future psychologists are well-equipped to meet the needs of their communities.

Through a comparative analysis of questionnaire results regarding the current state of psychology education in both China and the Republic of Belarus, we aim to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This analysis will culminate in the development of a model for psychology education that addresses contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Professional competencies in psychology education refer to a series of abilities and qualities that future psychology educators need to possess in teaching practice. These abilities include mastery of psychological theoretical knowledge, proficient application of teaching skills, scientific research capabilities, ethical awareness and cultural sensitivity, etc. The effective integration of these abilities not only requires educators to have solid professional knowledge in the field of psychology, but also requires them to be able to systematically apply this knowledge into educational practice to help students improve their psychological quality.

The importance of the professional ability of psychology education lies in its direct and profound impact on students' mental health and social adaptability. Data shows that according to the Wu, Liyun & Wang, Gang (2024) and "China Youth Health Survey Report" (2021), more than 30% of teenagers have mental health problems of varying degrees, and the professional abilities of psychological educators can alleviate this phenomenon to a certain extent. Through scientific psychological education and psychological counseling, educators can help students establish healthy psychological concepts and enhance their emotional regulation and problem-solving abilities, which will help improve the psychological quality and social adaptability of teenagers.

The professional capabilities of psychology educators are also of great significance to the promotion of mental health in the entire society. High-quality psychological education can cultivate more excellent psychological talents, provide more professional mental health services to the society, and directly or indirectly affect the mental health of millions of people. Therefore, the definition and importance of professional competencies in psychology education require in-depth research and attention to promote the development of psychology education and the improvement of social mental health.

The key competencies of psychological educators are the basis for ensuring the high quality and effectiveness of psychological education. Future psychology educators need not only a strong academic background, but also a range of diversified and comprehensive professional abilities to adapt to the changing educational environment and student needs. Basic knowledge and theoretical literacy. Psychological educators must master the basic theories and latest research results of psychology, including cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, educational psychology and social psychology.

An in-depth understanding of knowledge in these fields can help educators accurately judge students' psychological states and design targeted education programs. According to the book "Teaching Theory of Psychology", psychology educators should be proficient in various schools of psychology and their application methods so that they can be used freely in the teaching process. Professional skills and application abilities. Psychoeducators should have professional skills in assessing, diagnosing and treating psychological problems. According to the "Psychology Education Research" data released in 2022, about 80% of school psychological educators in China said that they often use psychological assessment tools to evaluate students' mental health. Educators also need to have psychological counseling and treatment techniques, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, family therapy, group counseling, etc., to help students solve various psychological problems and distress.

Psychological educators are not only imparters of psychological research, but also innovators of teaching methods. According to the "Annual Report of the Chinese Academy of Educational Sciences" released in 2021, more than 90% of psychological educators believe that teaching design, teaching implementation and teaching evaluation are necessary teaching abilities. Educators need to design and organize effective mental health education courses, using modern educational technology and diverse teaching methods to improve students' learning effects and participation. Fourth, ethical awareness and professional ethics.

Psychological educators must abide by professional ethics, respect students' privacy and autonomy, and maintain professionalism and neutrality. According to a survey by "Psychology Education Research", more than 90% of psychological educators in China believe that professional ethics is a core element in psychological education work. Ethical awareness is not only related to the professional ethics of educators, but also related to students' mental health and educational quality. Fifth, scientific research capabilities and innovation capabilities. Psychological educators need to have strong scientific research capabilities to promote the development of the field of psychology. According to data from the "Chinese Psychology Development Report (2021)", the number and quality of papers published in the field of psychology in China have increased year by year, which has put forward higher scientific research requirements for psychological educators. Teachers need to actively participate in scientific research projects and write and publish high-level academic papers to improve their academic standards and professional qualities.

In the context of globalization, psychological educators need to have cross-cultural communication skills and understand the psychological needs of students in different cultural backgrounds. According to a study in the International Yearbook of Psychology Education, cross-cultural communication and cooperation have become one of the essential abilities of modern psychological educators. Educators need to

understand the concepts of mental health in different cultures and use appropriate methods to carry out psychological intervention in order to achieve good educational results.

With the advent of the information age, information literacy and digital capabilities have also become key capabilities for psychological educators. Psychological educators need to master basic computer technology, be familiar with the use of network resources, and be able to use psychology-related software and tools for data analysis and processing to improve teaching efficiency and scientific research levels. According to 2020 data from "Psychology Education Research", about 85% of psychological educators expressed the need to further improve their information literacy and digital capabilities to adapt to the needs of modern education. In general, the key competencies of future psychology educators include not only solid academic knowledge and professional skills, but also multi-faceted qualities such as innovation ability, ethical awareness, and cross-cultural communication skills. Through continuous learning and practice, psychological educators can better serve students and improve the quality and effect of psychological education.

Cognitive competencies encompass a deep understanding of psychological theories and principles, alongside strong analytical and critical thinking skills.

Knowledge of psychological theories enables educators to comprehend the learning processes, motivations, and emotional responses of students. This understanding helps in developing effective teaching strategies that cater to the diverse needs of learners.

In addition, analytical and critical thinking skills empower educators to evaluate the validity of information, tackle complex problems, and make informed decisions in the classroom. These competencies not only enhance the professional capabilities of educators but also foster a supportive and motivating learning environment for students. By integrating these cognitive skills, educators can better facilitate student learning and promote overall academic success.

Pedagogical competencies encompass a range of effective teaching methodologies, instructional design principles, curriculum development strategies, and student assessment techniques.

Effective teaching methodologies focus on engaging students through active learning, differentiated instruction, and constructivist approaches. By incorporating technology into the classroom, educators can enhance learning experiences and foster collaboration among students.

In terms of instructional design, employing backward design helps educators plan lessons with clear learning outcomes in mind. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) ensures that instruction is adaptable to accommodate diverse learning needs. Additionally, leveraging multimedia resources caters to various learning preferences,

while aligning assessments with learning objectives strengthens the connection between teaching and evaluation.

Curriculum development is vital for addressing the needs of learners and the community. Conducting needs assessments allows for the creation of relevant and engaging content. Interdisciplinary approaches and culturally relevant pedagogy enrich the curriculum, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of students. Regular reviews and updates ensure that the curriculum remains responsive to changing educational standards.

Finally, effective student assessment techniques include both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments provide ongoing feedback to guide instruction, while summative assessments evaluate student learning at the end of instructional units. Authentic assessments emphasize real-world applications of knowledge, and peer and self-assessment foster reflection and critical thinking.

Thus, developing pedagogical competencies is essential for creating dynamic learning environments where all students can thrive. By integrating diverse methodologies, thoughtful design, and varied assessment strategies, educators can promote student engagement and success.

Interpersonal competencies encompass essential communication and relational skills, as well as cultural sensitivity and ethical considerations. Effective communication skills are vital for educators to convey information clearly, listen actively, and foster open dialogue with students, parents, and colleagues. Building strong relationships within the classroom creates a supportive learning environment where students feel valued and understood.

Cultural sensitivity is crucial in today's diverse educational landscape. Educators must recognize and respect the varied backgrounds and experiences of their students. This awareness not only enhances classroom inclusivity but also promotes mutual respect among students.

Ethical considerations are integral to interpersonal competencies. Educators must navigate complex situations with integrity, ensuring fairness and equity in their interactions. Upholding ethical standards fosters trust and establishes a positive classroom culture, ultimately contributing to student success and well-being. By developing these interpersonal competencies, educators can create a collaborative and inclusive educational environment that supports all learners.

Practical and applied competencies include the application of psychological knowledge in practical settings and hands-on experience gained through practicums and internships.

Applying psychological knowledge in real-world contexts enables educators to translate theory into practice, thereby more effectively supporting student learning and development. This application not only enhances the professional competence of

educators but also helps them make informed decisions in complex educational environments.

Through internships and practicums, educators gain valuable firsthand experience that provides insights into classroom management, student interactions, and the effectiveness of teaching strategies. This practical experience not only improves their teaching skills but also enhances their sensitivity to student needs, allowing educators to better adapt to and address various educational challenges.

To sum up, developing practical and applied competencies is essential for educators, as it contributes to their professional growth and provides students with a higher quality educational experience.

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Xiang Jiaao

Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU)

Scientific supervisor: Malashenko E.A.,

Ph.D. in Education, Associate Professor

Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Belarus State Economic University (BSEU)

[*malashenko@bseu.by*](mailto:malashenko@bseu.by)

DIVERSE METHODS AND PRACTICES FOR ENHANCING COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE IN TEACHER TRAINING

Abstract: *The article explores the crucial role of communicative competence in teacher training and the diverse methods employed to enhance it. Interactive teaching methods, such as group discussions, role-playing, and scenario simulations, are highlighted as effective tools for improving communication strategies and fostering active engagement. The article underscores the importance of comprehensive and well-managed training programs that integrate these methods to prepare educators for diverse classroom scenarios. Future research directions include optimizing these approaches to meet the evolving demands of education and cultivating teachers with advanced communicative skills.*