DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN BELARUS
ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В БЕЛАРУСИ

Nowadays, the importance of higher education is evident as getting a well-paid, respected and intellectually challenging job, particularly in secondary and tertiary sectors, is impossible without a university degree.

The object of our research is social relations in the sphere of higher education. The subject of our research is opinions of scientists and statistical data. The main aim of the research is to propose a way to overcome the crisis of higher education. We set the following tasks: to allot the main problems of our educational system and to show the possibilities of its modernization.

The statistics shows that almost 40% of all high school graduates enter a university [1]. It reflects the youth's willingness and determination to acquire knowledge and specialize in different fields of economy.

However, one can argue that this high demand is a disadvantage as it has led to the decline of the quality of higher education which, in its turn, will have a great impact on economic, political and cultural development. It is worth mentioning that there are no Belarusian institutions among the top five-hundred universities of a prestigious international ranking [2].

It is clear that the educational program must be reformed and modernized to allow Belarusian universities to compete with other European and Western institutions that have already succeeded. Nowadays, when most individuals have an access to various information methods and outlets, it is evident that the knowledge received at universities is not enough to be employed, as many graduates lack experience to perform more complex tasks.

The employers demand the workforce to be able to think outside “the box” in case of incidents, it means that the action must be taken quickly. But many degree holders are unable to work under pressure, hence, are not qualifying for the job. In order to be effective, education must meet the needs of the real sector of economy.

One of the factors that we must consider is the way in which government funds are distributed among the students at universities. The most obvious receivers of such funding are those who have achieved high examination grades. However, to increase students’ motivation to learn and perform better, it is crucial to amend the process of distribution of government-funded places. Such funding must depend on academic progress and can be given at the end of each year.
The desire to receive such funding can enormously elevate the competition between students as they will be under a constant threat of losing free tuition. Prevention of the possibility of cheating will lead to the increase of personal responsibility of students.

We also propose to implement a credit-module system in the sphere of higher education. All subjects will be divided into modules. After studying each module, students will take a test of knowledge. There will be several checkpoints during the semester. Passing the checkpoints, students will receive points or credits that will influence their rating. High rating will allow students to get the final grade automatically without passing exams. However, in case the rating falls to a critical level, students can lose their allowance and place at the university even passing the examination session successfully.

In our opinion, the steps we propose can help to overcome the crisis of higher education and will lead to continuous control of the students’ knowledge and to their active learning throughout the training period.

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