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MODERNIZATION OF THE UKRAINIAN EDUCATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES

The Ukrainian higher education is undergoing significant change as a result of economic challenges, European integration and geopolitical strains as well as technological innovations. Therefore, poor educational outcomes at the university level are a result of a series of complex and interrelated factors, both within and outside the educational system. Underperforming universities are suffering from such factors as poor management (an old top down approach; lack of good HR management) and leadership within the Ukrainian educational system.

The socio-economic backgrounds of the students also contribute significantly to this underperformance. Thomas and Stockton studied the impact of socio-economic status, ethnic and gender on student achievement [4]. Poverty goes along with other factors like ethnic and ethnicity as well as with gender effects as a strong predictor of academic performance. It is proved that students living in neighborhoods with low crime and poverty showed higher achievement in both mathematics and reading than students in other types of neighborhoods [3]. Thus, family background, ethnic diversity, poverty and crimes influence neighborhood disadvantage and a community's ability to maintain social control. However, academic performance also depends much on students' abilities and personal qualities, their desire and motivation to study.

According to the survey hold within my research, another acute problem in the process of modernization of education is the lack of appropriate technical equipment and, thus, access to online-learning at most universities throughout Ukraine despite the growing number of teachers using multimedia products and tools (e-books, multimedia presentations, e-mails, laptops, etc.).

Despite all these challenges, much work is being done at the moment at the local, regional and national levels in order to improve, update and match the Ukrainian educational system to the European standards. As an example, there is a growing number of:

- new concepts that are being developed as well as new methods of teaching are being implemented,

- bilateral and trilateral agreements and projects between the Ukrainian and European universities,

- professors and students that take part in many foreign projects, conferences and other events.

In conclusion, modernization of education itself is a long-term and multi-layer process that needs careful, step-by-step management in order to make this mechanism (i.e. the educational system) work sound and be sustainable.

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