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DISTANCE LEARNING – EXPERIENCE OF UKRAINIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Distance learning is a form of education using computer and telecommunication technologies that provide interactive communication between teachers and students at different stages of learning and independent work with information network materials.

Nowadays, it is no longer necessary to be near the teacher. For a long time there is a correspondence form of education for students. However, its possibilities are very limited. The Internet allows you to expand them, to make distance learning truly complete and comprehensive [1].

The purpose of this work is to show the essence of distance learning and its practical application, to show both positive and negative aspects of this type of education.

By the way, the distance form of education is prescribed in Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine «On Education», rather than quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19, as some believe. In Ukraine, the official date of distance learning introduction is January 21, 2004, when the Order No. 40 of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine approved the «Regulations on distance learning», which marked the introduction of new technologies in education [2].

There are three main advantages that distinguish distance learning from other methods. Firstly, that's comfort. It can be practiced anytime, anywhere and regardless of health status. It is an opportunity to get an education without leaving the main job. So, physically it is much more comfortable. Secondly, that is economic efficiency. This method of teaching is much cheaper than traditional, due to the efficient use of training facilities, easy adjustment of e-

learning materials and multi-access to them. And thirdly, that is the lack of geographical boundaries. In this way we can study from anywhere in the world at any university [1].

In the West, this form has been around for a long time and is very popular among students because of its economic performance and learning efficiency. Distance learning is also called «lifelong learning» because most learners are adults. Most of them have already had higher education, but due to the need of improving skills or expand the scope of activities, many of them need to quickly and efficiently acquire new knowledge and skills. That's when distance learning can become the optimal form [1].

The success of distance learning depends on its effective organization, on the process management itself and the skill of the teachers involved. Ordinary lectures can be replaced by video lectures or slide lectures. The place of practical classes is occupied by individual computer training and laboratory classes. Final control can be carried out by means of collective training, test training, credit, examination, etc [4].

The disadvantages of distance learning include the following factors:

- to deal with all the curriculum materials may take more time, because the material itself is absorbed differently. And to understand it more effectively, we have to learn it a little longer;

- sometimes there is no clear concentration during online learning, because we want to be distracted by personal matters such as messages or news feeds, or even one's own environment may interfere with focusing on learning;

- someone may not have enough personal contact with the teacher. Lack of socialization is the challenge that distance learning handles the worst;

- lack of practice for the final assimilation of the material. Both students and teachers do not always have all the necessary equipment and technical knowledge. And practice is the key for a good specialist [3].

Conclusion. Thus, at this stage distance learning in Ukraine has inherited almost all the features of distance learning. Therefore, so far it does not fulfill its

functions. To organize a truly effective distance learning process it is necessary to work systematically with both the student and the tutor almost every day throughout the study period. In general, distance learning is gaining great popularity and has many advantages, but we shouldn't forget about the disadvantages. As with any type of training, distance learning should be treated responsibly enough so that time is not wasted.

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