

Adult Education in Ukraine: Problems and Ways of Settlement

Larysa Sigayeva

Ukrainian Coordination Bureau of Adult Education Program in Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Abstrakt

Príspevek sa zaoberá hlavnými úlohami vzdelávania dospelých na Ukrajině, jeho rôznymi typmi a funkciami, ktoré vzdelávanie dospelých plní. Popisuje prostriedky potrebné pre rozvoj andragogiky v podmienkach absencie vzdelávacieho systému andragogů a základných výskumů na tomto poli. Autorka prezentuje ústrednú pozíciu práva vo vzdelávaní dospelých na Ukrajině, ktoré sa spracováva a má byť prijato.

Abstract

The main tasks of the adult education in Ukraine, the diverse kinds of it, and functions fulfilled by education of adults are examined in the paper. It describes measures needed for andragogy development in the conditions of absence of the andragogs training system and fundamental researches in this field. The main positions of the Law on Adult Education in Ukraine which is worked out and planned to be adopted are presented by the author.

The competitiveness of countries in the world market significantly depends on the people's education level, development of their creativity, readiness and abilities for further training, acquisition new knowledge, life and work in the constantly transforming world. Recent decades have been marked by active theoretical and practical researches of lifelong education models according to the needs of new civilization. However, foundation and development of the lifelong education in Ukraine are realized slowly and accompanied by difficulties, problems and contradictions. Their overcoming is becoming possible by the way of collaboration of different countries in this sphere, purposeful learning, understanding and promoting advanced experience. This will help to definite adult education as strategic direction for nowadays education development, reveal new tendencies and conformities to natural law connected with the idea of continuity in the world pedagogic process.

The present Ukrainian scientists pay attention to researching aspects of vocational education progress, including adult education in Ukraine: N. Abashkina, S. Boltivets, L. Vovk, I. Ziaziun, V. Luhovyy, A. Lihotskiy, V. Maiboroda, N. Nychkalo, L. Pukhovska, V. Putsov, S. Sysoyeva and others.

Adult education in Ukraine fulfills threefold function complying with the demands of society, state and personality. According to the personality, his (her) duty is self-improving, adaptation to the social and economic, political, moral, psychological conditions, which are transforming rapidly. The community needs socially active and adapted to the life realities, law-abiding and initiative citizens, orientated on the common values. In its turn, the state should train competent professionals capable to take the country to the high level of the social, economic and cultural development. Thus, in our opinion, the principal adult education aim is forming personality, who participates actively, competently and effectively in all fields of social and public life. The main tasks of the adult education are defined as following:

- getting common secondary education;
- acquiring or upgrading professional skills;
- deliberate participation in public life;
- improving own personality;

- keeping and improving health;
- improving family life quality.

Nowadays in Ukraine there are diverse kinds of adult education: formal adult education (universal secondary education, primary, secondary vocational, higher education, post-graduate professional education, raising the level of professional skills and professional specialists' retraining; non-formal adult education (professionally directed and common cultural learning courses under the creative units, employment centers, different intensive learning courses etc.)

Because of financial instability, departmental system of improving qualification has been cut down, a number of individuals who get education at correspondence and part-time forms of studies are reducing, in-company training and retraining of adults are developed insufficiently. Attempt to found Associations on the adult education problems are not wide-spread. All above-mentioned confirm the fact, that unfortunately in Ukraine there is not formed effective, flexible, featured system covering all community life spheres: economy, policy, social relations, culture, education.

Development of market relations gives ample opportunities for the new adult activities, requires changes in people's mentality in the country, which can be realized through the adult education.

Growing competition in the labour market, structural changes in the industry related with the whole fields liquidation and closing a great number of enterprises, military reform influence negatively on the people fames, lead to the increasing of social tension, instability in the society. Optimum ways in decision of these groups' problems are defined by caring out extended work on retraining and training persons for other activity that can be done owing to adult education.

Appearance of different forms of property, new opportunities and forms of participation make person to take and work with considerable amount of information, determine attitude to the social life questions. Wide spreading of culture, spreading its influence on society and personality, growth of life level, creating and development of informational technologies in people everyday life – all these require continue improving of educational and cultural level, continue overcoming functional illiteracy.

It must be noticed that there are no fundamental researches on andragogy in Ukraine yet. Also the system of training andragogs is still absent in our country. We suppose that the development of andragogy demands such measures:

- to establish close connections with other lifelong education systems including international;
- to base the work on the adult learning theory – andragogy;
- to promote market of educational services;
- to have special trained staff available;
- to create organizational forms of adult education management;
- to promote development of adult public activity and public organizations.

So since 2000 the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau of the International public and state Adult Education Program in Ukraine has been acting in our country. The work of the Bureau is precisely planned; its Head coordinates all the activities of the Bureau which has six directions: political, economic, humanitarian, cultural, analytical and informational, and organizational. The separate unit is presented by the Secretariat and Press-center; their duties are spreading information about the activities of the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau of Adult Education Program in Ukraine using modern technologies (Internet website etc.) as well as translating this information into English and German, holding press-conferences, meetings with outstanding scientists, educators, and cultural workers. The Bureau's work is done on public basis, free of charge, and includes majority of the Ukrainian regions, involves foreign

countries' representatives such as Azerbaijan, Hana, Cameroon, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Moldova and others.

Simultaneously, in 2000 the Ukrainian Adult Learners' Weeks has been launched. Traditionally this great event is carried out in September every year. Each Week is devoted to the definite theme with some peculiarities and at the same time reflects both world and Ukrainian adults learning problems. During the Weeks the participants have the opportunities to visit educational establishments of Ukraine of all level, communicate, take part in seminars and round-tables, express their opinions concerning to adult education development in the country, contributes to preparing Week's recommendations. Last four years at the end of every Week there is a tradition for the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau of Adult Education Program in Ukraine and Anton Makarenko's Charitable Fond, and Institute of Pedagogies and Psychology of Vocational Training of Ukraine together to issue collection of scientific articles "Pedagogical Process: Theory and Practice" which includes reports and recommendations on promoting adults learning. It is remarkable that a number of adults eager to be engaged in the Week's events are increasing from day to day. The participants of the festivals are extremely diverse: from unemployed person, worker, and student, housewife to scientists, and Doctors of Philosophy, those interested in adults learning problems from 16 to 88 years of age.

The Coordination Bureau systematically looks for different forms of caring out Adult Learning Weeks, extends international collaboration and links. As a result in 2004 the Ukrainian delegation took part in Adult education Week in St. Petersburg, Russia, and also issued common scientific work "Cultural Links of St. Petersburg and Ukraine".

It is deeply symbolical that the activity of the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau of Adult Education Program in Ukraine has certain influence on conscience of adult citizens in our country. Thus, in September, 2004, in Kyiv the Fifth Week was held and devoted to the problem "Adult Education for Democracy", and already in October, 2004, in the country there was created the situation later defined by the world community as historical event: the revolution happened in the country, the power changed.

The idea of necessity of scientific-research institute establishing in Ukraine for dealing, first of all, adult education problems has been expressed many times. It is explained by the new economic situation in the country in the process of reforms and independence, and new categories of citizens – unemployed people, who demand attention and help in learning, re-learning, new professional training etc.

We are glad that with the assistance and influence of our Bureau since February, 2007, there has been functioning the Institute for Teachers' and Adults Education of Ukraine that is supposed to research adults' education problems in theoretical and practical aspects.

It must be said that analytical and informational department analyzes activities of the Coordination Bureau and gives advice according to its work improving and planning for future. The activists give their proposals concerning to improving Bureau's work. Annually the Bureau presents the most active participants to the Education and Science Ministry for awarding.

Apart from that many conferences and meetings with the help and participation of the Bureau's active members are hold during whole year (2003-2007). So the conference on "*Theory and Practice of Vocational Education in European Integration Conditions*" was carried out in March, 2006; "*Information Technologies in the Specialists Training System of Higher Education*".

The activity of the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau of Adult Education Program in Ukraine is always widely highlighted by local mass media, radio and TV. Every Week about 8 thousand of adults have the opportunity using Internet website and mass media to be familiarized with Weeks' events and take part in them.

But many adult education problems remain to be focused and decided by the Coordination Bureau. The important questions are strengthening normative-legislative foundation for adult education in Ukraine, such problems as scientific researches, andragogs training, extending international collaboration, involving to international projects, sharing world adult learning experience of state institutions and public organizations, amending The Law on Higher Education according to the age-unlimited adult learning and others. The Law on Adult Education needs to be worked out and adopted and it should provide:

- adult education institutionalization as an independent main sphere of all education progress;
- economic functioning and adult education development at the expense of state budget, enterprises, enterprisers, social funds and organizations;
- legal and economic foundations for activities of the educational establishments in the adult education field;
- legal, social and economic aspects of adult learning process (teachers' payment, possibilities, demands and economic results);
- providing law forms both in the organization of structure of adult education, including state, social, private forms of adult learning, and in the program learning.

There is necessity to create new adult learning forms, include widely interested persons. Realization of any social project is impossible within one country. For the further adult education researches it is necessary to organize basic training, retraining, and improving qualification, also post-grade education, for specialists-andragogs of different directions and levels. With this aim it is necessary to extend fundamental and practical scientific psychological and pedagogical researches on the adult education problems in Ukraine; to make adult education data base in Ukraine; use new information technologies, including Internet; carry out everyday work concerned with adult education accessibility; promote actively adult education ideas for the purpose of continue self-improving of personality.

And now preparation to the Seventh ALW in Ukraine in 2007 has been started and continuing. All those interested in adult education are invited to join our activities.

Zdroje:

Сігаєва Л.Є. Навчання дорослих у системі неперервної освіти США і Франції // Неперервна професійна освіта: теорія і практика. – Київ, П/П „ЕКМО”, 2002. – Вип.1. – С.183-191.

Ничкало Н.Г. Інформаційно-технічний виклик ХХІ століття і проблеми професійної освіти // Теорія і практика управління соціальними системами. – Харків: НТУ „ХПІ”. – 2000. - № 1. – С.38-44.