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COGNITIVE SKILLS OF FUTURE SPECIALISTS: THE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The achievements of psycho-pedagogical science in regard to the concept "skill" are summarized in the article. The author found that there are two main approaches to interpretation of this notion. According to the first approach the skill is the ability to find the quickest and shortest way to solving problems during the process of learning new knowledge and skills. The alternative approach is based on the idea that the skill is an ability of people to achieve the purpose in varying conditions. This ability is consisting of knowledge and automated skills.

The most typical features of skills are listed in the article, for example: consciousness, commitment, flexibility, fortitude, strength, maximum approximation to the conditions and purpose of professional activity.

Five positions concerning the relations between abilities and skills as part of the ternary structure "knowledge-skills-skills" are generalized. According to the first position there is a gradual transfer knowledge to skills, and then to automated skills. The second and third points of view are based on the ideas that skills and automated skills are partly identical or completely different concepts. According to the fourth position knowledge and automated skills are synthesized in the composition of skills. In author's opinion the most convincing is the last position. According to it there are complex skills which are situated over the elementary skills and automated skills.

The analysis of classifications of skills had shown that the investigational phenomenon should be considered as a separate group general-training skills, although they have some features of intellectual, practical and some other types of skills.

The structure of the skills is proposed. It is composed of two components: motivationally-organizational and operationally-procedural. The first of them is composed of three elements: motives, purpose and intermediate purposes. The microstructure of the second component is composed of the five elements, which form the sequential algorithm of thinking operations:

- perception generalized image;

- differentiation constructs of the image;

- matching constructs of the image;

- combining constructs;

- synthesis constructs.

The definition of concept "cognitive skill" is refined. Cognitive skill is a not innate, but acquired universal system of conscious actions, that directed into remembering (perception, processing, preservation) and application of information.