THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE IN PRACTICE

D. Stoyanova
State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (BULGARIA)

Abstract
The ability of young people to constantly adapt to the surrounding environment is defined by the sudden transition from a totalitarian to a democratic system. Such drastic changes bring in the foreground the advanced ability of young people to adapt quickly, which is a basic criteria for success in today's dynamically developing world. In addition to that, some of the most important qualities that young people have are the strong pursuit of independence, the desire to find a better realization on the labor market and, last but not least, a higher intellectual growth.

For this reason, their development is a strategic goal and a top priority in every area of human activity. The creation of favorable conditions for educational, scientific and cultural development, contributes to the validation of young people in science.

In this regard, the University of Library Science and Information Technologies - Sofia, Bulgaria is one of the leading educational and scientific institutions in which deep quality fundamental and applied research are carried out.

Along with the methods and techniques that are already established in the theoretical and practical scope in the training of young people, some innovative models of research work are also important. By implementation of innovative models, based on knowledge diffusion and application of the "Learning by Doing" principle, contributes to the qualitative development of young people. This innovative methodology forms and develops the cognitive abilities of students, young scientists and PhD students, who are actually given the opportunity to participate actively in the process of implementing new knowledge in practice.

The strong link between education and research conducts the process of acquiring and understanding knowledge and cognition in the various fields of science. On this basis, an active training methodology is created to assist in the implementation of knowledge and practical skills in a university information environment.

Keywords: young people, education and research, practice, knowledge, cognition.

1 INTRODUCTION
The rapid temps of technological development of societies and peoples has led to the need to continuously integrate innovation and modern approaches for searching and generating new knowledge. This dynamics has greatly influenced the work and activities of a number of educational and scientific institutions. Education, and university education in particular, is one of the most important priorities of any policy at state level. As a result of the continuous introduction of new trends, the world community is aware that without modernizing and adapting education and research in a way that adequately responds to the dynamic processes in environment, it would be difficult to achieve sustainable development in different sectors of human activity [3]. That on one hand favors the process of learning and acquiring new knowledge on the part of the younger generation, but on the other hand has also led to difficulties in combining traditional educational approaches with innovative ones.

The good practice for enhancing the learning motivation and the interest of students for realization of the so called "learning by experience", "learning through research", "learning with all the senses" (perceptual) in the university is the conducting of extracurricular educational activities that can be realized in the unadulterated environment. In the extracurricular activities the young people acquire specific knowledge and. Because of the fact that the life of today's young people is fully connected with information and communication technologies it is difficult to provoke or keep them for a long time on one subject. Unfortunately, there is no way to get to the knowledge or the true understanding of the world without mastering specific knowledge and skills. Actively participating in summer practices, international universities, internships and more, the students and the PhD students at the University of Library Studies
and Information Technologies acquire valuable knowledge and develop important skills that in a subsequent stage of their intellectual development have an important role in the formation and the development of personality [6].

Based on this, an in-depth training methodology was applied in university information environment. By applying the “Learning by doing”[8] principle, that methodology was developed to assist the implementation of new knowledge in practice. Stimulating the connection between education and practice in a real work environment contributes to the development of young people which favors the process of awareness and perception of knowledge in the various fields of science.

2 METHODOLOGY

In this regard, the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (ULSIT) - Sofia, Bulgaria, has successfully implemented in its training policy different in nature and character extracurricular activities and research, which are a basic tool for the implementation of new knowledge in practice. In this particular case and based on our experience in the field of extracurricular training, we can say that Abraham Maslow’s theory coincides with the policy of ULSIT for effective training of young people. E. Maslow considers motivation a part of the inner human potential, and believes that it is formed and managed on the basis of the individual and spontaneous choices that people make in their lives. [1] This kind of practical activities are organized as a form of summer universities, student internships and other kinds of practices, most often as part of the work program of research projects with internal and external funding.

One of them is a research project "Study and Research of the History and Culture of the Population in the Region of the Southeast Border - (International Southeast Summer University 2019)", under the Regulation of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria. The realization of this project and planned activities enable young scientists, PhD students and students to develop and gain professional experience built on their own abilities, talent and creative potential in real work environment. Part of this research project is the annual International Southeast Summer University, whose main goal is to support and promote research in various fields of science, thus increasing the motivation of young people to participate and encouraging them to conduct field research.

Delegating different tasks to young scientists, PhD students and students as members of scientific and academic research projects stimulates the accumulation of the specific knowledge and skills they receive as a result of active observation based on a careful awareness and purposeful perception of the subject. The process of completing different task and specific activities in projects with different scientific and research areas, is a very useful tool for targeting the efforts and attention of young participants towards achieving the ultimate goal. This surely leads to the successful accumulation of new knowledge and developing of practical experience and skills that breaks the framework of traditionally perceived training techniques.

The main methodology used to reach this stage of young people’s participation in different projects involves various interdisciplinary research methods and approaches. Most often, project teams consists of lecturers, young scientists, PhD students and students. The main tasks and activities of the International South-East Summer University are: conducting field trips and surveys, conducting interviews with the local population who are describing interesting ritual practices; documenting events and processes related to the historical and cultural development of the population in specific area that is part of Bulgaria; digitization of important documents with historical value and creating of digital photo archives containing valuable photo materials in order to conserve and preserve them; data and text processing. Thanks to the opportunities to build good cooperation with various representatives, proven specialists and eminent scientists from a number of educational, scientific and cultural institutions, the opportunities for transferring the practical experience to the young people are increasing.

3 RESULTS

The International Southeast Summer University (ISSU) combines modern approaches for learning with traditional ones. On the other hand, it promotes continuity in knowledge and experience between young people and researchers and professionals from different areas of human activity. This way, young people form an active civic position, which contributes building decision-making skills in a real work environment.
The main task of the young people as part of the project is to study and research the territories in the region of Southeastern Bulgaria. The conduct of interdisciplinary research is among the modern approaches for application of the “case studies” method that describes and document events and processes related to the public processes and cultural history of the population in the area. The inclusion of young participants from the research team contributed for raising their motivation to work on specific issues and tasks, acquiring new factual and historical-cultural knowledge of socio-political, economic and cultural life in the region.

Accomplishment of all activities stimulates young people to participate actively in the research process and makes the process of appraising new knowledge in practice possible. In addition, that way young people develop their skills for field work and at the same time increase their culture and competence by generating new knowledge and hypotheses. Other aspect of their fieldwork, is that they successfully apply a methodology that is based on the architectural approach, which provides wide opportunities for structuring a set of knowledge to successfully implement changes such as initiatives, ventures, missions, activities, product creation, and services. The interpretations and implementation of this approach are carried out in the context of an intensive and qualitatively new transfer of scientific knowledge. [1]

Along with already established research-related approaches, with innovative technologies based on the “Learning by Doing” principle, the cognitive abilities of students, young scientists and PhD students are developed. The focus of this principle while training of young people is put on the purposeful organization of certain situations and interactions in which students, young scientists and PhD students learn through experience and emotional reflection (awareness of their feelings and emotions) to acquire new knowledge.

Another positive aspect of ISSU’s performance is the increasing of mobility of young people, due to visits to different locations in the area. This type of mobility inevitably leads to the accumulation of new knowledge about the actual state of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The obtained results prove and justify the objectives of intensive training because the investment that ULSIT makes as a leading educational and scientific institution in its students, young scientist and PhD students is an investment in the future of young people as successful and competitive individuals that are part of the society.

As another result of the research is the accumulation of quantitative and qualitative results. One of the most important stages in conducting the International Southeast Summer University is to disclose and promote research materials and results. This motivates students to participate in different conferences, seminars, forums, etc., where they have the opportunity to present the accumulated observations, positions and opinions that they have already shaped through their participation in that kind of practices. This leads to the accumulation of new scientific materials as scientific papers and virtual presentations. That contributes to the development of a new knowledge fund and in the same time makes science attractive in the eyes of young people.

4 CONCLUSIONS

As educational and scientific institutions universities have changed significantly over the years. However, they have preserved their original purpose as educational and cultural centers, where people can obtain important knowledge and skills that are for life. Today, educational institutions are facing new challenges and problems, related, on one hand, to the access and quality of services offered and, on the other hand, to the issues concerning the role of young people in acquiring new knowledge. Due to this, motivation is the main focus in international forums dedicated to science, education and business in the 21st century. Among the most common issues is the lack of motivation to learn and acquire different skills and competencies [1].

Thanks to the innovative approach in conducting the International Southeast Summer University, students are encouraged to participate in other extracurricular activities, too. This proves crucial for the formation of their outlook and for the perception of science as a meaningful center of human existence. [1] An important stage in ISSU is the popularization of field research results where the role of young people is, in fact, the largest. As this process successfully finalizes the process of appraising the accumulated new knowledge from the practice.

The experience gained in the area of academic practices shows that the adequate and timely feedback is necessary to improve the willingness of young people to participate in it. Through feedback, young people know when they have completed their tasks and achieved the ultimate goal. This highlights their
role in the process of implementation of new knowledge in practice by making them feel satisfied, competent and confident enough to continue to set higher goals for the future.

Thanks to that, not only the role of young people in the process of implementation of new knowledge in practice comes out, but also the opportunities for them to become part of the academic environment increase. Such practices open up access to this environment, where participants have full access to science in its practical sense. In most cases this motivate young people to develop in the academic environment and to continue to learn to acquire higher scientific and educational degrees.

REFERENCES


