USING SIMULATION LEARNING TO INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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Abstract: *Vocational education is experiencing a period of very positive changes. These changes not only increase the quality and convenience of education, but also prepare its students for the labor market in the current conditions. Mobilization of competences The integration of innovations in vocational education is essential for ensuring high-quality education that meets the current and future needs of society. The development of the consciousness and competence of each student serves as the main principle for vocational education programs. This subsequently becomes the driving force for the development of the educational process. This article provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to advance in the evolving labor market.*

Keywords*: Competence, innovative activity, labor market, simulation, problem situation, teamwork skills.*

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Introduction. Technological advances, new methodologies and the ability to constantly adapt have redefined the content of education day by day. If we think about the future, it is clear that innovation will remain key in the field of vocational education and training. In order to maintain and improve the talents of students, and to ensure the continuity and success of the education system, it is important to prepare students for innovative activities in the educational process [1].

The main goal of vocational education is to prepare students to enter the labor market and develop a professional career to achieve their goals. However,

if it is not adapted to market requirements, opportunities will decrease. Currently, the labor market is in great demand for personnel in the medical field. Nurses, laboratory technicians, pharmacists who are trained in vocational education institutions must become qualified specialists in their profession during the training process and upon completion of this training. This requires improving the technology of preparing students for innovative activities, new methodologies, and innovative ideas.

Innovations in this area will undoubtedly significantly improve the employability of students and allow them to compete favorably in an increasingly demanding labor market.

Healthcare treatment methods and systems are constantly evolving, and healthcare educators must seek innovative teaching methods to better prepare the next generation of professionals. The traditional lecture-based approach to medical education is being supplemented and sometimes replaced by more modern, engaging methods of healthcare education. These modern strategies not only enhance learning, but also shape students' thinking about how to confront the many challenges of today's healthcare environment [2].

Main part

One of the most important methods in healthcare education today is the use of simulation-based learning. This method provides students with realistic clinical scenarios and allows them to apply theoretical knowledge mainly in a practical, that is, environment (using dummies, all kinds of practical equipment). Students can perform procedures without fear of harm, increase their confidence and skills. In this process, new knowledge is acquired by students, discussing knowledge with those around them and another innovative approach to solving problems is created.

In simulation education, students mainly try to apply theoretical knowledge in practice, and the educational process is required to demonstrate theoretical knowledge in the form of practical processes. Students are required

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to think freely in any situation, apply their knowledge in practice, develop the ability to think positively when a problem situation arises, and remember innovative ideas [3].

If we want to increase students' competence by using interactive methods in the teaching process, we need to move away from traditional lessons that are based on only theoretical knowledge.

In professional education institutions, we connect theory with practice that promotes inquiry-based learning methods. For example, students are divided into groups and presented with clinical cases to simulate real-life scenarios. These groups of students then work as a team to discuss and analyze the case to uncover differential diagnoses, management strategies, and future plans. Students are given the opportunity to study real cases in which the patient's history, current illness signs and symptoms, as well as clinical and laboratory findings are presented [4]. This method covers a large range of topics with clear learning objectives and improves clinical knowledge, improved teamwork, clinical skills, and practice-based behaviors. Students are responsible for their own learning, research, and presenting solutions to their peers. Working in groups enhances communication skills and the ability to work effectively in a team-based healthcare setting [5].

It is necessary to provide students with information about a variety of clinical situations and encourage students to discuss and find solutions to these problems in groups. Through this, we increase the competence of cooperation, exchange of ideas and teamwork among students. An active communication environment naturally arises among students, and the ability to think collectively increases. This method involves the teacher asking questions, exchanging ideas, discussing and leaving interactive situations with students. Simulation educational programs increase the quality of education, interest students, encourage collective thinking and encourage the application of theoretical knowledge to more practical situations.

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Conclusions. Stimulation education encourages students to actively participate in the process of identifying problems and solving them. This, in turn, develops their critical thinking skills and allows them to make quick and effective decisions in clinical situations. Through group discussions and interactive teaching methods, teamwork and communication skills are developed among students. This is important in medical practice, since nurses often have to work in teams and communicate with patients. In such an environment, students master the skills of exchanging ideas, collaborating, and making joint decisions.

Simulation education is of great importance in the development of medical education. This approach helps students to actively participate, develop practical skills, self-assessment, increase creativity, and develop social skills. By introducing stimulation education in the process of medical education, we can train high-quality specialists, which will greatly contribute to the development of the medical field. From the above considerations, it is clear that stimulating programs increase collective thinking among students and the ability to quickly generate interactive ideas in problem situations.

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