

**DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN STUDENTS THROUGH
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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Annotation. This article thoroughly analyzes the formation of professional competence in students within the vocational education system. It discusses the preparation of personnel that meets modern labor market requirements, the effective methods of theoretical and practical training, and the essence and components of professional competence. The article emphasizes the importance of competence-based approaches, such as dual education, modular systems, and interactive teaching methods. Furthermore, it highlights the role of personal qualities, ethical values, responsibility, and communication culture of students in the professional training process. Finally, the article provides practical recommendations for improving teacher qualifications and developing partnerships with industrial enterprises to enhance the quality of vocational training.

Key words: professional competence, vocational education, occupation, labor market, dual education, modular system, interactive methods, training quality

Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqolada professional ta'lim tizimida o'quvchilarda kasbiy kompetentsiyani shakllantirish masalalari keng tahlil etilgan. Unda zamonaviy mehnat bozori talablariga mos kadrlar tayyorlash, o'quvchilarni nazariy va amaliy jihatdan tayyorlashning samarali usullari, kasbiy kompetentsiya tushunchasining mohiyati va tarkibiy qismlari, hamda dual ta'lim, modul tizimi, interfaol metodlar asosida kompetent yondashuvning ahamiyati yoritilgan. Shuningdek, kasbiy tayyorgarlikda o'quvchilarning shaxsiy sifatleri, axloqiy qadriyatleri, mas'uliyati va muomala madaniyatini rivojlantirish muhim omil sifatida ko'rib chiqilgan. Maqola yakunida kasbiy kompetentsiyani shakllantirishda o'qituvchilar malakasini oshirish, ishlab chiqarish korxonalarini bilan hamkorlikni rivojlantirish bo'yicha amaliy tavsiyalar berilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: kasbiy kompetentsiya, professional ta'lim, kasb-hunar, mehnat bozori, dual ta'lim, modul tizimi, interfaol metodlar, tayyorgarlik sifati

"Nowadays, in the context of socio-economic development, training competitive specialists with professional skills that meet the needs of the labor market has become a priority direction of the education system. In particular, preparing students in vocational education institutions for practical work and developing their professional competencies is considered a pressing task."

"The concept of 'kasbiy kompetentsiya' is expressed in international scientific literature through various terms such as 'professional competence', 'key competencies', 'core skills', and 'vocational skills'. According to the recommendations of UNESCO and the OECD, the modern workforce should possess the following competencies:"

- **Functional competence** – the ability to perform specific job tasks.
- **Cognitive competence** – the ability to solve problems and acquire new knowledge.

- **Metacognitive competence** – the ability to learn independently, self-assess, and develop oneself.
- **Emotional-social competence** – the ability to work in a team, collaborate with others, and demonstrate ethics and responsibility.

Professional competence is a multifaceted concept that includes not only a set of professional knowledge, skills, and abilities, but also independent thinking, problem-solving, communication culture, and the ability to work in a team.

Professional competence consists of the following main components:

- ✓ **Professional knowledge** – mastering the theoretical and practical foundations in the chosen field.
- ✓ **Practical skills** – the ability to effectively perform practical activities related to the profession.
- ✓ **Personal competencies** – communication, ethical qualities, and initiative.
- ✓ **Social-communicative competencies** – working with a team, exchanging ideas, and engaging in communication.

These competencies together transform a student not only into a professionally qualified individual, but also into a competitive specialist capable of finding their place in the labor market.

Methods of Developing Professional Competence:

1. **Dual Education System.** The student spends a certain portion of study time in a production environment. This helps strengthen their practical skills and ensures adaptation to real working conditions.
2. **Modular Teaching System.** Through short-term and goal-oriented training based on professional modules, students gradually acquire competencies relevant to their profession.
3. **Interactive Teaching Methods.** Methods such as role-playing, problem-based situations, case studies, and project work help develop students' thinking abilities, creative approaches, and independent working skills.

In preparing students for a profession, it is important to focus not only on technical knowledge, but also on:

- discipline
- responsibility
- honesty
- communication culture

the development of such personal qualities plays an important role. These traits help them work effectively in the workplace, integrate into a team, and adapt socially.

Educational technologies in the development of professional competence

1. Competency-Based Approach. This approach focuses not on teaching knowledge itself, but on the student's ability to apply it in practical activities. Clear criteria are established in each lesson to ensure the development of specific competencies.

2. Integrated Learning. Theoretical knowledge is combined with practical exercises. For example, when teaching the profession of electrical installation, Ohm's Law in physics is explained using real-life objects.

3. Use of Digital Learning Environments. Through virtual laboratories, simulators, and online platforms (such as Moodle, Coursera, EdX), it is possible to create an environment for independent exploration and flexible learning for students.

4. Maintaining a Professional Portfolio. Each student creates a portfolio based on their work activities, completed projects, internships, and work samples. This is essential for demonstrating their progress and proving their skills to potential employers.

Close integration with production

Advantages of Collaboration:

- **Tripartite agreements** signed with manufacturing enterprises (educational institution – student – employer);
- **Internships** that allow the development of competencies in real working conditions;
- **Involvement of employers** in the development of educational programs;
- **Joint lessons and master classes** conducted with the participation of industry experts and enterprise specialists.

The role of teachers and mentors

The modern qualifications of educators play a decisive role in the development of professional competence. Therefore, the following are necessary:

- Regular organization of professional development courses, internships, and seminars for teachers;
- Active involvement of young educators through the “Mentor–Apprentice” model;
- Implementation of new pedagogical technologies in lessons (such as STEAM, CLIL, Project-Based Learning).

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

To effectively assess professional competence, the following criteria should be developed:

- Skill-based tests through practical tasks;
- Case studies based on real-life situations;
- Self-assessment and peer evaluation;
- Employer feedback and internship results.

Problems and Solutions:

- Lack of sufficient conditions for students to engage in practical training;
- Teachers being disconnected from practical production experience;
- Weak integration with the labor market.

It is recommended that:

- Vocational education institutions establish strategic partnerships with manufacturing enterprises;
- Teachers and mentors undergo retraining in modern technologies;
- Curricula and programs be updated based on labor market monitoring.

Conclusion. Developing professional competence is the central goal of vocational education. Through this, students master modern professions and prepare for independent life. By providing education based on a competency-based approach, we can train qualified specialists essential for a strong economy.

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