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**INFORMAL EDUCATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR OBTAINING
QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN UKRAINE IN MODERN
CONDITIONS****НЕФОРМАЛЬНА ОСВІТА ЯК АЛЬТЕРНАТИВА ДЛЯ ОТРИМАННЯ ЯКІСНОЇ
ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ В УКРАЇНІ В СУЧАСНИХ УМОВАХ****Shalova N.S. / Шалова Н.С.***Senior lecturer / старший викладач.**ORCID: 0000-0000-0000-0000***Stavytska I.V. / Ставицька І.В.***PhD, associate professor\ канд.пед.наук,доцент**ORCID: 0000-0003-4915-0141***Korbut O.G., / Корбут О.Г.***Senior lecturer / старший викладач**ORCID: 0000-0001-6671-3925**National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute",**Ukraine, Kyiv, Peremoga Avenue, 37, 03056**Національний технічний університет України "Київський політехнічний інститут**ім. Ігоря Сікорського", м.Київ, проспект Перемоги 3,03056*

Abstract. *The trends in the development of informal education as an alternative way of obtaining higher education in Ukraine in modern conditions are analyzed. The general types of informal education, its advantages, disadvantages and peculiarities of recognition of learning results in the formal education system are defined.*

Key words: *informal education, digital transformation, lifelong learning, educational process, formal education.*

Introduction.

The key resource of a digital society is citizens who know how to use digital technologies for their own needs (self-realization, work, recreation, education, leisure), as well as for the achievement and implementation of common economic, social and public goals. In this regard, the formation of digital skills and competences of specialists acquires special importance, which cannot be realized without the transformation of education.

The trends in modernization of education depend on the needs of the labor market, which has recently been very dynamic. Digital transformation of education opens wide prospects for increasing the efficiency of the educational process. In particular, in the conditions of rapid development of digital technologies, educational trends are also changing, the consideration of which will allow educational institutions to make corrections in aspects of their activities for the training specialists in accordance with the needs of the development of a modern digital society.

Main material.

The concept of lifelong learning, which first appeared at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries, is based on the need for lifelong learning in the modern technological world. Informal education is one of the trends in modern education, which is now an important component of lifelong education, in particular in connection with the accelerated aging of knowledge.

Informal education is the acquisition of new knowledge about various aspects of life through learning using various courses, interest groups, master classes, etc. In the framework of informal education, as a rule, no prerequisites are required for starting education (preliminary training, age limits, etc.), there are no strict requirements for the place, time, terms, forms and methods of education, which allows a much larger number of people to be included in the learning process than in formal education.

Mobile technologies in education are used in such main areas as mobile learning and the use of mobile devices as an auxiliary tool in educational process. Usually, mobile learning is understood as the use of mobile technologies both separately (for example, a distance learning system for mobile devices) and together with other information and communication technologies (ICT) to organize the educational process regardless of place and time. One of the most common ways of using mobile technologies in education is the principle of BYOD (Bring Your Own Devices). It is related to the use of smartphones, tablets, netbooks and other digital devices for educational activities.

Informal education is the process of obtaining education that is not regulated by the place, term and form of education and does not involve obtaining documents on education of the state model.

The field of informal education implemented at the university includes individual classes (certificate programs, trainings, short-term courses), which have practical short-term goals. In most cases, informal education provides students with obtaining relevant practical and theoretical knowledge, skills, mastering modern methods of solving professional tasks, increasing the level of their professional competence, improving existing knowledge and their self-development.

Everyone who wants to, regardless of their age, gender or profession, has the opportunity to get informal education. Thus, learning results obtained simultaneously could be re-enrolled to students in their formal education, i.e. students have the opportunity to receive a final assessment on individual disciplines for the knowledge gained in individual classes not only at the university, but also outside of it.

The main principle of activity of modern educational systems is the involvement of a person in learning throughout his/her life. The development of lifelong learning together with the accumulation of a knowledge by society became one of the social consequences of globalization and informatization. Education could no longer be limited to a few years or even decades at the beginning of a person's life, because the continuous updating of information requires constant self-improvement and learning to achieve success in life. An essential element of lifelong learning is informal education.

A key characteristic of informal education is that it is a supplement and/or alternative to formal education in learning throughout a person's life. Training in such programs is often conducted to ensure the universal right of access to education. Informal education is available to people of any age, but it does not necessarily have a directed structure; it may be short in duration and/or low in intensity; and it is usually organized in the form of short-term courses, workshops or seminars.

Informal education is education that is acquired, as a rule, through educational programs and does not involve the awarding of state-recognized educational

qualifications by education level, but may end with the awarding of professional and/or partial educational qualifications.

Types of informal education are:

➤ Professional courses/trainings are trainings and/or seminars for improving qualifications and/or acquiring new skills. As a rule, professional courses are held in short periods and in “safe space” conditions.

➤ Public education prepares the country's population, especially the youth, to fulfill their role as citizens. At the same time, public education includes informal social institutions (families, communities, libraries, churches, public organizations, trade unions, sports teams, election campaigns, mass media, etc.).

➤ An online course is an Internet course with large-scale interactive participation and open access via the Internet. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, reading tasks and homework. Such education provides the opportunity to use an interactive user forum that helps creating a community of students, teachers and teaching assistants. It is one of the latest forms of distance learning, which is actively developing in world education.

➤ Professional internship is a training of personnel at the workplace under the supervision of an authorized person after theoretical training or for the purpose of practical mastering a specialty, adaptation to service and management facilities, acquisition of skills for quick orientation in the workplace and other work techniques.

It should be noted that expanding informal education application could be useful:

- for society as a whole (promoting democratization, development of public society, social activity and leadership; solving the problem of leisure time for young people and the elderly);

- for formal education (the ability to respond to the needs of the labor market and services flexibly and quickly, meeting the requirements of students, workers and employers and supplementing educational offers; increasing the motivation of participants in the educational process, their personal interest);

- for the participants of the educational process (the possibility of self-improvement and self-esteem development; development of social skills; developing a sense of belonging, solidarity; optimal combination of freedom and responsibility; possibility of independent choice of time, place and duration of study).

Conclusion.

We analyzed the trends in informal education development as an alternative way of obtaining higher education in Ukraine in modern conditions. The main types of informal education are defined, such as professional courses/trainings, public education, professional internships and online courses. The work highlights the advantages, disadvantages and features of recognizing learning outcomes of informal education as a supplement to formal education.

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