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Hrynko V. Communication skills development of future teachers in the higher education system

The article deals with the issue of the need to develop the communication skills of future teachers while studying in higher education institutions. The analysis of the literary sources confirms that there is no single approach to determining the nature and the content of communication skills of future teachers through the interdisciplinary nature of this phenomenon in modern pedagogical science. The aim of the paper is to clarify the content of communication skills and to analyze the potential of digital technologies in their development.

The author states that forming the teacher's communication skills plays the important role to perform educational functions of his/her pedagogical activity, the management of students' learning activities and the organization of effective interaction between the teacher and students, the formation of communication skills also has a strong motivational influence on students and it is a base for their success in learning.

The development of technologies in modern society changes communication and interaction fundamentally that is projected on learning and such concepts as e-communication and e-collaboration in the educational process are appeared. They give opportunities for students and teachers to interact in digital space, to share information, to work with common projects, to find common ways for solving educational problems, etc.

The pedagogical potential of Wiki-technologies, eTwinning platform and digital tools used by teachers and students in everyday life (blogs, messaging through the Messenger, Viber, What's up, electronic social networks) is described.

It is noted that communication between the student and the teacher in the electronic social networks helps to increase the effectiveness of their interaction, that is a key condition for the formation of students' communication skills, covering a wide range of educational actions: from discussing the learning tasks to assessing completed tasks. Much attention is given to the need for feedback from all participants of the educational process, as it promotes awareness of one's own identity and importance of participation in the student community, which influences positively on forming communication skills.

Key words: *communication skills, digital technologies, higher education institution, teacher vocational training.*