THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE FORMATION OF STUDENTS’ HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

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Abstract. The article analyzes the problem of forming a healthy lifestyle of students. The current approach to deteriorating youth health encourages the search for new ways to generate positive motivation for a healthy lifestyle and scientific research.

According to the literature data analysis, less than 15 % of students are considered healthy, 70 % of them have low and below-average levels of physical health, more than half (52.6 %) of them have different morphofunctional abnormalities, 36–40 % have chronic non-infectious diseases, which complicate the process of adaptation to physical and mental activity, impede learning lecture material as well as effective training at universities.

The aim of the research was to evaluate and analyze the components of a healthy lifestyle of students and on this basis to determine approaches to the introduction of health-saving technologies in the educational process of higher schools.

A survey of students revealed a lack of understanding of the simplest aspects of health care and an inability to assess one’s level of health adequately. 53 students (39.5 %) consider themselves healthy; 38 students (28.3 %) adhere to healthy lifestyles; and only 9 % of students regularly do physical exercises and sports. Only 25 % of them follow the diet. 82 % of students were well informed about the negative impact of bad habits on their health, but 66 % of respondents smoked cigarettes, including 43 % of women. 90 % of students occasionally consume alcoholic beverages, of whom 14 % often consume, and 8 % do not consume. Most of the respondents are confident in the absolute harmlessness of beer, which ranks the first place in the structure of alcoholic beverages consumed by students. But only 9 % of students regularly do physical exercises and sports.

Therefore, the priority goals of the modern stage of higher education modernization should be the preservation and strengthening of students’ health, the formation of value orientations, their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, the introduction of health-saving technologies into the educational process, as significant components in achieving career and life success of youths.

Key words: healthy lifestyle; health; health-saving technologies; students.
Introduction. Issues concerning health care (in its broad sense) are one of the world communities’ global problems of human capital development. Nowadays, the human is the most significant component of the modern economic relations, in particular human’s health, intellect, spiritual and moral qualities. Human health is considered to be an integral characteristic of personality and determines the human’s quality of life [1, 7]. The social development of any sphere of economics is closely related to the creation of optimal conditions for workers’ livelihoods. In order to develop human capital, the social subsystem must provide staff with everything necessary to implement measures that will improve their health. However, only the ones, who are familiar with some health-saving knowledge, skills and abilities, in other words, have an appropriate level of valeological education, will use the mentioned benefits. Therefore, modern Ukrainian society demands the university graduates to be not only deeply competent in their fields and have a high cultural level but also be healthy [2, 18].

The health of the youth is a major problem in any country today and in the future. Youth is the most valuable reproductive, intellectual, economic, social and cultural reserve of the state. Therefore, the upbringing of certain aspects of responsible motherhood and fatherhood among the younger generation plays an important role. The problems of the formation of a healthy lifestyle as a worldview orientation of young specialists under the university educational process become extremely important.

Despite a large number of studies, the problems of forming the spiritual needs and skills of a healthy lifestyle as a worldview orientation of future specialists have not yet been sufficiently studied in both theoretical and practical aspects [6, 16].

According to the literature data analysis, today the society is concerned about the difficult socio-economic situation, low level of culture, intensification of the educational process, aimed mainly at the intellectual development of the individual, which gives rise to a negative impact of the organization of the educational process in universities on the students’ health. Some studies on human health, in particular those, which relevant to the formation of a healthy lifestyle, are reflected in the writings of such scientists as G. Apnasenko, A. Bakanova, N. Bashavets, S. Bondarenko, F. Vashchuk, S. Gvozdiy, S. Dombrovskaya, A. Ezhoa, I. Ivanova, L. Lavrova, L. Polishchuk, P. Rybalko and others.

As scientific research shows, the attitude to health and a healthy lifestyle is formed as a result of the targeted pedagogical impact. The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not just the absence of disease or physical disability. It is a well-known fact that human health depends more than 50 % on lifestyle, about 20 % – on environmental conditions, another 20 % – on heredity (genetic factor), and only 10 % – on medical care [4, 20]. At the same time V. Petlenko gives the following factors proportion that determines human health: the human factor – 25 % (physical health – 10 %, mental – 15 %); environmental factor – 25 % (external ecology – 10 %, internal – 15 %); socio-pedagogical factor – 40 % (lifestyle, material working and living conditions – 20 %, behavior, lifestyle, habits – 25 %); medical factor – 10 %.

The fact that the deterioration in the health of young people, the main and most productive carrier of the nation’s gene pool, can lead to a demographic disaster, cannot be doubted [11–13, 15, 17].

The ecological situation in Ukraine has developed so that researchers, out of desperation, say: barely 5 % of the population can be considered objectively healthy. Consequently, the majority of young people are objectively unhealthy, moreover, they are extremely incom-
petent in the matter of a healthy lifestyle. According to statistics given by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, there is a tendency to increase the overall incidence of student youth, an increase in the prevalence of non-infectious chronic diseases. According to the sample surveys, no more than 15 % of student youth can be considered healthy, 70 % of students have a low and below-average level of physical health, more than half (52.6 %) of them have morphofunctional deviations of different nature, and 36–40 % of chronic non-communicable diseases are noted [7, 8]. The number of students who belong to a special medical group is steadily increasing. Many of them suffer from serious chronic diseases that complicate the process of adaptation to physical and mental stress, interfere with the memorization of lecture material and effective studying at a university. In Ukraine, 50.3 % of draft-age men are a group with severe diseases. In general, due to poor health, 32.4 % of young men are not drafted into the army. Herewith, military serviceability indicators have decreased by 5 % in recent years [8]. Drug addiction, smoking, alcoholism, substance abuse is often seen as the best pastime among some of the boys and girls. Such an alarming, moreover, steady tendency of physical degradation of young people forces experts to reconsider the essence of the concept of “national security”. The deterioration of the Ukrainian students’ health status is the result of an acute imbalance between the declared state policy for preservation and promotion of a healthy lifestyle, on the one hand, and the imperfection of modern methods of health saving education in universities, on the other one [3, 10].

The Constitution of Ukraine defines life and human health as one of the highest social values. According to the Constitution, the state must be responsible for its activity, also the state is obliged to ensure the most complete realization of the mentioned values and at the same time to solve the tasks of raising a healthy generation, maintaining and strengthening health. The future development of society largely depends on the successful realization of this task. [1]. At the national level, a number of strategic government programs have been adopted aimed at maintaining the health of the population of Ukraine, in particular: “The state policy strategy on healthy and active longevity of the population for the period up to 2022”, “The concept of the National program “Reproductive and sexual health of the nation for the period up to 2021””, “Plan and goals of sustainable development (2016–2030)”, “The national targeted social program to combat HIV/AIDS”, Decree of the President of Ukraine “On the National Strategy for Health-Improving Movement Activity until 2025 “Movement Activity – Healthy Lifestyle – Healthy Nation” No. 42/2016, etc. Today, health-saving education is recognized as a priority area in universities and there is a tendency to realize that a stable development of society and overcoming most of the crisis phenomena depend on the state of general education of the population on health care issues. Therefore, the most important direction of the modern educational process is preventive education [3].

The aim – to evaluate and analyze the components of a healthy lifestyle of student youth and, on this basis, to determine approaches to the introduction of health-saving technologies in the educational process of university students.

Theoretical framework. The period of studying at the university is an important stage in human life as the educational process opens up broad prospects in the formation of a young person’s outlook. Therefore, attracting young people to a healthy lifestyle in their student years is the main condition for their physical, spiritual and intellectual development. At the heart of universities’ educational process lies the complex, systematic nature of education and training of specialists, in which the formation of socio-political, labor, moral, physical, aesthetic and other types of education organically merge [18, 20]. Until recently, the problem of forming a healthy lifestyle for the younger generation has been identified with physical education. But, as time shows, in an era of stress, neurosis, aggressiveness, and indifference, physical exercises can’t only help to solve the problem of youth health, which is considered global today. The work on the formation of a healthy lifestyle should be developed and improved in accordance with the requirements that the present has set for us. And for this purpose, it is advisable to study, rethink and rebuild various sectors of cultural and educational work, introduce domestic innovative ideas and world experience. The formation of a healthy lifestyle is a more effective and economically feasible strategy than the constant increase in the cost of treating the consequences of an unhealthy lifestyle, which does not give the desired result [7, 19].

The way of life is characterized by the peculiarities of a person’s everyday life, which encompass his labor activity, forms of using free time, satisfying material and spiritual needs, participation in public life, norms and rules of behavior. Lifestyle is one of the criteria of social progress, and not just the “face” of a person
Lifestyle-related diseases will increase due to the negative changes in people's diet and behavior, as well as a decrease in their physical activity. Behavioral factors can be both beneficial and harmful to one's health, depending on one's lifestyle choices. Human behavior is important for health because it affects a person directly through lifestyle or indirectly through economic or socio-economic conditions, which, undoubtedly, is the main determinant of health [9, 10].

Lifestyle depends on the characteristics of the individual, his psyche, health, functional possibilities of the body. Choosing a lifestyle, young individuals must take as a basis the positive experience of the older generation: their parents, relatives, teachers, etc.

There is a relationship between lifestyle and health that is optimally reflected in the concept of a healthy lifestyle as a life-cycle scenario aimed at preserving and improving the health of people [19].

The analysis of modern scientific and methodological literature makes it possible to identify the most complete definitions of this concept:

– lifestyles is a certain social and historical point of view of health, as well as the means and methods of integrating it into practical life [11];

– a healthy lifestyle is a way of human life, one of the basic values of which is the formation, preservation, and promotion of health; when a conscious, active attitude to one's own health is realized, the ability to accumulate certain positives and neutralize negative external factors affecting one's health;

– a healthy lifestyle is a manner to organize the manufacturing, daily and cultural aspects of life, which allows one way or another to realize their creative potential [5, 10];

– healthy lifestyle is a part of the general human culture, characterized by a certain level of special knowledge and motivational-value orientations acquired as a result of education and self-education [7, 20].

One of the most important prerequisites and components of forming a healthy lifestyle is a system of education that functions in society. The higher the educational and general cultural level of a person and their social environment, the better the health indicators are. After all, improving individual and public health is impossible without knowing what and how to do it. Education should be considered as a complex approach: both as a network of information flow, processing, and transmission, and as a school of healthy lifestyles, i.e. teaching its methods, techniques and skills, and as a complex educational process aimed at recognizing the priority of values of individual and public health [9, 12].

The goal of education is to help young people make a conscious choice of social values and form a stable, individual orientation system based on them that can provide self-regulation and motivation of behavior and activity [3, 11].

The problem of a healthy lifestyle covers a wide range of issues and includes the following main components related to all areas of health: physical, mental, social and spiritual, namely: optimal motor (physical) activity, a rational regimen of the day, body hardening and hygiene requirements, balanced nutrition and weight control, absence of harmful habits (alcohol, drugs, tobacco and gambling), safe sexual behavior (sex education and sexual culture), creation of a positive psychological climate in society (psycho-hygiene and psycho-prophylaxis, spiritual self-improvement) [1, 7].

The complexity of studying this phenomenon lies in the fact that health-related behaviors are based on a variety of, sometimes conflicting, needs. However, there are a number of traditional indicators that characterize an individual’s attitude to their health: self-assessment of health; medical awareness; the place of health in the system of life values; smoking, alcohol and drug use habits; environmental attitudes; the presence of stress, and etc. [10, 18].

This principle of differentiation was laid down in the grouping of indicators for anonymous questioning of second-year students of I. Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University, taking into account the content of each aspect.

According to the results of the questionaries and survey of students, there was a lack of understanding of the simplest aspects of maintaining health and an inability to adequately assess the level of their own health. The following conclusion was drawn in accordance with analysis of the questionary of 134 students:

– 53 students considered themselves healthy (39.5 %);

– only 38 students follow the healthy lifestyle rules (28.3 %).

One of the most important indicators of a healthy lifestyle is the number of physical activity. One of the problems is the very low motive activity of students. Young people spend most of their time in classes in educational institutions, their rest is mostly passive. These are factors of their low motor activity. The studies have shown that the effectiveness of mental activity in
conditions of low physical activity is reduced by almost 50% on the second day, while attention is decreased sharply, nervous tension is increased, fatigue, apathy, and indifference to the performing work is quickly developed, a person becomes irritable and nervous. And regular physical training and sports are the universal means that can help everyone resist the intense rhythm of life, neuro-mental overload, in particular, being involved in mental work [14, 17]. According to the results of our research, only 9% of students are regularly engaged in physical training and sports.

An important factor in a healthy lifestyle is the qualitative composition of food consumed in the daily diet. An idea of these factors is given by the corresponding indicators, structured by the amount of food consumed and the degree of their benefit to the body. It is difficult for student youth to adhere to the rules of a balanced diet. The meal is often fast food and consists mainly of food that contains too many carbohydrates and fats, in the meal, there is almost no protein. Students were asked about eating regularly and following a diet, and only 25% of them answered that they do it.

The proportion for bad habits (smoking, alcohol, drug use) impact that determines lifestyle is extremely significant. That is why this section of the survey contained the largest number (10) of indicators that characterize sufficiently this problem (causes of smoking, quantitative cross-section of those who smoke, smoking in the environment, quantitative signs of alcohol, psychoactive substances, awareness and awareness of harm to such habits). According to the results of the study, 82% of students are well informed about the negative impact of bad habits on health, and yet 66% respondents smoke cigarettes, including women – 43%. Alcoholic beverages are used periodically by 90% of students, often consumed by 14% of respondents, and just 8% do not consume. Most of the respondents are confident in the absolute harmlessness of beer, which ranks the first place in the structure of alcoholic beverages used by students.

Statistics on the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in Ukraine in recent years, data on the deterioration of the reproductive health of young people require a thorough study of these phenomena in the domestic youth environment. Within this framework, our survey contained five indicators describing the main aspects of the problem. Unfortunately, the results are not encouraging. Only 26% of respondents consider themselves sufficiently informed about the risks and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Analysis of the problems of a healthy lifestyle, of course, can not avoid an issue of the possibilities of its implementation by young people in the current environment. The issue of the possibility (impossibility) to lead a healthy lifestyle is extremely subjective, because it is primarily determined by the degree of awareness of the importance of actions in this direction. And this is the difficulty of studying this issue. Even in the absence of some objective conditions (proper nutrition, comfortable housing, adequate income, etc.), individuals with a high level of awareness of healthy lifestyles tend to act for the benefit of their own health. Conversely, a lack of personal motivation makes it impossible to strive to be healthy under realistic conditions.

Conclusions and Prospects for Research. 1. The components of a healthy lifestyle of student youth and the problem of introduction of health-saving technologies in higher education institutions are analyzed through implementation of pedagogical strategy, which will be focused on healthy lifestyle in higher educational institutions.

2. It is determined that a university is a special social institution that has the potential to introduce health-saving methods with a slight intensification of the educational process, and that the time of study in higher educational establishment is a favorable and long enough period for students to develop sustainable motivation for a healthy lifestyle.

3. The solution to the problem under consideration should be found by introducing the maximum possible range of recreational activities in the educational institutions, and developing skills of self-regulation of their own state.

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