Molding of a Professional’s Personality in the Conditions of Modern Juridical Educational System Experience of Far-eastern Federal University. Part 2.

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Abstract: This work is a part of the cycle of research concerning actual questions of modern juridical education. The research is made by the Law School of Far-Eastern Federal University. The previous article was talking about the role of the law clinic as a tool in juridical education. This article continues the topic of necessity of different skills that a professional lawyer needs and proves that creation of a successful career is divided into several stages, each of which is really important.

Key words: Modern education • Professionalism • Professional knowledge and skills • Self-realization • Efficient communication • Planning and building a career • Advantages

INTRODUCTION

One of the goals of modern education is molding personality of a professional who must be capable to efficiently accomplish professional tasks and find creative solutions to both typical and extraordinary situations in professional activity. Goal of a modern higher educational institution is to prepare a graduate for competition on the labor market. That’s why universities must not only give specific knowledge pertaining to a particular profession, but also additional information and skills in self-realization, efficient communication, planning and building a career.

This understanding is confirmed by the fact that Russian higher educational institutions have recently included courses on theory of professionalism into the curriculum. This trend pertains to many liberal arts, however we will peruse the problem using example of jurisprudence since author is more familiar with it. During the recent ten years law school of the Far Eastern Federal University introduced the following courses “introduction into specialty “Jurisprudence”, “psychology of professional activities”, “conflict management in professional activities”, “professional activities of a lawyer”. The currently offered course “professional activities of a lawyer” contains characteristics of professions, introduces peculiarities of legal profession, sets forth foundations of theory of professionalism, notion of professional self-determination and self-actualization, contains information on notion and types of careers in jurisprudence as well as on career planning.

What new and useful information can the course offer a student?

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nowadays a set of professional knowledge and skills (for example in jurisprudence, medicine, management, information technology, etc.) is not all a student needs. Graduates of a modern university will act in the conditions of tough competition on the labor market; they must know how to “sell themselves”, be well received by an employer and business partners, integrate into professional community, prove to be a promising employee. Graduates’ experience of employment shows that excellent academic performance does not guarantee same level of success in practical professional activities. It often happens that former A-students holding honor diplomas encounter problems as they seek to get employed, eventually taking...
up entry-level positions, perform ministerial duties with low or average income. At the same time C-students who did not show any significant academic results make brilliant careers, start their own businesses and take up managerial positions. Apparently, social realization of a graduate does not depend exclusively on theoretical knowledge and practical skills they mastered as students. There are other factors that impact one’s social realization. Among the disciplines that study these factors are psychology and acmeology of professional activities, psychology of professionalism, occupational psychology and legal psychology (as it pertains to lawyers).

We can discriminate two approaches to understanding professionalism-sociological and psychological. Authors of sociological school define an activity as professional to distinguish it from non-professional performance of similar work; this evokes such parameters of the activity as systemic performance, performing it on a paid-for basis, being specifically trained for performing this activity [1]. From psychological perspective professionalism is a property of an activity, expertise, high efficiency in performing the activity. In this sense professional activity in performed by a professional as highly skilled expert in his / her field. Within the framework of this study we will utilize psychological approach since it focuses on personal traits and skills that help one succeed professionally.

Contemporary psychology of professions views professionalism as a general property that characterizes the subject of labor. This property enables him / her to perform professional activities and achieve significant results in any field almost independently from type and specifics of the activity. Professionalism is not only new highest level of knowledge and one’s total result in a certain field; it is a certain system that characterizes organization of one’s mind, one’s psyche [2].

A person who has professionalism is called a skilled practitioner. A skilled practitioner is a special personality type, an individual with a set of traits that enable him / her to cope with professional goals quicker and more efficiently and achieve higher quality in his / her work than other individuals engaged in the same profession. Professionalism is not exclusively the result of long experience in a certain field. Many employees develop professional expertise practicing certain trade for a long time and perform a particular activity on a high level while still remaining on the beginning stairs of social ladder. Thus, they do not make career, do not take up managerial positions, donot earn high income. While others having the same education and same or shorter work experience make brilliant careers, they are sought-after, they receive advantageous offers, they are “repurchased” by large companies and take up managerial positions. Why does it happen? From the perspective of modern theory of professionalism such people possess certain traits that give them career advantages.

At the beginning theory of professionalism was a part of acmeology (a branch of developmental psychology that studies psychology of maturity, approximately age from 30 to 37, from 30 to 40 years). This is where terminology comes from. In the Russian acmeology and theory of professionalism parameters of professionalism are defined as “acmeological invariants of professionalism”. Acmeological invariants of professionalism are main traits and skills of a skilled practitioner that ensure stably high efficiency and solidity of the deliverables almost independently from the content and specifics of an activity [3].

Besides, acmeological invariants of professionalism manifest in inner incentives that ensure active self-development of a professional and realization of his / her creative potential.

Results of scientific studies show that the mentioned invariants are much better developed in accomplished skilled practitioners regardless of specifics and type of their work than in other professionals doing same work.

We distinguish between general and specific acmeological invariants of professionalism. General invariants are traits and skills that practically don’t depend on professional specifics of an activity. Specific invariants are traits and skills and to certain extent reflect specifics of a professional activity; these invariants are same for a certain group or type of professions, not for all of them. For example, research showed that for social (communicative) type of professions specific invariants are incisiveness or social perception, sociability and communication skills, ability to make psychological impact, etc.

General invariants of professionalism take the key place. Formalizing them is the goal that science has to accomplish. So far with certain generalization we can point out the following general acmeological invariants of professionalism:

- Power of personality (various volitional powers and ability to assume liability);
- Advanced anticipation (ability to predict accurately and reliably, forestall development of situations that arise in course of professional activities);
High level of self-regulation (ability to manage one’s condition, high performance ability, resistance to stress, readiness to take urgent actions, ability to mobilize one’s resources when it is necessary);

Ability to make decisions (courage in making decisions, reliability of decisions made, their timeliness and accuracy, uniqueness and efficiency);

Creativity (manifested not solely in high creative potential, but in ability to accomplish professional tasks efficiently through non-standard solutions);

Being highly and adequately motivated to achieve.

CONCLUSION

Thus, if an individual possesses the listed traits, he / she will succeed in any field and can realize oneself in a profession enjoying his / her work at the same time. Studying examples of professionalism continues. Identifying and formalizing general and specific acmeological invariants of professionalism is the goal for science to accomplish. Goal for the higher education is different.

A modern university must offer to students information on contemporary theories of professionalism and help develop the respective acmeological invariants. A graduate must be skilled in self-presentation, creating one’s professional image taking into account expectations of the professional community. He / she must be skilled in communication, be able to find approach to different people, must know how to convince and express his / her ideas well. He / she must be ready for stressful and conflict situations, be able to maintain his / her performance ability on high level. A modern skilled practitioner must be able to educate oneself, promptly find necessary information and advance one’s qualification. He / she must be able to plan his / her work, prioritize and set goals. If he / she plans to take up a managerial position he / she must be able to organize and plan work of a team, assign duties and control performance. All of these are generic skills that are necessary for someone making a career in jurisprudence, logistics, management, trade, cosmetic industry, information technology, medicine and many other fields.

That’s why a modern university cannot limit its task to teaching domain disciplines. Knowledge in jurisprudence or medicine might be useless if one cannot find a proper social niche, get employed, successfully build relations with one’s colleagues, business partners and management. These factors demonstrate pressing need to teach such courses as theory of professionalism, psychology of professional activities, conflict management, psychology of social groups, business communication, image studies, art of negotiations, etc.

REFERENCES