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**Higher education in Kazakhstan:
some methods of its improving**

How to take a fresh look at the existing domestic experience of training and education of future professionals based overseas, rethink it, to find ways to use innovative ideas to the practice of higher schools of Kazakhstan: a) the study, identifying the positive and negative aspects of different social and educational processes in the field of education abroad, are important to obtain practically useful knowledge as a basis for further scientific discussion and as a prerequisite for the further carrying out experimental work at the national level in the interest of development of the theory and practice of domestic pedagogics. b) improvement of the process of training and education of future specialists in modern Kazakhstan High school with the help of the aggregate foreign experience should be based on the existence of virtually identical priorities that will be the basis for the entry of Kazakhstan into the world educational field as an equal;

The maximum success in modernization of the higher educational system in RK can be achieved in case all program directions of the Government placed into educational policy take all the best possible from positive potential of the US Higher educational system in main directions: qualitative selection of school-leavers, qualitative teaching staff, high level of organizing of teaching process, finance provision, development of the infrastructure of the university.

Key words: high school, the process of restructuring, global priorities, integration into the global educational environment, reforming the national education system.

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**Қазақстанда жоғары білім
беруді реформалауда жоғары
тиімділікке қол жеткізу**

Қолданыста бар отандық оқыту тәжірибесіне және жаңа мамандарды даярлаудағы білім беруге, шетелдің оқыту тәжірибесін ескере отырып, жаңа көзқарасқа қалай ие болуға болады, оны ой елегінен қайта өткізіп, Қазақстандағы жоғары оқу орындарындағы оқыту практикасында жаңа инновациялық идеяларды пайдалану жолдарын табу. Әлемдегі заманауи жоғары білім беру стандарттарының дамуы АҚШ тәжірибесіне қызығушылық танытып, оның болашақ кәсіби мамандарды дайындау әдістері ретінде қолданыс табуға мүмкіндік туғызды. Қазақстанның жоғарғы білім беру тәжірибемен салыстырғанда, қайта құру үдерістерінің өте баяу жүргізіліп жатқанын аңғартты.

Түйін сөздер: жоғары мектебі, жоғары білім берудегі қайта құрулар үдерісі, әлемдік білім беру кеңістігіндегі интеграция, ұлттық білім беруді реформалау.

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**Высшее образование в
Казахстане:
пути его реформирования**

Сегодня важно по-новому взглянуть на имеющийся отечественный опыт обучения и воспитания будущих специалистов с учетом зарубежного, переосмыслить его, найти пути использования передовых идей в практике высших школ Казахстана.

Необходимо отметить, что на современном этапе развития высшей школы Казахстана процесс перестройки высшего образования в соответствии с мировыми приоритетами протекает достаточно интенсивно. В связи с тем, что современный этап развития образования в мире характеризуется повышением интереса к опыту высшего образования США, интенсивным использованием его в профессиональной подготовке будущих специалистов, то процесс интеграции высшего образования в Казахстане в мировое образовательное пространство, реформирование национальной системы образования происходит и достигает максимального эффекта.

Ключевые слова: высшая школа, процесс перестройки, мировые приоритеты, интеграция в мировое образовательное пространство, реформирование национальной системы образования.

**HIGHER EDUCATION IN
KAZAKHSTAN:
SOME METHODS
OF ITS IMPROVING**

The maximum success in modernization of the higher educational system in RK can be achieved in case all program directions of the Government placed into educational policy take all the best possible from positive potential of the US higher educational system in main directions: qualitative selection of school-leavers, qualitative teaching staff, high level of organizing of teaching process, finance provision, development of the infrastructure of the university. The analysis and study of literature on the given problem have revealed that in the Republic Kazakhstan different aspects of comparative pedagogics, methods of comparative and pedagogical researches, educational policy of the higher education are regarded in various works and researches. Alongside with it the problem of the quality of the educational system of RK, tendencies of its reforming, the issues of globalization and integration, the development of the national model of the higher education are also considered in various scientific works. The detailed and full analysis is carried out in these works. The authors outline their vision of the national model of the education in RK which should take all the best from world experience adding local cultural and educational peculiarities. But in all scientific works the problems and importance of launching of advanced practice and traditions of the western universities into local pedagogical practice have not been solved.

In paragraph number 4 which is called «Knowledge and professional skills – the key indicators of modern educational system, training and retraining of the staff with the new course «Kazakhstan – 2050», the Leader of the nation in his Appeal to the nation instructs the Government to provide the development of engineering education and modern technical specialties with awarding international certificates starting from 2013. Professional and technical higher education should focus on maximum satisfaction of current and perspective needs of national economics in specialists. It will solve the problem of employment of people. The higher institutions should not be limited by only educational functions. They should create and develop the applied and scientific – research units. The universities which have been guaranteed the academic autonomy should not be restricted by perfection of their teaching programs, but should develop actively their scientific- research actively [1].

The willingness of RK integration into the world educational community, to acknowledgment of our diplomas and our special-

ists in the countries of the civilized world make us analyze the US system of higher education, reveal its peculiarities and pay attention to its positive sides. We should not simply fix their positive tendencies in the practical work at the universities of RK. All mentioned above testify the availability of contradiction of the need of RK to the world modern tendencies and real situation of this problem in the country. The given contradiction has determined the theme of my research: what are the tendencies and peculiarities of the development of the higher education of the USA. So, the subject of my research is the perfection of training and upbringing of the future specialists in the modern higher institutions of RK with the help of combined US experience.

The comprehensive analysis of all mentioned scientific works prove that in the world community the modernization of the higher education systems is in full swing. The special attention in these countries is paid to the quality of training highly qualified and professional university graduates. It can be attained by providing the best financial, technical, psychological and pedagogical conditions, by comprehensive development of infrastructure, selection of educational conceptions, pedagogical methods and technologies, textbooks and a proper choice of highly professional staff. The study of working experience of the higher institutions in RK convince us that the process of reforming of higher education in our country is rather slow, meanwhile at the modern stage of educational development in the world is characterized by increasing interest to the experience of US higher education, by intensive usage of it in professional training of future specialists.

In accordance with the problem, aim, hypothesis and the subject of the research the following tasks have been put:

To develop scientifically proved conclusions and recommendations on usage of positive experience of the USA for higher educational system of RK.

Thus in the conclusion, the perfection of the teaching process and upbringing of future specialists in modern higher education of Republic Kazakhstan using the combined experience of foreign countries should be based on similar priority directions which can be the basis for RK to enter the world educational community on equal.

If we take the combined experience of the USA and RK we will be able to approach the quality and system of the preparation of the specialists to the world standards as the US educational system is the most successful, competitive and productive.

To develop scientifically proved conclusions and recommendations on usage of positive experience of the USA for higher educational system of RK.

Comprehensive analysis of the development of the higher education system of the USA allows to make up the following conclusions:

1. The study of the foreign pedagogical experience may be one of the possible ways of increasing the efficiency of the higher education in Kazakhstan. The science of education (educology) as any other spheres of knowledge and practice can't be developing in isolation from the world experience.

Creative use of foreign high school practice and pedagogics, accumulation of knowledge on tendencies of foreign educational systems, prognosis of their development provide intact vision of modern educational problems and ways of their solution.

2. The most important tendencies of the higher educational system in the USA are: globalization, technologization, computerization, internationalization and through these things to strengthen positions at world educational market. The brilliant developments of all these tendencies make US educational system highly competitive all over the world [2].

3. The major indices of high competition of the US higher education are: in the rating of the best world universities 60 of them are from the USA. In the country there is the largest number of outstanding specialists with the world fame and consequently the outstanding fundamental researches which is also testified by the number of Nobel Prize winners. The American system of higher education is perfectly harmonized with demands of industry and large corporations, large and small firms and characterized by high quality and efficiency of multilevel preparation of specialists especially in post diploma preparation that all attracts increasing number of students throughout the world [3].

Thus, it follows that productively and entrepreneurship are the peculiar features of the modern educational system of the USA which lead to the following conclusions:

- decreasing the importance of systematic fundamentals;

- search for innovation;

- the organization of teaching process with emphasis on interdisciplines, on serious independent work of the students as the main requirements of the quality;

- the qualitative selection of school-leavers through social colleges and highly professional teachers [5].

6. The main problems of the higher educational system of RK which restrain its development are:

- low level of specialists' preparation for innovative sphere. There can be mentioned such

things as: low level of development of innovative infrastructure of science and education, low innovative direction of educational programs, poor financial provision in all specialties especially technical ones. Besides students take weak part in carrying out state scientific and scientific-technical programs linked with innovative activity, the absence of effective connection of education and science with industry and so on.

- low demand of post-graduates after graduating from universities. The closure of specialties not competitive at market is slowly resolved;

- the system of higher education in RK can't provide outstripping education, can't prepare specialists with orientation on technological progress and specialists able to change briefly their profession.

- there are significant problems in informatization of higher education. Existing state inter-regional channels do not meet requirements of informatization of education, standard juridical basis is poorly developed and there is lack of electronic products in official language, lack of preparation of specialists in informatics and informational technologies in official language.

Besides there is no program provision for developing educational portals, electronic libraries, mediateques and the distance education is very poor in the country.

7. Also it is necessary decentralize the managing of higher institutions and to give them academic freedoms, to select highly professional staff, to raise the role of pedagogical, technical and medical colleges, to put responsibility for sustaining advanced researches on the local bodies. Attention should be paid to charity activities stimulated by tax legislation. It gives the opportunity to the talented students from poor families to get education in the most expensive and prestigious universities of the world, to invite foreign teachers and professors whose intellectual and cultural resources will promote the development of higher institutions of Kazakhstan, adherence to traditions and to raising the image of university. These indices can be taken by the Ministry of Education of RK into account while:

- developing and applying the single independent system of assessment of the results of education that may destroy subjectiveness, manipulation of republic opinion.

- defining the rating of universities according to quality of educational services and give the students opportunity to choose university which meets their demands;

- calculating the amount of state financing of universities and while calculating expenditures on

one student which can lead to competition of universities for each student and the number of students will be defined by the quality of educational services.

- considering the appliance of monetary means of tax stimulation of business structures in case they support the universities.

To perfect the system of higher education in RK it is reasonable:

- to introduce the multilevel preparation of specialists according to the American model.

The introduction of it will make Kazakhstan:

- competitive in qualitative education that will attract many foreign citizens; – it will integrate such advantages of the American higher education as: diversity of educational institutions – from small humanitarian colleges to large state and private universities including research and corporative universities the analogues of which there are no in Kazakhstan.

8. Introduction of decentralization of management in Kazakhstani Universities and providing of academic freedoms will allow:

- to stimulate innovative activity of universities and its staff on developing more perfect standards, teaching programs and courses according to adequate modern requirements and appliance into teaching process innovative technologies and methods of teaching;

- to continue the work on developing multimedia and electronic textbooks, the use of computer teaching and controlling programs in the teaching process. Also it is necessary to create interdisciplinary courses, and joined programs of teaching and scientific researches with scientific and educational institutions of foreign countries and post-soviet countries. Which provide competition of our post-graduates at the world market.

- to abolish single standards, single teaching plans that restrain creative approach, creative initiative and sound competition between universities for qualitative education;

- to raise the responsibility of the universities for retraining pedagogical staff for working on new innovative technologies for utmost informatization and computerization of teaching process, for giving a free access of students and professors to informational resources, for application and development of distance education, and forming the market of on-line education of students. The universities should also be responsible for developing finance provision of universities, for developing infrastructures, for raising the image of the university, for developing fundamental and applied researches, for creating new techno parks and techno

policies which are to be linking elements between production and education.

2. Nowadays the higher education is highly developing in the USA. The US educational strategy, the system of higher education in particular, is recognized as the most effective and successful.

3. The most important tendencies characteristic for the USA higher education system are: globalization, technologization, computerization, internationalization and aspiration through these tendencies to strengthening then their position at world education market.

4. The key indicators of high competitiveness of the American higher education are: in the ranking of the best world universities there are 60 American universities, in the USA there are the largest number of outstanding specialists who are regarded to be the best or one of the best specialists in their fields and consequently are the best in different basic researches. The USA has 9 Nobel prize winners more than in any other country. And all these come as evidence that American higher education system is the best in the world and it is in harmony with the needs of industry and powerful corporations, of small and huge firms. This educational system is characterized by high quality and productivity of multistage preparation of specialists particularly at postgraduate training. It attracts constantly increasing number of students from all over the world. The American universities are characterized by high technological support an well-developed infrastructure, by significant amount of financing both as the part of state assistance and from private sources as well. It includes financial costs on each student, high traditionalism. In the USA the system of charity activity is highly developed that is stimulated by tax legislation. The basic of high competitiveness of the US higher education system is decentralization of university management and provision of academic freedom.

5. Under the influence of globalization, technologization, internalization, increasing market relations the active reforming of all American universities is under way. It concerns both national universities and the private ones as well. They are transformed into economic corporations linked with industry and education. Thus, we can conclude the peculiarity of the American higher education system as productivity and entrepreneurship [4].

6. One of the peculiarities of the US higher education system at the modern level is the distributive education or life-long education. The significant feature of the distributive or life-long education is the fact that education in a person's life is distributed in small portions and comes along with their public

work. Despite the certain similarities the distributive education is not quite the same as the system of continuous education and it doesn't replace it. Thus, the system of continuous education provides for joint educational possibilities as in official so in unofficial systems. The system of distributive education lies in fact that your public work is quite common between educational periods. We are speaking not only of postgraduate education but also of retraining education caused by changing economical situation in the country. The periods of public work are alternated by the process of after-secondary education which is regarded as the necessary component of getting the higher professional education. The vital chain education-work-leisure-pension is broken, there appear opportunity to coordinate it in accordance with public query, as well as with their own wishes and needs, which could substantially vary during human life [5].

We can make the following conclusion that the organization of postgraduate education is necessary for RK entering into the number of 30 developed countries of the world. The country should create maximum score for development of creative potentials of students, for revealing talents and abilities of a person to serve the society. So, one of the aims of educational program of undergraduates should be forming of additional professional competency linked both with scientific – research and practical activity. Availability of these trends of world educational space requires comprehensive attention to the issues of high quality higher education. It will provide well – trained graduates who are able to become in future outstanding representatives of some fields of social life and to make professional and creative elite of the country.

Under reforming conditions of the national educational system, its integration into the world educational space it is very important to be aware of modern foreign educational practice, to be able to analyze processes in the educational sphere and abroad. The developing internationalization of all aspects of social life demands constant analyzing of all processes in the educational sphere and abroad and its accordance with local educational system. The study of the state, regularities and tendencies of the development of educational systems in comparison with different countries and regions of the world, its national and regional specification is one of the important means of social and «cultural» progress and unity of the nations.

All these statements have become the basis of my interest and study of the US educational experience aimed at perfection of education and bring-

ing up future specialists in Kazakhstan. The major methodological issues were in the problem how to use expediently the achievements of the USA. The problem is how to look in fresh eye at the local experience and try to grow up future specialists taking into account the advanced ideas from the practice of the higher institutions of Kazakhstan. I have taken into consideration the points of view of different scientists:

a) the study, revelation of all negative and positive social and pedagogical processes which occur in the educational sphere abroad are important for getting useful knowledge as the basis of further scientific research and as precondition for further experimental activity at national level for developing theory and practice of the local pedagogy (Higher education today 2004:32-36).

Thus, the conducted analysis of the comparative pedagogy gives me the following summaries:

- one of the possible means of searching ways of rising efficiency of higher education in Kazakhstan is study of foreign pedagogical experience;

- the most precious in any research is not blind copying but creative usage of foreign experience in the practice of higher education and pedagogy. Accumulation of foreign experience tendencies lets us comprehend better the priorities of the local higher education, direct and forecast its development. It gives us the full vision of modern problems in education and ways of solving them.

2. The state of the Problem.

The major problems of Republic Kazakhstan higher educational system holding back its development are:

- availability of centralized management of higher institutions by the Ministry of Education of RK and lack of academic freedoms, unified standards deviation of which is regarded as serious drawback during the certification or accreditation of higher institutions.

- the low degree of demand of graduates shortly after graduating from university. Not any company, firm or enterprise no matter state or private wants to hire a graduate without experience. It causes difficulties while applying for a job.

- duplication of specialists in state and non-state universities leads to over-production and besides the graduates have different levels of education. According to various experts only 30-40 percent of graduates are able to apply for a job.

The maximum success in the modernization of the higher educational system of RK can be achieved if all programm arrangements of the government absorb the maximum possible from positive American potential in the sphere of higher education along all major indicators of quality: the qualitative selection of school leavers, the qualitative teaching staff, the high level of organizing educational process, logistic support, the developed infrastructure and amount of financing.

Introduction of decentralization of universities, provision of academic freedom will give a chance:

- to cancel common standards and uniform curriculum that hold back creative approach, creative initiative and healthy competition of universities for qualitative education.

- to raise responsibility of universities for organizing retraining of teachers for working with innovative new technologies: providing free access to information resources for all students and professors, informatization and computerization of educational process, the introduction and expansion of distance education, for the need of formation of the market of online learning, for developing logistic support and infrastructures of universities, for raising the image of university and expansion of traditions, for development of basic and applied research of priority directions, for the creation of new technological parks and technopolises which should be linking points between production and training.

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