

EXPECTATIONS OF GENERATION Z - A CHALLENGE FOR ACADEMIC DIDACTIC STAFF

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Introduction

Evolutionary changes of recent years have significantly changed the environment and the way of how young adults function. Virtual space, social media, artificial intelligence, modern technologies - it is the daily life of generation Z. Traditional lectures and discussions are very strongly disliked by this age group. They prefer interactive games, collaborative projects, advance organizers, challenges, and anything that they can try and see are appreciated.

An academic teacher is a person which is adequately prepared for both didactic and scientific work, meaning, that he should possess a high scholarly culture and well-grounded knowledge, which he presents skilfully and in an interesting way to the students, simultaneously encouraging them for independent acquisition of knowledge and further learning. A modern academic teacher must possess skills within the scope of conducting classes with students in accordance with their expectations.

Currently, the academic teacher is primarily expected to introduce innovative forms of education with emphasis of encouraging creativity of an individual who will be well prepared merit and practice wise.

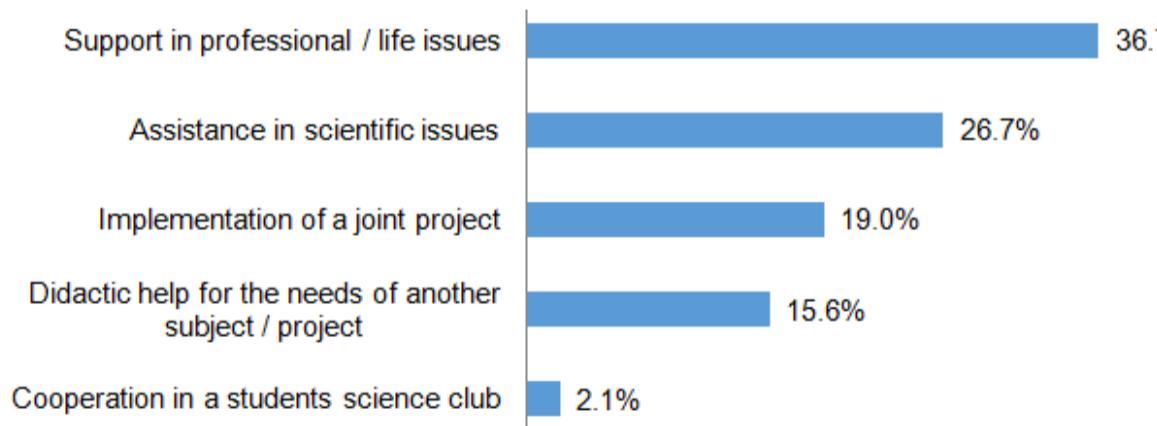


Figure 1. Significance of experience from cooperation undertaken by students with academic teachers.

Results

The aim of the study was to identify the most essential factors impacting the relation between an academic teacher and a student. During the preparation of the study, 3 research hypotheses were proposed. All hypotheses were confirmed in the study.

The key recommendation, created on the basis of presented issues, is the necessity of focusing attention and efforts on offering students, modern and engaging didactic forms, because the generation Z has an enormous appetite for new technology in all aspects of life.

Students appreciate teachers, who have non-academic professional experience and competencies coming from practice. In the process of acquiring new intellectual potential, universities should consider professional experience as one of the key conditions for employment.

The major challenge will be the departure of the 'preacher' role in teaching, for the sake of being a mentor of a career and life path.

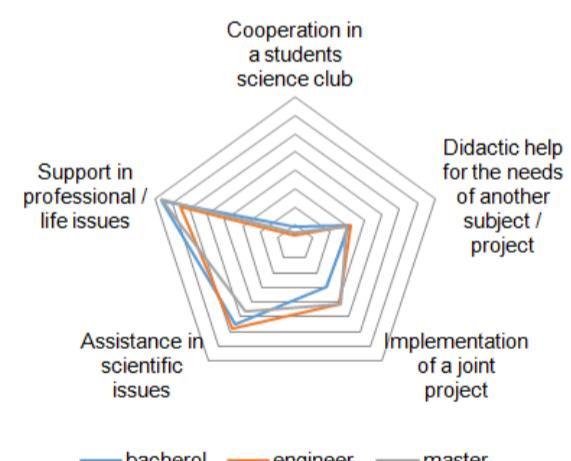


Figure 2. Significance of experience from cooperation with academic teachers by level of education.

Conclusion

The contemporary civilisation changes have a significant impact on the educational process in its different stages. On the final stage - higher education - we are dealing with a so called 'young adult', who often refutes authority and questions the general opinion, while at the same time, contemplating on various life decisions and requiring support, that he finds difficult to ask for.

The results of the performed studies are a demonstration, that young people seek mentors on their career path, and in a world dehumanised by technology, they begin to appreciate direct relations and the ability to learn to benefit from the experiences and skills of the other person.

Methodology

Computer Assisted Web Interview research was conducted among first and second cycle students of all faculties of the Opole University of Technology. The author's survey, developed using the online form, was placed on the university's websites and on the social media profiles of the university, student government and the profiles of individual faculties. The sampling was random. The number of students of Opole University of Technology at the time of the study was 6,412. With such a population indicated, the research sample should be: 362 people, with a maximum error of 5%. In the course of collecting primary data, 725 respondents showed their activity, resulting in a maximum error of 3%.

Research hypotheses

- H1. Interpersonal relations are a key factor for building the image of the university.
- H2. Students expect not only the transfer of knowledge, but also, varied forms of cooperation.
- H3. Didactic staff of the university should improve the ability of career support and counselling.