

The study of the development of the practical thinking of future lawyers

Subject and object of the research. In this article the results of the research of the practical thinking of adults among law students and practicing lawyers are described. Object of the given scientific article is the analysis of the research results concerning the development of the level of practical thinking of future lawyers and connection of practical thinking settings with academic success. The subject of the research is the development of practical thinking of future lawyers as to their involvement in the practice.

The method, methodology of work. The study of the practical thinking level of lawyer students was carried out through a comprehensive test "Practical thinking of adults.". The test "Practical thinking of adults" consists of 4 subtests, each of which can be interpreted both in combination with others and on their own. The sample were 200 respondents among those were students of 1-5 courses of the I. Malynovskyi Institute of Law NUOA and lawyers graduates with work experience from 2 to 10 years in different areas of law except the law enforcement and judicial authorities. A separate group of respondents were active legal clinic consultants of 'Pro bono' of the National University of Ostroh Academy and its graduates among students and practitioners.

The results of the research. The rates of conducted comparison allow to state the following results:

1. Clinicians do not show a higher level of PMD as compared to non-clinicians.
2. Nearly one hundred percent of clinicians have medium or high levels of PMD. The same results are observed among practitioners. This means that the minimal level of PMD development among respondents that have been involved into direct practice for relatively long time is higher than the minimal level of PMD development among law students enrolled in the regular program of vocational training.
3. The largest percentage of respondents with low PMD is among non-clinician students of first and fifth courses
4. The most differentiated within a group according to the relevant scales are indicators of respondents of third and fourth courses. Probably the data is related to the features of the curriculum of the NUOA law students. In these two years there is the largest amount of law sectoral and inter-sectoral subjects in which students examine or model many practical situations. In addition, 3rd and 4th year students are active participants in professional associations (eg: ELSA - European Law Students' Association, ALU - Association of Lawyers of Ukraine, etc.) and various law competitions. As noted in our previous publications, professional thinking is formed during practice.

Findings. The involvement of law students to practice during education contributes to more systematic and sustainable development of practical thinking.

During the professional studying practical thinking formation largely depends on the nature of the subject and habitat, and on the sustainability and intensity of focusing its efforts in practical professional field. The level of educational success of future lawyer did not significantly affect the development of the capacity for practical thinking.

In our next study we will focus on analyzing the characteristics of individual aspects of practical thinking of future lawyers and trace the relationship of PMD development level and the character of the personal perception of nature at the outdoor apperception.

Key Words: practical thinking of adult, legal clinic, clinician, non-clinician, academic success