

### Creativity is a talent or work at oneself: opinion of the medical university students

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**Abstract:** Developing creative thinking among students is a condition of forming highly qualified specialists of new generation. KazNMU held a study on creative potential of students and teachers, influence of creativity on quality of education and formation of competences of medical school. Poll results demonstrate that "the creative person" must be open minded i.e. open to new ideas and generate them, creative, goals achievement and active. The majority of respondents admit that there are creative employees and favorable conditions for realization of creative ideas at our university.

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#### 1. Introduction

Industrial development, growing potential of the economy, creation of new technologies, inventions, are the result of increase in number of creative people. The "creativity" concept appeared in the middle of the last century and, being an analog of the concept "creative abilities", is inseparably linked with creativity, the creative activities, which generate qualitatively new things [1]. There is an opinion that creativity (creative approach) is the characteristic of special, qualitatively certain style of the activity, a specific way of solving tasks, opening its essence. Creative people possess following characteristics: [2]

- Independence – personal standards are more important than group standards, non-conformity of estimates and judgments;
- Open minded – willingness to believe its own and others' imaginations, perceptivity to the new and unusual;
- High tolerance to uncertain and insoluble situations, constructive activity in these situations;
- Developed esthetic sense, pursuit of beauty

Thus, creative person — is a type of personality highly oriented towards creativity, in whom motivational and creative activity cooperates with high level of creative abilities, which allows to reach progressive, socially and personally significant creative results in one or several kinds of activity.

Significant relevance creativity gains in the sphere of the higher education [3]. Competence-

based approach in training, need of the state for high skilled and creative employees, absolutely changed philosophy of educational process. The physicians of new generation has to possess not only the sufficient volume of knowledge, practical skills, developed clinical thinking, but also creative approach to realize their own independent activity. Despite the proof of genetic conditionality of creativity in person, it is in hands of any educational institution, starting from preschool and school to help forming personality to show the creative abilities and to develop them in the positive direction in one or several kinds of activity.

Development of creativity is the long-term process, where the major stage is the education period. Development of creativity of students of higher education institution will be successful, if: possibility of active participation of students in creative activity of educational institution is provided; educational situations of creative success are modeled; preparation of teachers and tutors for system, training of creative interaction with each other [4] is carried out.

Therefore, at the Kazakh national medical university (KazNMU) named after S.D.Asfendiyarov implementation of the creative potential development program of teachers is being trained and carried out. Expected result of program implementation will be the formation of a pool of creative persons among teachers being trained, capable to generate new ideas directed on improvement of quality of educational services in national medical school, increase of

positive image of the university, strengthening its reputation in the country and abroad.

## 2. Material and Methods

Before the innovative division of KazNMU started the program, the students were interviewed, the main goal of the survey was clarification of opinion of respondents, in order to find out what is creativity for them.

## 3. Results

An overall 1115 undergraduate and postgraduate students were interviewed on the definition of "A portrait of the creative personality". According to the answers of the junior students the most suitable characteristics for the creative personality is the quality of "new ideas", "ability to succeed", "activity", "creativity" (49%, 35%, 34%, 32% respectively). Talent and initiative students of the first three years of study defined penultimate and last places (27% and 23% respectively).

Elder students (4-5 years of study) consider that qualities, necessary for the creative person, first of all are - creativity (42%), activity (39%), new ideas (36%), and ability to achieve goals (32%). According to the respondents intelligence and talent are on the last places (27% and 24% respectively) though according to their shares have powerful value.

The interrogated master and PhD students have mentioned on the first place creativity (59%), new ideas (49%), talent and originality (on 35%). And intelligence existence have allocated only 6% of respondents. The vast majority of respondents (89%) consider that there are enough creative and talented students and employees at the university. And, the more senior respondents showed higher estimates. According to more than a half of the interrogated junior students (59%), there are a lot of creative teachers at the university.

On a question "Can you call yourselves a creative person?" the majority of students of 1-2 and 3 years of study answered "yes" (62% and 59% respectively), doubted with the answer (16% and 19% respectively), and almost fifth part of respondents categorically answered "no" (23 and 22% respectively). Undergraduates of last years of study as well as master and PhD students often consider themselves as creative (54% and 64%), however more than a third (38%) students of 4 and 5 years of study doubt themselves to be so. It is interesting that for nearly a half of the students in all categories (from 47 to 54%) have original ideas on improvement of activity of university, however none of them have used Kaydzen system which is introduced in KazNMU since 2009.

Important factors impeding the announcing of the creative ideas, according to the interrogated students of 1-2 years of study are the following – absence of confidence that ideas will be heard (20%), absence of desire to share the ideas (14%), shyness (10%), fellow students (6%), fear (4%), teachers (2%). At the same time 43% of students of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study find that nothing prevent them to share their ideas. 3rd year- students on the first stage put "absence of confidence that ideas will be heard" (23%), absence of desire to share the ideas (16%), shyness (12%), fellow students (7%), fear (3%), teachers (1%). More than a third of respondents (36%) students of the 3rd course didn't mention any obstacles to the announcement of the creative ideas. Similar answers were among students of the 5th year. 47% of the interrogated master and PhD students noted a number of difficulties in a process of transfer of their creative ideas, including 18% - aren't sure that their ideas will be heard, 12% face shyness and constraint, teachers stir to 12% and 6% have no desire to share the ideas.

Taking into account the abovementioned, desire of students to participate in the open competitions on a detection of creative abilities looks encouraging and perspective for the university development. The quantity of respondents wishing to participate in competitions and to show the creative abilities increases from a course to course, so if among students of 1-3 years of study such opinion was expressed by 47% of respondents, among students of 4-5 years of study – already 61%, and among master and PhD students the indicator was 71%. Thus, the majority of master and PhD students (88%) consider that in KazNMU all conditions for realization of creative abilities are created for both: students and employees. More than a half (60%) interrogated students of 1-3 courses, 47% of students of 4-5 courses, among which are more doubting (34%), agree with this opinion. Almost identical negative answers of students to a question of opportunity to be realized as the creative person in KazNMU (from 16 to 19%) are received. Among master and PhD students there were 6% of such responses.

All respondents agree that in order to creative ideas to be formed and developed educational programs should be developed. In particular, respondents offer development of electives on formation of a creative thinking: 72% of the interrogated students of 1-2 years of study, 79% of students of 3 year of study, 68% of respondents of 4-5 years of study and 76% of master and PhD students.

#### 4. Discussions

In general, according to the training course "the creative personality" a person has to possess such qualities as existence of new ideas, creativity, achievement of the goal, activity. At that students of 1-5 years of study on the last positions in a rating of the concept "creativity" have mentioned initiative and talent, intelligence level. At the same time master and PhD students consider that existence of talent and originality – are also important components of creativity. The majority of respondents trained consider that the employees at our university are creative. In master and PhD students this answer was 100%.

Characterizing themselves, the majority of respondents think of themselves as of the creative persons. So, nearly 64% of first-year students and 59% of students of the 3rd year answered that they can attribute themselves to the creative people. 54% of the interrogated students of 4-5 courses and 64% of master and PhD students think of themselves as being creative.

Nearly a half of the interrogated at all levels of training (from 47 to 54%) say that they have original ideas on an improvement of activity of university, thus 53% (master and PhD students) to 36% (3-rd year students) have nothing to interfere announcing the ideas. However, often the opinion of respondents was "absence of confidence that ideas will be heard" - 20% of students of 1-2 and 4-5 years of study, 23% of the student of 3 year of study, 18% of the interrogated master and PhD students.

72% of students of 1-2 courses, 79% of students of 3 courses, 68% of students of 4-5 courses and 76% of master and PhD students consider that electives on training of creativity formation, creative thinking are very necessary for the University. Master and PhD students in general have no negative opinion about it,

though from 16 to 27% of younger students and students of 4-5 years of study think that there is no need in it.

39 to 53% of respondents would like to participate in competitions on determination of creative potential, competitions of creative ideas. In the analysis of answers to the matter, taking into account the "yes" opinion and "it is rather yes", it is possible to draw a conclusion that the actions on training of the detection of creativity, creative ideas are necessary. Majority of the respondents support this idea. The majority of master and PhD students (88%) agree about the existence of favorable situation for the realization of creativity in students and teachers at the university.

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