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## CONTENTS

### ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- Liubov M. Zakhartseva, Mariia A. Yanovytska  
PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF TUMOR STROMA RATIO IN TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER 565
- Svitlana P. Koshova, Zoriana V. Hbur, Andriy V. Kolomoyets  
RESEARCH OF PSYCHOLOGICAL READINESS OF DOCTORS TO ADAPTIVE TRAINING 572
- Alina E. Baylo, Tetiana O. Maksymets, Vadym P. Shypulin, Volodymyr V. Chernyavskiy, Luiza M. Parunian  
HEMOSTATIC POTENTIAL ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS AND ATRIAL FIBRILLATION BY LOW-FREQUENCY PIEZOELECTRIC THROMBOELASTOGRAPHY 578
- Valery N. Lekhan, Liudmyla O. Hrytsenko  
SUBSTANTIATION OF COMPONENTS OF AVAILABILITY AND INTEGRATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATED WITH AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE CONDITIONS IN UKRAINE 584
- Natalia V. Stuchynska, Igor V. Belous, Pavlo V. Mykytenko  
USE OF MODERN CLOUD SERVICES IN RADIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS TRAINING 589
- Tetiana I. Domanchuk, Zhanetta A. Chornenka, Mariana I. Hrytsiuk  
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY FROM GASTRIC CANCER AMONG THE POPULATION OF EUROPE AND UKRAINE 596
- Dmytro D. Dyachuk, Volodymyr A. Gandzyuk, Oleg L. Zyukov  
ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL FOR KNOWN PROPHYLAXIS OF CHRONIC NONINFECTIOUS DISEASES BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PATIENTS AT THE MEDICAL INSTITUTION 603
- Iryna I. Shaposhnikova, Svitlana M. Korsun, Larysa P. Arefieva, Olga V. Kostikova, Volodymyr M. Serhiienko, Svitlana A. Korol, Viktor G. Riabchenko  
ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' SOMATIC HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL STATE DURING SPORTS GAMES CLASSES 608
- Olga M. Ostash, Liudmyla E. Grygorenko, Oksana V. Shvager, Svetlana V. Stepanchuk, Nina V. Balenko, IGOR O. CHERNYCHENKO  
THE MODIFYING ROLE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES ON GENOTOXIC EFFECT IN THE BODY DURING COMBINED ADMINISTRATION WITH CARCINOGEN (BENZO[A]PYRENE) 613
- Vitalii I. Tsybaliuk, Sergii S. Strafun, Ihor B. Tretyak, Iaroslav V. Tsybaliuk, Alexander A. Gatskiy, Yuliia V. Tsybaliuk, Mykhailo M. Tatarchuk  
SURGICAL TREATMENT OF PERIPHERAL NERVES COMBAT WOUNDS OF THE EXTREMITIES 619
- Ievgenii V. Andriev, Yulia M. Makukha, Anatolii M. Kravchenko, Ludmila V. Gayova  
BIOCHEMICAL MARKERS OF ENDOTHELIAL DYSFUNCTION, THEIR CHANGES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF TREATMENT WITH VARIOUS BETA-ADRENOBLOCKERS IN YOUNG MEN WITH MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION 625
- Kostyantyn V. Balashov, Gennady O. Slabkiy, Olesya P. Hulchii, Nadiia M. Zakharova, Solomiya M. Turianytsia  
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE SOURCE OF HEALTH INFORMATION AND THE BEHAVIOR OF MOTHERS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD: CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY ANALYSIS 630
- Iryna M. Kremsar, Victoria I. Klymenko  
THE INFLUENCE OF THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT OF PRIMARY CARE FACILITIES ON THE PREVENTION OF DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM 636
- Grygoriy P. Griban, Olena T. Kuznietsova, Natalia A. Lyakhova, Volodymyr M. Prystynskiy, Dmytro G. Oleniev, Olena V. Otravenko, Olena O. Pantus  
DYNAMICS OF STUDENTS' FITNESS LEVEL WHILE DIFFERENTIATING PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR HEALTH AND NOSOLOGY OF DISEASES 641
- Olena S. Shcherbinska, Hennadiy O. Slabkiy  
THE PRIORITY DIRECTIONS OF INTEGRATION OF OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL CARE TO THE FEMALE POPULATION OF UKRAINE AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL 647
- Zinaida V. Lashkul, Dmytro A. Lashkul  
MEDICO – SOCIAL SUBSTANTIATION OF THE CONCEPT OF PERSONALIZED MEDICINE IN THE PREVENTION OF ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AMONG THE ADULT POPULATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL
- Tetiana S. Gruzieva, Mykhailo D. Diachuk, Hanna V. Inshakova, Ivan M. Soroka, Vasyl A. Dufynets  
HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE AS THE BASIS FOR FORMATION OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS 658
- Liudmyla I. Haliienko, Viktoriia B. Zamkevych, Oleksandr V. Zholobko, Nataliia M. Mykytenko, Nataliia V. Velikaia  
MODERN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF UROGENITAL MYCOPLASMIS AMONG THE FEMALE POPULATION OF UKRAINE 665
- Mariia G. Dolynska, Gennadii A. Dolynskiy, Tetiana V. Duhlii, Vasyl I. Petrenko  
MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY APPROACH TO TACKLE TREATMENT FAILURE IN DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS (DR-TB) 669
- Anatoly G. Krut, Viktoriia V. Horachuk  
PATIENTS' SATISFACTION WITH DENTAL CARE (ON THE RESULTS OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH) 674

Tatiana A. Vezhnovets, Vitaliy G. Gurianov, Natalia V. Prus, Oleksandr V. Korotkyi, Olena Y. Antonyuk HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES OF 179 COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT GNI PER CAPITA IN 2018	678
Yurii N. Deputat, Olesia M. Ivanko, Valerii L. Savitskyi, Anatolii P. Kazmyrchuk, Maria P. Gyluch, Borys I. Palamar RESEARCH OF THE ACTUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CORRECTION OF THEIR DAILY DIET	684
Larysa V. Harashchenko, Svitlana G. Kondratiuk, Svitlana P. Palamar, Halyna O. Vaskivska, Liudmyla L. Nezhyva VALUE ATTITUDE TO HEALTH AS THE BASIS OF AN ACTIVE LIFE POSITION OF AN INDIVIDUAL	690
Diana I. Sobko, Tetiana O. Ilashchuk, Ihor V. Navchuk MELATONIN AND GRHELIN AS "EARLY" PROGNOSIS MARKERS OF PROGRESSION OF ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND OSTEOARTHRITIS IN THE CASE OF THEIR COMORBIDITY	697
Galyna F. Biloklytska, Svitlana Yu. Viala RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PERIODONTAL TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH DIABETES MELLITUS	702
Tetiana P. Yurochko, Maryna V. Shevchenko, Anthony Hassan Jr. Wenom EATING BEHAVIOUR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN UKRAINE	708
Tetiana S. Gruzieva, Nataliia V. Hrechyshkina, Olena Ya. Antonyuk, Vasyl A. Dufynets, Serhii E. Konovalov SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH MASTER'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COMPETENCES PROGRAMME	713
Ivanna V. Sakhandia, Rimma L. Skrypnyk, Kostyantyn L. Kosyachenko, Oleh M. Vlasenko, Anatolii P. Kazmirchuk ANALYSIS OF MEDICINAL PROVISION OF PATIENTS WITH ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION IN HOSPITAL CONDITIONS	718
Nataliia I. Zhachko, Tamara S. Nespriado-Monborgne, Iryna L. Skrypnyk, Maksym S. Zhachko IMPROVING DENTAL HEALTH – IS IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE	722
Andrii A. Borysenko, Anna M. Antonenko, Sergii T. Omelchuk, Vasyl G. Bardov, Olena P. Vavrinevych COMPARATIVE HYGIENIC ASSESSMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONAL RISK IN THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES (ON THE EXAMPLE OF FUNGICIDE AMISTAR EXTRA 280, SC) USING DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPRAYERS	726
Iryna V. Vasylieva, Kateryna O. Hololobova, Ruslan S. Symbaliuk, Olha V. Nechushkina, Viacheslav V. Kobrzhytskyi, Serhii V. Kiriienko, Anna V. Laputko ARTIFICIAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN UKRAINE: BIOETHICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND RELIGIOUS ASPECTS	731
Volodymyr O. Korobchansky, Yuliia O. Oliinyk, Valentyna G. Nesterenko, Vladyslava V. Sarkis-Ivanova, Olena V. Hryhorian HYGIENIC ASPECTS OF LIFESTYLE OF KHARKIV NATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY JUNIOR STUDENTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF QUARANTINE	736
Dmytro D. Dyachuk, Oleg L. Zyukov, Olena O. Oshyvalova, Yuriy B. Yashchenko, Olena M. Lishchysyna APPROACHES TO DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING CLINICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS ENSURING INFECTIOUS SAFETY AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESPONSE IN THE WORK PROCESS (THE CASE OF COVID-19)	741
Oleksandr A. Melnychenko, Viktor A. Ognev, Dmytro I. Marakushin, Inna M. Isaieva, Liliya V. Batyuk, Ganna O. Chovpan, Vladyslav O. Melnychenko STUDENTS' HEALTH STATUS AND THEIR ABILITY TO ADAPT TO A MULTINATIONAL UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT	746
<b>REVIEW ARTICLES</b>	
Taras G. Gutor, Natalia I. Zarembo, Oksana R. Kovalska, Dzvenyslava Je. Moskviak-Lesniak, Iryna M. Gerasymovych, Oleh Ja. Kobyletskyi, Yaryna V. Nahurna COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN SOCIAL HEALTH DETERMINANTS OF LIFE EXPECTANCY AND INFANT MORTALITY IN UKRAINE AND POLAND	750
Mykola P. Stovban, Vasyl M. Mykhalchuk, Alexander K. Tolstanov, Vira V. Maglona INTERACTION LINKS OF HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS WITHIN ONE HOSPITAL DISTRICT	756
Raisa O. Moiseienko, Nina G. Gojda, Olena O. Dudina, Nataliya M. Bodnaruk DEVELOPMENT OF PERINATAL MEDICINE IN UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES	761
Tetiana M. Komarova, Oksana P. Vitovska, Julia I. Komisarenko, Vita M. Kohan AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION – CURRENT STATE OF THE PROBLEM AND PROPHYLAXIS METHODS	767
Olena M. Dubovyk, Violetta Y. Dubovyk HEALTH OF THE TEACHER OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (EFFICIENCY – DEVELOPMENT)	773
Vladyslav O. Berestoviy, Ahmad A. Mahmood, Oleg O. Berestoviy, Valentyna G. Ginzburg, Dmytro O. Govsieiev AN OVERVIEW OF AUTOIMMUNITY IN IMPLANTATION FAILURE: A LITERATURE REVIEW	777
Natalia V. Stytsiuk, Zhanna M. Zolotarova, Iryna V. Stovban, Halyna Y. Yukish WOMEN'S MODERNISM IN MEDICAL SCIENCE OF WESTERN UKRAINE – SOFIA OKUNEVSKA-MORACHEVSKA, SOFIA PARFANOVYCH AND VOLODYMYRA KRUSHELNYTSKA	784
ABSTRACT BOOK INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE, DEDICATED TO THE WORLD HEALTH DAY 2021 APRIL 2, 2021, BOGOMOLET NATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, KYIV, UKRAINE	789

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## VALUE ATTITUDE TO HEALTH AS THE BASIS OF AN ACTIVE LIFE POSITION OF AN INDIVIDUAL

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Larysa V. Harashchenko, Svitlana G. Kondratiuk, Svitlana P. Palamar, Halyna O. Vaskivska, Liudmyla L. Nezhyva  
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### ABSTRACT

**The aim:** Studying of the aspects that influence the formation of future teachers' values to health as the basis of an active life position of an individual.

**Materials and methods:** To update the didactic aspects of the problem, we used the methods of analysis of normative and scientific sources, system analysis and generalizations, the results of our own empirical studies, materials of the questionnaire, active modeling of students' health value formation.

**Results:** The formation of a value attitude to the problem of health in future teachers is carried out under the following conditions: awareness of the importance of the value of health; changing the attitude of the individual to his/her own health and the health of others; knowledge of the factors influencing health, a conscious desire to lead a healthy lifestyle and make efforts to care for health, the use in the educational process of the operational model of forming students' value attitude to health by mastering the content of the course "Health-saving technologies in education" in order to form the ability of a systematic understanding of health-saving activities.

**Conclusions:** The formation of the value attitude of teachers to the problem of health involves taking into account all components of health and is possible provided within the condition of continuity of educational impact on the individual.

**KEY WORDS:** health attitude, physical education, motivation, mental health

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### INTRODUCTION

It is an indisputable fact that health is the basis and necessary condition of human life. Health is the most important value for a person. And just as indisputable is the maxim about the importance of forming a valued attitude to health. The interest in health is due to the tendency to deteriorate in today's complex socio-economic and environmental conditions [1]. Health is one of the most important indicators of the quality of education. The need of society to train preschool teachers who are able to implement the health paradigm in their own professional activities, implies the need to form in students a valued attitude to health. The concept of «values of health» includes the following positions [2,3]: mastering the content of this concept, understanding it as an important characteristic of socio-economic and cultural development of society, as well as the values of human existence; mastering the means and methods of preserving, shaping and strengthening their own health and the health of children;

active dissemination of the idea of health care among children, parents, teaching staff; improvement of knowledge, skills and abilities in the field of physical education and rehabilitation.

We are convinced that the formation of a valued attitude to health, as well as responsibility for individual health is a medical and pedagogical problem [4, 5]. After all, in sight of modern research in the field of philosophy, medicine, psychology, pedagogy is a person whose foundation of life is health [5, 6, 7].

### THE AIM

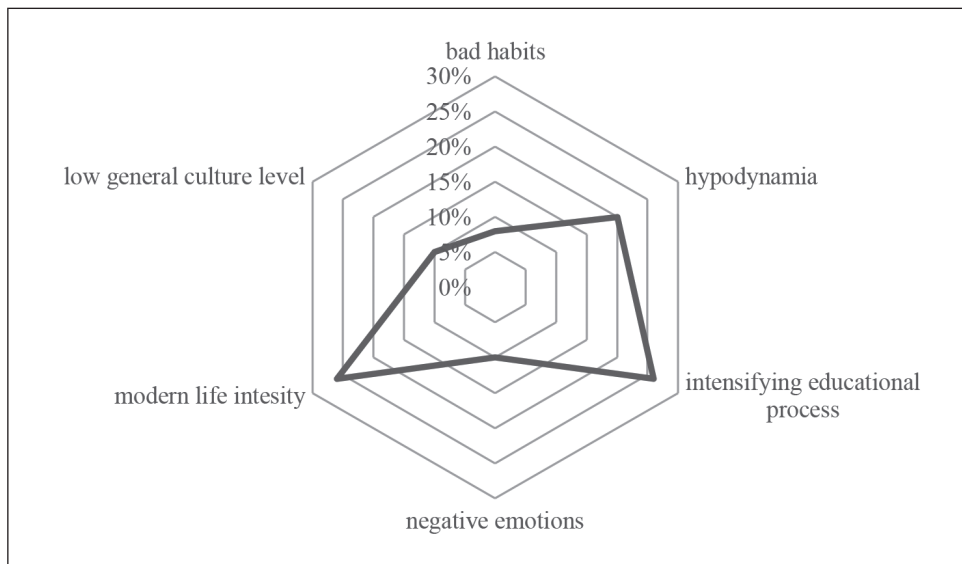
The aim of the work was to study the aspects that affect the formation of future teachers' value attitude to health as the basis of an active life position. The hypothesis of the study is that an active life position of an individual can be formed by means of values to health, as the main component of human existence. Therefore, we need to determine the conditions for the formation of values of teachers to the problem of health. These include exploring the importance of health value to future educators; a change in an individual's attitude to his own health and the health of others as a result of mastering the knowledge of the factors that affect him, to explore the issues of motivation and conscious desire to lead a healthy lifestyle.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

To update the didactic aspects of the problem, we used the methods of analysis of normative and scientific sources, system analysis and generalizations, the results of our own empirical studies, materials of the questionnaire, active modeling of students' health value formation.

To achieve the aim of the research, we have conducted experimental task, during complying which we considered a belief that students' acknowledged and value relation to health depends on several factors.

The study was carried out in compliance with the main provisions of the ICH GCP and the Declaration of the



**Fig. 1.** Social factors which affect health (according to students' survey results)

World Medical Association “Ethical Principles for Medical Research with Human Involvement as an Object of Study” (Seoul, 2008), Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the current regulations and laws of Ukraine, “Ethical principles of research among children and adolescents”, approved by the Sociological Association of Ukraine, the main provisions of the International project «Health Behaviour in School-aged Children» (HBSC).

An essential component of compliance with the requirements of the survey technology was the preservation of anonymity and confidentiality of student responses. School leaders have been warned that confidentiality will be maintained for each school.

We conducted experiments using empirical method of conducting scientific pedagogical researches, that is, survey method. We chose half-open type survey (except for choosing an answer, the respondents could also express their own point of view).

To process results we used mathematic registration method, which allowed revealing certain qualities in the analyzed phenomena. Statistical assessment methods were used, namely the Mann–Whitney U-test rank criterion for comparing students' attitudes to health at different times intervals. To improve clarity and convenience of further findings analysis we used graphical method of representing experimental data. We also used methods of hypothesis, systemic analysis and generalizing, which allowed drawing conclusions in our research.

## RESULTS

Let's consider results of the first stage. To define conscious and value attitude in students to their own health and children health, and also their readiness to imply physical and wellness activity in future, we conducted an experimental research in form of survey, including 357 students

from different regions of Ukraine, who chose profession of preschool education. All the respondents (100%) consider up-to-date issues of health value as a basic being value and necessity to form and maintain it since early age. Unfortunately, not all the students are aware that implementing health preserving activity mostly depends on pedagogue's professional competence.

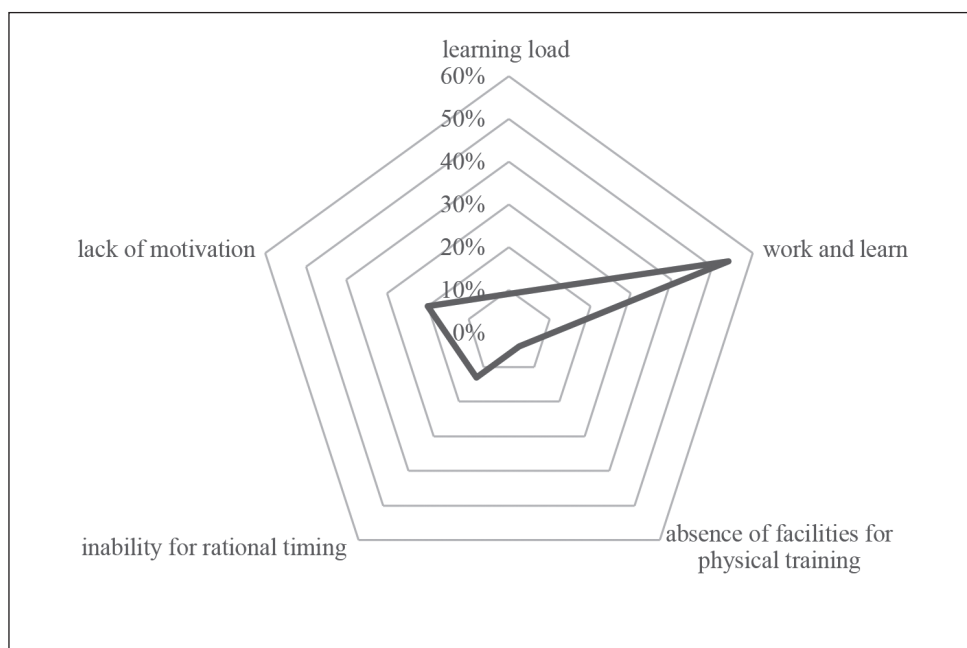
As for social factors, 10% of respondents named as one of the reasons low level of general educational culture. 26% respondents defined as a reason for negative health state impact intensity of modern life. In their answers, 20% respondents talked about hypodynamia as a negative factor. 8% respondents mentioned their bad habits (smoking) that affect health. 10% respondents pointed out as one of the important negative factors negative emotions (irritability, hatred, aggressiveness). 26% respondents believe that their health is affected by intensifying educational process (a lot of tasks which have to be done with the computer etc.).

Answers to the second survey part on the first stage shaped out issues of powerful means to maintain and enforce physical health. Most of the students consider such means to be physical exercises, good nutrition, sticking to daily timetable. Most students defined their health as satisfactory (93%), but morning exercises systematically do only 14%.

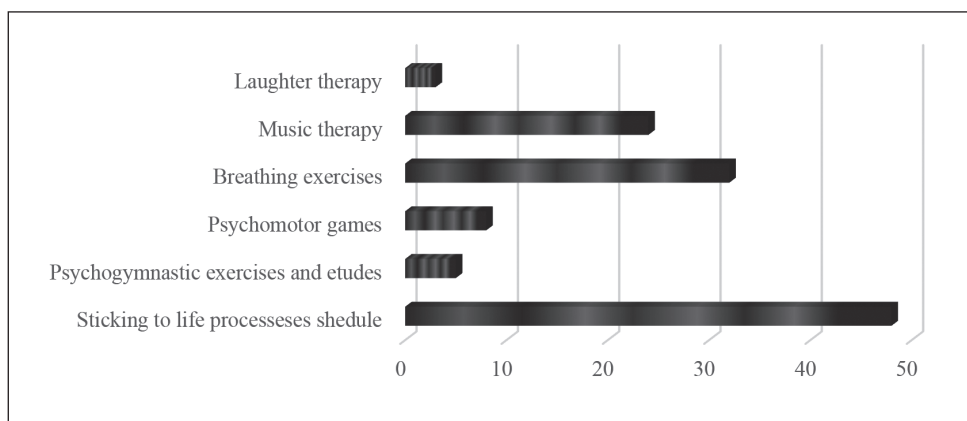
Main reasons which hinder systematical physical trainings are considered by students to be: learning load, work and learn, absence of facilities to do physical trainings, inability for rational timing, absence of motivation (Fig.2).

Survey results enabled to find out that students do not pay enough attention to search and analysis of information on means of forming and maintaining their own physical and mental health, which, in turn, is a ground for further proficiency. Meanwhile, we state that future pedagogues lack skills of critical analysis for related information and enriching with it their life and professional experience. Also, they lack a specific need for looking for such information, which is shown by lack of sufficient motivation level for some 17%. Survey findings analysis singles out





**Fig. 2.** Main reasons which hinder systematical physical trainings (according to students' survey)



**Fig. 3.** Means and methods of preserving and forming mental (intellectual and emotional) children's health in preschool education institutions

an issue of consideration conditions and pedagogical instruments in future pedagogues value relation to health forming process, on the example of educational subjects teaching, in particular, methods of physical education for preschool children.

When we found out level of student's knowledge on means and methods of forming and preserving mental (intellectual and emotional) children's health in preschool education institutions on the first stage, the results were low (Fig.3).

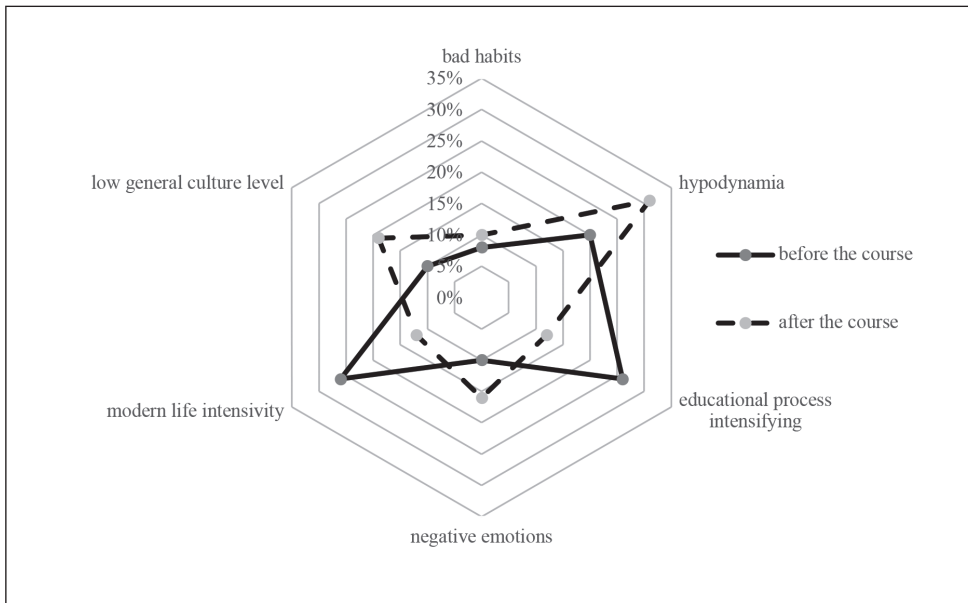
Such methods as psych gymnastic exercises and etudes, psychomotor games and laughter therapy appeared [8] to be little-known among the students. Among the most well-known were sticking to life processes schedule, breathing exercises and music therapy, but the general knowledge indicator among the students was very low.

Second stage results. After students learned course Methods of physical education of preschool children, all the respondents answered to first survey block, that one of the human and community well-being factors is health as an integrative human being quality. In particular, received indicators allow us to make a conclusion about views

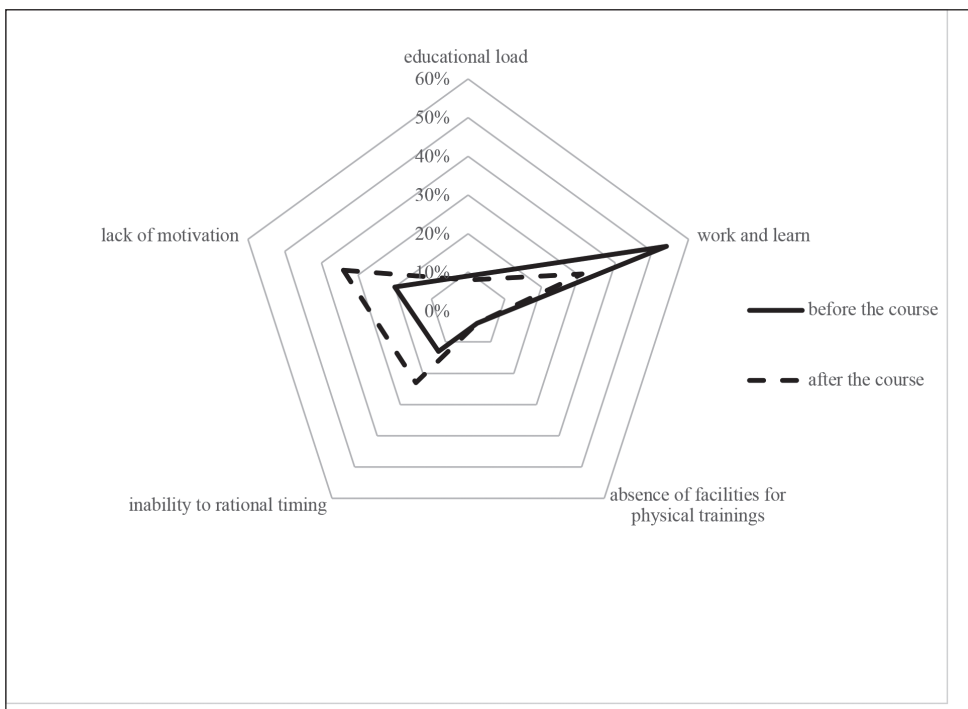
change on key factors which affect health. After studying the course, students defined as more important factors: hypodynamia and low general culture level. General increase by these factors was 11% and 9% respectively. This result proves unquestionable educational impact onto forming views and relations, because educational contents and direction of the course focused not only on forming professional competence, but also on worldview rethinking of health preserving issue.

Another factor to pay attention to is negative emotions [9]. Factor increase level is 6%, which proves insufficient students' recognizing the importance of emotional health forming, which is reflected in emotional reactions and adequate behavior. Thus, we can draw a conclusion, that students do not fully recognize, that to realize wellness life position it is important to exclude from own behavior self-destroying habits and negative thinking.

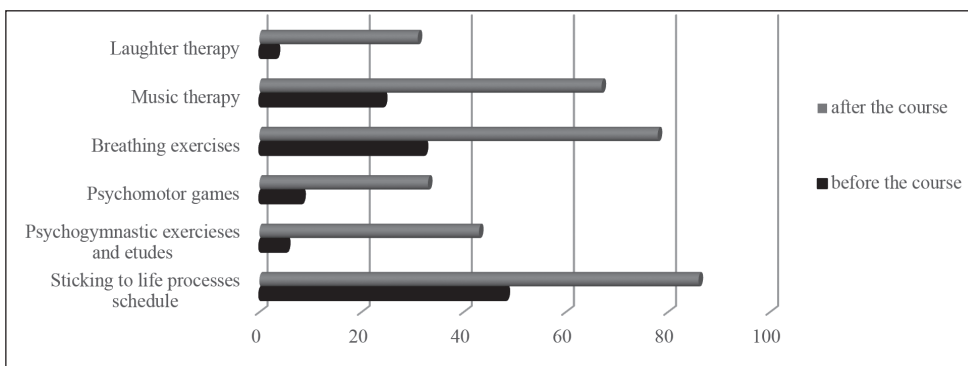
An interesting factor to our consideration is decrease in level of parameters: modern life intensity and educational process intensifying [10]. These changes prove positive impact in forming professional competence in future pedagogues during studying the course Methods of physical



**Fig. 4.** Social factors that affect health level (according students' survey before and after the course)



**Fig. 5.** Main reasons which interfere systematic physical trainings (according to students' survey results before and after the course).



**Fig. 6.** Means and methods of preserving and forming mental (intellectual and emotional) children's health in preschool education institutions

education of preschool children [11]. Most of the students note, that modern life pace and educational process intensifying are not key factors which affect health level. Graphical

manifestation of relation change about influence of social factors onto health level is given below (Fig. 4).

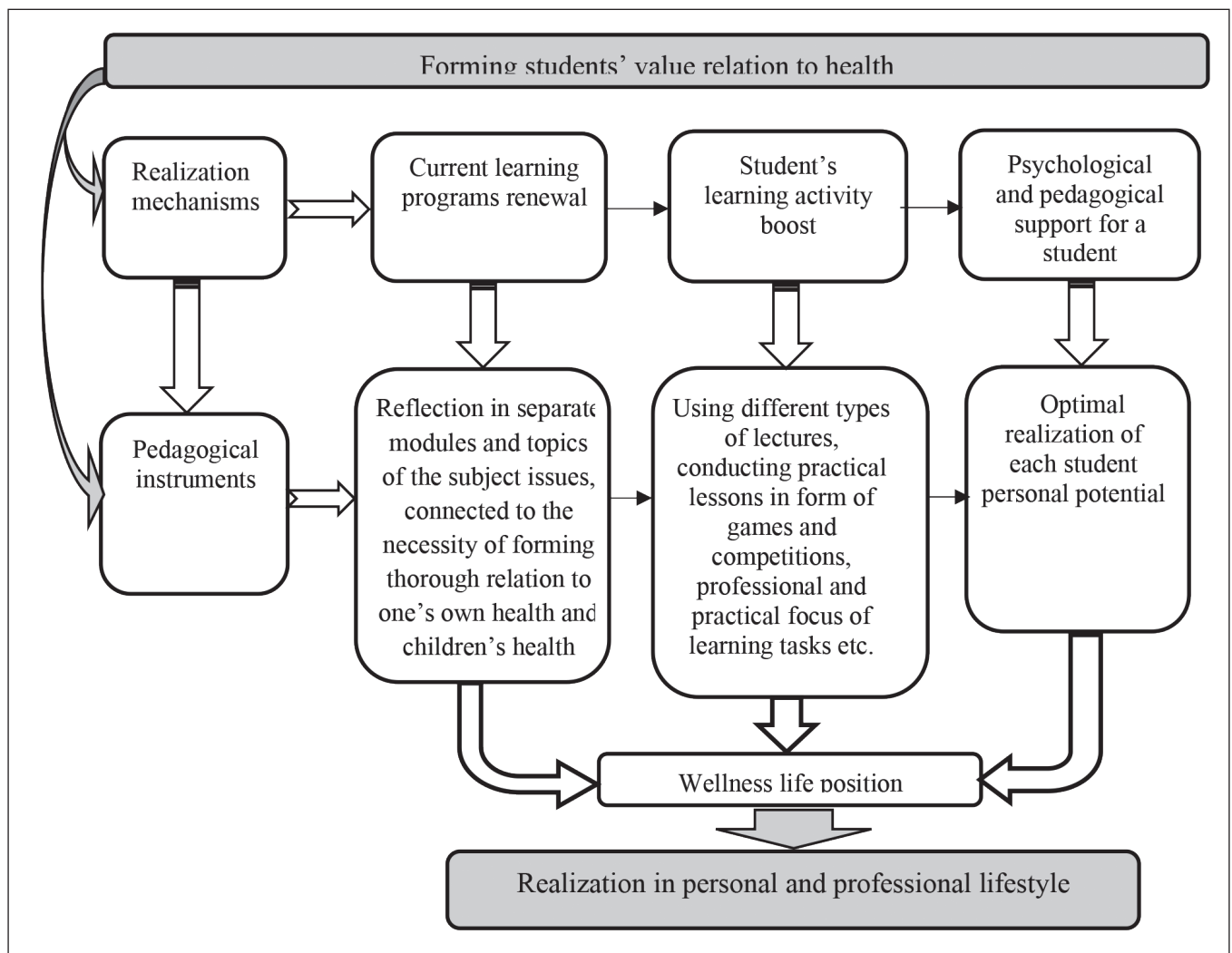


Fig. 7. Model of forming students' value relation to health..

The number of respondents, who know about ways of gathering information on health preserving and forming and physical development, is 39%. However, this index shows that students do not pay enough attention to studying the results of modern researchers' works and preschool education institutions pedagogues on health preserving.

Comparative analysis of responds to survey second part questions showed that most of the students believe physical culture to be an influential mean to form and enforce health, full physical development, increasing organism workability. On the other hand, take systematical physical exercises began only 24% respondents, which is 6% more than at the start of the experiment. Main drawbacks to systematic physical trainings majority considers work and learn and lack of motivation, although the tendency on these parameters is drastically opposite. The increase in these parameters was 14% and 10% respectively. In turn, such result can be explained by gaining professional knowledge in the branch of physical culture lessons organizing process. Indicators of relations shift in this issue are presented below (Fig. 5).

It is interesting to know that 85% respondents consider physical culture and wellness work with children in pre-

school education institution surroundings to be a priority direction, as health and full physical development are the basis to child's development as a personality.

In response to the third survey part 32% respondents mentioned that they cannot in full prepare effective means of impact on children's physical development and provide adequate psychological and pedagogical follow-up for different physical education work form. This index proves insufficient level of students' knowledge in professional activity bases in the branch of children's physical education and wellness, mastering the system of skills in preschool children physical education methods.

The issue of forming mental health in preschool children by means of health preserving technologies is processed only by 56% of students, although all the respondents understand the importance of providing psychological comfort. The results of students' knowledge in fields of breathing exercises, music therapy, psychomotor games, psychogymnastic etudes etc. rose, but none of the indexes reached 100%, which proves relative negligence in students' relation to this issue (Fig. 6).

Comparative analysis of responds results to the third part questions of the first and second surveys showed the fol-

lowing results: most of the students understand importance and necessity to provide psychological comfort for their own health and children's health. However, average number of respondents having some knowledge about mental health forming increased only to 36% comparing to 20%.

A significant part of respondents (65%) do not think about the importance of complex usage of children physical education means and appropriate connection of health preserving technologies in order to provide complex impact onto a child. Because of lack of professional and life experience students cannot acknowledge the fact that the more varied physical education and wellness means are used in preschool education, the more dynamic and effective will be the process of optimal health forming and providing full personal development of the child be.

In terms of our research we should note that students changed their opinion on the importance of having information on means of preserving and forming own physical and mental health and children's health. They note a certain need in search for such information to enrich educational experience. Although, we have to say, that the students are not really motivated to search the information on health preserving in modern scientific sources and preschool education practice analysis [12].

It is positive that most of the students realize prioritizing physical culture and wellness work with children in preschool education institution surroundings. It is connected to processing contents component of the subject Methods of physical education of preschool children, carrying out practical lessons in a preschool education institution, and passing pedagogical practice [13, 14].

We found out that a significant part of respondents do not respect complex usage of children's wellness means and cannot properly estimate facilities to perform physical education and wellness of the children. It is related to the fact that the students have only a limited teaching experience and lack professional experience in preschool education institution surroundings.

According to the results, not all the students realize that performing health preserving activities mostly depends on pedagogue's professional competence.

It explains the fact that it is necessary to increase education quality, enforce professional and practical aspect of students' training, provide facilities to transform theoretic knowledge into effective practical actions.

## DISCUSSION

Research analysis points out the issue of necessity to develop forming mechanisms in students of acknowledged value relation to health forming issue [15].

Let's look at conditions and pedagogical tools of forming future pedagogues' value relation to health on the example of teaching the subject Methods of physical education of preschool children.

First, it is working learning programs contents renewal, including course methods of physical education for preschool children. This subject has to change modern

preschool education relation to a child, which presupposes conditions for optimal active lifestyle with high health level. In process of teaching a subject it is important not only to provide facilities to form skills of performing different activities form in children's physical education and wellness. To realize this task effectively it is crucial to form in future pedagogues the responsible relation to their health and children's health.

Motivation of forming students' health issue value relation is psychological and pedagogical support in process of self-development and self-establishment. That is why it is expedient to solve such tasks comprehensively taking into account the basic mechanisms of formation and development of the personality by means of the pedagogical tools used in educational process (Fig. 7).

Effectiveness of achieving future pedagogues' professional training tasks in the field of health preserving depends on educational process organization. Main contents of the course focuses on forming professional activity grounds, which is based on the interest to physical culture as an important wellness means, responsibility for health, processing adequate wellness skills and ability to provide a child with psychological and pedagogical support. It is logical, that acknowledging by future pedagogues' health value as a fundamental being value is a powerful means of gaining professional experience.

## CONCLUSIONS

Students' professional experience processing in making an effective influence on health preserving and forming supposes effective organization of learning activities. Taking into account contents and educational direction of the subject, it is utterly important to form students' ability to consciously perceive material, critical thinking, and hypothesis making skill.

Using various practical tasks benefits to forming not only professional skills system, but also understanding and processing learning material, it's appropriate and effective usage in different professional situations.

It is critical for forming students' professional experience to form their skills to learn and analyze modern scientific researches results in the field of children's physical education and health, physical culture and wellness practice. We are convinced, that the ability to estimate psychological and pedagogical bases of children's physical education and wellness realization technology would benefit to processing and readiness to create optimal conditions to perform health preserving activity in preschool education institutions.

According to the research results we drew a general conclusion that the main factor of sticking to healthy lifestyle is defined by students as a desire to be healthy. The habit of taking care of own health should be formed since early years, so that health becomes one of the main needs throughout the whole life. Realization of proposed mechanisms and pedagogical tools of forming students' value relation to health during the course benefits to improvement their mastering of the knowledge system in the

field of theory and methods of children's physical education and wellness, as well as practical skills to organize and carry out physical culture and wellness events and providing psychological support in children's different activity types.

Future preschool education pedagogues' professional training system supposes their mastering of a skills system necessary to provide optimal conditions of preschool children education and development. Besides, another task of this training is forming future pedagogues' practical skills in organizing educational process, which is grounded on an important rule – interconnection and interrelation between children's education, development and health.

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## Conflict of interest:

*The Authors declare no conflict of interest.*

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