

The Concept of Professional Interest and The Stages of Its Formation

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Abstract: Professional interest is a conscious, stable, and positive attitude of an individual toward a specific profession or type of activity, formed under the influence of a person's abilities, needs, values, and the social environment. The process of forming a professional interest occurs in stages: it includes the emergence of an initial interest, its development and consolidation, as well as the stages of conscious choice of a profession. This process is closely linked to factors such as education and upbringing, family environment, personal experience, and motivation, playing a crucial role in the formation of a qualified specialist in the future.

Keywords: Professional interest, career choice, personal development, motivation, abilities, social environment, professional orientation, stages, educational process, self-awareness.

Introduction: Today, the development of society, technological progress, and increasing competition in the labor market make the conscious choice of a profession by young people an important issue. In every individual's life, the process of choosing a profession is closely linked to their future success, social status, and personal happiness. From this perspective, the concept of professional interest is of particular importance. Professional interest expresses an individual's internal inclination, aspiration, and positive attitude toward a specific type of activity. It is inextricably linked to a person's abilities, needs, and motives, and is considered one of the primary psychological factors in the career choice process. Properly formed professional interest serves not only an individual's self-expression but also their ability to find their place in society. The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that many young people face various difficulties in choosing a profession. Sometimes they make decisions without sufficiently understanding their interests and abilities, which can lead to professional dissatisfaction and a decrease in

productivity in the future. Therefore, studying the essence of professional interest, analyzing the stages of its formation, and identifying the factors influencing it are of great scientific and practical importance.

Professional interest is an individual's inner inclination, curiosity, and positive attitude toward a particular profession or type of activity. It plays an important role in the process of choosing a future career and directly influences a person's success in professional activity. Professional interest is not just simple curiosity; it is a complex psychological process closely connected with a person's needs, abilities, values, and goals. At the later stages, interest gradually becomes more conscious and purposeful. The student begins to understand which subjects they are capable in and strives to gain deeper knowledge about certain professions. At the same time, they start evaluating their own abilities and thinking about their future plans. As professional interest becomes more stable, the individual chooses a specific direction and works on developing their knowledge and skills in that field. In this process, making independent

decisions, feeling a sense of responsibility, and working on self-improvement are of great importance. As a result, the individual consciously chooses a profession and plans their future.

The cooperation of educational institutions, family, and society plays a crucial role in developing professional interest. In particular, practical activities, career guidance events, meetings, and training sessions further increase students' interest. Through these, they gain not only theoretical knowledge but also practical experience.

The formation of professional interest usually occurs step by step. The first stage is the initial interest stage, in which a student gains a general understanding of various subjects and professions. At this stage, interest is mainly influenced by external factors such as teachers, parents, the environment, and mass media.

The second stage is the conscious interest stage. At this point, the student begins to realize which subjects they are inclined toward and shows particular interest in certain professions. They start seeking more information about different careers and try to assess their own abilities.

The third stage is the stable interest stage. During this stage, the individual's professional interest becomes stronger and more consistent. They choose a specific direction and strive to develop their knowledge and skills in that field. A conscious approach to career choice is formed.

The fourth stage is the stage of professional orientation. At this stage, the individual clearly chooses a profession and actively works in that direction. They develop themselves professionally through education, skill improvement, and gaining practical experience.

Schools, families, and society play a significant role in shaping professional interest. In particular, proper guidance from teachers, methods of increasing interest in subjects, practical training, and career guidance activities help students make conscious and informed career choices. The purpose of this article is to scientifically elucidate the concept of professional interest, analyze the stages of its formation, and highlight important aspects in guiding young people toward the correct choice of profession.

Professional interest is a person's stable positive attitude toward a specific profession or type of activity,

their internal need and desire to learn and master it. It is closely linked to an individual's abilities, needs, values, and motives.

In psychology, curiosity is considered one of the most important motives for human activity. A professional interest is a specifically oriented manifestation of general interests. It has the following features:

- purposefulness;
- stability;
- conscious formation;
- connection with activity.

Professional interest plays a crucial role in a person's realization of their abilities, self-awareness, and finding their place in society.

Professional interest is formed gradually, and each stage has its own characteristics.

1. The initial stage of interest (childhood)

At this stage, children develop a general interest in professions. They often "try out" various professions by imitating adults. For example, through playing as a teacher, doctor, or driver, initial perceptions of professions are formed.

2. The stage of conscious interest (adolescence).

During this period, students begin to realize their interests. Interest in specific subjects increases. The process of collecting information about professions and assessing one's abilities begins.

3. Stage of stable interest (adolescence).

At this stage, professional interest is formed quite clearly. A person begins to realistically assess their capabilities and strives to choose a specific profession. Admission to higher educational institutions and the choice of specialty correspond to this stage.

4. The stage of professional orientation (the period of maturity).

At this stage, a person carries out activities in their chosen profession. Professional interest is further strengthened, and professional skills are formed. The conducted experimental work showed that the targeted and systematic formation of professional interest significantly changed students' attitudes toward choosing a profession. Specifically:

- The level of professional interest among

students has increased, and they have begun to take a conscious approach to various professions.

- Skills for assessing one's abilities and capabilities have been formed.
- Readiness to make independent decisions in choosing a profession has increased.
- Students' motivation to study and work on themselves has increased significantly.
- Professional orientation among students in the experimental group showed higher results compared to the control group.

Additionally, the pedagogical methods used (interactive classes, vocational-oriented interviews, practical assignments) increased students' activity and strengthened their interest in the profession.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, professional interest is an important component of personality development, which is formed gradually from childhood. For its proper development, the cooperation of the family, school, and society is necessary. When guiding young people in choosing a profession, it is important to consider their interests, abilities, and individual characteristics. Only then will qualified and passionate specialists emerge for society.

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