

EDUCATION SYSTEM - MADE IN UKRAINE

By - Prof. Nataliia Bevz

Introduction:

On the 23rd of January 2024, at 8:30 am, after the assembly, the students of St. Xavier's Institute of Education, Autonomous, an institute reflective of global educational concerns, were given an opportunity to attend and reflect on an informative session by Prof. Nataliia Bevz, a professor from Ukraine. She was introduced and welcomed by Ms. Kalpana Chavan. The lecture was attended by the students of the first and second year of B.Ed. Prof. Nataliia Bevz works as a teacher at Kyiv National Economic University (MBA Program). She holds a PhD in "Optimization of feed technology for growing animals" from the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine and is an entrepreneur owning 'Eagle Trading,' a company collaborating with Indian manufacturers.

Prof. Nataliia Bevz offered student-teachers an overview of the education system in Ukraine and the challenges posed by the ongoing war. She began by sharing detailed insights based on her perspective and personal experiences. The session aimed to expose attendees to recent developments in education, discussing various contexts from local to global levels. Additionally, Prof. Nataliia's social outreach efforts were highlighted, emphasizing her care for visually impaired and cerebral palsy-afflicted children in orphan houses. The lecture focused on providing information about Ukraine's education system during the ongoing war, offering a comprehensive understanding through Prof. Nataliia's unique lens and experiences.

Context of the Ukrainian Education System:

Ukraine, having transitioned from a republic to an independent nation, considers education a fundamental human right. The education system is structured to ensure high-quality education for all, following a comprehensive framework:

1. High school
2. Primary education
3. Lower secondary education (with professional and vocational options)
4. Upper secondary education
5. Higher education (Bachelor's degree)
6. Higher education (Master's degree)
7. Ph.D. Programs

Preschool education adheres to the State Standard Basic Component of Preschool Education. The school education system comprises both mandatory (invariant) and optional (variable) components, allowing students to choose subjects/courses. Ukraine's education sector also emphasizes professional education through institutes offering Vocational Education and Training (VET). Higher education, including Bachelor's and Master's degrees, is available free of charge

on a competitive basis, with educational bodies providing quotas for different student categories to ensure accessibility in all situations.

Current Situation:

In February 2022, Ukraine faced invasion, triggering wartime conditions that severely impacted the education sector. The destruction of around 1300 schools, burning of books, and the displacement of 5.7 million students created a significant disruption. Local children were deported to Russia, with some parents still searching for and trying to reunite with them. Teachers, donning uniforms, not only fight for the country but also fulfill their roles as educators. They wait in shelters, providing education wherever possible. Children carry backpacks with essential items, reflecting the challenges in obtaining basic necessities. Prof. Nataliia highlighted these struggles, emphasizing the resilience of teachers and the importance of adapting teaching methods. Despite the war, education remains a priority, with the curriculum adjusted for students planning to study abroad. Those returning find opportunities in the agricultural sector, showcasing a resilient sense of unity among teachers, students, and the community amid challenging circumstances.

Conclusion:

Prof. Nataliia's session left a lasting impact, emphasizing the importance of a strong connection to Ukraine's history and cultural roots for future teachers. The value of fostering unity through cultural bonds was underscored, aligning with principles deeply cherished by Ukrainians. The integration of science and technology was highlighted as essential for staying informed about global scenarios. Beyond insights into a war-torn education system, the session stressed the need for teachers to adapt and understand the perspectives of their students. As aspiring educators, the lessons from Prof. Nataliia will be applied in future endeavors, making the session a valuable and impactful experience. A truly great session indeed!

Appendix:



