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Scientific research activity as a factor in the professional competencies formation of students in the field of traditional applied art

Abstract. The article considers the role of research activities in the formation of professional competencies of students studying traditional applied arts. It analyzes the advantages of involving students in research work, student scientific association activities as well as participation in scientific conferences, master classes and exhibitions. Also the author analyzes the harmonious introduction of information technologies into the learning process for the development of creative potential while preserving cultural identity.

Keywords: traditional applied art, research activities, professional competencies, student scientific association, information technologies.

The rich heritage of traditional applied art is an integral part of Russian culture. Its preservation and development is the key to the transfer of cultural identity to future generations. Modern universities strive not only to transfer knowledge but also to educate specialists who are able to create new things and contribute to the development of science and society. In this context students' research activities become an indispensable tool for deepening knowledge developing competencies and forming high-level professionals.

Specialized associations such as centers of talented youth activity play an important role in the development of student research activities. They provide a platform for exchanging ideas conducting their own research under the guidance of experienced mentors and determining further career paths [1, p. 27].

The involvement of students in the activities of scientific associations in the field of traditional applied arts is an important factor in improving the quality of their professional training. This allows future artists not only to preserve and transmit cultural traditions but also to enrich them finding a harmonious combination of modern trends and historical heritage [5, p. 5].

The Student Scientific Association is a voluntary self-governing non-profit formation created on the initiative of students of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) whose main activity includes promoting research innovation and scientific and educational work of students.

The purpose of the work with the student scientific association is to form a stable two-way interaction between the university management, the development of scientific potential, the formation of research competencies of students, their harmonious, professional and scientific development.

Tasks that are being solved to achieve the set goal:

- involvement of students in the process of active scientific creativity;
- methodological logistical and administrative support of the students in the organization and conduct of events;
- assistance in the implementation of socially significant student initiatives in the field of research innovation scientific and educational activities;
- encouragement of students, teachers and other persons involved in the work of the Student Scientific Association and other student associations engaged in science.

The structure of the Student Scientific Association of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) can be two-level:

- Student Scientific Association of structural divisions (institutes) – the first level;
- the joint of Student Scientific Association of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) including representatives of the Student Scientific Association branches is the second level.

Students within the framework of the Student Scientific Association get the opportunity for self-realization beyond the standard curriculum engaging in their own research projects, offering new scientific ideas and approaches. This contributes to the formation of students' competencies that are necessary for scientific work such as the ability to think analytically, the ability to process large amounts of information, work with scientific literature and competent presentation of results [4, p. 10].

The participation of students in the scientific and practical activities of student associations contributes to the comprehensive development of a wide range of professional competencies. Along with research skills students improve their skills in the field of specific artistic techniques and technologies. Working on joint projects teaches you to find non-standard solutions, develops creativity and creative thinking. Presentation of research results and works at exhibitions and conferences builds communication and presentation skills. For example, Komarova E.A. who is A student of the Department of Jewelry and Bone Carving at the Higher school of folk arts (academy) conducted a study on the use of epoxy resins in the art of bone carving. She outlined the results of the experiment with epoxy resins; the positive and negative sides of their application were revealed at the Student Scientific Association seminar in the report "Practical application of modern materials (epoxy resins polymers) in bone-cutting art" (Fig 1).

Student Scientific Association members are actively exploring the possibilities of integrating digital technologies such as computer software, hardware and 3D modeling (in jewelry) into the design process of traditional applied art products. Students of the Student Scientific Association Komarova E. and Tsareva K. held a master class "The use of digital technologies in the educational and creative process" where they clearly demonstrated the use of computer graphics as a tool for designing and performing sketches of decorative works on drawing and painting [6, p. 5].

Modern information technologies open up new opportunities including the field of traditional applied arts. However, their implementation requires a balanced approach so that innovative methods harmoniously complement rather than replace traditional techniques ensuring the continuity of cultural traditions and preserving the identity of traditional applied art based on manual labor. Excessive computerization carries risks for the development of national cultural heritage since the use of the same software products can lead to the loss of the identity of the artistic language. Therefore, teachers should teach students how to creatively use information technology while preserving the cultural identity of the works of traditional crafts (fig. 2).



Fig. 2. K. Tsareva and E. Komarova, students of the Department of Jewelry and Bone-cutting Art of the Higher school of folk arts (Academy) conduct a master class "Using digital technologies in the educational and creative process"

Members of the Student Scientific Association participate in the organization of annual scientific events which is

held at the Higher school of folk arts (academy) St. Petersburg. They make presentations the content of which is research work in various areas of study at the university. For example, the III International Forum of Students, Postgraduates and Young Scientists "Culture of Russia in the XXI century: the past in the present the present in the future" which was held on June 14-15 2023. It was devoted to discussing the strategy of technical and technological regional and historical, artistic and aesthetic development of traditional arts and crafts which will ensure the relevance and recognition of this art; The International Student Forum "Unique Art of Russia" dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) and the 90th anniversary of the Sergiev Posad Institute of Toys a branch of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) united young opinion leaders who support the ideas and values of traditional art for two days (December 6-7 2023). It has become a discussion platform for youth initiatives and projects aimed at a long-term socially significant effect, i.e. the development of traditional artistic crafts.

One of the key activities of the Student Scientific Association is the creation and implementation of joint projects. These projects can be interdepartmental that allows students to interact with representatives of various scientific disciplines and

branches of the Higher school of folk arts (academy). This approach promotes the integration of knowledge and experience which in turn strengthens scientific research and improves its quality. The article analyzes how small-format painting helps to increase the level of the artist's ability to concentrate on details and image accuracy. Examples of students' works are analyzed and the role and importance of improving drawing techniques and understanding color obtained through the study of small-format painting are revealed [2, p. 11].

Student Scientific Association plays an important role in the formation of a network of communication between students who are actively engaged in science: seminars, webinars are held, groups on social networks are created and printed publications are published which ensures a constant exchange of information and experience. These events allow students not only to share knowledge but also to discuss current scientific problems, find like-minded people and partners for joint research.

In the journal "Questions of Cultural Studies" No. 2 for 2024 the article "Student Media Committee in the information policy system of the Higher school of folk arts (academy): the concept of activity" was published by Perevozchikova S. who is a student of the Department of lacquer miniature painting". The article examines the role of media resources including social networks as the main channels for informing students and positioning higher education institutions in the modern world. It discusses how universities can use these tools to share knowledge, demonstrate achievements, inform about activities and form their own brand. The concept of the media committee of the Student Council of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) is proposed which includes improving the quality of content developing new sites, high-quality visual design and differentiated content to expand audience coverage" [3].

The Student Scientific Association promotes the active participation of students in scientific activities and provides opportunities for the realization of research potential. The Student Scientific Association asset organizes students' participation in city competitions, helps to fill out applications for Russian and international grants. This allows young researchers to present their work to a wide audience and achieve recognition in the scientific community which in turn contributes to increased motivation and professional growth. An important step to activate the scientific activity of the student scientific association is the active attraction of extra-budgetary funds such as grants, sponsorship and participation in competitions.

A team of active members of the Student Scientific Association of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) made a presentation at the competition of Student scientific associations in St. Petersburg. The report included an analysis of the features of traditional applied art as well as proposals for its preservation and popularization. The presentation aroused great interest among the jury as the students proposed non-standard ways to integrate traditional applied art into modern culture. The students of the Student Scientific Association team of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) showed not only deep knowledge in the field of their specialization but also high argumentative competence convincingly and accurately

answering the questions posed by the jury members. Their competent answers emphasized the significance and originality of the research and proposed projects in the field of preservation and development of traditional applied arts proving their contribution to the scientific and cultural spheres.

Such convincing performance of the students reflects the quality of the educational program and teaching at the Higher school of folk arts (academy). Moreover, the willingness to constructive dialogue and criticism indicates a high level of their professional training

Another significant event was the international teleconference "Students of Belarus and Russia: interacting and creating together." On April 2, 2024, students of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) took part in an international teleconference on the Day of Unity of the Peoples of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation (fig. 3).



Fig. 3. A team of students from the Higher school of folk arts (academy) performed at a competition of Student scientific associations in St. Petersburg

This event was organized in order to strengthen cultural and educational ties between the youth of the two countries. The teleconference provided a unique opportunity for students from Belarus and Russia to exchange experiences, discuss topical issues of cooperation in the field of education and culture as well as outline prospects for the implementation of joint projects.

Presentations of students' creative achievements were held as part of the teleconference. They demonstrated the richness and diversity of traditional folk crafts. The participants of the event got acquainted with modern trends in the development of traditional applied art in Belarus and Russia. In addition, the issues of academic mobility, the exchange of experience between university teachers and the organization of joint scientific research in the field of preservation and popularization of cultural heritage were discussed. The event demonstrated the desire of the youth of Belarus and Russia to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation including the field of traditional applied arts.

The participants of the teleconference were Maxim Tank Belarusian State Pedagogical University (organizer), the Higher school of folk arts (academy) and all

other branches of the Academy: from Moscow to Omsk, Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University named after K.D. Ushinsky, Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University, A. P. Chekhov Taganrog Institute, the Roscongress Foundation.

During the teleconference students presented creative projects that are being implemented in universities and also reflected on the universal and professional competencies that students develop when they work as part of creative teams and project groups.



Fig. 4. Speech by Sudar Ya., Chairman of the Student Scientific Association of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) at the International teleconference "Students of Belarus and Russia: interacting and creating together"

Speakers from the Higher school of folk arts (academy) were Chairman of the Student Council a third-year student of the Department of Jewelry and Bone-cutting Art E. Komarova; chairman of the Student Scientific Association a fourth-year student of the Department of Lacquer Miniature Painting Sudar Ya. (fig. 4); chairman of the media Committee of the Student Council a second-year student of the Department of Decorative Painting named after A.N. Golubeva Efremova R.

Teachers and research supervisors play an important role in supporting and guiding the activities of the Student Scientific Association. They can act as consultants helping students identify research areas, provide resources and facilitate the publication of results. Such interaction promotes deeper involvement of students in scientific activities and improves the quality of research. Meetings with invited experts such as the Higher school of folk arts (academy) scientists, well-known artists of traditional arts and crafts and employers contribute to gaining new knowledge in the field of traditional applied arts.

On April 19, 2024 at the Mstera Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting – a branch of the Higher school of folk arts (academy)

a creative meeting was held with Vladislav Fedorovich Nekosov. He is an outstanding artist in the field of lacquer miniature painting, People's Artist of the Russian Federation, Honored Artist of the USSR, Professor of the Department of Performing Arts and Design Activities.

The event was held in the format of an interview moderated by Deputy Director for Scientific and methodological Work Yu.I. Ukolova. V.F. Nekrasov answered questions related to artistic area, shared memories of his student years and rich pedagogical experience during the conversation (fig. 5).

Students of the Mstera Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting had the opportunity to personally communicate with one of the leading lacquer miniature artists who shared his experience, talked about achievements and gave valuable advice to future artists.

An important aspect of the future development of the Student scientific association is the expansion of international cooperation. Participation in international projects and exchange programs allows students to gain valuable experience and knowledge as well as contributes to the development of a global scientific network. This can be achieved through partnership with foreign universities participation in international conferences and projects.



Fig. 5. Creative meeting with V.F. Nekosov, People's Artist of the Russian Federation, Honored Artist of the USSR, professor of the Department of Artistic, Performing and Design Activities of the Mstera Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting – branch of the Higher school of folk arts (academy)

A striking example of the activity of the student scientific association's asset was the organization and holding of international exhibitions under the general title "The Splendor of Russia's Artistic Heritage". These exhibitions featured the best final qualifying works of students who are members of the student scientific association demonstrating works of various types of traditional applied art in Russia. Visitors could see a wide range of products of traditional Russian applied art which include artistic lace, weaving, artistic embroidery, jewelry and bone carving, Palekh, Msterskaya, Kholuiskaya, Fedoskinsky lacquer miniature painting, Nizhny Tagil decorative painting, Bogorodskoe artistic wood carving.

Only in the last two years (2023-2024) the exhibition "The Splendor of Russia's Artistic Heritage" was held in:

- The Russian Center for Science and Culture "Russian House" Belgrade Serbia (06/09/2023-06/17/2023) where the students' work was recognized not only by the local community but also by professionals in the field of art and culture.

- The Creative Center of Kalofersky Bobbin lace Kalofer Bulgaria (30.09.2023-09.10.2023) demonstrated international recognition of Russian traditional crafts and stimulated cultural exchange between the countries.

- UNESCO Headquarters Paris France (04/03/2024-04/18/2024) in the Miro Hall. This event made it possible to present the works of Russian students on the international stage highlighting Russia's efforts to preserve and develop intangible ethno cultural heritage (fig. 6).

For the first time in the history of Russian traditional applied art:

- 18 final qualifying works of students of the Bogorodsky Institute of Artistic Woodcarving, a branch of the Higher school of folk arts (academy)

who are members of the student scientific association have received a high status of handicrafts of recognized artistic merit. This landmark event took place at a meeting of the Federal Expert Art Council of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation – the Main Council of Russia for Folk Arts and Crafts (Order of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia dated 03/13/2023 No. 789 registration No. 612).

- 10 final qualifying works of students-members of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) on artistic lace weaving were transferred to the permanent exhibition of the Vologda State Historical Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve Lace Museum at the request of the museum itself (Letter from the Book "Vologda State Historical Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve" dated 03/13/2023 No. 1-23/41). These works will be presented not only in the permanent exhibition but also in temporary exhibitions of the museum.



Fig. 6. The final qualifying works of students, members of the Students scientific association were presented at the exhibition "The splendor of the artistic heritage of Russia" at the UNESCO headquarters (Paris, France)

These unprecedented events testify to the high level of professional training of students of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) and the recognition of their creative achievements at the state level in the field of preservation and development of traditional arts and crafts of Russia. Such events contribute to the strengthening of international relations which is an important aspect of the activities of the Student scientific association. At the VDNH (Exhibition of achievements of the national economy) exhibition "Russia" (pavilion No. 75 stand of St. Petersburg) students of the Higher school of folk arts (academy) held a fashion show of final qualifying works representing different types of traditional applied art. The fashion show became a bright event that attracted the attention of visitors to the creative achievements of students of the Higher school of folk arts (academy). It clearly

demonstrated the high level of skill and creativity of future artists of traditional crafts (fig. 7).

Participation in the work of student scientific associations opens up wide prospects for professional improvement for young researchers. They have the opportunity to present the results of their research at scientific conferences and seminars, publish articles in peer-reviewed publications and establish contacts with leading scientists and experts in their field.



Fig. 7. Fashion show of a collection of lace dresses and dresses with traditional artistic embroidery of various regions of Russia made by students. VDNH, St. Petersburg stand, Pavilion No. 75.

The support and development of student scientific associations is the most important task for higher educational institutions seeking to provide training of highly qualified personnel capable of making a significant contribution to scientific and technological progress and socio-economic development.

Modern art with its desire to innovate and rethink the familiar increasingly finds inspiration and tools in the scientific field. This connection creates amazing symbioses where technology and artistic vision are intertwined into an integrated field. The interaction of science and art in the modern world is an enriching process that opens up new horizons for creativity and knowledge.

Successful examples of the activities of Student Scientific Association their integration into the educational process, overcoming existing challenges and expanding international cooperation are key factors for the further development of these associations. Ultimately, Student Scientific Association not only enriches the educational process but also serves as an important tool for the formation of future scientific leaders and innovative professionals.

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