

Challenges of practical pedagogical training during distance education and learning

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The Covid-19 pandemic took the whole world by surprise. Virtually overnight, we found ourselves in distance education and learning. In addition to all the challenges that distance education presented to faculty, teachers, and students, we faced another that seemed almost unreachable. The Covid-19 pandemic hit the world at a time of practical pedagogical training (PPT) in educational and related institutions. Some students have just started PPT and we have discontinued this due to the declared pandemic. Moreover, for them and for all others who had not yet started PPT, it was necessary to figure out how to do distance PPT. This paper presents a model of a solution for the implementation of the distance PPT for students of social pedagogy, which was included in the strategy of the response of the Faculty of Education of the University of Ljubljana to the emergency situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. This represented a response of support to the needs of participants in distance learning (children, teachers, institutions, parents). At the same time, this was an opportunity for students to learn how to respond to an emergency situation. Before beginning the distance PPT, students expressed many concerns, doubts, uncertainties and fears. The main question of the paper is how students describe this experience of distance PPT in the final report and how they evaluate their personal and professional gain. We used a qualitative research approach and a descriptive method of empirical pedagogical research. Data were analyzed using the content analysis method. The analysis included the final reports of social pedagogy students who completed the distance PPT during the first months of the Covid-19 pandemic in the 2019/2020 academic year. The main findings show that students reached their own limits during this period due to the exceptional situation that occurred, which affected both their practical performance and their evaluation of their own performance in distance PPT. This is an important statement about learning to respond to an emergency situation.

Keywords: distance practical pedagogical training, distance learning, distance education