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Educational competencies of psychologists for the modern age

During its development, psychology has dramatically expanded its field of scientific interest and research, as well as the number of disciplines that increasingly take on an interdisciplinary character from neuroscience and epigenetics to sociology, anthropology and philosophy. On the other hand, the practical application of psychology have also developed in almost all areas of human activity, such as education, mental health, community psychology, organizational psychology etc. The development of psychology as a science and as a profession is closely linked.

Not only that the practice is confirmed by theoretical postulates and empirical results, but also the justification and the meaning of the research goals is set in relation to their practical implications.

Unfortunately, despite the rapid development of psychology as a science that is followed by the publication of a large number of empirical researches in a growing number of journals in specific areas of psychology, the development of practice does not follow this trend. It seems that sometimes theoretical and empirical foundation of practice and boundaries of professional identity is not clear enough.

Therefore, some questions arise, such as what is the contribution of psychology as a science to applied psychology; which are the tasks and the roles of psychologists within various activities; which are services specific to psychologists, and which do we share with other professions; what are the competences that should be developed for effective and competent practice; what do our clients and other professionals expect from us within the specific fields of practice and how they see the specific contribution of psychologists;

In order to answer these questions, it is necessary to start from the knowledge and skills that are necessary for competent psychological practice and how does university curricula for psychology respond to these needs in Serbia and in the other countries.

In the first part of the presentation I am going to determine the basic competencies of psychologists, both general and those specific for different areas of applied psychology. In the second part, the emphasis will be on regulative mechanisms that ensure that these competencies are achieved and improved. In the last part of the presentation, the learning outcomes of studies of psychology will be discussed, particularly from the point of the acquired and missing knowledge and skills that should improve our practice for contemporary age.

An attempt to present competencies for psychological practice and the learning outcomes of psychology studies could be the starting point for the improvement of psychological profession and cooperation with other professionals.

Key words: competencies of psychologists, education for psychology, modern age