CHALLENGES OF MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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 *Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.*

 *John C. Dana*

Everybody sometimes says, “I’m so tired!” I also often pronounce these words. I’m really tired of getting up early in the morning day by day, spend long hours in front of the computer preparing for the lessons or making a report …

The alarm-clock rings and I begin to fight with mean thoughts. My inner voice says, “Don’t go to school, stay at home … If you do so, nothing awful will happen. Just take the phone, dial the number and say that you are ill …”

But I do get up, get ready and begin my working day!

I come to school and understand that I was right to ignore my inner voice. Then I completely forget about my indisposition and absorb into daily routine.

At school I meet my friends. I’m thankful to the Destiny for the chance to have talks with my colleagues about … in fact, about everything: health, family matters, about our students, methods of teaching, literature, psychology and many other things!

I’m sure that it is impossible to speak about any professional development if there is nobody to share with all the failures, doubts and success.

The way of my professional formation wasn’t easy. My mind brings me back to the days that are far away from now. Nearly every school day brought a new challenge and I had to do my best for overcoming it using the method of tries-out and mistakes.

It was difficult for me to understand why the pupils didn’t want to obey my demands. Sometimes I couldn’t even shout them down – my voice was too weak for it.

There was a period in my career when I wanted to give up.

Fortunately, I understood that the only way out was to change myself. It was not easy. I began to spend more time preparing for my lessons, exercising in loud speaking. I used to find something new for my students every day.

Several years of my sufferings at school had passed before I was able to overcome my fear and diffidence.

Like landmarks in the history of a country there are landmarks in the professional career of a person. One of such landmarks in my career was the visit to one of Moscow schools in winter of 1992. The head of the school was and has been till now E.A.Yamburg. I with my colleagues spent a week there, attending lessons and listening to the lectures of this great Teacher. We were so inspired by his ideas that in spite of the difficulties of those times decided to look for new ways of teaching.

I understood that it’s not enough to give my students only basic knowledge information and began to study project-based technology, the method of critical thinking. These technologies became my favorite ones.

Another landmark became my participation in the republican competition “The Teacher of the Year – 2003”. I made new friends, got great experience and the honorary title “The Laureate of the Competition”.

It’s difficult to count all important events on my professional way. There were too many of them and this list will continue, I hope.

As for the challenges of our modern school life, there are a lot of them! For example, it’s not a secret for everybody that not many pupils nowadays are fond of reading. I make them read short stories written by my favourite writers – O’Henry, W.S. Maugham, J.K. Jerome – and day by day they become interested in reading. It’s difficult to find time for research work – I have found the way out and made the curriculum of the course “English for researchers’.

My students grow and I grow with them. I teach them and they teach me. They like teamwork, I don’t, but I try to use this kind of work just to please them. They don’t like grammar drills, I like, and they do grammar exercises again and again. They just want to please me.

My professional development is going on and I’m ready to meet new challenges…