

Youth Thinking in The Digital Era: Problems and Solutions

Oysuluv Yulbekovna Musurmonkulova

Independent Researcher, Assistant professor, Alisher Navo'i Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature, Uzbekistan

Received: 23 February 2025; **Accepted:** 19 March 2025; **Published:** 22 April 2025

Abstract: This article discusses global information systems, the development of human capital, strengthening the ideological immunity of young people, the proper use of information in the digital age, the development of thinking, and the need to enhance focus on these aspects at different stages of education. Methodological recommendations are provided on how to ensure that young people use information appropriately and are trained to be media literate.

Keywords: Information usage, intellectual potential, consciousness and unconsciousness, artificial intelligence, human capital, types of thinking, media literacy.

Introduction: The era of globalization has brought changes to our spiritual and educational life that are equivalent to centuries of transformation. People are now required to adapt to innovations, make informed choices about information, and pursue careers that align with modern demands to secure their place in life. In a time when our country is experiencing rapid innovative development, it has become a vital necessity to comprehensively develop the thinking, creative ideas, and ingenuity of young people—our future leaders. Directing their knowledge, skills, and abilities toward practical application has become an essential requirement.

However, as young people increasingly turn to artificial intelligence for solutions instead of traditional books, critical questions arise:

- What thoughts occupy their minds?
- Are they falling into intellectual dependence by relying too much on ready-made information?
- Do they have adequate skills to distinguish between important and unimportant information?
- How relevant is the information they prioritize in their lives?

Foreign experts warn that the digital divide—between those who lack access to digital media and those who cannot critically evaluate media content—could lead to

new social disruptions. Modern information has a direct impact on human thought processes. The information transmitted through digital technologies influences a person's external and internal perceptions and emotions. According to Freud, "everything that is suppressed from consciousness becomes unconscious." In today's information age, unconscious processing often prevails over conscious understanding. This can be attributed to several factors:

- The devaluation of time in society.
- A decline in critical thinking, an increase in fantasy-driven thinking, and growing indifference among individuals.
- A lack of systematic organization of information sources based on clear principles.
- Information addiction—three years ago, people were obsessed with TV series, while today, they are addicted to the internet.
- Cybersecurity measures are not automatically implemented.
- The spread of mass culture dominates various social platforms and media.
- Misinformation on social networks shapes public opinion.
- Young people lack skills in filtering and

effectively using information.

V.G. Belinsky once stated: "The sunlight that illuminates the Earth does not give it strength; rather, it awakens the strength that already exists within it." Similarly, having access to information at the press of a button does not enhance one's thinking; it merely provides an opportunity for comprehension. Ultimately, the value of time is determined by the individual. People's inability to manage their thoughts leads to a devaluation of time. Focusing one's mind on productive ideas ensures that one does not become a victim of misleading information. Properly managing thoughts allows individuals to use both the internet and time wisely.

The Role of Education in Media Literacy

Pedagogical and methodological aspects play a crucial role in addressing this issue. Social interactions, family influences, and various other factors are intricately interconnected, requiring educators and guardians to be highly attentive. As experts emphasize:

"Do not overprotect children from life's problems. They need to develop real-life experiences to learn how to struggle and succeed in life."

Youth who lack gaps in their media literacy not only gain a deeper understanding of information-related concepts but also develop virtues such as friendship, loyalty, and humanity. Enhancing youth media literacy and fostering media culture are among the most pressing issues today.

UNESCO defines "media and information literacy" as a diverse set of competencies essential for

Synectic Approach

Example from the Story

Synectics

Understanding the situation through different indirect clues (e.g., overheard noise through the wall)

Direct Approach

The grandson informs the grandfather that his mother was crying

Personalization

The mother's complaints about the neighbor's temper or the father forbidding something

Generalization

Recalling similar past conflicts in the family

Symbolic Approach

Observing facial expressions (the person's face, eye contact, gestures) to infer unspoken emotions

According to scientific principles, thought processes are fluid and constantly evolving. Thinking is influenced by environmental factors but ultimately remains under an individual's control. Thinking can be categorized into two primary types:

- Vertical thinking – logical, sequential, and

understanding the world around us in the 21st century. Recognized as a core competency, information literacy is integrated across all academic disciplines. Finland's National Curriculum includes Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competence to strengthen students' ideological immunity and critical thinking abilities.

In education, young people tend to trust their life experiences more than theoretical knowledge. Research suggests that students learn more effectively when they teach each other. Self-assessment and reflection allow students to understand their strengths and weaknesses, thereby fostering personal growth.

Scientists have noted:

"Thoughts contain a hidden force that enables change whenever a person desires."

Thus, thinking involves refining perspectives on future strategies, making informed choices, acting proactively in society, and defending one's decisions based on knowledge.

Lateral Thinking and Its Importance in Education

Young people often hesitate to express their opinions freely during discussions, choosing to remain silent instead. This is not modesty but rather a cognitive weakness, as it indicates hesitation or uncertainty in decision-making. Today's world does not accommodate such individuals. Therefore, developing students' thinking skills is crucial.

Example of Synectic Thinking Applied to the Story "Ota"

traditional thinking.

- Lateral thinking – an innovative approach that challenges conventional logic to generate creative solutions.

Lateral thinking, introduced by Edward de Bono in 1967, encourages out-of-the-box thinking by seeking

alternative solutions rather than following traditional logical patterns. While critical thinking focuses on analysis and judgment, lateral thinking explores unconventional solutions.

Educators are encouraged to incorporate lateral thinking when designing tasks to improve students' literacy and problem-solving skills. This approach helps students develop multiple perspectives and alternative solutions to challenges. De Bono outlined several methods to foster lateral thinking:

1. Abandon strict logical frameworks.
2. Question established norms.
3. Consider alternative perspectives.
4. Generate new ideas and predict possible outcomes.
5. Identify unconventional entry points for problem-solving.

A skilled teacher selects appropriate assignments that consider students' individual characteristics, interests, and classroom environment to ensure lesson effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

Media education, media literacy, and media culture not only help individuals select reliable sources of information but also contribute to shaping a responsible and informed society. Proper use of information is directly linked to proper use of time.

The development of human capital is a crucial factor for advancing an innovative economy, knowledge-based industries, investment strategies, global information systems, cutting-edge technologies, and modern business models.

As educators, we have the responsibility to guide young people toward the right path. The quality of education, its alignment with international standards, and the ability of our youth to compete on a global scale depend on this mission.

REFERENCES

- UNESCO Uzbekistan Office. Pedagogical Aspects of Developing Media and Information Literacy. Tashkent: Extremum-Press, 2018.
- Abdullayeva, M. Innovative Approaches in Literary Education. Tashkent: Bookmaniy Print, 2024.
- Belinsky, V.G. Collected Works, Vol. 3. Moscow: Khudozhestvennaya Literatura, 1978.
- Dehqonova, L. Pedagogical Innovation in Practice. Tashkent: Mukharir Publishing, 2018.
- Edward de Bono. Lateral Thinking: A Textbook. Minsk: Popurr, 2022.

Mirzayeva, Z., & Jalilov, K. Methods of Teaching Uzbek Literature. Tashkent: Academ Space, 2024.

Abu Nasr Al-Farabi. The Virtuous City. Tashkent: Abdulla Qodiriy Publishing, 1993.

Online Sources:

<http://pravacheloveka.uz/uz/news/m14652>

<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/inson-ongi-kontseptsiyasining-psihoanalitik-ta-lili>