Developing Students' Independent Thinking Based On Modern Pedagogical Approaches In Primary Education

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Abstract: This article discusses the theoretical and methodological foundations of developing students' independent thinking in the process of primary education based on modern pedagogical approaches, competency-based, communicative, constructivist, interactive and creative technologies. The practical effectiveness of educational strategies that serve to form independent thinking, creating problem situations, group and pair activities, project methods, cognitive tasks and reflective approaches is analyzed.

Keywords: Primary education, modern pedagogical approaches, independent thinking, competency-based approach, constructivism, interactive methods, creative technologies, project method, reflective approach, pedagogical innovation, thinking competence.

Introduction: One of the most important tasks facing the education system today is to train independent, creative, enterprising and competitive specialists. Since students studying in the primary education field will be formed as primary school teachers who will increase the intellectual potential of society in the future, the development of their independent thinking skills has become an urgent scientific and pedagogical issue today. In the modern educational process, methods such as the competency approach, constructivist theory, interactive educational technologies, problem-based learning, and creative pedagogy play an important role in increasing the cognitive activity of students and directing them to independent thinking.

Nowadays, it is extremely important from a scientific and practical point of view to form independent thinking in students, ensure their active participation in the educational process, and develop the skills of analyzing, evaluating educational material, and drawing independent conclusions. This study aims to identify effective methods for teaching independent thinking to primary school students, analyze existing experiences, and study the impact of innovative educational technologies.

METHOD

Modern pedagogical approaches in primary education are aimed at developing students' independent thinking through problem-solving, questioning, and self-analysis. This includes developing logical, critical, creative, and social thinking, as well as problem-solving skills. Modern teaching methods, including project-based learning, games, teamwork, and the use of information and communication technologies, also support this process.

Methods for developing independent thinking

Learning to analyze topics and ask questions	Self-analysis
Project-based learning	Games and team activities

Teaching topic analysis and questioning: Students should be encouraged to explore the topic in depth and ask questions on their own.

Self-analysis: Teaching students to critically evaluate their own methods and mistakes.

Project-based learning: Students choose projects on their own, plan them, solve problems, and present their results.

Games and group activities: Group games and activities help students collaborate, share ideas, and solve problems together.

Use of Information and Communication Technologies: The use of technologies allows students to conduct independent research and prepare presentations.

Independent thinking is formed as a result of the combination of logical and creative thinking elements. Pedagogical research emphasizes that Independent thinking occurs based on cognitive processes such as understanding a problem situation, setting goals, analyzing, creating alternative solutions, making decisions, and evaluating. Problem-based learning encourages independent research. It develops the skills of identifying a problem, making assumptions, developing solution options, reasoning, and evaluating through technology.

STEAM integrative education forms independent thinking through real-life tasks, analysis-experimentation-creative solutions, and project activities.

Individual assignments, competitive learning activities, metacognitive questions, and reflection exercises serve to develop independent thinking.

The role of game and interactive methods. Methods such as "Brainstorming", "Insert", "Cluster", "6x6x6" systematize knowledge and activate analytical thinking. Analytical thinking, logical conclusions, creative solution creation, evaluation skills, and problem-solving criteria allow students to track their progress. According to research, modern pedagogical technologies increase students' cognitive activity and significantly develop the process of independent thinking.

CONCLUSION

Training students to think independently based on modern pedagogical approaches in primary education is one of the most urgent tasks of the current educational process. The study revealed that the constructivist approach, the competency-based education model, methods based on creating problem situations, interactive and creative educational technologies are highly effective in activating students' thinking. These approaches serve to promote students' active participation in the learning process, the formation of cognitive competencies such as independent analysis, logical thinking, drawing conclusions, and problem solving.

Also, the use of modern pedagogical technologies strengthens students' desire for self-development, establishes reflective thinking processes, and creates

the basis for their future methodological maturity as primary school teachers. The results obtained show that the development of independent thinking is a multifactorial process, and it gives more effective results when the content of education, the system of methods, an interactive environment, and creative pedagogical approaches are used in harmony.

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