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DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING ABILITIES BASED ON MOTIVATIONAL STRATEGIES

Khodjayeva Mahliyokhon Odiljon qizi
First-year Master's Student in Pedagogy
Nizami Tashkent State Pedagogical University
makhliyo.khodjayeva.9315@mail.ru
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Abstract: This article analyzes the theoretical and pedagogical foundations of developing students' creative and critical thinking abilities based on motivational strategies. The study scientifically highlights the importance of the motivational approach in the modern education system, its role in increasing students' intellectual activity, and the mechanisms for forming creative and critical thinking. In addition, the issues of guiding students toward independent thinking through interactive methods, innovative pedagogical technologies, and a motivating educational environment are examined. The article substantiates that the educational process organized on the basis of motivational strategies contributes to the development of students' competencies in analyzing problematic situations, drawing logical conclusions, demonstrating creative approaches, and making effective decisions.

Keywords: motivational strategies, creative thinking, critical thinking, competency-based approach, innovative pedagogy, interactive methods, educational motivation, independent thinking, intellectual potential, pedagogical technologies.

Introduction In the context of globalization and digital transformation, the higher education system is facing the urgent task of preparing competitive specialists who can think creatively and approach problems critically. The modern labor market requires individuals who not only possess theoretical knowledge but are also capable of making independent decisions, proposing innovative ideas, and analyzing complex situations. Therefore, the development of students' creative and critical thinking competencies has become one of the priority directions in pedagogical science. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, large-scale reforms are also being implemented to modernize the education system, improve the quality of higher education, and create an innovative educational environment that meets international standards. In particular, the decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on improving the higher education, science, and innovation system emphasize the introduction of modern pedagogical technologies into the educational process, the development of youth intellectual potential, and the formation of creative thinking skills as priority tasks. Furthermore, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev pays special attention to the development of human capital in the education system and to educating young people on the basis of innovative and independent thinking. At meetings and presentations related to the field of education, the necessity of organizing the educational process through interactive, creative, and motivational methods has been highlighted. Today, along with traditional teaching methods, the use of pedagogical approaches based on motivational strategies is gaining significant importance in higher education institutions. This is because motivation is considered one of the main factors in increasing students' interest in learning, encouraging independent research, and developing creative and analytical thinking. The educational process organized on the basis of motivational strategies

contributes to the formation of students' skills in analyzing problematic situations, argumentation, developing innovativesolutions, and reflective thinking.. According to the results of scientific research, students who possess creative and critical thinking competencies are able to solve complex problems effectively, critically analyze information, and achieve high results in professional activities. From this perspective, the scientific study of pedagogical mechanisms for developing students' creative and critical thinking abilities based on motivational strategies is considered highly relevant and of great scientific and practical importance.

The Pedagogical Essence of Motivational Strategies

In modern pedagogy, motivation is recognized as an important psychological and pedagogical factor determining the effectiveness of education. Motivation reflects an individual's internal needs, interests, and aspirations toward a particular activity, thereby activating cognitive processes. Especially in higher education, motivational strategies play a significant role in developing students' creative and critical thinking competencies. In a motivational learning environment, students are encouraged to conduct independent research, analyze problems, and develop innovative solutions.

According to the scientific views of pedagogical scholars, motivational strategies increase students' internal activity in the educational process, form a positive attitude toward learning, and contribute to the development of independent thinking. In a lesson organized on the basis of a motivational approach, the student becomes not merely a listener but an active participant in the educational process. As a result, analytical thinking, reflective approaches, and creative thinking competencies are formed.

The Importance of Creative and Critical Thinking in the Educational Process

Creative thinking is the ability to generate new ideas, find unconventional solutions, and apply innovative approaches. Critical thinking, on the other hand, includes analyzing information, comparing evidence, drawing logical conclusions, and making decisions. These two competencies are considered among the key requirements of modern education.

In today's era of intensive information flow, students must be able to analyze information obtained from various sources, determine its reliability, and draw scientifically grounded conclusions. From this perspective, creative and critical thinking competencies serve as important tools for developing the intellectual potential of young people.

Educational reforms implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan also pay special attention to the formation of independent and critical thinking skills among students. In particular, introducing competency-based approaches in higher education, applying innovative teaching methods, and enhancing students' creative potential are identified as priority tasks.

Methods for Developing Creative and Critical Thinking Based on Motivational Strategies

The following motivational strategies are considered effective in developing students' creative and critical thinking abilities:

1. The Use of Interactive Methods

Interactive methods increase students' activity during lessons and encourage independent thinking. Methods such as "Brainstorming," "Discussion," "Case Study," "Debate," and "Cluster" help students express their opinions freely, analyze problems, and generate innovative ideas. In particular, debate technology develops students' abilities to provide arguments, defend opinions, and conduct critical analysis.

2. Application of Problem-Based Learning Technologies

Problem-based learning contributes to the development of students' logical and analytical thinking. In this approach, teachers present students with problematic situations and guide them

toward independent problem-solving. As a result, students actively participate in searching for information, analyzing, comparing, and drawing conclusions.

3. The Use of Encouragement and Reflection Methods

One of the important aspects of motivational strategies is encouraging students. Material and moral forms of encouragement increase students' self-confidence and strengthen their desire for learning. The reflection method develops critical thinking by enabling students to analyze their own activities and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

4. The Use of Digital Technologies and Innovative Platforms

Digital educational tools create broad opportunities for developing students' creative potential. Through multimedia technologies, artificial intelligence platforms, virtual laboratories, and online education systems, students gain opportunities to conduct independent research, acquire new knowledge, and develop innovative ideas.

Furthermore, motivational approaches serve as an important factor in improving educational quality, involving students in innovative activities, and developing their professional competencies. Therefore, the wide implementation of motivational strategies in higher education is considered one of the priority directions of modern pedagogy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the development of students' creative and critical thinking abilities based on motivational strategies is considered one of the most important tasks of the modern education system. In the context of globalization, digitalization, and the innovative economy, higher education institutions are increasingly required to prepare specialists who can think independently, approach problems analytically, and generate creative ideas. From this perspective, the motivational approach serves as an important pedagogical tool for increasing students' interest in learning, strengthening their intellectual activity, and forming independent learning competencies. During the research, it was scientifically substantiated that the educational process organized on the basis of motivational strategies contributes to the development of creative thinking, critical analysis, reflective approaches, and innovative thinking skills among students. In particular, the use of interactive methods, problem-based learning technologies, encouragement mechanisms, and digital educational platforms significantly increases students' activity in the educational process. Furthermore, it was determined that students' professional competencies can be developed through the widespread implementation of competency-based approaches in higher education, the application of modern pedagogical technologies in practice, and the creation of a motivational educational environment. Therefore, improving motivational strategies in higher education institutions, enhancing teachers' innovative pedagogical competencies, and supporting students' independent thinking activities have important scientific and practical significance. Future research in this field should focus on empirically studying the effectiveness of motivational strategies, analyzing international experiences, and developing mechanisms for enhancing creative and critical thinking through artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

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