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INNOVATIVE EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT: This article discusses the use of innovative technologies in primary education. It examines the role of new teaching methods, including interactive learning, digital technologies, project-based learning, educational games, and multimedia tools, in increasing pupils’ interest. It also highlights the impact of innovative technologies on the development of thinking, independence, engagement, and creative abilities among primary school pupils.
Keywords: innovative education, primary grades, educational technologies, interactive methods, multimedia tools, pupil engagement, quality of education.

Innovative education is one of the important areas in the development of the modern education system in primary schools. In today’s context, schools should not only provide pupils with knowledge but also develop their thinking skills, independence, creativity, and ability to apply knowledge in practice. Therefore, the use of innovative methods and technologies in primary grades is particularly important. In traditional education, the teacher mainly provides information, while pupils receive it. In innovative education, however, the pupil is at the centre of the learning process. Pupils should participate actively, express their opinions, ask questions, make observations, and draw conclusions independently. The teacher acts as a guide who directs and organizes pupils’ activities. The main goal of innovative education in primary grades is to ensure the comprehensive development of the child as an individual. This type of education helps develop the following skills:

- independent thinking;
- the ability to analyse and compare;
- creativity;
- the ability to work in a group;
- communication skills;
- the use of modern technologies.

The use of active methods in the educational process is an integral part of a teacher’s professional practice. To use active methods and modern technologies effectively, teachers must first possess the necessary knowledge, skills, practical abilities, and general cultural and professional competencies. Before beginning the teaching process, teachers should assess their professional level and identify the areas in which they succeed as well as aspects of their work that need improvement. This creates a foundation for enhancing their professional skills, improving the quality of education, and applying innovative technologies effectively. Today, a teacher’s role is not limited to providing information; it also involves discovering knowledge together with pupils, developing their skills and abilities, and fostering the competencies required of a modern individual. Teachers should not simply deliver ready-made knowledge but should cooperate with the class to find the most effective ways of acquiring knowledge, developing skills, and supporting personal growth. The use of interactive methods is highly effective for this purpose. The key principles of interactive methods—also referred to as active or, more specifically, collaborative methods—include the following:

✓ Teachers and pupils have equal opportunities to participate in discussions.
✓ Pupils take initiative and share their knowledge and experiences with one another.
✓ Favourable conditions are created for exploration and research.
✓ Each pupil is treated supportively, with their individual characteristics taken into account.
✓ Priority is given to activities based on pair and group work that require mutual cooperation.

These methods are founded on consultation: exchanging opinions, offering advice, and discussing a particular issue together.

✓ One important way to educate young pupils while taking their knowledge and learning abilities into account is to develop their capacity for independent learning and analysis. Naturally, when a person learns a new concept or meaning, they analyse it psychologically in accordance with their abilities, potential, and opportunities, regardless of their conscious intention. The results of a person's own independent analysis often remain in their memory throughout their life.

In this regard, the teacher's role is to help pupils analyse information correctly from a psychological and pedagogical perspective, improve their independent thinking, and help them reach more complete and accurate conclusions.

The use of innovative technologies in primary grades should be appropriate to children's age-related characteristics. Young children learn more effectively through games, images, conversations, and practical activities. Therefore, teachers should choose methods that capture pupils' attention and encourage them to participate actively.

One effective method is learning through games. In this approach, learning materials are presented through games. For example, language and reading lessons can include games such as "Who Is Faster?", "Find a Word," and "Make a Sentence." In mathematics lessons, exercises and problems can be organized as competitions or logic games.

Games increase pupils' interest in lessons, make learning easier, and make education more engaging. They also help develop children's thinking, quickness, independence, and cooperation skills.

Another important approach is interactive learning, which is based on active cooperation between teachers and pupils. During lessons, pupils work in groups, express their opinions, ask one another questions, and look for answers. In primary grades, methods such as "Brainstorming," "Clustering," "Venn Diagram," "Question and Answer," and "Free Microphone" can produce good results.

The Venn diagram method is used to compare two objects, people, or phenomena. For example, pupils can compare spring and autumn or domestic and wild animals. This method helps develop pupils' analytical thinking skills.

The use of information and communication technologies is also highly important in primary education. Today, teachers in many schools use interactive whiteboards, computers, mobile devices, video clips, and presentations. For example, when explaining a new topic, a teacher can show pupils various pictures, videos, or engaging presentations. This attracts pupils' attention and helps them understand and learn the material more effectively.

Project-based learning is particularly effective because pupils independently collect information, draw pictures, write stories, or present the results of their work. For example, for a project on "The Seasons of the Year," pupils can prepare pictures, poems, and information about each season. Such activities develop their ability to work independently, be creative, conduct research, and express their ideas freely.

Despite the many advantages of innovative education, some challenges remain in its implementation. Not all teachers are sufficiently familiar with new technologies. Some schools lack

the necessary technical equipment, while some teachers continue to rely mainly on traditional teaching methods.

To overcome these challenges, it is necessary to improve teachers' professional skills, organize specialized training courses for them, and equip schools with modern technical resources. This will create greater opportunities to use innovative educational technologies effectively and further improve the quality of education.

In conclusion, innovative education in primary grades plays an important role in improving educational quality, increasing pupil engagement, and supporting children's personal development. The use of game-based methods, interactive approaches, and modern technologies enables pupils not only to acquire knowledge but also to apply it in everyday life. Therefore, every teacher should seek to make extensive use of innovative methods and technologies in their teaching practice. This helps develop pupils' independent thinking, creativity, engagement, and ability to apply knowledge in practice. As a result, the learning process becomes more effective, meaningful, and interesting.

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