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# FORMING A READING CULTURE AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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**Abstract.**
This article discusses the theoretical and practical foundations of developing a reading culture among primary school students. It analyzes the role of reading in increasing students' interest in books, improving reading literacy, and fostering their moral and spiritual development. The article also highlights the importance of cooperation between teachers, parents, and schools in promoting reading habits among young learners. Various effective methods and pedagogical approaches for encouraging reading culture in primary education are presented and discussed.

**Keywords:**
reading culture, reading literacy, primary education, students, reading habits, moral education, learning process, pedagogical methods, book reading, intellectual development.

**Introduction.**One of the most important tasks of the modern education system is to raise a generation that is intellectually developed, spiritually mature, and capable of independent thinking. In achieving this goal, books and reading play a significant role. Reading serves as a valuable source of knowledge, enriches a person's spiritual world, and develops critical and creative thinking skills.

Primary school is a crucial stage in a child's personal and intellectual development. It is during this period that children develop an interest in books and acquire reading habits that can influence their future academic success. Students with a strong reading culture tend to have a broader vocabulary, better comprehension skills, and a higher capacity for independent learning.

The lmportance of reading culture.Reading culture refers to an individual's interest in books, regular reading habits, ability to understand and analyze texts, and capacity to apply acquired knowledge in everyday life. It contributes not only to academic achievement but also to personal growth and moral development.

For primary school students, reading fairy tales, stories, poems, and adventure books stimulates imagination and broadens their worldview. Through books, children learn about different characters, cultures, and life situations, helping them distinguish between positive and negative behaviors and develop important human values.

Methods of developing reading culture in primary education.Teachers can apply various methods to foster reading culture among students. Establishing classroom libraries, organizing reading hours, conducting book presentations, and encouraging storytelling activities can significantly increase students' interest in reading.

Role-playing and dramatization of stories are also effective techniques. Such activities help children better understand literary works while making the learning process more engaging and enjoyable. In addition, organizing competitions such as “Best Reader” or “Most Active Book Lover” can motivate students to read more regularly.

The role of teachers.Teachers play a key role in developing students' reading culture. They should not only provide knowledge but also inspire a love for books. By recommending age-appropriate literature, integrating reading activities into lessons, and serving as role models, teachers can significantly influence students' attitudes toward reading.

The use of interactive teaching methods and innovative educational technologies can further enhance students' interest in books and reading activities.

The Importance of parent-school cooperation.Developing a reading culture is not solely the responsibility of schools. Parents also play an essential role in encouraging children to read. Creating a reading-friendly environment at home, providing access to books, and discussing stories together can strengthen children's interest in reading.

When parents actively participate in their children's reading experiences, students are more likely to develop lifelong reading habits and achieve better educational outcomes.

Modern technologies and reading.In today's digital age, electronic books, audiobooks, and online libraries have become increasingly popular. These resources can effectively support the development of reading culture when used appropriately. Digital tools provide students with easier access to educational materials and create additional opportunities for learning.

However, technology should complement rather than replace traditional book reading. Maintaining a balance between digital and printed resources is essential for developing effective reading habits.

Conclusion.In conclusion, fostering a reading culture among primary school students is an important component of both education and upbringing. Reading enhances students' intellectual abilities, enriches their spiritual world, and develops independent and creative thinking skills.

Effective cooperation among teachers, parents, and educational institutions is crucial for promoting reading habits. Through systematic and purposeful efforts, it is possible to raise a knowledgeable, morally mature, and intellectually capable younger generation.

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