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PEDAGOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF CREATIVE APPROACH TO TEACHING

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Annotation: This thesis explores the pedagogical possibilities of preparing students for creative activity based on a creative approach. The creative approach creates the necessary conditions for the development of students' ability to think freely, generate new ideas, and solve problems using innovative methods. The thesis analyzes the theoretical foundations of the creative approach, methods of its implementation in the educational process, as well as ways to develop problem-based learning and divergent thinking. In addition, the role of the teacher in supporting creative activity, creating a creative environment, and evaluating students' creative performance is discussed. The thesis reveals important aspects of fostering creativity in the pedagogical process and demonstrates the potential of modern educational technologies to enhance students' creative abilities.

Keywords: Creative approach, Creative activity, Pedagogical opportunities, Problem-based learning, Divergent thinking, Creative competencies, Learning environment, Innovative pedagogy, Educational technologies, Students' creative preparedness.

In the modern educational system, the need to develop students' creative activity through a creative approach is steadily increasing. The creative approach enables students to generate new ideas, think freely, and solve problems in innovative ways. Developing creativity in the learning process not only facilitates knowledge acquisition but also ensures the formation of creative competencies among learners.

This article analyzes the pedagogical potential of the creative approach, its application in the educational process, and its role in enhancing students' creative potential. Through this approach, students not only consolidate their knowledge but also gain the ability to express their ideas independently and innovatively.

In today's era of globalization and technological advancement, there is a growing need for new approaches in education. These changes require teachers not only to impart knowledge but also to nurture students as individuals capable of creative thinking and innovative problem-solving. At this point, the importance of the creative approach in the educational process becomes particularly significant. Creativity serves as a means for students to develop their creative potential and apply existing knowledge in new and original ways.

Creativity is the ability to generate new, original, and innovative ideas. The creative potential of students allows them not only to acquire existing knowledge but also to create new knowledge and view familiar concepts from a fresh perspective.

The main principles of the creative approach are as follows:

It encourages free thinking, allows for creative mistakes, and enables learning from those mistakes. Within this approach, students are taught self-expression and independent problem-solving.

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Differences between the creative and traditional teaching methods:
Traditional teaching methods often focus on memorization and adherence to strict rules, whereas the creative approach is based on free thinking, creative research, and innovative ideas. In traditional lessons, methods such as lectures, question-and-answer sessions, and practical exercises dominate. However, today, lessons based on the creative approach and methods of creative learning are gaining popularity.
Creative teaching methods make lessons more effective and inspire learners toward creativity and critical thinking. One of the modern methods in creative education is the "Project Method." This method, applicable from the 4th grade to university level, helps students develop creativity and independent thinking. Students are divided into four groups, each receiving a project template, and they choose topics that interest them. The project work provides students not only with knowledge but also with the skills necessary to carry out large-scale projects in the future. The main goal of project-based learning is to give students the opportunity to apply their ideas in practice.
The development of competencies through a creative approach also plays an important role. The creative approach helps students develop essential 21st-century skills such as problem-solving, innovation, adaptability, and critical thinking.
Methods of implementing the creative approach in the educational process include:
Problem-based learning: The teacher introduces various problems to students and allows them to find creative solutions. This method tests students' abilities and develops their creative thinking.
Developing Divergent Thinking
Developing divergent (branched) thinking refers to the ability to propose multiple solutions at the same time. This method encourages students to think in many different, non-similar ways.
Brainstorming: This technique creates an environment where learners can express their thoughts freely. Through brainstorming, they can collaboratively develop new ideas. An example of this can be seen in the method called "Checkers Pieces."
Checkers is both an engaging sport and an art form — one of the types of mental gymnastics that encourages logical thinking among students. Checkers is a logical board game for two players in which pieces are moved across a checkered board in a specific pattern. During the game, each player has pieces of one color — black or white. The goal of the game is to capture all of the opponent's pieces or block them so that they cannot move.
When applied as a teaching method, the "Checkers Pieces" approach is conducted as follows:
Preparation: One day before the lesson, the class or students are divided into groups.
Grouping: The class is divided into six groups, with no more than five students per group.

Materials: The teacher prepares three checkerboards for the six teams
Assignments: Preparing the checker pieces is assigned to team members as a task.
Question Design: Questions for the opposing teams are written on the back of the checker pieces
Gameplay: Each team's prepared pieces are placed on the checkerboard. For example, the team that prepared the white pieces plays under the black ones, and vice versa.
Question Round: The team that correctly answers the question written on the back of the piece continues the game. If the team cannot answer, that piece is removed from the board.
Scoring: One point is given for each correct answer. Capturing an opponent's piece earns two points.

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Judging: Three students act as referees for the six teams. They monitor rule compliance, fairness, and accuracy while recording scores. This task requires attentiveness, fairness, and responsibility.

Team Identity: Each group chooses a name and selects a team leader. The teacher evaluates the teams' performance using reward cards, and the team that wins first place receives a "Checkers Set" as a souvenir prize.

Using the "Checkers Pieces" method in reinforcement lessons or at the end of each term makes the class process more colorful and engaging. It also strengthens students' knowledge by encouraging review through repetition.

Designing the Learning Process

Organizing learning activities through projects is an effective way to engage students in creative processes. It allows learners to work independently in various directions. The teacher's role is to create a classroom atmosphere that stimulates creativity — encouraging freedom, confidence, and active participation.

The learning environment should foster collaboration, discussion, and open creativity. Teachers must pay attention to students' individual abilities and support their development according to their unique talents. By providing personalized guidance and encouragement, students' creative potential can be unlocked.

Creative Activity and Motivation

Creative activity represents the learner's personal attitude toward their work — gaining satisfaction from it, striving for novelty during the process, and being motivated to find original solutions. It involves the ability to transfer previously acquired knowledge, skills, and methods to new contexts, and to recognize new functions in familiar objects or problems.

Motivation plays a crucial role in the development of creative activity. Students' engagement in creative processes largely depends on their motivation. Intrinsic motivation arises from the learner's own interest and desire to participate in creative work, while extrinsic motivation stems from the teacher's encouragement and reinforcement methods. Recognizing creative achievements and rewarding students boosts their self-confidence and motivates them to continue creative activity.

The Teacher's Role and Use of Technology

A teacher must possess a high level of creativity in their pedagogical practice. They should apply creative approaches in teaching — testing new methods, designing innovative tasks, and organizing lessons in imaginative ways. Teachers should encourage open discussion of problems and allow students to express their ideas freely.

The use of innovative technologies has become increasingly widespread in recent years. Digital tools provide positive outcomes and significantly expand students' creative opportunities. For instance, using graphic design software, video editing tools, and digital design platforms helps students develop and showcase their creative work.

Moreover, virtual and augmented reality (VR and AR) technologies offer learners new experiences, broaden their creative imagination, and bring novelty into the learning process.

Conclusion

In conclusion, developing students' creative activity through a creative approach is an essential component of modern education. This approach teaches learners to think freely, generate new ideas, and apply them in practice. The theoretical and practical methods discussed in this article demonstrate the effectiveness of creating a creative environment and developing students' creative abilities through problem-based situations.

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Teachers must inspire and reveal students' creative potential through their own innovative pedagogical activity. In addition, the integration of digital and innovative technologies can elevate creative engagement to a new level.

The creative approach not only enables students to acquire knowledge but also to apply it in creative and original ways. Therefore, the broad implementation of creative approaches in the educational process is one of the key responsibilities facing today's educators.

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