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## METHODOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT THINKING SKILLS AMONG STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### Annotation

This research analyzes the methodology for developing independent thinking skills among students in higher education. The article explores the stages of forming independent thinking skills, the role of modern pedagogical technologies in enhancing these skills, and the criteria and indicators for assessing independent thinking. The aim of the research is to systematize methods for developing students' independent thinking and identify effective strategies for implementing them in the contemporary educational system.

**Key words:** Higher education, independent thinking, pedagogy, personal development, professional growth, teaching methods, innovative pedagogical approaches, critical thinking, creative approaches, analytical skills.

## OLIIY TA'LIMDA TALABALARNING MUSTAQIL FIKRLASH KO'NIKMALARINI RIVOJLANTIRISH METODIKASI

### Annotatsiya

Ushbu tadqiqotda oliy ta'lim muassasalarida talabalarning mustaqil fikrlash ko'nikmalarini shakllantirish metodikasi tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada mustaqil fikrlash ko'nikmalarining shakllanish bosqichlari, zamonaviy pedagogik texnologiyalarning bu ko'nikmalarni rivojlantirishdagi o'rni, shuningdek, mustaqil fikrlashni baholash mezonlari va ko'rsatkichlari ko'rib chiqiladi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi – talabalarda mustaqil fikrlashni rivojlantirish metodlarini tizimlashtirish va ularni zamonaviy ta'lim tizimiga joriy etish bo'yicha samarali strategiyalarni aniqlashdan iborat.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Oliy ta'lim, mustaqil fikrlash, pedagogika, shaxsiy rivojlanish, kasbiy o'sish, o'qitish usullari, innovatsion pedagogik yondashuvlar, tanqidiy fikrlash, ijodiy yondashuvlar, tahliliy ko'nikmalar.

## МЕТОДИКА РАЗВИТИЯ НАВЫКОВ САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ У СТУДЕНТОВ В ВЫСШЕМ ОБРАЗОВАНИИ

### Аннотация

В данном исследовании анализируется методика развития навыков самостоятельного мышления у студентов высших учебных заведений. В статье рассматриваются этапы формирования этих навыков, роль современных педагогических технологий в их совершенствовании, а также критерии и показатели оценки самостоятельного мышления. Цель исследования — систематизировать методы развития самостоятельного мышления у студентов и определить эффективные стратегии их внедрения в современную образовательную систему.

**Ключевые слова:** Высшее образование, самостоятельное мышление, педагогика, личностное развитие, профессиональный рост, методы обучения, инновационные педагогические подходы, критическое мышление, творческие подходы, аналитические навыки.

**Introduction.** In today's era of globalization, fostering independent thinking has become one of the most crucial tasks of the higher education system. As emphasized by Uzbekistan's first President I.A. Karimov, "In a democratic society, children, and indeed every individual, should be raised to think freely. If children do not learn to think independently, the effectiveness of the education provided will inevitably be low."

Developing independent thinking and managing it scientifically and methodically aids individuals in navigating all situations and phenomena in life. This is vital for individuals to find their place in society more swiftly.

Current educational trends indicate that the information and knowledge we impart to students constitute only a small fraction of what they will utilize throughout their lives. Therefore, shaping students' independent thinking skills is essential for building the future of our nation.

The objective of this study is to explore the methodology for developing independent thinking skills among students in higher education and to devise effective

educational strategies based on modern pedagogical approaches.

**Methods.** The following scientific-pedagogical methods were utilized during the research:

**Literature Review:** Examination and systematization of scientific works, pedagogical concepts, and methodological approaches by researchers from Uzbekistan and abroad concerning independent thinking.

**Comparison and Generalization:** Evaluating the effectiveness of various pedagogical technologies and methods by comparing them in relation to the development of independent thinking.

**Systematic Approach:** Comprehensive analysis of all aspects related to the formation of independent thinking and identifying the interrelationships among various components of the educational process.

**Pedagogical Modeling:** Creating a model for the methodology of developing independent thinking skills among students in higher education.

Throughout the study, the concept of independent thinking, its significance in our lives, and methods for its development have been analyzed.

**Results.** The following significant conclusions were drawn from the research:

**Concept and Importance of Independent Thinking:** Independent thinking involves a student's ability to utilize their knowledge, experiences, and analytical skills to approach problems individually. It encompasses not only learning information but also analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and making decisions. Independent thinking fosters students' creativity and critical thinking skills.

In higher education, students' independent thinking abilities are essential not only for conducting scientific research but also for resolving complex real-life issues. Developing independent thinking skills contributes to decisiveness, creativity, a broad worldview, the ability to solve problems independently, self-improvement, and achieving high performance.

**Methods for Shaping Independent Thinking Skills:** The research identified several effective methods for developing independent thinking, including:

**Seminars and Practical Sessions:** Students must learn to express their thoughts clearly and substantiated.

**Projects and Research:** Encouraging students to think independently through their scientific projects or activities.

**Discussions and Debates:** Employing active discussion and idea exchange methods in lessons to promote independent thinking.

**Freedom in Choosing Educational Materials:** Allowing students to select topics that align with their interests.

**Innovative Pedagogical Technologies:** Applying modern educational methods and approaches.

Innovative methods and interactive techniques are factors that enhance the effectiveness of teaching. Technological activities significantly contribute to students' logical, creative, critical, and independent thinking development.

**Role of Modern Pedagogical Technologies in Developing Independent Thinking:** Contemporary pedagogical technologies play a crucial role in shaping students' independent thinking skills. The development of teaching methods should focus on encouraging students to think independently and actively participate. The use of computer technology allows students to grasp subjects more quickly and easily.

In an innovative educational system, the role of fostering independent thinking is significant. It is vital to connect theoretical knowledge provided in the educational process with practical application; otherwise, the quality of education may decline, and students' interest in learning may diminish.

A student's ability to think independently is also evident in problematic situations. An active engagement in the learning process and participation during lessons reflect this ability. When a student calmly expresses their opinion in discussions and can find multiple solutions in challenging scenarios, they demonstrate their independent thinking skills.

**Discussion.** Analysis of the research findings indicates that the following aspects are crucial for developing

independent thinking skills among students in higher education:

**Interconnection of Creativity and Critical Thinking:** Moving away from rigid teaching formats allows for the development of critical and creative thinking in students, encouraging them to engage in creative thought and generate new ideas, thereby changing their approach to learning and motivating them to achieve success.

**Interrelation of Thought and Speech:** Independent thinking is closely linked to an individual's speech and language, continuously reflecting each other. During the process of developing independent thinking skills, a student forms thoughts, ideas, goals, imaginings, reflections, and hypotheses, which are expressed in their consciousness as conclusions, experiences, and understandings.

**Preparation for Professional Activity:** Developing students' independent thinking skills prepares them for their professional careers and enhances their ability to manage themselves and solve problems in life. Independent thinking is significant in modern professional activities, scientific research, and innovative endeavors.

**Importance at the Level of State Policy:** As noted by the President of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, "We mobilize all our resources to ensure that our youth develop independent thinking, possess high intellectual and spiritual potential, and grow into individuals who are not lacking in any field compared to their peers globally." This policy emphasizes the state-level significance of cultivating independent thinking skills.

**Conclusion.** The development of independent thinking skills is one of the key tasks in modern higher education. Based on the research findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

Independent thinking is the ability of a student to develop their thoughts and make independent decisions in addressing scientific and practical issues. This process includes analyzing, carefully examining problems, and selecting approaches.

Enhancing students' independent thinking skills provides them with the opportunity not only to acquire knowledge but also to develop new approaches based on their views and ideas.

The application of modern pedagogical technologies in the educational field and lesson processes increases students' enthusiasm for knowledge and contributes to the development of their imagination, creativity, and independent thinking abilities.

As a result of fostering independent thinking, a student can express their opinion and find solutions in any problematic situation. Students with such abilities can express their thoughts in a productive manner.

This research underscores the necessity of a comprehensive approach to developing independent thinking skills among students in higher education. This approach includes the use of innovative pedagogical technologies, directing the educational process towards increasing student engagement, and organizing practical activities that encourage independent thinking.

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