

DEVELOPING DIGITAL COMPETENCE IN STUDENTS

Khonimkulov Ulugbek Suyunbaevich

Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, Lecturer,

Department of Information Technologies and Systems

e-mail: xonimqulovulugbek1985@gmail.com

Abstract: This article analyzes the relevance of developing digital competencies in students, its content, and effective methods used in the educational process. An educational environment organized on the basis of digital technologies teaches students to effectively use modern information and communication technologies and increases their professional readiness. The article also highlights the pedagogical conditions and methodological approaches to the formation of digital competencies.

Keywords: digital competence, digital learning environment, information technology, student, innovative education, ICT.

Nowadays, the widespread introduction of digital technologies in all spheres of society requires new approaches in the education system. In the conditions of the digital economy, a modern specialist must not only have professional knowledge, but also have the skills to effectively use information and communication technologies.

Therefore, developing students' digital competence is one of the important tasks in higher education institutions. Digital competence represents a student's ability to search, analyze, process, store and effectively use information.

The accelerating process of digitalization has led to an increased focus on and demand for digital competencies. New educational strategies have emerged in response to the new demands for the development of professional skills for future professionals in society. Along with the new pedagogical challenges facing teachers, the digital competence of students plays a crucial role in the new educational paradigm.

As key agents of learning, students should be prepared to use digital competence in their educational and professional activities. Digital competence not only provides the basis for the use of digital technologies, but can also be related to various necessary skills for students. Students with high digital competence are likely to have a high level of participation in the educational process and interest in learning. The development of digital competence should be perceived as part of continuous, lifelong learning. Nowadays, when the conditions of teaching and learning have truly changed, the use of ICT has become an integral part of the educational process and is closely related to the performance of teachers and the success of students.

" **digital competence** ", which is a broad concept. Digital competence is considered as a set of knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to use digital technologies to effectively optimize our daily lives. It is included in the core competencies of lifelong learning as one of the basic life skills and is defined as the confident, meaningful and responsible use and interaction with digital technologies for learning, working and participating in society. Digital competence is also understood as a set of cognitive, ideological and technological skills that help to overcome many of the problems and challenges of today's knowledge society and are dynamic and multifaceted.

Digital competence encompasses not only digital skills, but also the social and emotional aspects of using and understanding digital devices and related technologies. Competence is more than just knowledge and skills. It encompasses the ability to meet complex demands by using and mobilizing socio-psychological resources (including skills and abilities) in a given context. Digital competence is seen as a multifaceted, moving goal that spans different domains and spans multiple domains.

Digital competence consists of skills that are both tangible and intangible. In this context, it is important to emphasize the coexistence of dimensions at the technical, cognitive and ethical levels, as well as the integration of relevant skills within these parameters.

Students' digital competence consists of the following components:

1. **Information literacy** – finding, sorting, and using necessary information from the Internet and electronic sources.
2. **Technological competence** – skills in using computers, software, and digital platforms.
3. **Communicative competence** - communicating effectively in a digital environment, working on email, forums, and platforms.
4. **Information security competency** – protecting personal data and complying with cybersecurity regulations.

The importance of developing digital competence in students

Developing digital competencies in students creates the following opportunities:

- effective organization of the educational process;
- develop independent learning skills;
- expanding opportunities for scientific research;
- training competitive personnel in the modern labor market.

A digitally competent student can analyze the flow of information, quickly master new technologies, and apply them in their academic and professional activities.

Methods for developing digital competencies

The following methods are effective in developing students' digital competence in the educational process:

1. Interactive teaching methods

Interactive methods involve students in an active learning process. For example:

- "Brainstorming"
- "Case study"
- "Project Method"

2. Use of digital learning platforms

For example:

- Moodle
- Google Classroom
- Microsoft Teams

These platforms provide students with the opportunity to receive distance learning.

3. Practical training

Students strengthen their practical skills by working with computer programs. For example:

- working with text editors
- create spreadsheets
- preparing presentations

4. Organization of independent learning

Students independently improve their knowledge using Internet resources, electronic libraries, and online courses.

The role of the digital learning environment

A digital learning environment is an educational process organized on the basis of modern information technologies.

Such an environment includes the following elements:

- e-learning platforms
- virtual laboratories
- multimedia resources
- online testing systems

A digital learning environment increases students' interest in the learning process and develops their creative thinking.

In conclusion, the development of digital competencies in students is one of the important tasks of the modern education system. The educational process organized on the basis of digital technologies develops students' independent thinking, information skills, and professional readiness.

Therefore, the effective use of digital technologies in higher education institutions and equipping students with digital competencies is a pressing issue.

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