



DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKING THROUGH THE FORMATION OF A READING CULTURE IN STUDENTS

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Annotation: This article discusses the importance of engaging students in a reading culture through creative approaches. It emphasizes the implementation of effective methods to increase students' interest in books, encouraging them to discover new worlds, acquire knowledge, and develop a lifelong habit of reading. Furthermore, it explores how reading can foster creativity, cultivate critical thinking, and build moral values.

Keywords: universal values, creative approach, society, social life, creative thinking, Uzbek families, reading culture, child upbringing, family education, morality, cooperation, positive attitude, interactive games, values.

INTRODUCTION

Goal 70 of the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026" is titled "Improving State Policy on Youth." It emphasizes the need to raise young people who are patriotic, civic-minded, tolerant, respectful of laws and national and universal values, and resilient against harmful influences. This reflects the necessity of instilling in youth a lifestyle based on national and universal values—a task that is difficult to achieve without reading and creative thinking.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Theoretical foundations for developing individuals' creative abilities have been studied in the works of scholars from the Commonwealth of Independent States such as D. Elkonin, O Vasilchenko, E Melkumova, V. Miretskaya, L.V. Vygotsky, A. Leontiev, E Emmanuel, and M. Sukhomlinova. Foreign scholars such as J. Purnell, E.P. Torrance, Sh. Tatsuno, N. Rogers, P. Roberts, and A.M. Galligan have explored the development of individual abilities and creative potential. According to experts in education and psychology, creative thinking, which is associated with engaging in creative activities, also enhances other personal skills such as metacognition, interpersonal communication, self-awareness, and problem-solving abilities. Moreover, a person's intellectual development, academic success, future career achievements, and social reputation are also linked to their creative thinking skills.

DISCUSSION

Creative approaches and achievements have advanced human civilization in various fields—from science and technology to philosophy, art, and social sciences. Creative thinking is more than just generating random ideas; it is a real skill based on knowledge and experience that enables individuals to achieve better outcomes, even in challenging situations. Across the globe, societies and organizations are increasingly relying on innovative knowledge and creativity to solve problems, which further underscores the importance of creativity. While creative thinking often drives significant innovation, it is also a universal and equalizing phenomenon—every person possesses creative thinking skills to some extent.

The reading culture plays a vital role in nurturing individuals who love books, appreciate their content, and gain knowledge from them. In modern education, applying creative approaches to promote reading culture among students not only enhances their knowledge but also helps

develop their talents and interests.

What is a Creative Approach? A creative approach is the process of developing new ideas, methods, and ways of thinking. In education, this approach aims to increase students' engagement, motivate them to create, and develop their abilities. Students should not only gain knowledge from reading books but also have the opportunity to express their emotions, imagination, and ideas.

Today, attracting students to reading has become an urgent issue. There are several creative methods to encourage students to read books:

Interactive games – Organizing games based on literary works helps students engage more deeply with books and increases their interest in reading and library usage.

Creative writing – Assigning students to write their own stories or poems allows them to create new works inspired by the books they've read.

Drama and theatre – Staging book content interests students and helps them understand the emotions of the characters more deeply. Dramatizing the original texts can also be an exciting experience for students.

In developing a reading culture among teachers and students, it is recommended to follow several criteria to cultivate love for reading and increase reading levels, especially when it comes to scientific, popular, artistic, and historical literature:

Identify what types of books students are interested in and assess their level of thinking.

Pay attention to developing their thinking abilities and communication skills to interact freely with society.

Foster the ability to express their thoughts clearly and fluently.

Teach students to read works that match their interests and ask questions about the content to form reading habits, including encouraging them to keep a journal. Improve their skills in expressive reading and pronouncing written language elements clearly.

While reading literature, we observe that students experience direct excitement and a variety of emotions. Encouraging interest in reading popular science and artistic works helps students develop a thoughtful and logical attitude toward surrounding events. It also sharpens their curiosity about the world. Moreover, students gain initial insights into the lives, thoughts, and adventures of their peers, the importance of protecting nature, and the history of their homeland—thus accumulating social and moral experience.

Studying popular science, fiction, and historical works serves not only educational purposes but also plays a role in personality development and protecting students from harmful ideologies.

Particularly for adolescents, developing an interest in reading and discussion is very important.

At this age, students begin to feel more independent and energetic. Their curiosity about the world increases, and they often engage in their interests secretly, avoiding the supervision of adults. They may start lying, hiding their mistakes, or pretending to be more mature. Therefore, it is essential for parents, teachers, mentors, and community leaders to monitor how students spend their free time and what activities they are involved in.

RESULTS

In recent years, high school students have increasingly spent their free time watching TV, browsing the internet, or consuming various forms of entertainment. This has had an influence on their susceptibility to foreign ideas. Organizing meaningful cultural and spiritual events at schools is an effective way to counteract this and encourage positive development.

In addition to encouraging students to read, it is equally important to teach them how to understand, analyze, and discuss books effectively:

Book discussions – Organizing discussions on books that have been read allows students to exchange ideas, share experiences, and become open to diverse perspectives.

Written assignments and engaging topics – Encouraging students to write about their favorite topics or books helps them practice expressing their opinions, conducting research, and thinking creatively.

Reading festivals – Hosting reading festivals at the school or regional level enables students to present their favorite books, share their experiences, and discover new reading materials.

Conclusion

In conclusion, adopting a creative approach to foster reading culture among students is an effective method to spark and strengthen their interest in books. Through this process, students develop creativity, critical thinking skills, and moral values. By implementing the methods outlined above, we can encourage students to explore new worlds through books, gain knowledge, and cultivate a lifelong habit of reading.

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