

METHODS OF ACTIVATING STUDENTS' INDEPENDENT AND CREATIVE WORK IN THE PROCESS OF CREATIVE EDUCATION

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Abstract: *This article discusses the organization and development of independent learning in higher education institutions under contemporary conditions. It examines the measures necessary for improving the effectiveness of independent learning and highlights the role of creative approaches in strengthening students' knowledge and developing their intellectual potential. The study emphasizes the importance of creativity in fostering students' independent thinking, research abilities, and professional competencies.*

Keywords: *creativity, innovation, independent learning, educational forms, education, upbringing.*

Introduction: The future development and prosperity of our country largely depend on raising a generation that is knowledgeable, intellectually capable, and spiritually mature. In recent years, systematic reforms have been implemented to improve the quality of education and train highly qualified specialists capable of meeting the demands of modern society.

According to Decree No. PF-60 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022, "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026," special attention is paid to enhancing human dignity, personal development, spiritual maturity, and the harmonious integration of individual and social interests. The reform of the educational system and the improvement of scientific personnel training have been identified as priority areas of national development.

Globally, the quality of independent learning is considered one of the most important factors in ensuring an individual's successful adaptation to society and professional life. In particular, the Concept for the Development of Higher Education until 2030 emphasizes the idea of "creating opportunities for lifelong quality education." This approach focuses on the continuous development of students' independent learning abilities, professional competencies, creative potential, research skills, and logical thinking.

Alongside traditional methods of assessment, such as examinations and tests, innovative approaches are increasingly being introduced to evaluate students' independent work. The organization of independent learning activities is now based on modern educational technologies. The distinctive feature of independent and creative work is that students

acquire new knowledge autonomously, which contributes to their intellectual and professional growth.

In recent years, significant attention has been paid to the development of creativity among students within the educational systems of leading countries. Numerous studies conducted by researchers such as Bronson and Merryman (2010), Ken Robinson (2007), Fisher and Frey (2008), Beghetto and Kaufman (2013), Ali (2011), and Treffinger (2008) demonstrate the importance of creativity in education. For instance, Ken Robinson's famous presentation "Do Schools Kill Creativity?" attracted millions of viewers worldwide and initiated extensive discussions on creative learning. Furthermore, educators have increasingly focused on studying the foundations of creativity and implementing creative teaching strategies in educational practice. Educational institutions have begun introducing innovative lessons based on multimedia materials and non-traditional teaching methods aimed at fostering creativity and independent thinking among learners.

Theoretical Background: To fully understand the process of developing creativity in individuals, it is first necessary to clarify the meaning of the concept of "creativity." According to Ken Robinson, creativity can be defined as "the process of having original ideas that have value." Gardner interprets creativity as a practical activity carried out by an individual that reflects novelty and possesses practical significance. Amabile (1989) describes creativity as the combination of profound knowledge in a particular field with highly developed unconventional skills and abilities.

The concept of independent work was analyzed by R.G. Lemberg, who distinguished two types of student activity: executive activity and independent activity. Executive activity is carried out according to the teacher's instructions and serves as a foundation for developing knowledge, skills, and competencies. Independent activity, however, emerges through students' internal motivation, enabling them to define their own objectives and determine the methods for achieving them.

The primary purpose of students' independent work is to organize continuous learning throughout the semester under the guidance and supervision of university instructors. It aims to deepen and consolidate acquired knowledge and skills, prepare students for future classes, develop a culture of intellectual work, and foster the ability to independently generate and assimilate new knowledge. Ultimately, these efforts contribute to the preparation of highly qualified and competitive specialists.

Method: The methodological basis of this study is grounded in the analysis of scientific and pedagogical literature devoted to independent learning and creativity in higher education. The research employs theoretical methods, including comparative analysis, synthesis, and generalization of national and international scholarly sources related to the development of students' creative abilities and independent learning skills.

The study also examines contemporary educational practices and innovative teaching technologies aimed at enhancing students' intellectual initiative, creative thinking, and autonomous learning competencies. Particular attention is paid to the integration of creative approaches into independent learning activities and their impact on students' academic achievements.

Tasks of Independent Learning: The main tasks of independent learning include:

- strengthening students' theoretical knowledge and practical skills;
- expanding and deepening theoretical preparation;
- developing the ability to use specialized literature, legal and regulatory documents, and scientific research sources;
- fostering motivation for acquiring new knowledge, creative initiative, independence, responsibility, and organizational skills;
- developing independent thinking and the ability to work on personal and professional self-development;
- cultivating research competencies and analytical skills;
- improving the ability to apply knowledge and materials obtained through independent learning in practical activities, course projects, graduation theses, and intermediate and final examinations.

Principles of Independent Learning: The organization of independent learning is based on the following principles:

1. **Creative activity** – encouraging students to generate original ideas and apply innovative approaches in solving academic and professional problems.
2. **Purposeful planning** – ensuring systematic and goal-oriented learning activities.
3. **Personal and independent approach** – taking into account students' individual characteristics, interests, and educational needs.

The primary objective of independent learning is to develop students' personal and professional qualities while fostering their ability to engage in continuous self-improvement. One of the most effective methods of independent learning is individual work with academic and scientific literature. In the era of digital technologies, this method enables students to search for relevant information, evaluate its reliability, process it critically, and apply it effectively in their future professional activities.

Discussion: The effective organization of independent work requires the creation of psychological and didactic conditions that stimulate intellectual initiative and critical thinking among students. The main principle of organizing independent learning is to transform students from passive recipients of information into active participants in the educational process.

Independent learning encourages students to formulate their own opinions, solve problematic situations creatively, and engage in cognitive activities. Such an approach not

only improves academic performance but also contributes to the development of analytical thinking, decision-making abilities, and professional competence.

Modern educational practice increasingly recognizes that creativity is a key component of professional success. Therefore, higher education institutions should create learning environments that support innovation, experimentation, and independent inquiry. The development of creativity through independent learning helps students adapt to rapidly changing social and professional conditions and enhances their competitiveness in the labor market.

Conclusion: In conclusion, one of the primary objectives of higher education institutions today is to prepare specialists who possess not only strong theoretical and practical knowledge but also the ability to work independently, continuously improve their professional competencies, and creatively solve emerging problems.

Students can achieve deep and sustainable knowledge only through consistent independent learning and self-development. Independent study promotes the formation of analytical, research, and creative skills, while also strengthening students' capacity for autonomous professional activity.

As a result, independent learning serves as an effective means of developing creative thinking, intellectual initiative, and lifelong learning competencies. Consequently, the integration of creative methods into independent learning activities should be regarded as an essential component of modern higher education.

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