THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL AND DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES IN THE CREATIVE APPROACH

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Abstract: *This thesis explores the role of individual and differentiated instruction principles within the creative approach. It analyzes the benefits of teaching based on students' individual characteristics, learning levels, and creative potential. The paper also discusses how creative methods can spark interest in each student, actively engage them in lessons, and provide opportunities for self-expression. Practical recommendations are offered on how to unlock each student's potential using modern pedagogical strategies.*

Keywords: *Creative approach, teaching principles, creativity, problem-based learning, project-based instruction, digital technologies, improving education quality, critical thinking, innovative methods, social significance*

Introduction. Today, the "one-size-fits-all" approach in education is losing relevance. Every student has a unique way of thinking, learning speed, and worldview. From this perspective, individual and differentiated instruction principles hold special importance in the creative approach. In such a model, students' capabilities are considered, and lessons are organized according to their personal development level. This helps each child feel valued, increases motivation to learn, and strengthens their inclination toward creative thinking. This thesis aims to highlight the role and significance of these principles in education.

In creative teaching, instead of forcing students into a single mold, adapting instruction to their personal traits significantly improves effectiveness. Individual instruction means organizing lessons by considering each student's knowledge level, interests, learning style, and psychological characteristics. This makes students feel respected and encourages them to think creatively and take initiative.

Differentiated instruction involves grouping students based on their learning level and assigning tasks appropriate to each group. For example, strong students may receive analytical tasks, intermediate learners may deepen their understanding through examples, and those needing support may benefit from visual and hands-on approaches. This allows each student to progress at their own pace while moving toward a shared goal.

Through these two principles, the creative approach activates the learning process, enhances students' ability to express their thoughts freely, make independent decisions,

and develop creative potential. Therefore, individual and differentiated instruction are considered foundational elements of creative education.

Collaborative Learning in the Creative Approach

The principle of collaborative learning plays a key role in developing students' communication and teamwork skills. In this approach, students work in small groups, complete tasks together, engage in discussions, and strive to find common solutions. Each student freely shares their ideas, respects others' viewpoints, and learns from peers.

Collaborative learning fosters creativity because students encounter diverse perspectives, co-create new ideas, and develop both independent thinking and social responsibility. The teacher acts as a facilitator or observer, supporting students' free creative activity. This method helps students build leadership, responsibility, communication, and creative problem-solving skills.

Creative Assessment

Traditional assessment systems often provide a superficial measure of students' knowledge and fail to fully evaluate their creative thinking. In the creative approach, assessment tools include creative tasks, project work, portfolios, and self-assessment methods. These allow students to express their knowledge freely—through drawings, poems, comics, videos, posters, or dramatic performances.

Creative assessment develops independence, reasoning, and self-improvement skills. In this process, the teacher is not a judge but a guide. Students are not afraid of grades; instead, they strive to showcase their achievements. This approach boosts motivation and helps students feel valued.

Developing Critical Thinking

Teaching based on a creative approach is not just about delivering knowledge—it trains students to think independently, ask questions, and evaluate problems from multiple angles. This process is achieved through the development of critical thinking. The teacher guides students not to memorize ready-made information but to analyze, compare, evaluate, and generate new ideas.

To encourage critical thinking, tasks such as Q&A, brainstorming, debates, open-ended questions, and "what if…" scenarios are used. These activities prompt students to think continuously and strengthen their decision-making, reasoning, and problem-solving abilities.

In creative teaching, the main focus is on the student's personality. In this approach, the teacher is not the central figure but acts as a guide, motivator, and partner. Student-centered education is adapted to each learner's needs, interests, knowledge level, and development. This transforms the student from a passive listener into an active participant.

In such an approach, students participate in lessons with their own ideas, have the right to choose, and feel freedom in planning and completing tasks. This develops their sense of responsibility, creativity, self-awareness, and self-expression. As a result, students

perceive the lesson not as an obligation but as a creative process. A student-centered education model is one of the most effective approaches in creative teaching. It plays a major role in developing life skills, increasing motivation, and enhancing lesson effectiveness. In modern education, the use of digital technologies is highly important for effectively implementing the creative approach. Through multimedia tools, interactive platforms, virtual laboratories, and educational apps, students acquire knowledge more deeply, enjoyably, and independently. These tools increase students' interest in lessons and help shape them into active participants. In creative teaching, digital tools are used not only for delivering knowledge but also for completing creative tasks, developing projects, facilitating group activities, and conducting assessments. For example, students may create presentations, produce videos, take interactive tests, or solve virtual problems. These processes help develop media literacy, digital thinking, independence, and creative reasoning.Thus, digital technologies create a familiar and comfortable environment for students to acquire knowledge, making the creative approach both natural and effective. In today's modern educational process, the creative approach has become an essential tool for increasing student engagement, developing personal abilities, and fostering independent thinking. The written theses show that in creative teaching, the student is placed at the center, individual and differentiated approaches are applied, and lessons are organized using methods such as critical thinking, creative exploration, collaboration, digital technologies, and creative assessment. This approach not only improves the quality of learning but also helps students develop essential life skills, transforming them into thoughtful, analytical, creative, and active citizens.In the creative approach, the teacher's role is not to simply deliver knowledge but to open pathways for students to think creatively, explore, and find their own path. Based on this, the learning process becomes dynamic, and lessons become meaningful, engaging, and relevant for students.

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