FORMATION OF STUDENTS' CREATIVE COMPETENCE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract. *This article highlights the theoretical and practical aspects of developing students' creative competence in the higher education system. The study analyzes the factors influencing the development of creative thinking, the role of interactive teaching methods, and the importance of innovative pedagogical technologies. In addition, scientific and practical recommendations for developing students' independent and creative activities are presented.*

Keywords: *creative competence, creative thinking, higher education, innovative technologies, interactive methods, student activity, creative approach, pedagogical technologies, independent learning, quality of education.*

Introduction. In today's era of globalization and digitalization, the need for innovative approaches and creative thinking is steadily increasing in all spheres of society. Especially in the higher education system, training competitive specialists who can think independently and possess modern knowledge and skills is considered one of the most important tasks. In this regard, the development of students' creative competence has become one of the urgent directions of pedagogy and the education system.

Creative competence reflects an individual's ability to think unconventionally, approach problems in new ways, generate innovative ideas, and effectively use existing knowledge. The modern labor market requires specialists not only to have theoretical knowledge but also practical and

creative approaches. Therefore, developing students' creative potential and forming free and independent thinking skills in higher education institutions has become an актуal pedagogical task [1].

Today, the use of interactive methods, innovative pedagogical technologies, problem-based learning, and project-based teaching approaches in the educational process plays an important role in developing students' creative activity. Such methods increase students' interest in learning, encourage independent research, and develop creative thinking.

This article analyzes the theoretical foundations of developing students' creative competence in the higher education system, the factors influencing the development of creativity, and the importance of modern pedagogical technologies. In addition, scientific and practical recommendations for effectively organizing a creative approach in the educational process are presented.

Literature Review. The issue of developing students' creative competence is considered one of the widely studied scientific problems in the fields of pedagogy, psychology, and modern teaching methodology. The concept of creativity was initially interpreted by foreign scholars as an individual's creative potential, unconventional thinking, and ability to generate new ideas.

In particular, the American psychologist J. Guilford considered creativity as an important component of human thinking and proposed the theory of divergent thinking. According to the scholar, a creative person has the ability to offer several original solutions to a single problem. E. Torrance, in turn, studied the pedagogical and psychological aspects of creativity development and developed criteria for identifying creative thinking. In his scientific views, such indicators of creativity as fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration are recognized as the main criteria.

In his scientific research, M. Csikszentmihalyi describes creativity as a process arising from the interaction of personality, environment, and activity. According to him, the educational environment is an important factor in developing students' creative potential. At the same time, H. Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences also emphasizes that creative thinking is closely related to an individual's abilities[2].

The issues of developing creative competence have also been widely studied by local scholars. In particular, pedagogical researchers emphasize that forming independent thinking, innovative approaches, and creative activity among students is one of the priority tasks of modern education. Research findings indicate that the use of interactive methods, problem-based learning, project activities, and information and communication technologies serves as an effective means of developing creative competence.

In recent years, scientific studies have paid special attention to developing students' creative and critical thinking skills through the implementation of a competency-based approach in higher education. In particular, the development of digital educational technologies is expanding opportunities for creating a creative learning environment. Therefore, the issue of developing creative competence remains one of the most relevant directions of modern pedagogical research [4].

Research Methodology. In this study, methods such as analysis, comparison, observation, and pedagogical approaches were used to examine the process of developing students' creative competence. In addition, factors influencing the development of creativity were analyzed based on scientific literature and modern pedagogical technologies.

Analysis and Results. The analysis of the process of developing students' creative competence in the higher education system shows that in the modern educational process, it is not sufficient for students to acquire only theoretical knowledge. Today, the educational process is aimed at developing

students' independent thinking, creative approach to problems, and ability to generate innovative ideas. In this regard, creative competence serves as an important factor in students' professional and personal development.

The analysis revealed that students' activity and level of creative thinking are higher in classes where interactive teaching methods are applied compared to traditional teaching methods. In particular, methods such as "Brainstorming," "Cluster," "Case Study," "Debate," and the "Project Method" help develop students' independent thinking, problem analysis, and ability to find unconventional solutions. Classes organized on the basis of such methods encourage students to express their opinions freely, work collaboratively, and propose new ideas[5].

In addition, the use of information and communication technologies plays an important role in developing creative competence. Digital platforms, multimedia tools, and online educational resources expand opportunities for students to conduct independent research, acquire new knowledge, and implement creative projects. As a result, students actively participate in the educational process and develop innovative thinking skills.

During the research, another important aspect was identified: organizing the educational environment in a free and motivating manner has a positive impact on the development of students' creativity. The presence of a supportive pedagogical approach by teachers, respect for students' opinions, and encouragement of creative initiatives increase students' creative activity.

To develop creative competence in the higher education system, it is necessary to widely introduce innovative pedagogical technologies, effectively use interactive methods, and strengthen a student-centered approach in the educational process. This will make it possible to train competitive specialists with modern thinking and high professional potential in the future [6].

Conclusion and Recommendations. Developing students' creative competence in the higher education system is considered one of the important

tasks of modern education. A creative approach helps develop students' independent thinking, ability to generate innovative ideas, and skills for making effective decisions in professional activities.

As a recommendation, it is advisable to widely use interactive methods and innovative pedagogical technologies in higher education institutions, as well as to create a creative educational environment that supports students' creative initiatives.

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