THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION COMPETENCE

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20454300

Annotation. This article analyzes the formation of an innovative educational environment in the modern education system and its role in developing students' information competence. The rapid development of information and communication technologies necessitates the introduction of new approaches to the educational process. The article examines the concept of an innovative educational environment, its main components, the structural elements of information competence, and their interrelationship. Furthermore, the importance of modern pedagogical technologies, digital educational resources, and virtual learning environments in shaping students' competencies is substantiated.

Keywords: innovative educational environment, information competence, digital education, information and communication technologies, virtual learning environment, pedagogical innovations, modern educational technologies.

Introduction. The 21st century is the age of information, and today the education system is being implemented in close connection with rapidly developing information technologies. Modern society requires our students not only to have traditional knowledge and skills but also to possess information competence. Information competence is a set of knowledge, skills, and abilities for searching, processing, analyzing, storing, and disseminating information.

An innovative educational environment is an educational space organized on the basis of modern pedagogical technologies, information and communication tools, and digital resources that ensures the full realization of students' intellectual and creative potential. Such an environment serves as an important factor in developing students' information competence.

Theoretical foundations of the topic

The innovative educational environment includes the following main components:

1) Modern technical and technological provision – computer labs, interactive whiteboards, projectors, tablets, smartphones, and other digital devices;

2) Digital educational resources – electronic textbooks, multimedia materials, virtual laboratories, online platforms;

3) Innovative pedagogical technologies – distance learning, blended learning, flipped classroom, project-based learning;

4) Educational and methodological provision – modern curricula, methods, tests, and assessment systems;

5) Human resource potential – qualified teachers capable of using digital technologies.

Information competence, in turn, includes the following key skills: information literacy, digital literacy, media literacy, data literacy, and knowledge of information security.

The role of the innovative educational environment in developing information competence

First, the innovative educational environment develops students' skills in searching for and critically evaluating information sources. Modern educational platforms (Google Classroom, Moodle, Edupage, Kundalik, etc.) teach students to work with various information sources. Students acquire the skills to find reliable information through electronic libraries and academic databases (ResearchGate, Google Scholar, eLibrary.uz), compare it, and critically evaluate it.

Second, digital technologies enhance students' creative thinking and problem-solving abilities. Through virtual laboratories (e.g., PhET Interactive Simulations, Labster), programming environments (Scratch, Python, JavaScript), and graphic editors (Canva, Adobe Creative Cloud), students gain practical skills. This increases their technological competence and prepares them to use digital tools effectively in their future professional activities.

Third, collaborative learning technologies develop students' communication and information-sharing skills. Through platforms such as Google Workspace (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides), Microsoft Teams, and Zoom, students acquire the skills to work on team projects, collaboratively edit information, exchange ideas, and present results. This is one of the important competencies required in the modern professional environment.

Fourth, the innovative educational environment shapes students' self-development and lifelong learning skills. Through MOOC platforms (Coursera, edX, Udemy, Khan Academy, Ziyonet.uz), students can acquire new knowledge and skills anytime, anywhere. This helps implement the concept of lifelong learning.

Fifth, artificial intelligence and adaptive learning systems create an educational path tailored to each student's individual needs. Adaptive learning platforms (DreamBox, ALEKS, Smart Sparrow) analyze the student's knowledge level and provide appropriate exercises and assignments. This allows the implementation of the principle of personalized learning.

Practical recommendations

To effectively create an innovative educational environment and develop students' information competence, the following recommendations should be followed:

Provide educational institutions with modern technical equipment and high-speed internet;

Organize regular training and professional development courses to enhance teachers' digital competencies;

Create and enrich a national database of electronic educational resources;

Develop standard criteria and diagnostic tools for assessing students' information competence;

Introduce special subjects such as "Digital Literacy" and "Information Security" into curricula;

Actively use virtual learning environments and distance learning platforms;

Support students' project activities and encourage the creation of digital portfolios.

In conclusion, the innovative educational environment plays a decisive role in developing students' information competence. Modern digital technologies, virtual learning resources, and innovative pedagogical approaches make it possible to prepare students in accordance with the demands of the 21st century.

Through the innovative educational environment, students acquire not only theoretical knowledge but also essential skills such as working with information, critical thinking, problem-

solving, and collaborating. This creates a solid foundation for their successful professional careers in the future digital economy.

At the same time, creating an innovative educational environment is not a one-time process but a complex system that requires continuous improvement and renewal. Such an environment can be effectively created and developed through the joint efforts of educational institution leadership, teaching staff, students, and parents.

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