

CURRENT PRESSING ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS IN YOUTH EDUCATION AND UPBRINGING

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ANNOTATSIIYA: This article analyzes the most pressing issues arising in the youth education and upbringing system during today's era of globalization and rapid digitalization, along with their targeted solutions. The author highlights the imbalance between the quality of education and labor market demands, digital addiction, information attacks, and gaps in moral and ethical education using specific examples. As solutions to these challenges, practical proposals and recommendations are put forward regarding the integration of 21st-century skills (the 4C model: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication) into the educational process, the development of media literacy and fact-checking skills among youth, and the strengthening of the "Family – School – Community" partnership chain. The article is intended for pedagogy professionals, researchers, and the general public.

Kalit so'zlar: youth upbringing, education quality, 4C model, media literacy, fact-checking, information security, moral and ethical upbringing, pedagogical innovations..

Youth constitute a major portion of the population in Uzbek society. In the modern world, the rapid growth of information flow, globalization processes, and the influx of digital technologies set new requirements for the youth education and upbringing system. Today, there are a number of pressing issues in this field as well as necessary solutions to address them.

Pressing Issues

The gap between education quality and practice: Despite high theoretical knowledge, graduates lack sufficient practical skills and the ability to apply acquired knowledge as required by the modern labor market.

Information attacks and digital addiction: The development of social networks and the internet necessitates cultivating an information consumption culture among youth. Negative information and cyber threats adversely affect youth upbringing.

Passivity in moral and ethical upbringing: Due to the lack of a systematically established cooperation among the family, school, and public, indifference toward national and universal human values is observed among young people in some cases.

Professional potential and motivation of educators: There is a high demand for personnel who have mastered modern interactive methods, speak the language of youth, and can inspire them to think outside the box.

Effective Solutions to the Issues

1. *Emphasizing Innovative Education and "Future Skills"*

Broadly incorporating critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and communication skills (the 4C model) into educational curricula.

Making ICT, programming, and foreign language instruction an integral part of standard education.

The 4C model is a set of four core skills (21st Century Skills) considered essential for succeeding in the 21st century and remaining competitive in modern education and the labor market. This model is widely used primarily to reform the educational sector and to foster practical life skills in students rather than mere theoretical knowledge.

Structure of the 4C Model (The 4 "Cs"):

A) *Critical Thinking*

Essence: The ability to analyze information, identify cause-and-effect relationships, separate facts from fiction, and find logical solutions to problems.

Importance: Protects youth from information attacks and teaches them to make independent decisions.

B) *Creativity*

Essence: Proposing non-standard, novel, and original ideas, and approaching problems from various angles.

Importance: Gives humans a unique advantage in the era of artificial intelligence and automation, serving to create innovations.

C) Collaboration

Essence: Effectively collaborating with others to achieve a common goal, sharing responsibility, and working constructively with people of diverse perspectives.

Importance: Enables the successful completion of large and complex projects not alone, but by combining collective strengths and resources.

D) Communication

Essence: Expressing one's thoughts clearly, fluently, and confidently through verbal, written, and digital means, as well as knowing how to listen and understand others.

Importance: Ensures mutual understanding and efficiency in business, education, and personal relationships.

Why is the 4C Model Important?

Modern Labor Market Demand: Today, employers look not just for degrees or theoretical knowledge, but for personnel who can work in teams and solve problems creatively.

Educational Factor: Modern schools and universities are shifting from simply having students memorize information toward conducting lessons that integrate these four skills.

2. Enhancing Information Hygiene and Media Literacy

Organizing specialized training sessions and workshops to build fact-checking skills (distinguishing true from false information) among youth.

Creating alternative and useful media content rather than relying solely on bans to combat the negative influence of the internet.

Fact-checking is the process of verifying through independent sources and evidence whether circulating information, statements, public speeches, or social media posts correspond to reality. In today's digital age, amid the proliferation of information attacks and fake news, fact-checking has become the most critical component of media literacy.

Main Stages of Fact-Checking:

Separating Fact from Opinion: Determining whether the text under review contains verifiable facts (numbers, dates, events, quotes) rather than just the author's subjective opinion (commentary).

Finding the Primary Source: Searching for the origin of the message (official document, primary witness, research, or official statement) rather than relying on where it was shared.

Assessing Source Reliability: Checking the objectivity, status, and absence of conflicts of interest regarding the source providing the information.

Verifying Photos and Videos: Checking through search engines (e.g., Google Reverse Image Search) to ensure that photos or videos were not created by AI, edited, or tied to old events.

Core Rules of Fact-Checking (Information Hygiene):

Do Not Give In to Emotions: Fake news is often designed to evoke strong fear, anger, or surprise in people. Emotional headlines should always raise suspicion.

Do Not Rely Solely on Headlines: Headlines are often exaggerated for "clickbait" (attracting attention), while the actual text says something else.

Compare Alternative Sources: Do not draw conclusions based on a single report; pay attention to whether other independent and reputable media outlets are covering it as well.

Why is Fact-Checking Important?

Protects Society from Disinformation: Prevents panic and confusion that may arise due to false news.

Fosters Critical Thinking: Teaches people to analyze information rather than accept it blindly.

Increases Responsibility: Encourages journalists, bloggers, and everyday users to be cautious and objective when distributing information.

3. Strengthening the "Family – School – Community" Chain

Efficiently organizing young people's time in their upbringing and engaging them broadly in clubs, sports, and arts.

Implementing social projects aimed at increasing parents' responsibility in child upbringing.

4. Enhancing the Potential of Teachers and Educators

Providing financial and moral incentives for educators who have mastered modern technologies.

Elevating the activity of psychologists in educational institutions to a qualitatively new level.

Conclusion

Educating and raising youth is a shared responsibility not only of schools or universities, but of society as a whole. The harmony of quality education and strong upbringing is the sole guarantee of raising a competitive and well-rounded generation.

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International and National Internet Resources

Official Portal of the Ministry of Preschool and School Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan: [publications and concepts] — gov.uz

UNESCO Reports on Education and Media Literacy (UNESCO): [21st Century Skills / Media and Information Literacy Framework] — unesco.org

UNICEF Research on Youth and Education in Uzbekistan (UNICEF Uzbekistan): unicef.org/uzbekistan

ZiyoNET Educational Information Network: [articles and educational-methodological materials] — ziyonet.uz

International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN / Poynter Institute): [Fact-checking and media literacy standards] — poynter.org/ifcn

P21 (Partnership for 21st Century Learning): [4C Model and 21st Century Skills Concept] — battelleforkids.org/networks/p21