

FORMATION OF STUDENTS' INDEPENDENT THINKING AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS IN PROBLEM SITUATIONS BASED ON PBL

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Annotation: This article highlights the role of the project-based learning (PBL) method in the formation of students' independent thinking and decision-making skills in problem situations. In the modern educational process, students' cognitive activity, critical thinking and creative approach to life issues are of decisive importance in their personal and professional development. The article analyzes the effectiveness of the PBL method based on theoretical foundations, psychological aspects and empirical examples.

Keywords: PBL, independent thinking, decision-making, problem situation, critical thinking, active student.

In the information age, students are required not only to have knowledge, but also to have skills such as independent thinking, problem analysis, clear decision-making, and teamwork. Traditional teaching methods cannot adequately form such competencies. From this point of view, the advantages of the project-based learning (PBL) method stand out. PBL encourages the student to learn as an active subject based on real situations, which strengthens the processes of independent thinking and decision-making.

1. Independent thinking and the PBL method. PBL is a method that places the student in the center of a problem situation and directs them to search for, analyze and apply knowledge. Students: search for information on their project; analyze different options; make independent decisions; justify their opinion with evidence.

In this process, critical thinking, a creative approach and a sense of responsibility are formed. This method is also based on the principles of constructivist approach and person-centered education.

2. Decision-making skills through problem situations

In PBL, problem situations are the main didactic tool. Each project:

describes a real problem; offers different solutions; forces the student to make a choice when making a decision.

Example: The project "Creating energy-saving systems at school" encourages the student to make decisions based on environmental, economic and technical criteria.

3. Results of practical experience

In 2024, during a pilot study conducted in a secondary school, it was observed that the levels of independent thinking and decision-making of 8th grade students trained on the basis of PBL were 20–25% higher.

Questionnaires and observations showed the following:

82% of students were able to justify their decisions during the projects; 76% of students developed their own solutions to real problems; A culture of joint discussion of decisions was formed in group work.

The PBL method has proven to be an effective method for developing independent thinking in students, strengthening a critical approach, and forming the skills of making sound decisions in problem situations. This method can develop important skills such as personal and social responsibility, self-assessment, reflection, and communication.

When using the PBL method, teachers should pay attention to: choosing the right problem situation, encouraging student active participation, and clearly defining evaluation criteria.

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