

**COMPETENCY-BASED DIGITAL EDUCATION MODEL IN PRIMARY EDUCATION:
DEVELOPING 4C SKILLS (CRITICAL THINKING, CREATIVITY, COMMUNICATION,
AND COLLABORATION)**

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Abstract

This article examines the content and significance of a competency-based digital education model in the primary education process. In particular, the role of digital educational technologies in developing the 4Cs — critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration skills — is analyzed. The possibilities of forming students' independent thinking, problem analysis, creative approaches, and effective teamwork competencies through a digital learning environment are revealed. In addition, digital pedagogical approaches and innovative methods aimed at developing 4C skills are substantiated, taking into account the age and psychological characteristics of primary school students. The research results indicate that the digital education model contributes to improving the effectiveness of the educational process.

Keywords

Primary education, competency-based approach, digital education model, 4C skills, critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, digital pedagogy, innovative educational technologies.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the processes of globalization and digitalization taking place in the education system are placing new demands on the content and methods of education. The traditional knowledge-based approach is being replaced by competency-based education. Especially at the primary education stage, forming essential life competencies in students has become an urgent issue. In this process, the effective use of digital educational technologies serves to develop students' activity, independent thinking, and creativity. In modern educational concepts, the development of 4C skills — critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration — is recognized as one of the main priority directions. Forming these skills at the primary education stage is of great importance in ensuring students' future social activity and competitiveness. This article discusses the development of 4C skills through a competency-based digital education model in primary education.

MAIN PART

The Essence of the Competency-Based Digital Education Model in Primary Education

A competency-based education model is aimed at forming not only knowledge, but also practical skills, abilities, and personal qualities in students. In primary education, this model is organized taking into account the age and psychological characteristics of students. The digital learning environment creates favorable conditions for the effective implementation of this model.

The digital education model includes interactive platforms, electronic textbooks, multimedia tools, virtual exercises, and online collaboration opportunities. This actively engages students in the learning process and creates a foundation for their independent and critical thinking.

Opportunities for Developing 4C Skills through Digital Education

Critical thinking skills are developed in a digital learning environment through problem situations, question-and-answer activities, interactive tasks, and analytical exercises. Students learn to compare information, analyze it, and draw conclusions.

Creativity skills are formed through preparing presentations, creating drawings and video projects, and completing creative tasks using digital tools. In this process, students have the opportunity to freely express their ideas.

Communication skills develop through online discussions, virtual group work, presentations, and exchanging ideas on digital platforms. Students learn to express their thoughts clearly and understandably.

Collaboration skills are formed through group projects, team assignments, and working together in a digital environment. This develops responsibility, mutual respect, and a culture of teamwork among students.

Digital Pedagogical Approaches for Primary School Students

When working with primary school students, it is important to use game-based technologies, visual materials, and interactive activities. Digital pedagogical approaches increase students' interest, enliven the lesson process, and ensure educational effectiveness. They also provide opportunities to implement individual approaches and differentiated instruction.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the competency-based digital education model in primary education effectively contributes to the development of 4C skills — critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. Purposeful and systematic use of digital educational technologies increases students' interest in learning and shapes them as independent and active individuals. The introduction of this model into the educational process serves as an important factor in improving the quality of primary education.

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