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PROVIDING PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH KNOWLEDGE, LIFE EXPERIENCE, PRACTICAL SKILLS, AND DEVELOPING THEIR THINKING ABILITIES

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Abstract: Primary education is considered a fundamental stage in the comprehensive development and formation of an individual's personality. This article discusses the importance of not only providing primary school students with theoretical knowledge but also preparing them for real-life situations, equipping them with life experience, guiding them toward practical activities, and developing their thinking abilities. Taking into account the psychological characteristics of children, the article highlights the importance of fostering independent thinking, solving problems, observing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions through the use of modern pedagogical approaches.

In the educational process, engaging students in active participation and developing their creative and critical thinking skills can be enhanced through interactive methods such as role-playing games, problem-solving tasks, group work, project-based activities, and lessons based on real-life situations. At the same time, primary school students develop according to their individual interests, needs, and abilities, which contributes to their growth into knowledgeable, independent, and socially responsible individuals.

Keywords:primary education, knowledge acquisition, life experience, activity-based learning, cognitive development, psychological approach, pedagogical methods, interactive learning, creative thinking, critical thinking, child psychology, learning activity, modern educational technologies, personal development, education quality.

Primary education is one of the most important stages in a person's life, as it marks the beginning of intellectual, moral, and social development. Therefore, it is essential not only to provide students with theoretical knowledge but also to guide them through life-based experiences and help them develop practical skills that prepare them for real-world challenges.

In this process, the teacher's role is to stimulate students' interest and develop their thinking abilities such as observation, reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making. By integrating interactive teaching methods—including educational games, real-life problem scenarios, group collaboration, and hands-on activities—students are encouraged to express themselves freely, engage in logical reasoning, and apply knowledge in practical contexts.

Moreover, as primary school students' worldview expands, they begin to develop a conscious attitude toward the environment, understand the value of work and communication, and internalize moral values. This foundation is crucial for their personal development and future success.

Primary education represents the foundation for a child's holistic development, shaping their intellectual, emotional, moral, and social competencies. It is during this critical stage that learners begin to understand the world around them, develop essential learning habits, and acquire the basic tools for independent thought and responsible behavior. Therefore, the role of

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primary education extends beyond the transmission of theoretical knowledge—it must also encompass the development of life skills, practical experience, and cognitive abilities necessary for meaningful participation in society.

One of the key tasks of the teacher at the primary level is to create an educational environment that not only fosters academic learning but also encourages active engagement, curiosity, and problem-solving. Children at this age are naturally inquisitive, and effective instruction should build on this by providing opportunities for them to explore, ask questions, and interact with the learning material in a meaningful way. Activities such as role-playing, project-based learning, group collaboration, and hands-on experiments help make abstract concepts more concrete and applicable to real-life situations.

Modern pedagogical strategies emphasize the importance of student-centered learning, where learners are not passive recipients of knowledge but active participants in the learning process. By applying interactive teaching methods and using real-world contexts, teachers can develop students' critical and creative thinking abilities. For instance, when students are asked to analyze a situation, suggest solutions, and reflect on outcomes, they begin to develop analytical thinking and decision-making skills.

Moreover, the development of social-emotional competencies is equally crucial in primary education. Children must learn to communicate effectively, work collaboratively, respect diverse perspectives, and develop empathy toward others. These skills are best nurtured through carefully designed classroom activities that simulate real-life interactions and require students to express themselves, resolve conflicts, and take responsibility for their actions.

Another important component of this developmental stage is fostering independent learning. Encouraging students to set personal goals, monitor their own progress, and reflect on their learning experiences promotes autonomy and builds confidence. These qualities lay the groundwork for lifelong learning and adaptation in an ever-changing world.

Finally, cognitive development in young learners is closely linked with the application of knowledge in practical settings. The integration of life-based tasks and real-world examples in the curriculum strengthens students' understanding of the subject matter and enhances their ability to connect learning to their daily lives. This approach not only enriches their academic performance but also cultivates logical reasoning, spatial awareness, and moral judgment.

In conclusion, primary education must be designed to provide a balanced combination of knowledge, practical skills, life experience, and cognitive development. Through the use of modern, student-centered teaching methods and a deep understanding of children's psychological needs, educators can nurture capable, independent, and thoughtful individuals who are well-prepared to meet the challenges of future academic and personal endeavors.

The importance of providing primary school students with knowledge, life experience, and practical skills cannot be overstated, particularly when aiming to develop their thinking abilities and prepare them for future learning and life situations. In today's educational context, the focus has shifted from rote memorization and passive learning to a more dynamic, student-centered approach. This transition has opened up new perspectives on how children learn and what competencies are essential for their holistic development.

At the core of this transformation lies the understanding that children are not simply vessels to be filled with information, but active constructors of knowledge. They come to school with their own experiences, perceptions, and ways of thinking. Therefore, effective teaching strategies must tap into these individual experiences and connect academic content to real-life contexts. When learning becomes relevant and meaningful, students are more likely to retain information, apply it in practical settings, and develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning.

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One of the key elements discussed in this study is the integration of **life experience into the learning process**. Life-based learning enables students to engage with educational material in a way that relates to their everyday lives. For example, incorporating simple household tasks, environmental awareness, or community-based problems into lessons helps children recognize the practical value of their education. This not only enhances motivation but also nurtures responsibility and critical awareness from an early age.

Equally important is the development of **practical skills** through hands-on activities. These skills may include communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and even basic technical or manual abilities. Practical learning experiences such as experiments, art projects, role-playing, and field trips encourage students to explore, discover, and collaborate. Such experiences are especially effective in reinforcing theoretical concepts and making abstract ideas more tangible. Another critical aspect highlighted in the discussion is the **development of thinking skills**, including critical, creative, and reflective thinking. These cognitive skills form the foundation of intellectual growth and personal development. Teachers must create a classroom environment that stimulates inquiry, encourages open discussion, and challenges students to consider multiple perspectives. By asking thought-provoking questions, presenting real-life dilemmas, and encouraging problem-solving activities, educators can significantly contribute to students' intellectual engagement and capacity for independent thought.

Moreover, the role of the **teacher** as a facilitator of learning is central to achieving these goals. Teachers must be well-trained, adaptable, and empathetic to meet the individual needs of their students. They should also be equipped with a variety of teaching methods and tools that accommodate different learning styles. A supportive and inclusive classroom atmosphere allows all students—regardless of background or ability—to participate actively and confidently.

In addition, the discussion emphasizes the necessity of **interdisciplinary learning and integration**. Subjects such as mathematics, science, literature, and social studies should not be taught in isolation. Instead, integrated teaching approaches help children see connections between ideas and develop a more cohesive understanding of the world. For instance, a project on planting a school garden may involve biology (understanding plants), mathematics (measuring growth), language (writing about the process), and art (drawing the garden).

Finally, it is essential to acknowledge the role of **emotional and social development** alongside academic achievement. In the early years, children learn important values such as empathy, cooperation, perseverance, and respect for others. These qualities are fostered through collaborative activities, classroom discussions about feelings and relationships, and a general culture of care and respect in the school.

In conclusion, the discussion reveals that a well-rounded primary education system must integrate academic knowledge, life experience, practical skills, and thinking development in a balanced and purposeful manner. Educators, curriculum designers, and policymakers must work together to create an educational environment where every child is given the opportunity to grow into a competent, reflective, and responsible member of society.

In conclusion, primary education plays a foundational role in shaping the cognitive, emotional, social, and moral development of children. It is during these formative years that learners acquire not only academic knowledge but also essential life skills and thinking habits that will guide their future learning and behavior. Therefore, it is crucial that educators move beyond traditional teaching methods and embrace a more holistic, student-centered approach to instruction.

The process of teaching in the primary grades should not be limited to the transfer of theoretical knowledge. Rather, it must incorporate meaningful life experiences, practical activities, and

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cognitive challenges that stimulate students' intellectual curiosity and prepare them for real-world situations. When students are encouraged to engage in observation, analysis, reflection, and decision-making, they begin to develop higher-order thinking skills that are vital in an ever-changing global society.

Furthermore, integrating interactive teaching strategies such as group work, problem-based learning, and project-based activities allows students to become active participants in their own learning journey. These approaches not only enhance comprehension but also promote creativity, cooperation, and communication skills.

Teachers play a central role in this process. Their ability to create an inclusive, supportive, and stimulating learning environment significantly influences students' academic success and personal growth. Educators must also be sensitive to individual learning styles, psychological characteristics, and the emotional needs of each student, especially in the primary years when children's personalities and values are still forming.

Moreover, the development of social and emotional intelligence must go hand in hand with intellectual development. Teaching children to be empathetic, respectful, and socially responsible builds the foundation for a harmonious society and prepares students to become thoughtful, ethical, and proactive citizens.

In essence, providing students with knowledge, life experience, and practical skills, while actively nurturing their thinking abilities, ensures that primary education fulfills its mission: to raise a generation of independent, competent, and conscious individuals who can think critically, solve problems effectively, and adapt to the demands of modern life.

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