



IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS IN TEACHING PRIMARY EDUCATION SUBJECTS BASED ON INTEGRATION AND THE 4K MODEL

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Abstract

This article examines issues of improving the effectiveness of primary education through an integrative approach and the 4C model. The ways of developing critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration among primary school students are analyzed considering their age and psychological characteristics. The findings show that integrated lessons contribute to holistic knowledge acquisition, independent thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Keywords: Primary education, integration, 4C model, competence, critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration.

Introduction

Annotatsiya

Maqolada boshlang'ich ta'lim fanlarini o'qitishda integratsion yondashuv hamda 4K modeli asosida ta'lim samaradorligini oshirish masalalari ilmiy-nazariy va amaliy jihatdan yoritilgan. Boshlang'ich sinf o'quvchilarining yosh va psixologik xususiyatlari hisobga olingan holda fanlararo aloqadorlikni ta'minlash, dars jarayonida kritik fikrlash, kreativlik, kommunikatsiya va kooperatsiya kompetensiyalarini shakllantirish yo'llari tahlil etilgan. Tadqiqot natijalariga ko'ra, integratsion darslar o'quvchilarning bilimlarni yaxlit o'zlashtirishi, mustaqil fikrlashi, jamoada ishlashi hamda hayotiy muammolarni hal etish ko'nikmalarini rivojlantiradi.

Kalit so'zlar: boshlang'ich ta'lim, integratsiya, 4K modeli, kompetensiya, kreativlik, kritik fikrlash, kommunikatsiya, kooperatsiya.

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Аннотация:

В статье рассматриваются вопросы повышения эффективности начального образования на основе интеграционного подхода и модели 4К. Проанализированы пути формирования критического мышления, креативности, коммуникации и кооперации у учащихся начальных классов с учетом их возрастных и психологических особенностей. Результаты исследования показывают, что интегрированные уроки способствуют целостному усвоению знаний, самостоятельному мышлению, командной работе и решению жизненных проблем.

Ключевые слова: начальное образование, интеграция, модель 4К, компетенция, критическое мышление, креативность, коммуникация, сотрудничество.

Today, the changes taking place in the global education system are setting a task for all countries to elevate the quality of education to a new level. Nowadays, school graduates are expected not only to possess knowledge in specific subjects but also to be able to solve real-life problems, think independently, work in teams, communicate effectively, and propose innovative ideas [1, p.12]. Therefore, the competency-based approach has become a leading priority in 21st-century education. In this process, the stage of primary education is especially important, as an individual's way of thinking, attitude toward learning, communication culture, and abilities are formed precisely during this period [4, p.18].

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, consistent reforms are also being carried out to modernize the education system, align it with international standards, and improve the content of primary education. In the new national curricula, the main criterion is not simply the student's ability to memorize knowledge, but rather their ability to apply it in practice, demonstrate creativity, and develop communicative competence [5, p.7].

In achieving these goals, teaching primary education subjects in an integrated manner and organizing the learning process based on the 4K model are of great importance. Integration ensures the interconnection between different subjects,

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while the 4K model helps to develop the fundamental skills necessary for modern life in students [3, p.24].

THE PEDAGOGICAL ESSENCE OF THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATION

In pedagogical literature, the concept of integration is interpreted in various ways. In general terms, integration means the unification of separate parts into a single holistic system. In the field of education, this concept is understood as the harmonization of the content, methods, and forms of academic subjects [3, p.41]. In an integrative approach, subjects are not viewed independently, but rather as a system that complements and enriches one another.

Integration is especially relevant in primary education. This is because young learners perceive the world not as separate fragments, but as a whole. For example, a child does not view a tree merely as a biological object, but as something that bears fruit, provides shade, and represents a beautiful part of nature. Therefore, in accordance with their way of thinking, education should also be based on the principle of wholeness [4, p.27].

Through integrated education, one topic is explored through different subjects, knowledge is formed in a stronger and more systematic way, time is saved, students' interest in lessons increases, and a connection between theory and practice is established [3, p.56].

THE PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATION IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

In primary school lessons, many topics naturally have an interdisciplinary character. For example, topics such as "Nature," "Time," "Family," "Homeland," "Professions," and "Healthy Lifestyle" can be explored within the framework of several subjects [5, p.14].

For instance, let us take the topic of "Water." In literacy classes, students read a text about water; in mathematics, they calculate the amount of water consumed in a day; in natural sciences, they study the properties of water; and in art, they draw pictures dedicated to water conservation. As a result, different kinds of knowledge related to one topic are formed within a unified system [4, p.39].

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Similarly, within the topic of “Market,” students can calculate prices in mathematics lessons, create dialogues between buyers and sellers in language classes, and prepare product models in technology lessons. Such activities bring students closer to real life and help them understand the practical value of theoretical knowledge [5, p.22].

The Content and Importance of the 4K Model In modern pedagogy, the 4K model refers to four essential competencies that should be developed in learners. These are critical thinking, creativity, communication, and cooperation [2].

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze information, compare it, ask questions, and draw conclusions instead of accepting it as ready-made knowledge. In primary education, this skill is developed through questions such as “*Why?*”, “*How?*”, and “*In your opinion, what other way could there be?*” [4, p.62].

Creativity is the ability to propose new ideas, find unconventional solutions, and think innovatively. Creativity is fostered when students are given tasks such as continuing a story, designing a new object, or finding different solutions to a problem [3, p.77].

Communication is the ability to express one’s thoughts clearly, listen to others, and speak confidently in public. In primary education, this skill is developed through pair work, conversations, presentations, and debates [4, p.83].

Cooperation is the ability to work together with others, share responsibilities, and strive toward a common goal. Group activities, project-based learning, and collaborative tasks are important tools for developing this competency [5, p.31].

THE HARMONY BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND THE 4K MODEL

Integrated education and the 4K model are complementary concepts that support one another. Integrated lessons naturally encourage students to think, communicate, explore, and collaborate [3, p.88].

For example, within the topic of “*Ecology*,” if groups are assigned the task of developing a project on maintaining cleanliness in their local neighborhood, **critical thinking** helps identify the causes of environmental problems, **creativity** generates innovative solutions, **communication** enables students to present and defend their projects, and **cooperation** ensures effective teamwork [4, p.95].

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Thus, integrated lessons create the most favorable environment for developing 4K competencies.

THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

The primary school teacher is considered the leading figure in effectively organizing integrated education. The teacher is not only a provider of knowledge but also acts as an organizer, guide, and motivator [3, p.101].

It is advisable for teachers to use project-based learning, problem-solving situations, role-playing, brainstorming, clustering, conceptual maps, interactive tests, and digital platforms [5, p.42]. For example, instead of simply solving mathematical problems, if students are assigned the task “*Create a family shopping plan,*” they develop not only calculation skills but also communication, analysis, and planning abilities [4, p.108].

Teaching primary education subjects based on integration and the 4K model is one of the priority directions of the modern education system. In today’s society, students are expected not only to memorize ready-made knowledge but also to apply it in practice, think independently, propose innovative approaches, and work collaboratively in teams. These aspects are clearly reflected in the content of integrated education and the 4K model [1, p.36].

Research and pedagogical experience show that in lessons organized on the basis of interdisciplinary integration, students understand topics more deeply, connect knowledge across subjects, and strive to apply it in real-life situations. This develops not only theoretical knowledge but also practical thinking. Especially for primary school students, studying topics in a holistic way corresponds to their age characteristics and increases their interest in learning [4, p.112].

The 4K model also serves as an important tool for developing the essential competencies required for the 21st century. Through **critical thinking**, children learn to analyze; through **creativity**, they learn to generate innovations; through **communication**, they learn to express their ideas freely; and through **cooperation**, they learn to work in teams. These skills are important not only during school years but also in their future professional and social activities [3, p.96].

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At the same time, the effective implementation of integration and the 4K model in educational practice requires teachers to possess high professional competence, knowledge of modern pedagogical technologies, proper lesson planning skills, and innovative approaches. Therefore, it is essential to continuously improve teachers' qualifications, strengthen methodological support, and expand the share of interdisciplinary tasks in textbooks and teaching materials [5, p.48].

In conclusion, applying integration and the 4K model in teaching primary education subjects is an important factor in improving the quality and effectiveness of education. This approach transforms students from passive listeners into active, inquisitive, creative, and independent thinkers. Therefore, in raising a generation with intellectual potential, competitiveness, and modern competencies for the future, integrated education and the 4K model should be widely applied.

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