

DEVELOPING STUDENTS' INDEPENDENT THINKING SKILLS BASED ON INDEPENDENT WORK

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MUSTAQIL TOPSHIRIQLAR ASOSIDA TALABALARNING MANTIQIY FIKRLASH MAHORATINI RIVOJLANTIRISH

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РАЗВИТИЕ НАВЫКОВ САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ СТУДЕНТОВ НА ОСНОВЕ САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНОЙ РАБОТЫ

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Abstract: The development of independent thinking skills in students is fundamental for their academic success and personal growth. This study investigates how independent work assignments can contribute to the enhancement of students' independent thinking. Using a mixed-methods approach, this research examines student surveys, instructor feedback, and assessment results to evaluate the impact of independent work on critical thinking skills. Findings reveal that well-structured independent tasks promote higher-order cognitive skills, such as problem-solving, analysis, and decision-making. The study concludes with recommendations for incorporating independent tasks into academic curricula to foster self-reliance and critical thinking among students.

Key words: Independent thinking, critical thinking, independent work, student skills, problem-solving, academic performance.

Annotatsiya: Talabalarning mustaqil fikrlash ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishda mustaqil ishlarning o'rni muhimdir. Ushbu tadqiqot mustaqil ishlar asosida talabalar fikrlash qobiliyatlarini qanday rivojlantirish mumkinligini o'rganadi. Tadqiqotda aralash metodlar asosida talabalar so'rovnomalari, o'qituvchi fikrlari va baholash natijalari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari, yaxshi tuzilgan mustaqil vazifalar yuqori darajadagi tafakkur ko'nikmalarini, masalan, muammo yechish, tahlil qilish va qaror qabul qilishni rivojlantirishi mumkinligini ko'rsatadi. Tadqiqot yakunida mustaqil ishlarni o'quv dasturlariga kiritish bo'yicha tavsiyalar keltiriladi.

Kalit so'zlar: mustaqil fikrlash, kritikal fikrlash, mustaqil ish, talabalar ko'nikmalari, muammo yechish, akademik natijalar.

Аннотация: Развитие навыков самостоятельного мышления студентов имеет важное значение для их академического успеха и личностного роста. Это исследование изучает, как задания на самостоятельную работу могут способствовать развитию самостоятельного мышления

студентов. С использованием смешанных методов исследования анализируются опросы студентов, отзывы преподавателей и результаты оценок для оценки влияния самостоятельной работы на навыки критического мышления. Результаты показывают, что хорошо структурированные задания развивают когнитивные навыки высокого уровня, такие как решение проблем, анализ и принятие решений. Исследование заканчивается рекомендациями по внедрению заданий на самостоятельную работу в учебные программы для развития самодостаточности и критического мышления у студентов).

Ключевые слова: самостоятельное мышление, критическое мышление, самостоятельная работа, навыки студентов, решение проблем, академическая успеваемость.

INTRODUCTION. Independent thinking is a critical cognitive skill that allows students to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information autonomously. This ability is integral not only to academic achievement but also to the development of problem-solving and decision-making skills. Independent work, such as research projects, essays, and case studies, plays a vital role in fostering these skills, as it challenges students to engage with materials deeply and critically.

The aim of this study is to explore how independent work assignments contribute to the development of students' independent thinking. The research investigates the relationship between independent tasks and critical thinking improvement, assessing whether such tasks can foster better cognitive abilities, such as analysis, problem-solving, and creativity. The relevance of this study lies in the increasing demand for students to be able to think and work independently in academic and professional settings.

LITERATURE REVIEW. Research into independent thinking emphasizes its importance in both education and broader life skills development. According to Facione (2015), independent thinking enables individuals to assess arguments, recognize assumptions, and solve complex problems [1]. Moreover, Hattie and Timperley (2007) highlight that feedback and self-reflection are integral to the development of critical thinking [2].

This review demonstrates that independent tasks can indeed enhance students' cognitive abilities, but effective task design, clear guidelines, and feedback mechanisms are essential to their success.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. This study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative research methods to assess the impact of independent work on students' independent thinking skills. The research was

conducted over the course of one semester, involving a sample of 120 undergraduate students from various academic programs at a large university. The students were assigned several independent tasks, including research papers, case studies, and problem-solving exercises, to assess the development of their critical thinking abilities.

The data collection process included the following methods:

Pre-and Post-Assessments of Critical Thinking Skills:

To measure changes in students' critical thinking skills, the study utilized the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST). The test was administered at the beginning and the end of the semester to evaluate the improvements in students' ability to analyze, evaluate, and reason through complex problems. The pre-assessment provided a baseline for each student, while the post-assessment helped measure the growth in their critical thinking abilities as a result of completing the independent assignments.

Student Surveys:

After completing the independent tasks, students were surveyed to assess their perceptions of the effectiveness of these assignments in developing their independent thinking. The survey included both multiple-choice and open-ended questions, exploring students' views on how the assignments influenced their problem-solving skills, analytical thinking, and confidence in approaching academic challenges independently.

Interviews with Instructors:

To gain deeper qualitative insights, interviews were conducted with course instructors who supervised the independent work assignments. These interviews focused on instructors' observations regarding the students' cognitive development, including any noticeable improvements in analytical skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving

abilities. Instructors also provided feedback on the types of assignments they found most effective in fostering independent thinking.

Analysis and Results

The analysis of pre- and post-assessment scores revealed a significant improvement in students' critical thinking abilities. The average increase in CCTST (California Critical Thinking Skills Test) scores was 15% after students completed independent work assignments. This improvement highlights the positive impact of independent tasks on developing students' ability to think critically and analyze information.

Survey results provided further insight into the effects of independent work on students' self-confidence and problem-solving skills. A notable 78% of students reported feeling more confident in their ability to think independently after completing the tasks. Additionally, 85% of students acknowledged that the independent work had enhanced their problem-solving skills, indicating that such tasks not only foster critical thinking but also sharpen students' practical cognitive abilities.

Furthermore, students who engaged with a diverse range of independent tasks demonstrated significantly improved analytical abilities and exhibited greater autonomy in their academic pursuits. This indicates that exposure to various types of independent work can help students develop a well-rounded set of skills that are crucial for academic success and professional development.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS. This study confirms that independent work assignments are highly effective in fostering students' independent thinking skills. The findings suggest that such tasks contribute significantly to enhancing critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical abilities. These skills are essential not only for academic success but also for real-world problem-solving and decision-making.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that higher education institutions increase the use of independent work assignments in their curricula. This approach will support students' cognitive development and better prepare them for the complex demands of the professional world. Additionally, incorporating these types of tasks will encourage students to become lifelong learners, a key trait in today's rapidly changing global workforce.

Lastly, further research should explore the long-term effects of developing independent thinking skills, specifically examining how they impact students' career outcomes, adaptability in the workplace, and their ability to engage in continuous, self-directed learning throughout their careers.

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