THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL THINKING IN IMPROVING THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF FUTURE TEACHERS

Djurayeva Lola Rustamovna
Teacher of Department "Pedagogy" of Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute
basic doctorate (PhD)
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7677433

Abstract: This article highlights the meaning and essence of the concept of critical thinking, provides examples of pedagogical and psychological views of worldwide researchers and representatives in education on critical thinking. Also emphasized the specific advantages of critical thinking, useful aspects of the development of critical thinking in students, including future teachersas well as the importance of critical thinking ability in improving the quality and effectiveness of education are discussed.

Key words: critical thinking, future teachers, problem solving, analyzing and evaluating, drawing logical conclusions, decision making, independent learners, professional skills, academic skills.

Introduction. In the context of globalization and information, education plays an important role in human development as a well-rounded person and the formation of the qualities of a qualified specialist. Today, one of the most actual topics of education is thinking skills and their development. According to the traditional way of teaching, the learner was mainly directed to mindless mechanical learning and the ability to repeat and memorize the information given in the books. Problem-solving skills had been limited to mathematics and only a few experiments were conducted in science laboratories.

Reforms in the field of education, society's demand, the development of science and technology require to put more attention to the development of critical thinking abilities along with the important professional skills that adequately prepare students for the realistic demands of the modern working world and entire life. Future education specialists should own critical thinking skill to become competitive personnel capable of meeting world standards.

Main body. So what is critical thinking? Most people think that critical thinking means looking critically at everything, thinking negatively about it, finding its flaws. But it is false. Many scientists, philosophers, and psychologists have conducted their scientific researches on critical thinking worldwide, and they are still ongoing. To understand what critical thinking is, let's look at its general definition.

Philosopher and educator John Dewey, who is considered the founder of modern critical thinking, defines critical thinking as follows: "Active, persistent, careful

consideration of a belief or supposed form of knowledge in light of the grounds that support it and the further conclusions to which it tends"[5].The first key component of Dewey's definition is that critical thinking is active. In his book "How We Think" (1910) critical thinking was adopted by the progressive education movement as a core instructional goal that offered a dynamic modern alternative to traditional educational methods such as rote memorization.

A very well-known speaker in education Barry K. Beyer, the author of the idea of "Thinking-based education", critical thinking means "making clear, reasoned judgments"[6].

American psychologist Diane F. Halpern believes that critical thinking is the use of cognitive methods that are controlled, rational and purposeful, that increase the probability of achieving the desired final result. These techniques are used in problem solving, inference, probability estimation, and decision making and require skills that are valid and effective for the specific situation and type of issue being solved. He states that critical thinking is characterized by drawing logical conclusions, creating mutually consistent logical models, and making informed decisions about rejecting, agreeing with, or temporarily postponing any judgment. All these definitions imply mental activity that should be aimed at solving a specific cognitive task.[7]

A comprehensive, concise operating definition was given by Michael Scriven and Richard Paul (2003):"Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action."[8]

In simple words, critical thinking is the process of identifying and solving problems by gathering information, analyzing and evaluating evidence, discovering patterns and reasoning logically.It is the ability to understand things and questioning the probable result of actions. To put it another way, critical thinking means arriving at your own carefully considered conclusions instead of taking information at face value.

Our students need to be able to think critically to make rational decisions on what to believe or what course of action to take. An inability to think critically can leave students vulnerable to muddied thinking and the possibility of believing in unsound ideas. Critical thinking helps students to filter the wheat from the chaff, intellectually speaking. Developing strong critical thinking skills helps students to eliminate dubious data to leave only the strongest, most reliable information. At its

[5] Dewey, "J. (1933, p. 9). Experience and education. New York: Macmillan, 1933. "
[6] Beyer, "B. K. (1995) Critical thinking. Bloomington, IN: Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation. "
[7] Халперн Д. Психология критического мышления.— СПб.: Питер, 2000.— 512с.— с.22.— ISBN 5-314-00122-5, ISBN 0-8058-0295-9
[8] Copyright © 2023 - University of Louisville, Delphi Center

core, critical thinking is about having good reasons for our beliefs. It helps us to navigate through bias (our own and that of others) to avoid manipulation or becoming enslaved by our feelings. These are essential skills in an age of overwhelming information. Helping our students to develop their critical thinking skills not only inoculates them against embracing flawed ideas, but these skills are also some of the most in-demand by employers and this looks set to continue to be so well into the future. This is due to the ever-increasing pace of technological change. It is impossible to accurately predict the specific requirements of many future jobs. One thing is for sure though, so-called soft skills such as critical thinking will ensure students will be able to adapt to whatever shapes the workplace of the future will take. [9]Therefore, there is a great need to develop critical thinking among students, especially future teachers. Since only a teacher who can think critically can teach his students to think in the same way.

One of the modern researchers, Robert Ennis, (1987) has designed a taxonomy of critical thinking dispositions and abilities. He lists 12 abilities that represent four basic areas of critical thinking: "clarity, basis, inference, and interaction" According to Ennis ideal critical thinkers are disposed to:

1. Seek and offer clear statements of the conclusion or question;

2. Seek and offer clear reasons, and be clear about their relationships with each other and the conclusion;

3. Try to be well informed;

4. Use credible sources and observations, and usually mention them;

5. Take into account the total situation;

6. Keep in mind the basic concern in the context;

7. Be alert for alternatives;

8. Be open-minded:

a) Seriously consider other points of view;

b) Withhold judgment when the evidence and reasons are insufficient.

9. Take a position and change a position when the evidence and reasons are sufficient;

10. Seek as much precision as the nature of the subject admits;

11. Seek the truth when it makes sense to do so, and more broadly, try to "get it right" to the extent possible or feasible;

12. Employ their critical thinking abilities and dispositions.[10]

[9] . Djurayeva L.R. Teaching Students to Think Critically// European Journal of Life Safety and Stability.ISSN2660-9630/www.ejlss.indexedresearch.org /Volume 23, November-2022.-P.95-97

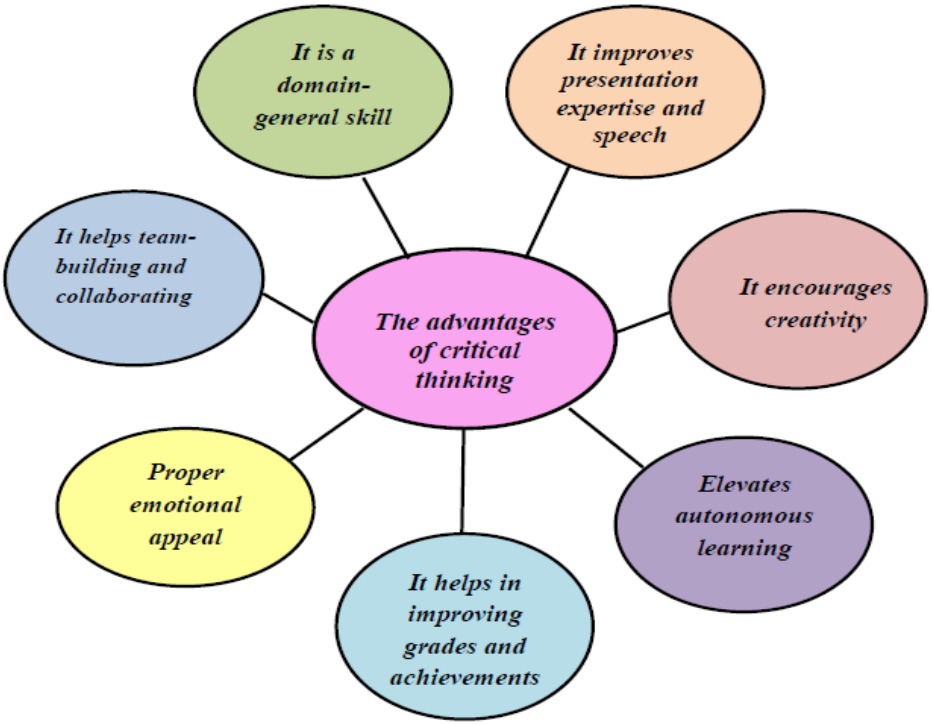
[10] Ennis, Robert H. (2015). Critical thinking: A streamlined conception (A revised version of 1991b, below). In Davies, Martin and Ronald Barnett (eds.), A handbook of critical thinking in higher education. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Pp. 31-47.

So,we can say that a person with well-developed skills of critical thinking puts under doubts the presented information, opens up any unreliable or non-scientific logic and examines the necessary information, is able to explain the importance of arguments, is capable of draw conclusions based on evidence.

Discussions and results. It follows from the above that, critical thinking is one of the most valuable skills that every future teacher should acquire. It is not only important skill for solving problems in education, but also very helpful in everyday life. In this regard, the following words of President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev come to my mind: "Critical analysis, strict discipline and personal responsibility should be the daily rules of every leader."[11] The reality of the topic we raised in the article can be seen when the tests for the admission of students to the "Presidential Schools", created in the Republic of Uzbekistan, focus on English and logic, critical and creative thinking. " Critical thinking is an active process that requires us to act consciously," says posts and videos on You Tube and Telegram channels of presidential schools. Using the methods of critical thinking, we are able to analyze complex economic, social, ethical, legal or other various problems, understand their causes, consequences or influence on other phenomena and look for ways to solve the problem, we can see thoughts.

Let's get acquainted with some of the main aspects that reflect the advantages of critical thinking.

(See Figure 1)



[11] Mirziyoyev Sh.M., report at the enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the main results of the socio-economic development of our country in 2016 and the most important priorities of the economic program for 2017. January 14, 2017

According to the Figure 1 we can see a numerous benefits of thinking critically.

❖ ***It is a domain-general skill***-Critical thinking is not limited to a specific subject but it is the capacity of a student to think in a more rational and clear way. Critical thinking is important for students as it gives the ability to think in the right way and solve problems in a more efficient and methodical way. This will give a great boost to any career that the student chooses.

❖ ***It improves presentation expertise and language***-When a student works on developing critical thinking it enhances the ability to express ideas efficiently. While learning to inspect the structure of texts logically it improves the comprehension abilities as well.

❖ ***It encourages creativity***-To come up with a new or different solution for a given problem one cannot just depend on the new ideas. It is important for the student to understand that the new thoughts that have been generated are applicable and useful in the given problem. This is the place where critical thinking plays an important role. It helps in the evaluation of the solutions and then using the best one and transforming or adjusting it if needed.

❖ ***Elevates autonomous learning***-Instead of complete dependence on classroom learning and teachers for complete guidance and instructions, critical thinking allows students to become more self-reliant and independent learners. It also helps the students to evaluate their learning style and recognize their areas of strength and flaws. By achieving this ability they can focus on the solution in a better way and set goals accordingly.

❖ ***It helps in improving grades and achievements***-When students improve on their critical learning skills they show improvement in academic performance as well. Students are able to connect theory that they had been learning practically and that improves the overall knowledge. They are able to understand and critique which helps in deeper understanding that will be evident in the grades. For example, when a student learns about history and makes comparisons and analyses historical events they tend to get a better awareness of its importance and its usefulness in the present concerns.

❖ ***Proper Emotional Appeal***-It is very easy for students to let emotions take over at times, while a debate or taking a decision. Critical thinking can actually help in using emotional appeal effectively, making an impact while being logical. A simple example can be a debate where a student is asked to speak on health care, the student can use a personal struggle story for getting health insurance, but at the same time providing sustaining data from sources that are credible for supporting this situation.

❖ ***It helps team-building and collaboration***- Finally, critical thinking also helps students in understanding the views and perspectives of others as well and

enhancing the ability to work in teams. For example, the team activities that have to be done with school students need listening to the peers for completing the given task, rather than just going with a single thought of an individual. This makes a student learn that there can be numerous solutions to a single problem and allows them to work together while agreeing on one. Such activities that require critical thinking helps in the development of a student to co-operate and not take decisions on assumptions.

Conclusion. In general, it is suggested to prioritize teaching future educators thinking critically since they will educate all members of society, which means the whole future personnel. Through critical thinking they can own a number of skills such as observation, analysis, interpretation, reflection, evaluation, inference, explanation, problem solving, and decision making that serve for human perfection and the development of community.

References:

1. Mirziyoyev Sh.M., Report at the enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the main results of socio-economic development of our country in 2016 and the most important priorities of the economic program for 2017. January 14, 2017.

2. Beyer, B. K. (1995) Critical thinking. Bloomington, IN: Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation.

3. Dewey, J. (1933, p. 9). Experience and education. New York: Macmillan, 1933.

4. Djurayeva L.R. Teaching Students to Think Critically// European Journal of Life Safety and Stability.ISSN2660-9630/www.ejlss.indexedresearch.org /Volume 23, November-2022.-P.95-97

5. Ennis, Robert H. (2015). Critical thinking: A streamlined conception (A revised version of 1991b, below). In Davies, Martin and Ronald Barnett (eds.), A handbook of critical thinking in higher education. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. P. 31-47.

6.Samiyeva Sh.H., Djurayeva L.R./Development of higher education system management of the educational process on the basis of a creative approach. Monography/ LAP Lambert Academic Publishing (2020-10-31)

7.Халперн Д. Психология критического мышления.— СПб.: Питер, 2000.— 512с.— с.22.— ISBN 5-314-00122-5, ISBN 0-8058-0295-9

8. Copyright © 2023 - University of Louisville, Delphi Center

9. Otabek Rakhmonberganov, "Tanqidiy fikrlash nima? ", "President Maktablari" official addresses and channels on Telegram and You Tube social networks: @prmakuz - Telegram channel, UstozUZ - YouTube channe

10. https://learnfromblogs.com/importance-of-critical-thinking-for-students