THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATED LESSONS IN THE PRIMARY EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract: *This article highlights the content, significance, and pedagogical foundations of integrated lessons in the primary education system. Through an integrated approach, students' interest in subjects is increased, knowledge is reinforced, and the practical significance of learning is understood. In particular, the article analyzes the teacher's role in the integration process, methodological approaches to lesson planning, and the use of modern educational technologies.*

Keywords: *integrated lesson, primary education, pedagogical approach, methodology, interdisciplinary connection, innovative technologies*

Introduction

In the modern era, the fundamental reforms taking place in the field of education require the improvement of the teaching and learning process and its implementation in a learner-centered, competency-based, and integrated system. The primary education stage is especially important, as it forms the foundation of an individual's development. Teaching through interdisciplinary integration at this stage increases the effectiveness of education. Through an integrated approach, students' knowledge from different subjects is formed in an interconnected, continuous, and systematic way. As a result, cognitive abilities such as thinking, logical reasoning, observation, memory, and creativity develop in children.

Materials and Methods

It is well known that the modern education system requires not only the formation of deep knowledge and skills in students but also teaching them to understand the interconnection between different subjects. Especially in primary education, organizing lessons through interdisciplinary integration helps develop

logical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a broader worldview. Integrated lessons not only ensure the continuity of knowledge but also develop students' independent thinking.

Theoretical Foundations of Integrated Lessons. Integrated education is a method of teaching in which different subjects, competencies, concepts, and skills are interconnected within a unified system. This concept has been theoretically substantiated by well-known educators and psychologists such as J. Dewey, A. N. Leontiev, and D. B. Elkonin. L. S. Vygotsky, in his theory of the "Zone of Proximal Development," emphasizes the importance of timely teacher support as a bridge between what a child knows and does not know. Integrated lessons create exactly such conditions-new knowledge is linked with existing knowledge. According to the constructivist approach (Piaget, Bruner, Novak, and others), a child independently discovers and constructs knowledge. Integrated lessons support this process.

The Essence of Integrated Lessons. An integrated lesson is a complex educational process organized based on the interconnection between different subjects, ensuring the comprehensive development of students. In such lessons, elements of several subjects are taught simultaneously, allowing students to connect knowledge with practice. The integrated approach in primary education is based on the following pedagogical principles:

1. Continuity and integrity principle – topics across subjects are harmonized;
2. Activity and interactivity principle – students actively participate in the learning process;
3. Learner-centered principle – individual characteristics of each student are considered;
4. Educational principle – each lesson should have an educational and developmental orientation.

Advantages of Integrated Lessons. Integrated lessons develop students' independent thinking and observation skills, connect knowledge with real-life experience, strengthen interactive communication between teacher and students, and

make learning more engaging and meaningful. From the perspective of systematic and continuous knowledge, interdisciplinary connections allow students to acquire knowledge holistically. Learner-centered education ensures that methods are selected according to individual development. Integrated learning also develops creative and critical thinking, as students explore multiple solutions to problems. Moreover, interdisciplinary connections help students better understand real-life phenomena and increase their motivation, making lessons more engaging and interactive.

Interdisciplinary Connections in Primary Education.Connections between subjects such as Mother Tongue, Mathematics, Natural Science, Fine Arts, Technology, and Music can be established as follows:

→ Mother Tongue and Natural Science: Topic “Spring Season” – describing signs of spring and reading related texts.

→ Mathematics and Technology: Topic “Units of Measurement” – performing practical tasks (measuring length, cutting materials).

→ Fine Arts and Music: Topic “Sounds and Images of Nature” – creating drawings based on natural sounds.

Teaching Methods and Technologies. Integrated lessons involve problem-based learning, interactive methods (“Brainstorming,” “INSERT,” “Cinquein,” “Cluster”), modular teaching, game technologies, creative tasks, and project-based activities. Today, the use of modern technologies in integrated lessons is highly important. These include: Multimedia tools: animations, video clips, virtual laboratories; Information and communication technologies (ICT): e-textbooks, presentations, interactive boards; STEAM approach: integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics; CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning): combining language and subject content.

Psychological and Pedagogical Considerations. Considering the age characteristics of primary school students, the integrated approach is highly relevant. Young learners tend to have short attention spans, a need for practical activity, a preference for learning through movement and games, and strong emotional

responsiveness. Integrated lessons are designed with these characteristics in mind, which increases learning effectiveness. The following methods are recommended: Project-based methods; Group work; Role-playing games; Didactic games; Multimedia-based instruction. For example, integrating "Natural Science" and "Mother Tongue" helps students develop language skills while expanding their understanding of the environment.

Conclusion. In conclusion, integrated lessons play an important role in improving the quality of primary education, increasing students' interest in subjects, and developing logical and systematic thinking. This approach leads to innovative and effective results in the pedagogical process. Integrated lessons contribute to the holistic, continuous, and meaningful formation of knowledge, the development of broad thinking and practical skills through interdisciplinary connections, and the comprehensive development of students. It is essential for educators to deeply study and widely apply the methodological foundations of the integrated approach. The following recommendations are proposed: Develop special methodological manuals for teachers; Create model interdisciplinary lesson plans for each grade level; Establish systems for analyzing and monitoring integrated lessons; Include integrated approaches as a separate module in teacher training programs.

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