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DIGITAL LITERACY IS THE BASIS OF MODERN EDUCATION

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Abstract
The article analyzes the concept of digital literacy, its place and significance in the modern education system. The introduction of digital technologies into the educational process, methods of developing digital skills in students and their impact on socio-economic development are considered. The recognition of digital literacy as an integral part of modern education justifies its role in educating the younger generation with the ability to think critically, adaptably to new conditions.

Keywords: Digital literacy, modern education, digitalization, information and communication technologies, innovative approach, creative thinking

INTRODUCTION:

In today's process of globalization, digital technologies penetrate deeply into all aspects of life. The development of society, digitalization of the economy, the use of innovative approaches in the public administration system directly depends on the level of digital literacy of the population, especially young people. Especially in the field of education, the use of digital technologies not only facilitates the process of acquiring knowledge, but also encourages pupils and students to think, analyze, research and creativity independently. For this reason, digital literacy is regarded as one of the basic foundations of modern education. Digital literacy includes not only knowing how to use technology, but also its effective application, retrieval, selection and processing of information, as well as adherence to cybersecurity regulations. This, in turn, will ensure that the

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individual remains competitive in the labour market, comes up with innovative ideas and keeps up with the times. In this context, it is important to formulate and implement digital education policy in each country. One of the most important tasks facing the modern education system is the development of pupils' and students' digital competencies. Because the knowledge and skills of today's younger generation determine the future of the country's development. Distance learning, the use of electronic resources, virtual laboratories, online libraries and educational platforms serve to improve the effectiveness of education. However, inadequate digital literacy can adversely affect the quality of education. The role of teachers in improving digital literacy is also of particular importance. Teachers should be able to constantly update their knowledge and skills, be able to effectively apply new technologies into the educational process. This will help create an innovative environment in the educational process, encourage students to think creatively and cultivate their curiosity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of digital literacy is widely studied in the scientific literature, different authors interpret it in different ways. Globally, this concept is more expressed by **the term "digital literacy".** The term was first used by Paul Gilster in his book Digital Literacy, which defined digital literacy as the ability of a person to search, analyze, understand and effectively use information using digital technologies [1]. In subsequent years, G. Eshet-Alkalai emphasizes that digital literacy is not limited to the use of computers and the Internet, but also includes critical thinking, visual literacy, communication skills and social responsibility in the flow of information [2]. K. Ng identifies digital literacy into three main areas: technology use, information literacy and social responsibility [3].

Scientists in Uzbekistan also pay attention to digital literacy. For example, A. Hasanov and M. Rakhimov noted the need to use digital technologies in the educational process, to increase their effectiveness and to form innovative thinking in students [4]. Other studies have emphasized the role of teachers in digital literacy development, methodological approaches in the organization of the educational process and the role of government programs [5]. Studying the importance of digital literacy for pupils and students, D. Buckingham considers

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it to be closely related to media literacy and assesses it as a key factor in the formation of critical thinking skills of modern youth [6]. At the same time, modern research emphasizes the study of digital literacy in connection with the quality of education, competitiveness and the innovative economy.

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

The concept of digital literacy is not only seen as a skill to use technology, but also as an integral part of a wide range of social, cultural and economic processes. This concept acquires special relevance in the era of modern education system undergoing the stage of digital transformation. For pupils and students, digital literacy is an important factor in the development of knowledge, research, analysis and creative approaches. In the current conditions, the quality of education largely depends on the digital competence of students and teachers, the culture of information work and the level of effective use of technology. The role of digital literacy in education is growing. Traditional forms of lessons are combined with modern information and communication technologies, new pedagogical approaches are emerging. Electronic textbooks, online platforms, distance learning tools will make the educational process convenient and effective. At the same time, these processes play an important role in improving the quality of education, further strengthening knowledge, and orienting students to independent work. One of the key aspects of digital literacy is the ability to work with information. The flow of modern information is incredibly wide, millions of new information is created every day. Choosing them correctly, determining their reliability and purposeful application requires from an individual not only technical skills, but also critical thinking. This, in turn, shows the need to form students' competencies for independent thinking, research and information processing in the educational process.

Another important aspect is the importance of digital literacy in personal development and the labour market. Many professions today cannot be imagined without digital technology. Therefore, the acquisition of digital literacy for pupils and students is the key to success in future professional activities. To ensure competitiveness in the labor market, the younger generation must have free access to modern technologies and the opportunity to develop creative and innovative

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ideas. The social importance of digital literacy is also enormous. Young people's use of social networks, skills to communicate in a virtual environment are also directly related to this concept. However, there are also risks in these processes — misinformation, cybersecurity, Internet addiction, and so on. Therefore, it is important to train not only technical skills in the training process, but also such aspects as information security, protection of personal data, responsible behavior in social networks. The digital literacy of teachers deserves special attention. A teacher as a key guide in modern education should be not only a giver of knowledge, but also a person who forms students' digital competencies. Therefore, teachers need to constantly update their knowledge, master new technologies and learn their effective application. Otherwise, digital literacy will become limited not only for learners but also for educators.

The development of digital literacy is also considered as one of the most important areas of state policy in Uzbekistan. In recent years, many measures have been taken to implement the concept of the digital economy, introduce e-learning platforms in schools and universities, and expand access to various electronic resources for schoolchildren and students. For example, online classes, electronic libraries, interactive educational programs began to be widely used. This, in turn, serves to develop the digital competencies of students and teachers. However, there are also certain challenges in developing digital literacy. First of all, the problem is the inconsistency of technical infrastructure in all regions, the speed and quality of the Internet, the lack of computer and other technological equipment. In addition, the unwillingness of some teachers to use digital technologies, their low level of mastery, negatively affects the effectiveness of the process. To eliminate these problems, it is necessary to establish regular training courses, seminars, advanced training programs. Another important aspect of digital literacy is the development of an individual's creative potential. Modern programs, graphic and multimedia tools, educational resources on the Internet allow students to realize their creative abilities. For example, students not only gain knowledge through different projects, design work, programming practices, but also have the opportunity to apply them in practice. This shows that digital literacy serves to shape creative approaches in education. By increasing digital literacy, the efficiency of education will increase significantly. Students will learn

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how to use information sources, search for and analyze the necessary information. This deepens their knowledge, strengthens their ability to do independent research and, as a result, has a positive impact on the quality of education. The economic aspects of digital literacy are also important. Many of the professions that will be in demand in the labor market in the future will be closely related to digital technologies. Therefore, developing young people's digital skills is necessary not only for education, but also for the sustainable development of the country's economy. Under these conditions, increasing digital literacy will become an important factor of national competitiveness.

It should also be borne in mind that the digital divide still persists in society. The limited access of certain segments to technology may keep them out of the information space. Therefore, public policies to improve digital literacy should be based on the principles of social justice and equality. Access to digital resources for every citizen, in particular youth and learners, needs to be expanded.

CONCLUSION

The above analysis shows that digital literacy is becoming an integral part of the modern education system and its development directly affects not only the education process, but also the socio-economic life of society. Unless schoolchildren and students today learn to use digital effectively to stay competitive in the labour market, and creative and critical thinking skills are not developed. Therefore, the development of digital literacy should be one of the priorities of any education strategy. In the process of improving digital literacy, it is important to develop the digital competencies of teachers not only of students. When teachers are able to deeply absorb modern technologies and apply them effectively in the teaching process, this has a direct positive effect on the quality of education. Along with strengthening the technical infrastructure, expanding Internet opportunities in all regions, and introducing e-learning resources are necessary conditions for the successful implementation of the process. The analysis also shows that digital literacy includes not only the acquisition of technological skills, but also the development of information handling culture, compliance with cybersecurity regulations, responsible social media activities

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and the formation of critical thinking. It therefore needs to be regarded as a comprehensive social and cultural phenomenon.

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