

**DEVELOPING CREATIVE SKILLS IN STUDENTS THROUGH ART PEDAGOGY:
MECHANISMS OF FORMING CREATIVE ABILITIES**

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Abstract: Nowadays, the formation and development of creative skills in the educational process are recognized as an important pedagogical task. Creative skills are competencies that reflect an individual's ability to generate new ideas, find unconventional solutions to problems, think aesthetically, and engage in creative activities. Art pedagogy, in turn, is aimed at expressing a person's inner world through art, managing emotions, and restoring internal balance. This article reveals the mechanisms of developing creative skills in students through art pedagogy.

Keywords: art pedagogy, creative skills, education, creativity, student development

Art pedagogy serves as a key instrument in this process since it not only enriches students' aesthetic and social consciousness through art but also enables the development of their imagination and creative thinking (Eisner, 2002). Moreover, pedagogical activities carried out through art help students develop the ability to generate new ideas and find non-traditional solutions to problems (Vygotsky, 2004). When turning to the theoretical foundations of art pedagogy, it can be noted that art pedagogy represents an integration of art into the educational and upbringing process, aimed at forming aesthetic taste, emotional-intellectual development, and creative thinking among learners. Scientific research shows that artistic activity develops not only technical skills but also enhances a person's ability to make creative decisions and solve problems (Gardner, 2011). From this point of view, art pedagogy provides not only practical but also theoretical foundations for the development of creative skills.

At the same time, there are certain mechanisms for forming creative skills in students. These mechanisms, confirmed by numerous scientific studies, are considered effective in the development of creative thinking abilities.

Mechanisms of Forming Creative Skills in Students

Creative skills are the main components that develop students' ability to generate new ideas, find unconventional solutions to problems, think aesthetically, and act creatively. Through art pedagogy, various pedagogical mechanisms are applied to develop these abilities, which combine intellectual, emotional, and practical development.

1. Development through Visual Activities

Visual art forms such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and design develop students' imagination and aesthetic taste. According to Vygotsky (2004), creative imagination is formed and developed through visual expression, while Eisner (2002) emphasizes that art activities help integrate

intellectual and emotional capacities.

2. Game-Based and Dramatic Methods

Pedagogical games, role-playing tasks, and dramatic exercises stimulate creative thinking and encourage students to find innovative solutions in unusual situations. According to Piaget and Bruner, play serves as a means of developing creative thinking and forming innovative problem-solving approaches.

3. Reflection and Discussion Process

At the end of creative activity, students analyze, critically assess, and discuss their work, thereby improving their creative capabilities. Torrance (1974) emphasized that reflection and critical thinking are essential for creative thinking development, while Guilford (1967) highlighted divergent thinking as a key mechanism in finding creative solutions.

4. Multidisciplinary Approach

Integrating art with other disciplines broadens students' perspectives and promotes creative reasoning. Gardner (2011) states that combining multiple intellectual domains effectively enhances creativity.

5. Technological and Innovative Approaches

Modern educational technologies are also effective tools for developing creative skills. Creating digital artworks, presenting them through online platforms, and working on multimedia projects foster students' imagination and creativity.

Consequently, the mechanisms for forming creative skills in students—visual art activity, game-based and dramatic methods, reflection and discussion, multidisciplinary integration, and modern technology—jointly promote non-traditional thinking, innovative problem-solving, and personal creative growth. Therefore, art-pedagogical approaches should be applied as essential and effective tools in the educational process.

In addition to these mechanisms, it should be noted that there are scientifically grounded principles for assessing and developing creative skills. In evaluating creative abilities, a number of methodological approaches are applied. Guilford's theory of creative thinking (1967) is based on the idea that creativity depends on divergent thinking, originality in generating ideas, and the ability to solve problems in unconventional ways.

Moreover, creative skills formed through art pedagogy also strengthen students' emotional intelligence, self-confidence, social abilities, and capacity for independent decision-making. Developing creative skills through art pedagogy fosters students' aesthetic and creative abilities, having a positive impact on their personal and professional growth.

Scientific studies confirm that when artistic activity and the creative process are harmonized with pedagogical approaches, students' thinking expands, their ability to generate new ideas increases,

and they become more capable of solving problems in innovative ways. Therefore, art pedagogy is considered an integral part of the modern educational process.

Consequently, the mechanisms for forming creative skills in students—visual art activity, game-based and dramatic methods, reflection and discussion, multidisciplinary integration, and modern technology—jointly promote non-traditional thinking, innovative problem-solving, and personal creative growth. Therefore, art-pedagogical approaches should be applied as essential and effective tools in the educational process.

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