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The importance of organizing a children's university

Abstract. *The article discusses the results of research conducted at Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University within the framework of the scientific project to create a network of KAZCUNET children's university (IRN AR09258554). In accordance with the purpose of the project, there was conducted a survey among students of 3-5th grades to find out their opinions about the children's university. So that, 683 Akmola region students of 3-5th grades (aged 8-12 y.o.) took part in the survey. The conducted research highlights the importance of organizing a children's university. At the same time, the organization of the children's university has shown that it allows not only to form emotional intelligence, creative thinking skills but also to arouse interest in education and science.*

Keywords: *children's universities, research work, creative thinking, emotional intelligence, flexible skills, personality.*

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Introduction

In the Address of the first president of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev to Kazakhstanis: "The leading factor of economic and social progress is the people themselves, their strength, perseverance, and knowledge. At the stage of crossing the threshold of the third millennium, there is an increasing need of society for people with extraordinary thinking, who are able to set and solve new tasks related to the future, which give a new content, a new character to industrial and social life" [1].

The format of a Children's University in the pedagogical environment is not new, so the European Children's Universities Network has been created in Europe [2]. The activities of

teachers and students involved in the Children's University of Sh.Ualikhanov Kokshetau University are focused on the creation of new learning platforms, the expansion of the educational space, and the implementation of joint pedagogical and didactic research. The format of the Children's University captures not only the creativity of using teaching approaches but also the active involvement of students in the education of students, when the boundaries of communication are erased and there is an interest in serious academic subjects, both on the part of students and on the part of students. Such meetings became possible thanks to the Children's University, which became the main one in the strategy of cooperation of teachers, parents, students, and teachers of the Akmola region [3].

Formulation of the problem.

Today, the educational process is focused on the comprehensive development of the child, which indicates the need for a combination of educational activities and creative activities associated with the development of individual abilities, the cognitive activity of students. One of the most important tasks of the teaching staff is the active implementation of classes aimed at developing the personal-motivational and analytical-synthetic aspects of students' activities in the learning process.

The system of additional education, which has been conceptually introduced in Kazakhstan since 2019 [4], is considered the most important component of the educational space, and it is not just an element of the existing general education system, but an independent source of education that contributes to the achievement of key competencies in various areas of the child's life self-determination. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the system of additional education of students requires the availability of qualified pedagogical personnel who have basic training in the field of additional education and are able to introduce interesting and modern educational programs.

Research objective

The main goal of primary education is to form the necessary skills and abilities of educational activity, master the elements of theoretical thinking, identify abilities and ensure their development, and educate an independent person capable of transforming reality. Therefore, it is important to form Primary School students' understanding of the system of various sciences at an early age, to increase their interest in science.

Research methods

- observation;
- description;
- survey;
- critical analysis.

Research background

The idea about a children's University is based on the requirements of certain provisions of the law "On education" of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It reflects the need for the formation and upbringing of an independent creative personality, the need to identify particularly gifted children and conduct special work with them. To do this, a modern school is faced with the task of helping students demonstrate their abilities, independence, and creative potential.

Cognitive activity is an important component of educational activity, which, in turn, is the leading one in primary school age. The development of cognitive activity is one of the most important tasks not only of the Modern Primary School, which has always been relevant and still attracts many scientists, in particular, but the formation of cognitive activity is also a tool of forming students' motivation to study (J. R. Bruner, L. S. Vygotskiy, P. Ya. Galperin, N. F. Talyzina, A. E. Abylkasymova, R. S. Omarova etc.); personality development in the course of activity (B. G. Ananyev, A. N. Leontyev, V. A. Petrovskiy, L. S. Rubinshtein etc.); studies of optimal coordination of types of activity (I. Ya. Lerner, M. I. Makhmutov, I. M. Cheredov etc.); unity of cognitive activity and communication (L. P. Bueva, V. Mudrik, etc.) [2].

The philosophical justification of the formation of cognitive activities of students in educational institutions was considered in the works of V. G. Afanasyev, N. E. Main, V. A. Yadov etc. The psychological direction of the problem is analyzed in the works of B. G. Ananyev, L. S. Vygotskiy, P. Ya. Galperin, Yu. N. Kulyutkin, A. N. Leontyev, D. B. Elkonin. I. F. Kharlamov established the patterns of formation of students' cognitive activities [5].

As mentioned above, in the development of students' cognitive activity, it is important to introduce children to the basics of science at an early age. Therefore, one of the most pressing issues today is the implementation of comprehensive development of Primary School students through the organization of a children's university.

In modern society, where the tasks of satisfying basic human needs have been solved, the values of self-expression, personal growth, and civic solidarity are brought to the fore. This means a transition from the task of ensuring the availability and obligation of general, «mass» education, to the task of designing the space of personal education for personal self-realization. All this can be achieved and realized through the organization of additional education for children. It is an important factor in increasing social stability, disclosing the personal abilities and talents of each child, despite his social status of families and his formal results in school.

Children's University of Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University is a replication of the international experience of 70 cities in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, as well as Russian universities.

The children's University of Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University plans to work with children of primary school age.

The Children's University does not claim to replace the school for children, since it does not strive for systematic education (does not duplicate the school curriculum). The main goal is to convince children that science is not only difficult but also very interesting and exciting.

The Children's University is designed to popularize scientific knowledge through topics that are of interest to children of senior preschool and primary school age, parents, modern science, and society.

Goals of the Children's University:

- *In the field of comprehensive development of the child's personality:*
 - development of personal motivation for knowledge and creativity;
 - maximum disclosure of the individual age potential of students;
 - realization of creativity, imagination, and creative thinking;
 - formation of a cultural basis, independence of thought, and a holistic picture of the world, the identification of the latent abilities of children for their future profession, and their orientation towards professional activity.

- *In the field of forming a system of work with talented children:*

- identification and support of students who have shown outstanding abilities;
- creation of the necessary conditions for the support and development of talented children;
- support of identified talents and provide them for mastering programs of an increased level of complexity.

- *In the field of expanding the forms of interaction between multi-level educational institutions:*

- ensuring the continuity of programs of educational organizations at all levels (preschool, primary general, and secondary education);
- creation of a system for training personnel for working with children with high abilities for intellectual activity and cognitive motivation, motivation for achievement [4].

Results

Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University has been organizing a children's University since 2016. During this period, along with the students who participated in the children's University, a survey in google format was conducted online to find out how much they like the educational process organized in it, along with the opinions of students who want to participate in the children's University. 683 Akmola region students of 3-5th (aged 8-12) grades took part in the survey.

Letters of information about the children's university were sent to schools of each district of the Akmola region. The information was given about the conduct of an online survey among students. The survey questions included various questions related to the organization of the children's university.

The examples of diagrams given below show how much students are interested in science, as well as which districts of the Akmola region participate in this study. All charts are presented in two languages (state and Russian). Diagram 1 shows the percentage of survey participants from different districts of the Akmola region

In the Akmola region, a total of 683 students (395 girls, 288 boys), 22.5% from Kokshetau,

1. Сіз қай аймақта тұрасыз? В каком регионе Вы проживаете?

683 ответа



Diagram 1

37.9% from Akkol district, 30.2% from Astrakhan district took part in the survey.

Diagram 2 shows how many students from which class participated. 36.6% of 5th grade students, 31.2% of 4th grade students, and 32.2% of 3rd grade students.

Diagram 3 shows the percentage of survey participants, as well as their interest in science

The fact that 81.7% of students are interested in studying science is a testament to the high expectations of future generations.

At the same time, 83% of students are interested in the fact that the classes organized at the children's University will allow students to teleport to fulfill a mission in 3D space, conduct interesting experiments with a microscope, work

with electronic geographical maps, create virtual trips around the world, create virtual models, learn how to solve topology problems, as well as make products with their own hands (drawing, designing, welding, assembling a robot, painting, sewing, etc.).

The organization of such educational activities at the children's University is one of the most important goals. The implementation of this will teach and adapt children to the ability to communicate, develop flexible skills (soft skills), freedom, creativity, mobility, increase the level of cognitive and creative activity, develop abilities, form a person, create a full-fledged team. On the basis of all this, the behavior of each child changes, the degree of development of will and

2. Қай сыныпта оқисыз? В каком классе Вы обучаетесь?

683 ответа

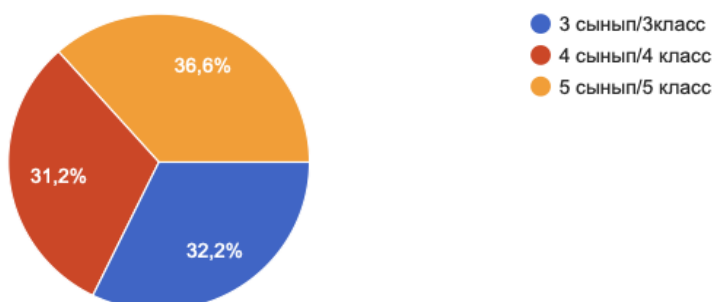


Diagram 2

Сізге ғылыммен айналысу ұнайды ма? Нравится ли Вам наука?

683 ответа

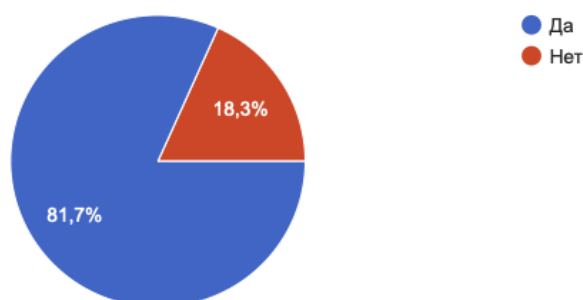


Diagram 3

mental abilities increases, creativity and abilities increase.

Such classes, organized at the children's university, not only increase students' interest in learning, but also instill a passion for science at an early age, teach them to be inquisitive, be able to work in a team, consciously set goals, conduct individual research work, analyze and draw conclusions, direct their actions, and allow them to become a fully mature person with a developed creative thinking and emotional intelligence.

Conclusion.

In accordance with the data collected from the study, it can be concluded that students of both urban and rural schools are interested in receiving

a better education. Children's University meets all the needs of modern schoolchildren who are able to perceive information that is presented in an interesting and scientific way.

In conclusion, we can say that the gradual development of children's universities would contribute to the economic, social, and technical development of society since by investing in the development of students, we contribute to the development of all vital aspects of the country. Thus, it is also possible to propose the introduction of children's universities across the country, as a pilot project that will help children become closer to science, realize their potential, and promote the right pastime, which in turn will have the best effect on the mental well-being of students.

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Балалар университетін ұйымдастырудың маңыздылығы

Аңдатпа. Мақалада KAZCUNET (IRN AR09258554) балалар университетінің желісін құру ғылыми жобасы аясында Ш.Уәлиханов атындағы Көкшетау университетінде жүргізілген зерттеу жұмыстарының нәтижелері қарастырылған. Жобаның мақсатына сәйкес 3-5 сынып оқушыларының арасында балалар университетіне қатысты пікірлерін білу мақсатында сауалнама жүргізілді. Сауалнамаға Ақмола облысы бойынша 3-5 сыныпта оқитын (8-12 жас аралығында) 683 оқушы қатысты. Жүргізілген зерттеу жұмыстары балалар университетін ұйымдастырудың маңыздылығын айқындайды. Сонымен қатар, балалар университетін ұйымдастыру эмоциянальдық интеллектісін, креативті ойлау дағдысын қалыптастырумен қатар білімге, ғылымға деген қызығушылығын оятуға мүмкіндік беретінін көрсетті.

Түйін сөздер: балалар университеттері, зерттеу жұмысы, креативті ойлау, эмоциянальдық интеллект, икемді дағды, тұлға.

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Важность организации детского университета

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются результаты исследования, проведенного в Кокшетауском университете имени Ш. Уалиханова в рамках исследовательского проекта по созданию сети детских университетов KAZCUNET (IRN AR09258554). В соответствии с целью проекта среди учащихся 3-5 классов был проведен опрос на предмет их взглядов на Детский университет. 683 учащихся Акмолинской области 3-5 классов (8-12 лет) приняли участие в опросе. Исследование подчеркивает важность организации детского университета. Оно также показало, что организация детского вуза, наряду с формированием эмоционального интеллекта, навыков творческого мышления, позволяет пробудить интерес к образованию и науке.

Ключевые слова: детские университеты, исследовательская работа, творческое мышление, эмоциональный интеллект, гибкие навыки, личность.

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