



THE ROLE OF CRITICAL THINKING IN PROBLEM SOLVING

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Abstract: *In this article, the essential role of critical thinking in effective problem solving is thoroughly examined. The study demonstrates that critical thinking is a fundamental cognitive skill that enables individuals to analyze complex situations, evaluate information objectively, and generate reasoned solutions. In the modern world, characterized by rapid technological development, information overload, and constantly changing social and professional environments, problem solving requires more than routine responses. Critical thinking allows individuals to identify problems accurately, assess alternative perspectives, and make informed decisions. The article highlights how critical thinking contributes to successful problem solving in educational, professional, and social contexts. Through logical reasoning, reflection, and evaluation, critical thinking enhances problem-solving efficiency and supports personal and societal development.*

Key words: *critical thinking, problem solving, analytical skills, decision-making, creativity, cognitive development, society.*

Annotatsiya: *Mazkur maqolada muammolarni hal etishda tanqidiy fikrlashning muhim o'рни atroflicha tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot tanqidiy fikrlash insonning murakkab vaziyatlarni chuqur tahlil qilishi, axborotni xolis baholashi va asosli yechimlar ishlab chiqishiga xizmat qiluvchi muhim kognitiv ko'nikma ekanligini ko'rsatadi. Axborot oqimi kuchaygan, texnologiyalar tez rivojlanayotgan va ijtimoiy hamda kasbiy muhit doimiy o'zgarib borayotgan zamonaviy sharoitda muammolarni hal etish oddiy yondashuv bilan cheklanib qolmaydi. Tanqidiy fikrlash muammoni to'g'ri aniqlash, muqobil qarashlarni baholash va ongli qarorlar qabul qilish imkonini beradi. Maqolada tanqidiy fikrlashning ta'lim, kasbiy faoliyat va ijtimoiy hayotdagi muammolarni samarali hal etishdagi o'рни yoritiladi.*

Kalit soʻzlar: tanqidiy fikrlash, muammolarni hal etish, tahliliy koʻnikmalar, qaror qabul qilish, ijodkorlik, tafakkur rivoji, jamiyat.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается важная роль критического мышления в процессе решения проблем. Исследование показывает, что критическое мышление является ключевым когнитивным навыком, позволяющим человеку анализировать сложные ситуации, объективно оценивать информацию и находить обоснованные решения. В условиях быстрого развития технологий, информационной перегруженности и постоянных социальных изменений эффективное решение проблем требует осознанного и аналитического подхода. Критическое мышление способствует правильной постановке проблемы, оценке альтернативных вариантов и принятию взвешенных решений. В статье раскрывается значение критического мышления в образовательной, профессиональной и социальной сферах.

Ключевые слова: критическое мышление, решение проблем, аналитические навыки, принятие решений, креативность, развитие мышления, общество.

Critical thinking plays a vital role in problem solving by enabling individuals to approach challenges systematically and thoughtfully. In both personal and professional life, people constantly encounter situations that require effective solutions. Without critical thinking, problem solving may rely on assumptions, emotions, or incomplete information, which often leads to ineffective outcomes. Therefore, the ability to think critically becomes a key factor in achieving meaningful and sustainable solutions.

In the context of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, rapid technological progress and globalization have significantly increased the complexity of problems

faced by individuals and organizations. Modern problems are often multidimensional and interconnected, requiring deep analysis and flexible thinking. Critical thinking helps individuals break down complex problems into manageable components, identify underlying causes, and evaluate possible consequences. This approach strengthens logical reasoning and improves the quality of decisions.

Education plays a central role in developing critical thinking skills necessary for effective problem solving. Learners who are encouraged to question information, analyze evidence, and reflect on their reasoning become more capable problem solvers. Critical thinking fosters independence, intellectual curiosity, and creativity, allowing individuals to generate innovative solutions rather than relying on traditional or routine methods. As a result, education systems that prioritize critical thinking prepare individuals for real-life challenges.

In professional environments, critical thinking is essential for addressing workplace problems, managing conflicts, and adapting to change. Employees with strong critical thinking skills can assess situations objectively, consider multiple viewpoints, and propose effective solutions. This contributes to organizational efficiency, innovation, and long-term success. Moreover, critical thinking enhances teamwork by promoting open discussion, constructive feedback, and collaborative problem solving.

Critical thinking also plays an important role in social problem solving. Societal issues such as environmental challenges, economic inequality, and public health crises require informed and rational approaches. Individuals who think critically are better equipped to evaluate information, resist misinformation, and participate responsibly in civic life. Through thoughtful analysis and ethical reasoning, critical thinking supports social harmony and collective progress.

One of the defining features of critical thinking in problem solving is reflection. Reflective thinking allows individuals to evaluate their decisions, learn from mistakes, and continuously improve their problem-solving strategies.

This process strengthens intellectual resilience and adaptability, which are crucial in a rapidly changing world.

In conclusion, the role of critical thinking in problem solving is fundamental and irreplaceable. It enables individuals to navigate complex challenges, make informed decisions, and develop creative solutions. In the modern era, where problems are increasingly complex and interconnected, critical thinking serves as a powerful tool for personal growth, professional success, and societal development. Strengthening critical thinking skills is therefore essential for building a more thoughtful, innovative, and resilient society.

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