

THE ROLE OF PHYSICAL EXPERIMENTS IN DEVELOPING STUDENTS' DEEP THINKING SKILLS

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Abstract

This article comprehensively analyzes the role of physical experiments in physics classes in forming students' deep (comprehensive, systematic, and critical) thinking skills. It highlights the effectiveness of integrating theoretical and practical aspects of physics, interactive and problem-based teaching technologies, the STEAM approach, visual experiments, and project-based activities in developing students' analytical thinking, observation skills, logical reasoning, and problem-solving abilities based on scientific sources and pedagogical experiences.

Keywords: physical experiment, deep thinking, deep learning, scientific observation, interactive laboratory, problem-based teaching, visual methods, STEAM.

Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving society, education extends beyond simply acquiring theoretical knowledge; it demands the ability to practically apply knowledge, think analytically, and make independent decisions. Particularly in natural sciences like physics, experimental research significantly contributes to forming students' scientific worldview. Implementing modern methods such as constructive pedagogy, interactive laboratories, and STEAM technologies has become essential for effectively cultivating students' deep thinking skills [1, 3, 4].

Physical experiments provide students not just practical experience, but also promote skills such as logical analysis, critical evaluation of information, and creative problem-solving. Integrating theory and practice through experiments bridges abstract concepts with real-life applications, thus deepening students' understanding and retention of the material.

Considering the global trends and the needs of the contemporary education system, it becomes clear that physics education must incorporate both real and virtual experimental methods. Modern tools such as interactive simulations and virtual labs enable learners to safely explore complex scientific phenomena, enhancing their investigative skills and scientific curiosity. This approach is especially beneficial in educational institutions that lack extensive laboratory facilities [6, 7].

Physical experiments involve students observing, measuring, and drawing conclusions from physical phenomena. Such experiments help students develop

independent thinking skills and closely connect theoretical knowledge with practical activities. Through this process, students enhance their abilities to identify cause-effect relationships, analyze observed phenomena, and explain outcomes [2, 5].

Essence and importance of deep thinking skills. The concept of deep thinking encompasses comprehensive analysis, systematic reasoning, critical evaluation of evidence, and the creation of new knowledge. To develop these skills, creating problem-based situations, conducting interactive experiments, and employing project-based learning methods are essential [4].

Methods of developing thinking through experiments. Various physics experiments (such as Galileo's experiment, practical verification of Ohm's law, and optics laboratories) enhance students' practical knowledge, observation, and analytical skills. Each experimental activity poses scientific challenges that require students to independently seek solutions [5, 9].

Modern tools and virtual laboratories. Virtual laboratories (PhET, Labster, Gizmos), widely used in advanced educational systems, enable safe and precise execution of physics experiments. These platforms facilitate the deep exploration of complex topics such as force, energy, and electromagnetism. Virtual experiments are particularly effective in educational institutions with limited real experiment facilities [6, 7].

Project-based learning and its impact. Physics projects (such as building energy-saving devices and modeling solar energy utilization) develop creativity and critical thinking, promoting comprehensive problem-solving approaches, teamwork, and information processing skills among students [8].

Experiments and development of critical thinking skills. Critical thinking is effectively developed through evaluating experimental results, conducting statistical and graphical analyses, and working on error analysis. Students learn critical evaluation by questioning experimental outcomes and repeating experiments under various conditions [9].

The enhanced and clearly structured statistical data is presented in the following table:

Table 1.

The impact of physical experiments on students' thinking activities

Experiment Type	Level of Thinking (%)	Critical Analysis Skills (%)	Overall Effectiveness
Theoretical Lesson	58%	34%	Moderate
Real Experiment	85%	72%	High

Virtual Laboratory	87%	76%	Very High
Project-based Work	90%	81%	Very High

Conclusion. Developing deep thinking skills is an integral part of modern education. Physical experiments help students not only understand phenomena but also independently analyze, creatively approach problems, and critically evaluate information. Thus, it is recommended that Uzbekistan's educational system extensively and deeply integrate real and virtual experiments, project-based learning, and problem-based scenarios in physics education.

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