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MULTILINGUALISM AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract: This article discusses the benefits of multilingualism, its impact on society, and the importance it holds within the education system. It also analyzes the various advantages that multilingualism can offer to today's youth.

Keywords: multilingualism, intercultural competence, globalization, diversity, multilingual education, cognitive development, international languages.

Introduction: As a result of the rapid pace of globalization, multilingualism is becoming a vital component of modern education systems. Furthermore, mastering multiple languages facilitates intercultural communication and fosters intellectual growth by enabling direct access to literature published in other languages. Within the educational framework, this approach helps young people not only enrich their knowledge but also broaden their worldviews. Consequently, the effective integration of multilingualism into the educational process is a pressing issue today. This article analyzes the significance of multilingualism and the various benefits it offers to today's youth.

Main body:

What is multilingualism?

Multilingualism is the process by which citizens of our society acquire three or more languages and use them fluently in communication. This phenomenon enhances cognitive abilities, strengthens memory, improves concentration, fosters logical and critical thinking, facilitates intercultural communication, and significantly expands career opportunities in the era of globalization. When we refer to multilingualism in education we can certainly see the bidirectionality between language and education. Schoolchildren may be multilingual because different languages are spoken outside school in the family or by some groups so that they bring multilingualism to school. On the other hand, the school may have the aim of promoting multilingualism by teaching different languages that schoolchildren can learn and use in the wider society. In many cases, multilingualism in education is the result of the combination of the trend towards teaching more languages at school and multilingualism in society.[1] Multilingualism practice generally develops cross linguistic communication strategies like code switching and code mixing. When people switch from one language used at homes to the other outside the home environment then code switching occurs.[2]

Benefits of multilingualism:

1. It supports intellectual development.

The intellectual potential of young people is growing rapidly today. It is essential for modern youth to

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constantly work on self-improvement, learn languages, and become accomplished professionals in their chosen fields. Mastering multiple languages contributes to enhancing their intellectual capacity. Furthermore, multilingual individuals tend to possess broader perspectives and a more global mindset compared to monolingual individuals. Furthermore, many of these individuals possess stronger skills in analyzing problems and finding effective solutions. Consequently, they are able to think more clearly and quickly than their peers.

2. Facilitating intercultural communication.

Knowing several foreign languages helps a person gain extensive knowledge about the culture, history, and origins of other nations. It also opens up opportunities to make friends in other countries, exchange information, and thereby develop more rapidly. For instance, someone studying a particular field can become a highly skilled specialist by discussing the subject with a foreign counterpart in their native language. This means that a person who knows languages can exchange information not only with fellow citizens in their own country but also with people in other nations.

3. Enables access to resources in other languages.

Multilingualism enables individuals to access articles, journals, and books published in other languages. This means they are not limited to databases in a single language; instead, they gain the ability to search for and find information in other languages that might not be available in their own. For instance, in the medical field, professionals can find relevant information in their native language, but by knowing English, Russian, German, or other languages, they can access global knowledge. Furthermore, people can read books of various genres published in other languages. This broadens their horizons and offers the opportunity to study those languages more deeply. Similarly, films produced in other languages help people improve their language proficiency and gain insight into the countries where the films were made.

The role of multilingualism in the education system and the new opportunities it creates.

Multilingualism plays a vital role in the education system, as it expands learning opportunities for young people and enhances the quality of education. According to UNESCO data, students grasp subjects better, achieve higher levels of knowledge, and illiteracy rates decline when they are educated in a language they understand. Furthermore, multilingualism enhances young people's critical thinking and communication skills. Multilingualism is recognized as a key factor in quality education within modern educational systems. Notably, a resolution by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan addresses this issue. [3] It outlines measures to prioritize foreign language instruction within education policy, radically improve the quality of such education, attract qualified educators to the field, and boost public interest in learning foreign languages. Moreover, the education system is encouraging not only young people to learn languages but is also motivating dedicated educators to study foreign languages and obtain certifications. As an example, in accordance with the aforementioned presidential decree,[4] it has been established that foreign language teachers (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Turkish, Persian, Pashto, Dari, Urdu, and Hindi) at educational institutions who hold a national certificate of at least C1 level—or an internationally recognized certificate of an equivalent level—shall receive a monthly supplementary payment amounting to 50 percent of their base salary rate. Furthermore, it is stipulated that the costs incurred by teachers at general secondary, secondary specialized, and vocational educational institutions for taking exams to obtain an international certificate of at least C1 level are to be covered by State budget

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funds allocated for the professional development of teaching staff, whereas the costs for teachers at state higher education institutions are to be covered by the institutions' own funds. Furthermore, foreign language teachers (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Turkish, Persian, Pashto, Dari, Urdu, Hindi) at general secondary, secondary specialized, and vocational educational institutions who hold a national certificate of at least C1 level—or an equivalent international certificate—will be awarded the maximum score for the proficiency test during the attestation process and exempted from the foreign language module examination.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the importance of multilingualism is growing year by year. At the same time, numerous opportunities are opening up for multilingual individuals today. There is an abundance of job prospects, particularly for the rising generation. Developing and training both foreign and indigenous language teachers are very instrumental steps to help in the achievement of multilingualism practices in education. This can be achieved by training more teachers both indigenous and foreign languages in the training institutions.[5]Therefore, I believe we must encourage and engage young people in language learning.

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