

# **DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CREATIVE THINKING** THROUGH POTTERY CLUBS IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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**Annotation**: This article explores the role of pottery clubs in fostering creative thinking among students in vocational education. It highlights how hands-on artistic activities like pottery contribute to the development of imagination, problem-solving skills, and aesthetic awareness. By engaging in creative crafts, students not only acquire technical skills but also enhance their ability to think innovatively and express themselves. The article presents examples of effective integration of pottery into educational settings and discusses its impact on learners' motivation and cognitive growth.

**Keywords:** Creative thinking, vocational education, pottery clubs, artistic development, student engagement, hands-on learning.

# Аннотация:

В статье рассматривается роль кружков по керамике в развитии креативного мышления у студентов профессионального образования. Подчёркивается, как способствует практическая художественная деятельность формированию воображения, навыков решения проблем и эстетического восприятия. Участие в творческих занятиях позволяет учащимся не только овладевать техническими и развивать способность к инновационному самовыражению. В статье приведены примеры эффективной интеграции керамики в образовательный процесс и обсуждается её влияние на мотивацию и когнитивное развитие студентов.

Ключевые слова: креативное мышление, профессиональное образование, кружки ПО керамике, художественное развитие, вовлечённость студентов, практическое обучение.

# Introduction

Nowadays, in the system of higher and secondary specialized education, it is essential to equip students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with practical skills and creative thinking abilities. Alongside traditional methods, extracurricular activities such as clubs are widely used in the educational process. In particular, pottery clubs play an important role in expanding students' artistic and aesthetic worldview, learning national craftsmanship traditions, and developing creative thinking. Modern pedagogical technologies and the effective organization of the educational process give significant importance to practical activities, especially those based on various directions of craftsmanship. Pottery clubs are among these activities. Through these clubs, students not only acquire professional skills but also develop critical competencies such as free and creative thinking, making independent decisions in problematic situations, and effective teamwork.

### **Main Part**



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Pottery is a form of craftsmanship that has existed since ancient times in human civilization. This art form serves not only to create essential household items but also as a means of artistic expression. Organizing pottery clubs in educational institutions provides students with practical knowledge while also exposing them to complex concepts related to history, culture, geometry, chemistry, and technology. During the process of creating carpets, utensils, sculptures, and decorative elements, students develop skills such as critical thinking, precise calculation, selecting appropriate materials, utilizing them effectively, and evaluating the aesthetic value of the created forms. This process not only strengthens their theoretical knowledge but also connects it with practice and increases interest in their chosen profession.

Every item in pottery is unique, with its own form and meaning. This makes the creation process a unique and individual experience for each participant. By expressing their ideas and thoughts in clay, students gain the opportunity to create freely. Their imagination, artistic taste, and aesthetic sense are revealed. One of the main criteria for developing creative thinking is the ability to apply existing knowledge in a new, original way and to generate new ideas. In pottery clubs, students try out new ideas based on specific forms and technologies and gain skills in reasoning, analyzing, and evaluating when presenting their work. This nurtures their creativity and innovative approach.

Pottery activities contribute not only to practical skills but also to personal development. Working with clay teaches individuals tranquility, concentration, emotional regulation, and sincere communication. Psychologists also recommend working with clay as an effective method for reducing stress, increasing focus, and ensuring internal stability. In addition, pottery clubs serve as a platform for social interactions. Through collaborative work, idea exchange, and mutual support, students develop teamwork skills. Their personal activity increases, a sense of responsibility forms, and leadership qualities emerge. Through pottery, students observe and attempt to recreate our national heritage. Each everyday item or decorative element reflects history, traditions, and culture. During this process, students acquire not only practical skills but also historical knowledge and moral values. In the clubs, students learn about national patterns, colors, and ornaments and learn to reinterpret them according to modern demands. This plays a significant role in fostering national identity, cultural awareness, and aesthetic education. Thus, students not only express their personal creativity but also contribute to the restoration and preservation of national heritage.

Pottery activity is closely linked to various academic subjects. For example, theoretical knowledge gained in geometry and drafting is applied in creating various forms in pottery. Biology and chemistry knowledge is reflected in the selection of materials, understanding the composition of clay, and processing it. Subjects such as art history, general history, and cultural studies enrich the content and form of the pottery. An integrative approach to incorporating pottery activities into the educational process connects education with real life. This helps shape students not only as recipients of ready-made knowledge but also as creative individuals who can apply it in practice.

### Conclusion

Developing students' creative thinking through pottery clubs in vocational education is one of the effective methods that meets the demands of modern education. These activities develop students' practical and creative abilities and foster respect for national traditions, independent thinking, and teamwork skills. A creatively thinking person is one who is competitive in the future, makes independent decisions, and generates new ideas. From this

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perspective, it is important to expand pottery clubs in educational institutions, improve their material and technical base, and implement advanced pedagogical technologies to enhance the quality of education. Enriching club activities with innovative approaches and creating a supportive environment for realizing students' individual potential is necessary.

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