



## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING SKILLS IN CADETS OF THE ACADEMY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18976109>

**Annotation:** This article explores the psychological and pedagogical foundations for developing independent decision-making skills among cadets of the Academy of Internal Affairs in emergency situations. The author analyzes the process of professional training, focusing on developing quick thinking, situational assessment, and the ability to make correct decisions. The role of interactive methods, practical exercises, and psychological preparation in the educational process is emphasized. The study highlights the importance of motivation, self-control, and stress resistance in fostering independent decision-making competence among cadets.

**Keywords:** Academy of Internal Affairs, cadets, decision-making, psychological foundations, pedagogical approach, training.

**Introduction:** In modern society, employees of the internal affairs system play an important role not only in law enforcement, but also in ensuring the safety of citizens, maintaining peace and stability. Especially in emergency situations - natural disasters, social instability, the fight against crime, or situations requiring prompt action, the ability of representatives of internal affairs bodies to make quick, correct, and independent decisions is of decisive importance. Therefore, in the process of professional training of cadets of the Academy of Internal Affairs, the formation of their skills of independent thinking, an analytical approach, and responsible decision-making is one of the urgent tasks.

**Materials and methods:** Psychological research shows that a person's actions in an emergency situation largely depend on their emotional stability, stress resistance, level of self-control, and professional motivation. Therefore, in the process of training cadets, it is necessary not only to impart theoretical knowledge, but also to strengthen their mental state, logical analysis in decision-making, quick reaction, and a sense of responsibility. Independent decision-making is not only a process based on knowledge, but also a manifestation of an individual's inner will, moral values, and professional culture. From a pedagogical point of view, the use of interactive methods in the formation of independent decision-making skills yields an effective result. In particular, through lessons based on situational analysis, role-playing games, practical exercises, psychological trainings, and simulation, cadets learn to make the right decisions in real-world situations[1]. This process develops their creative thinking, teamwork, critical analysis, and leadership qualities.

The complexity of emergencies lies in the fact that each is unique and unfolds with unexpected circumstances. Therefore, cadets must be constantly prepared for various situations and learn to find logically sound solutions even under stress. This places a great pedagogical responsibility on instructors. They must be more than just educators; they must also serve as mentors, psychological supporters, and professional role models. Furthermore, an effective approach to improving the educational process at the Academy of Internal Affairs is to

utilize modern information technologies, such as modeling decision-making processes through artificial intelligence-based simulation programs. Such innovative methods not only reinforce the cadets' theoretical knowledge but also enhance their practical skills. Additionally, moral values, devotion to the Motherland, service discipline, and a sense of collective responsibility play an invaluable role in developing independent decision-making. Every cadet must realize that their decisions directly impact public safety. Therefore, alongside strengthening psychological readiness, special attention must also be given to moral education and patriotic instruction[2].

**Results:** Developing independent decision-making skills in cadets of the Academy of Internal Affairs during emergency situations is a multifaceted, complex, yet essential process. It is achieved by harmonizing psychological stability, pedagogical skill, and professional responsibility. Thus, cadets with such training will be able to make a worthy contribution to social stability as reliable, mature, and responsible employees of the internal affairs system in the future. In the process of training cadets at the Academy of Internal Affairs, developing their ability to make independent decisions in emergencies is one of the most critical tasks of modern pedagogical and psychological sciences. An emergency is an unexpected situation that demands swift action, forcing an individual to mobilize their mental, emotional, and volitional resources to the fullest. In such situations, every officer is required to make decisions that are logical, responsible, prompt, and independent. For this reason, systematic training in this area must be conducted at the Academy of Internal Affairs[3].

**Discussion:** From a psychological perspective, independent decision-making is considered the highest stage of human cognition. This process is shaped by an individual's knowledge, experience, analytical thinking, intuition, and sense of responsibility. For academy cadets, this skill is an integral part of professional competence and plays a decisive role in their future service. The psychological factors that influence decision-making include stress levels, emotional state, self-confidence, team environment, and leadership experience. If a cadet can manage these factors, they can maintain composure and make the right decision even in difficult circumstances. From a pedagogical standpoint, teaching decision-making should not be limited to providing only theoretical knowledge[4]. Practical exercises, case studies based on real situations, role-playing, and psychological training are effective tools in this regard. For instance, cadets are presented with "operational situation" simulations, where their actions and decision-making logic are studied. Such training cultivates qualities like analytical thinking, finding alternative solutions, proper time management, and sharing responsibility.

At the Academy of Internal Affairs, the role of instructors in developing cadets' independent decision-making skills is invaluable. They serve not only as a source of knowledge but also as professional role models and a source of psychological support. Based on their experience, instructors teach cadets how to act in specific situations, what factors to consider, and what principles to follow when making decisions. At the same time, through their personal example, teachers reinforce responsibility, determination, discipline, and willpower in cadets. The role of moral values is also crucial in the process of independent decision-making. When making a decision, every cadet must consider not only the outcome but also its ethical implications. This strengthens their sense of personal responsibility. The fundamental principles of decision-making - justice, legality, humanity, and maintaining a balance of interests - should serve as the main guide for every cadet. In this respect, issues of professional

ethics and spirituality within the internal affairs system must also be thoroughly studied in the curriculum.

Psychological preparation is inextricably linked to the development of cadets' volitional qualities. In emergency situations, an individual's ability to withstand stress, control emotions, think logically, and make quick decisions depends on their mental stability. For this reason, it is crucial for the academy to conduct special psychological training, stress management exercises, and develop team communication and empathy skills. Through such training, cadets learn to manage their emotions, cooperate with colleagues, and find positive solutions in problematic situations. Furthermore, the use of information technology is also vital in developing decision-making skills. Simulation programs based on artificial intelligence, virtual learning environments, and interactive sessions create opportunities for cadets to make decisions in conditions that closely resemble real-life situations. These methods help them develop rapid analysis, alternative thinking, strategic planning, and leadership qualities[5].

Pedagogical theories indicate that encouraging independent thinking, assigning creative tasks, and teaching students to justify their opinions and adopt a critical approach are fundamental to independent decision-making. To this end, using problem-based learning methods, along with techniques such as "mind mapping" and "brainstorming" during classes, yields significant results. These methods activate cadets' thinking, encourage them to think independently, and teach them to recognize their own responsibility. Reforms in this area at the Academy of Internal Affairs must be linked not just to theory, but also to practice. Organizing internships in emergency service units and having cadets observe and analyze real operational situations provides them with practical life experience. At the same time, by seeing the consequences of their decisions, they learn from their mistakes. This process strengthens an individual's reflective thinking and helps them make more precise and responsible decisions in the future. Motivation also plays a crucial role in skill formation. When a cadet deeply understands the essence of their profession and its social importance within the internal affairs system, their sense of responsibility in decision-making increases significantly. Therefore, instructors should pay special attention to reinforcing feelings of patriotism, honesty, courage, humanity, and devotion to service among the cadets.

**Conclusion:** fostering independent decision-making skills in the cadets of the Academy of Internal Affairs is a complex yet highly rewarding process. It not only enhances the effectiveness of educational programs but also strengthens the professional readiness, psychological resilience, and volitional capacity of future officers. In this regard, the integration of pedagogical innovations, psychological approaches, and practical training is of significant importance

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