

Preparing Students for a Safe Learning Environment: Strategies, Techniques, and Challenges

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Abstract: the article discusses the issue of preparing students to ensure a safe learning environment in educational institutions. Various strategies, methods and challenges faced by educational institutions in creating a culture of safety among students were also discussed. The article examines modern approaches to safety education, including active modeling, the use of simulation exercises, technology integration, and individual student characteristics. Issues such as cultural differences, lack of safety awareness, and the need for continually updated training strategies are explored.

Keywords: safe learning environment, student preparation, teaching strategies, teaching methods, safety in educational institutions, safety culture, safety issues.

Introduction

Currently, with the rapid growth of information flows and increasing demand for education, providing a safe learning environment for students has become the main focus of the educational process. It is important to develop strategies to prepare students for a safe educational environment, which include technological innovations such as the use of modern methods in the educational process, training in first aid in cases of force majeure, knowledge of safety rules and the use of communication applications during emergency measures. However, ever-changing physical and cyber threats require regularly updating training strategies and methods. For this reason, the development of long-term and short-term strategies for preparing students for a safe educational environment in the educational process, the introduction of new teaching methods, and the development of appropriate solutions to problems are one of the urgent tasks of today.

Literary analysis

According to researcher I.V.Milchenko, the beginning of the third millennium was marked by a radical change in the information sphere of society and methods of communication between people. This is due to the rapid development of the IT sector, the widespread coverage of the population by social networks, digital technologies, educational platforms and other information resources provided by cyberspace¹.

Psychological security is one of the components of national security and belongs to the category of social security. Based on ideas about threats to human security and the environment, which determine the essence of human behavior and interpersonal relationships, it is studied very deeply in the theory of disasters and conflict situations².

¹ Иван Васильевич Мильченко (2023). Подготовка будущих педагогов к формированию основ безопасного поведения обучающихся в киберпространстве. *Общество: социология, психология, педагогика*, (12), 125-130. doi: 10.24158/spp.2023.12.17

² Чиркина С.Е., Ахмеров Р.А., Бажин К.С., Царева Е.В. Основы формирования психологически безопасной образовательной среды: учебно-методическое пособие. Казань: Издательство «Бриг», 2015. - 136 с.

M.Rasuleva in her textbook “Fundamentals of Forming a Life Safety Culture” says: “The development of information technologies leads to the emergence of new information risks. Scientists look to the future: bioenergy, robotics, etc. to predict what the threats and dangers of scientific development may lead to. As a result of scientific and technological progress, humanity is faced with various dangers, therefore society is obliged to protect people and the environment from the effects of various dangers and threats when solving life safety problems³.

If students and employees of an institution do not know what safe work and activity actually means, the institution's environment will not be considered safe. If they do not have information about this, this situation can undermine their psychological well-being⁴.

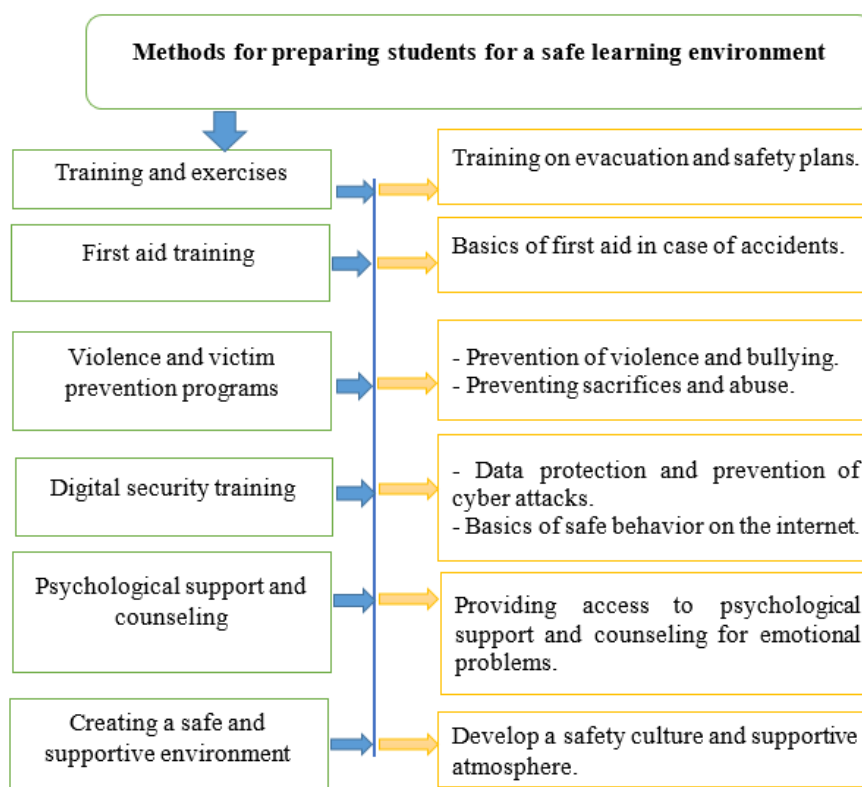
Research methods

We used literature review, empirical research, case studies, expert analysis and legal documents to conduct our research. The combination of these methods provides a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the subject and allows you to develop the most effective strategies and methods for teaching students in a safe learning environment.

Results and discussion

A student preparation strategy for a safe learning environment is a plan or method of action that educational institutions implement to ensure the safety of their students in the learning environment. This strategy can include a wide range of activities aimed at preventing various threats and risks, such as fires, violence, cyber threats and others. Key components of such a strategy include developing and regularly updating safety plans, conducting training and exercises, training students in first aid and digital safety, and creating a supportive learning environment.

The strategy for preparing for a safe learning environment is based on a sequence of specific methods. Techniques for preparing students for a safe learning environment are the specific methods, strategies, and tools used by educational institutions to achieve student safety goals. These methods can be varyfy and include:



³ M. Rasuleva. Hayot faoliyati xavfsizligi madaniyatini shakllantirish asoslari. Darslik, 2020, 267b.

⁴ Timo Savolainen. A safe learning environment from the perspective of Laurea University of applied sciences safety, security and risk management students and staff. Heliyon, Volume 9, Issue 3, 2023.

These methods can be used separately or together, depending on the specific needs and characteristics of the educational institution.

Difficulties in preparing students for a safe learning environment are theoretical concepts or aspects that can hinder the process of ensuring safety in educational institutions. The challenges that educational institutions face in preparing students for a safe learning environment are:

- constantly changing threats: educational institutions must constantly adapt to new threats and challenges such as violence, technological threats and natural disasters;
- financial constraints: lack of funding may limit the availability of educational programs, training, and equipment needed to effectively prepare students for security;
- cultural and social issues: differences in culture, educational level and social status can create problems in the development and implementation of safety training programs and strategies;
- lack of awareness and motivation: some students and staff may not understand the importance of safety or may not be sufficiently motivated to participate in training;
- difficulty coordinating activities: safety training requires cooperation and coordination between various participants in the educational process, which can lead to difficulties in organizing and implementing programs;
- psychological aspects: the development of psychological support and stress resistance among students and employees of educational institutions is also one of the important tasks of ensuring a safe educational environment.

A number of activities are being carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan to create a safe educational environment. In this regard, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the strategy “Uzbekistan - 2030”” accelerates reforms in the education system, including:

- raising the status of the teaching staff, bringing their knowledge and skills in line with international standards;
- teaching students modern knowledge and skills through the development of a vocational education system;
- expanding the sphere of higher education, improving the quality of training of highly educated specialists;
- improving the organizational and managerial activities of higher educational institutions, strengthening their material and technical support;
- enrichment of fundamental research with new directions, based on the requirements of the time;
- create the necessary conditions for the unhindered use of the global internet information network, ensure cybersecurity in the national internet space, and increase citizens’ literacy in using the internet;
- deepen cooperation in such areas as ensuring unified global security, strengthening the potential for movement in emergency situations, prompt exchange of information with all countries in the region, and conducting joint training⁵.

Addressing these challenges requires not only the development of effective safety strategies and programs, but also a comprehensive approach that includes collaboration with all educational stakeholders, ongoing education, and adaptation to a changing environment. Overall, strategies and techniques for preparing students for a safe learning environment play a key role in ensuring a successful and safe learning experience.

⁵ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the strategy “Uzbekistan - 2030” No. PF-158. 09.11.2023.

Conclusions and suggestions

The following conclusions emerged from our research: Studying and developing strategies to prepare students for a safe learning environment is an important aspect of modern educational practice. Various methods, such as evacuation drills, first aid training, violence prevention, and cybersecurity programs, not only make educational institutions safer, but also help students develop skills they can use in everyday life. However, challenges such as constantly changing threats and the need to adapt strategies to new realities require constant attention and improved approaches.

In order to further improve the preparation of students for a safe educational environment, it is necessary to actively introduce modern teaching methods and use innovative technologies, such as virtual learning and educational programs. It is also important to continue research in this area to better understand the challenges facing educational institutions and develop the most effective strategies and methods to prepare students for a safe learning environment.

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