

# LEADERSHIP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION ERA

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## ABSTRACT

The research is dedicated to the problem of the leadership skills development of modern children under the influence of digitalization, the modern phenomenon of "digital childhood". It is noted that today, in order to develop the leadership qualities of modern children, a number of pedagogical technologies are used in the educational process, which makes the socialization of a child more successful. The emphasis is put on the question of which technologies are of the greatest interest as well as are more convenient in a modern educational process.

It is recalled that digitalization is the main trend of Russian education, the risks, that cannot be avoided in the era of technologization and digital transformation, are defined. An explanation to the family education importance in the process of becoming a child's leader is provided, and we also get acquainted with the term of "digital socialization", which is inextricably linked with the peculiarities of the children's leadership skills development in the era of digital transformation.

**Keywords:** *digital technologies, digital transformation, digitalization, "digital childhood", "digital" society, digital competence, "a digital child", leadership qualities, a leader-child.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Transformations in the Russian socio-economic sphere determines new priorities in society, including the need to educate ingenious individuals who are capable of interacting in a general cultural space and self-actualization. In that regard, the modern education system focuses on personal identification, creating conditions for the establishment and development of a proactive, self-reliant and responsible young generation. This problem is reflected in the "State Program of the Russian Federation" Development of Education "2018-2025", in the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" [1].

As it is known, an integral part of the purposeful process of developing a well-rounded personality is activity. From the above, we can conclude that socialization is a separate individual trait, and it manifests itself as the result in the process of social activity.

It is necessary to develop personal initiative and leadership potential since childhood because this age period is sensitive for the development of leadership qualities. This occurs most amply in the upper preschool

age. During social activities, modern children form a number of motivations as well as an adequate evaluation of success, which leads to an increase in the level of arbitrariness and behavioural freedom. The active participation of the individual in activities, the ability to obtain and master necessary knowledge and skills. The desire for self-development contributes to the development of personal traits, including leadership.

Currently, scientists are actively investigating the matter of educating and developing future leaders at the stage of their early detection in the field pedagogy and psychology [3]. This makes it necessary for any educational institution, in order to test the latest achievements of digitalization, with its concept and practice, to develop new, more modern approaches to the organization of a pedagogical process directly.

In psychology, leadership is defined as the ability of an individual to dominate and exert influence in the system of interpersonal relations in a group. Pedagogy considers leadership as the influence of the leader on other members of the group to solve common tasks. Examining leadership in the field of sociology, scientists interpret this concept as a separate mechanism of social

integration of the individual, or as the social status of specific categories of citizens [7].

In modern society, leadership is usually defined as the level of formation of a certain sequence of actions, as well as a set of acquired skills and abilities that contribute to achieving success in the socialization of the individual, both in personal and professional fields.

The research analysis dedicated to this problem allowed us to identify the following leadership qualities: initiative, responsibility, self-reliance, organizational skills, persistence in achieving goals, the ability to motivate peers, the willingness to be the first in everything, the ability to set rules, etc. Communication is one of the main conditions for developing leadership qualities in the younger generation. Namely in the process of communication it becomes possible to establish an emotional contact with both peers and adults, as a result of which the child learns the necessary rules of behaviour for the life in society [8].

A key component of developing social and pedagogical space, which is responsible for the development of leadership skills in modern children, is substantial work, in which a child is included.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

When analysing the literature on the leadership qualities development of modern children in the digital transformation era, we relied on research made in the field of implementation of digital technologies in the educational process. "The State Program of the Russian Federation" Development of Education "2018-2025" [1], focuses on self-identification of the individual, creating conditions for the establishment and development of a proactive, self-reliant, and responsible young generation using modern digital technologies.

The problem of digitalization is studied by the authors N.S. Denisenkova and T.A. Krasilo [2], who defined it as a kind of challenge to the modern education system aimed at improving an educational process [2].

The risks associated with the negative impact of digital technologies on the overall mental development and behaviour of modern children are described in detail in the works of O.A. Karabanova and S.V. Molchanov [4]. E.O. Smirnova [9] expresses serious concern about the active integration of educational programs when using various "on-screen entertainment", including computer games and gadgets in the general educational process.

The didactic potential of digital technologies in the development of leadership qualities is analysed by modern national authors - S.Yu. Kiselev [5], V.A. Korotaeva [6], E.O. Smirnova, N.Yu. Matushkina [9] and foreign specialists - C. Kane. Gerald [15], J. Gray, B. Rumpel [16].

The modern research in the field of leadership qualities and leadership potential development is

introduced in the works of the following scientists: F.E. Fiedler [13], A. Lawton and E. Rose [14]. In their view, a leader is a person who turns peers into people willing to cooperate with him by conviction. A one-dimensional interpretation of leadership styles is presented in the research of K. Levin [17], and also in a "X" and "Y" theory of D. McGregor [18] and in R. Likert's theory [19].

The outcome of the leadership skills development using digital services and technologies, should be the successful self-identification of children in the digital world, which G. V. Palatkina describes in her work [7]. V.O. Korotaeva [8] tells us that children are very proactively, but at the same time spontaneously mastering Internet resources primarily as recreational content and only secondarily as developing and teaching one, becoming advanced users of digital technologies, as well as increasingly technically literate.

## 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The aim of the study is to identify the features of the leadership qualities development of modern children in the digital transformation era (digitalization).

In accordance with the objective of our research, we used the following methods: interpretive, structural-functional, and comparative.

We analysed the scientific and methodological literature, using the interpretive method, and reviewed the works of scientists on the following issues: successful self-realization of children's identity and development of an active social position based on the values of digital technologies. The main features of the leadership qualities development of children in the process of digitalization of education are highlighted.

The structural method was implemented in exploring digital educational resources and features of digital technologies implementation and digitalization of the educational process as one of the methods of developing leadership qualities of modern children.

The necessity to apply the comparative method is due to the comparative analysis of positive and negative aspects in using modern technologies and digital educational resources in the process of developing children's leadership qualities in the digital transformation era of society.

## 4. RESEARCH RESULTS

Transformations in the Russian socio-economic sphere determine new priorities in society, including the need to educate ingenious individuals who are capable of interacting in the general cultural space and self-actualization. In that regard, the modern education system focuses on self-determination of the individual, creating conditions for the establishment and development of a proactive, self-reliant and responsible young generation [1].

We recognize leadership qualities as a set of integral properties of a person who is able to interact with a small group, work with information, coordinate the activities of others, organize and lead, and achieve group-wide goals and objectives [17].

Today, in order to develop the leadership qualities of modern children we try to ensure successful socialization using a whole range of pedagogical technologies in an educational process [3]. Namely digital technologies attract the greatest interest and are also more convenient in a modern educational process.

Digital technologies are responsible for expanding opportunities in the presentation of educational and didactic material. It is very important to note what enhances cognitive interest and focus of modern children. Namely these are classes with the implementation of a complex of modern digital technologies [10]. Digital technologies act as an effective tool for solving the problems of implementing an activity-oriented approach in training, in the implementation of a developmental training, as well as enriching the developing environment. The method of solving virtual educational problems is used to develop children's creative potential. Children need to develop the main leadership qualities: initiative, curiosity, persistence, hard work and responsibility [2]. Based on the principles of organizing the educational process using digital technologies, The concept of "digitalization" appears based on principles of the organization of an educational process with the implementation of digital technologies. It can be included in all types of children's activities.

Let's examine the concept of "digitalization" from the point of view of modern educational technology. Digital transformation (digitalization) is the main trend of Russian education. Digitalization brings an educational organization in line with the challenges and opportunities of an information society and a digital economy [3]. It immerses education in a digital environment and transforms the learning process to develop children's digital and technological literacy, self-education, 21st-century competences and participation in a digital economy. A digital environment in the process of informatization of social space has a vast impact on a mental and emotional-personal development of modern children's personality [11]. It is important to note that parents are responsible for fostering the right attitude to technical devices, but we should not forget that qualitatively new requirements are also imposed on pre-school education.

From the above, a new concept of a "digital" society appears. This is a world of universal digitalization and in this world a harmonious personality of a modern child is formed, where to improve the quality of life, it is reflected everywhere in the use of modern digital technologies [2]. In a "digital" society, children are immersed in a digital space from birth, they live and learn in a digital environment, where their comprehensive development takes place in parallel with universal digitalization.

Today, digitalization has an impact on each individual and in society as a whole, which is a current scientific problem [13]. Starting from an early age, modern children begin to use digital information devices, which, in turn, become an integral part of their life. This allows us to talk about a completely new concept of "digital childhood" [5]. Regardless of the significance of the economic development of the country as a whole or the financial condition of each family separately, it is indisputable that the fact that indicates a modern child, who is born in the era of digitalization, does not become literate in the use of digital technologies and the use of digital devices immediately [10]. The establishment of the necessary knowledge, abilities and skills described above can be spontaneous, but it should be controllable, while the result of this process affects both society as a whole and the development of leadership qualities of an individual child.

In turn, the process of digitalization of modern society affects both the sensory and psychophysiological spheres, as well as the communicative and cognitive ones, of the formation of the personality of a leader-child [1]. We reviewed that, according to our data, over the past year 75% of children cannot imagine their life without modern gadgets. Adults, who are busy with work or household chores, often give their child a cell phone, tablet and other gadgets so that they do not distract them from their own affairs. From the age of 4-5, 85% of parents teach their children to use modern devices. By the primary school age (6-10 years), more than 30 % of children have their own account in social networks. With the help of various digital devices, forms of interaction with the external world and society also evolve. Using gadgets, a new situation of development of child's leadership qualities is created. Their life is supplemented by initiative and curiosity. As a result, children become full-fledged agents of socialization [16]. In the process of digital devices implementation into all spheres of life of modern society, not only new opportunities for the development of a leader-child, but also new risks, associated with the fact that children not only learn in a digital environment but also face-to-face. All digital devices, including media, are now an integral part of a modern society, and the advantages of these devices, if used correctly and moderately, can be very significant in the process of developing the leadership qualities of modern children [12].

A leader in the digital age must have good communication skills that are clear, straight, and effective. In childhood, the game helps to acquire these skills. In turn, it acts as the main condition for using digital technologies in the process of developing leadership qualities of modern children [6]. With the emergence of computer games in a child's life, there is an opportunity to prepare them for life in the information age, which can have a positive impact on mental development and fostering the main leadership qualities, such as: initiative, curiosity, persistence, hard work and responsibility [19].

Undoubtedly, the study of the relationship between children's personal development and their immersion in the digital environment is considered a necessary topic. Childhood is the most sensitive period for the establishment of the sphere of personal development, in particular, the development of leadership qualities [14]. At this age, the teacher lays certain psychological mechanisms of personality development in the child, basic personal traits that allow a child to comprehend socially significant values, as well as moral and ethical norms. The main or, as it is said in pedagogics, the leading type of activity in childhood is the game, which changes in accordance with the requirements of modern "digital" society. It will undoubtedly have an impact on the social and personal development of a leader-child [7].

It can be disputed that computer games have a positive impact on the leadership qualities development in children, because, in addition to entertainment content, games of an educational and developmental nature are currently being actively developed, which, in turn, are responsible for the establishment and development of higher mental functions in children – thinking, memory, attention, perception and speech, as well as a number of qualities that characterize a leader-child - responsibility, independence, initiative, persistence and perseverance [15].

Modern gadgets such as cell phones/smartphones, laptops, tablets, and e-books are the latest technical tools that can be used to develop leadership skills in modern children successfully. Gadgets have a harmful effect when we spend our free time on them inappropriately. [9]. Modern children often command modern gadgets better than their parents. In this case, the Internet service provider, phones, computers, as well as a tablet and e-books, in the hands of a child, become not just a toy but a tool of their socialization [4].

The development of leadership skills in the era of digitalization can be carried out using gadgets. The teacher has the opportunity to model life situations, that can be difficult or even impossible to demonstrate and see in everyday life, in order to analyse the child's response to the proposed situation. It activates the exploratory and search activity of children, which includes both the ability to search the Internet independently and together with parents / peers [15].

Today, it is generally accepted that information computer-based technologies are a modern method of transferring knowledge from an adult to a child, which corresponds to the improved content of education and training, where methods of leadership qualities development in modern children increase the effectiveness of organizing the educational process [19].

Game components included in educational programs with the use of multimedia make the process of learning better, increase children's interest in learning, develop their cognitive activity and contribute to the formation of imaginative thinking [7]. Based on the above, it is important to note that teachers and parents are

responsible for fostering the right attitude to digital devices.

Modern children are the future of the information and technological "digital" society. And with the help of teachers and parents, children will be morally and psychologically ready to live in this society [13]. The necessity for each child to have leadership skills developed is confirmed by the peculiarities of organizing the educational process in the era of digital transformation. [6]. Situations of success emerging in the child's activity inspire them, foster self-confidence, a child independently takes the initiative, and, as a result, the child develops the character of a genuine leader.

Today scientists actively discuss the competencies that a child needs in modern society. In her research N. O. Dubchenkova notes digital competence as one of the conditions for successful development of leadership qualities [3]. This makes it necessary to review the concept of digital competence. In pedagogy digital competence is, in its own way, the ability and willingness to use information and communication resources to solve various life problems effectively, but at the same time safely [12].

Thus, in the era of digital modification of education, the teacher opens up the latest opportunities for including new methodological developments in the practice of pedagogical activity aimed at intensifying and implementing innovative ideas in the field of upbringing, education, as well as the correctional process of the life of a child leader. For the teacher there is a necessity to improve user skills in working with computer equipment, learn to master information technologies in order to improve the quality of the modern educational process. In the future, they will be able to apply the acquired knowledge and skills to develop the leadership qualities of modern children in the era of digitalization.

## 5. CONCLUSION

When analysing the peculiarities of the development of leadership skills of modern children in the era of digital transformation, we formulated a new concept of "Digital leader". Digital leaders have enough knowledge of the digital world to feel comfortable and confident in, they are constantly trying out and embracing new digital opportunities, as well as relentlessly accelerating, and demonstrate unsurpassed interpersonal skills.

Summarizing our research, it should be noted that digital technologies will not harm modern children if they are consciously applied. If all the social achievements of science and technology are used efficiently to eliminate all possible risks, then they will be beneficial.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

N. Dubchenkova - analysis of the concept and features of the leadership skills development of modern children;

I. Tarasova - analysis of the concept of digital transformation (digitalization);

A. Fateeva - analysis of the value orientations of modern children, the impact of digitalization on the leadership skills development;

V. Shulgin - review of scientific and methodological literature on the topic of the article.

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