

ENHANCING STRATEGIC THINKING SKILLS AS A COMPETENCE FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Developing thinking skills for learners is a goal that educational institutions of all levels are constantly trying to do to provide students with skills and competencies necessary for life that can be applied in various ways in the future. However, one form of thinking, Strategic thinking, is essential and is not widely used in education nowadays. Strategic thinking is one of the foundations of human thinking ability to find the best method or alternative to achieve the desired goal, combined with learning and finding solutions during that strategy. It is also a flexible way of thinking in a variety of situations.

The research aims to explain the importance of the Definition and Strategic Thinking Process as well as the steps of the strategic thinking process, the benefits of strategic thinking, and analyze the skills and attributes that will arise with learners through the development of strategic thinking skills. as well as providing guidelines for implementing strategic thinking in learning management.

Keywords: Strategic thinking, learning management, new generation students

INTRODUCTION

Today's world is increasingly faced with uncertainty, and unpredictable events called the VUCA World era or a world of volatility, such as the outbreak of COVID-19, which has had a wide-ranging impact and caused significant lifestyle changes and disruptive technology changes. That not only changed the world in everyday life, but it has also changed the form of education immensely. The changes affected both students' desirable characteristics of learners in the 21st century, adapting teaching styles and methods (Wongyai & Patthanapol, 2019, p. 3).

Therefore, it is not just a knowledge transfer in content or skill training or expertise in the job only, but the vital thing that educational personnel should be aware of is teaching students to think and know how to think that can be adapted appropriately in situations that must be faced in the future

Strategic thinking focuses on goals that always forecast and measure results against goals. It makes it possible to see gaps, problems, or obstacles that block the way to the goal. Therefore, various alternatives and new methods must be searched before deciding the best way to deal with the situation (Charoenwongsak, 2006). Students will be able to practice creative thinking, analytical thinking, problem-solving, and critical thinking

Research on Strategic Thinking to Develop the Learning Potential of New Age Learners. Therefore, it aims to present the importance and form of strategic thinking suitable for teaching and learning development, including benefits and features for modern learners who can apply strategic thinking to the pursuit of knowledge. It will also benefit teachers and educational personnel who will apply strategic thinking methods to effectively develop the thinking potential of learners in the 21st century.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

1. Strategic Thinking

1.1 Definition

Strategic thinking is a way of thinking that can be practiced and applied in a variety of contexts. This kind of thinking is often mentioned in developing an organization or creating a business plan because strategic thinking is consistent thinking of the environment, focusing on creating fitness and consistency between the changes in the environment in each period. It means finding the best method or alternative to achieve the intended goal during situations with obstacles and uncertainties. (Charoenwongsak, 2006; Jatusripitak, 1994; Mulkam, 2014)

1.2 Stages of Strategic Thinking

- 1) multiple sub-target goals may be set.
- 2) Analyze and evaluate the environment or situation, consisting of evaluating one's abilities (weaknesses-strengths) and assessing the environment, including having to anticipate the future that may occur.
- 3) Define more than one strategy or strategic alternative and evaluate those alternatives before implementation by considering the pros and cons of each alternative that is thought to be the most successful or attainable.
- 4) Develop an action plan showing different approaches, including parallel planning to be prepared to adapt to unpredictable environments or situations.
- 5) Test in simulated situations by planning with situations or scenes (Scenario Planning), from analyzing and evaluating the environment or situations to seeing reactions that respond to situations, such as the ability to solve immediate problems.
- 6) Take action or act flexibly in situations that may not go as planned. It is about adjusting according to the actual situation faced in order to achieve the goal.
- 7) Evaluation is an evaluation of whether the goal has been achieved. If the goal is not achieved, go back and analyze and evaluate the environment or situation.

1.3 Techniques of strategic thinking

- 1) Use thought-provoking questions, focusing on asking questions that allow learners to face reality and think with multiple solutions. Ask deep questions
- 2) Keep setting a framework for the perspective on the current situation. have a point of view and create clarity through synthesis to easily see and understand, prioritize, adapt or flex their actions to suit a changing and competitive environment
- 3) Ask questions to investigate, find ideas of opposite beliefs, and stimulate different opinions.

1.4 Benefits of Strategic Thinking

Some situations involve problem-solving, thinking, decision-making, and planning in everyday life. Those who can think strategically will be able to solve problems that arise quickly and efficiently. They will also be able to systematically clarify the issues so that they can be solved on the spot and will also be able to convey their ideas to those around them to understand.

However, human beings tend to use strategic thinking skills when competing or fighting situations are required to achieve goals under constraints. Therefore, people who can think strategically have multiple options for problem-solving (Mulkam, 2014) and benefit in terms of developing their thinking skills:

- 1) Be able to find the best alternatives and achieve success according to the goals set and make decisions suitable for various conditions that are expected to face in the future.
- 2) Make good decisions when faced with situations that can be evaluated.
- 3) Integrating knowledge and experience and applying it to work effectively (Kejoranan, 2009, p. 19).

Therefore, strategic thinking is helpful daily, and effective organizational management can be applied to setting educational goals and developing learners who love learning. It also makes learners leaders as high-quality human resources. It develops them into quality learners who seek self-knowledge creatively from various learning media (Youngtrong, Siridhrungsri & Khamdit, 2017:10). Strategic thinking helps to see the weaknesses and strengths of oneself and others, see opportunities and successes, anticipate future situations, and prevent or resolve problems to achieve the goals set. (Charoenwongsak, 2006)

METHODS

Skills and characteristics of 21st-century learners through strategic thinking development

The world and the global context today have changed rapidly, and the whole way of life needs or expectations of society, technology, economy and society, environment, or even things that are difficult to predict, such as from the past COVID-19 epidemic, directly affecting the education system. Whether it is an educational institution, teachers, students, or parents, they must deal with instantaneous changes. Therefore, for those ready to learn and open to new challenges (Siriwongsak, 2020), adapting to a changing social context for 21st-century learners requires cognitive thinking, living, and decision-making skills. In addition, the desirable characteristics of learners who can live happily with others in society, have an open mind, have public responsibilities, and have the necessary competencies in the job for living as a Thai citizen and a global citizen. Therefore, the skills mentioned above, and attributes can be developed through various teaching and learning types.

Strategic thinking is another approach suitable for developing learners in the 21st century because strategic thinking does not use formulas or road maps to follow only. Nevertheless, it is a way of thinking in all directions, considering the advantages and disadvantages that will follow. As well as environmental factors, the characteristics that should occur can happen if the teacher Train learners to use strategic concepts. Together with a variety of teaching methods, the group of learners who are taught the strategic thinking method will have the following characteristics:

1. Be a learner who learns all the time—learners who know how to think strategically. There will be research always seeking more knowledge, always eager to learn because knowledge is constantly changing. It is necessary to acquire new knowledge.

2. Be a learner who can think critically and reason to lead to problem-solving. Be a learner who can think analytically and rationally to lead to real problems and interpret problems from various perspectives.

3. Be a learner who can use technology for education well. Because they can understand the situation, the necessity, and the value of accessing knowledge, they practice technology expertise to create a variety of options and save time.

4. Be a good learner with morality. Learners who know strategic thinking will understand that strategic thinking is not just about winning. It is about creating the right approach to achieve the desired goal, according to their circumstances and limited resources, which may include Thinking deeply about the people around them. Think about the impact on the environment. Therefore, practicing strategic thinking is not only used to create intelligent people. It will also help build thinkers who live well in society.

5. Be flexible and able to adjust according to the immediate situation because of the strategic way of thinking. It is a plan that has goals compared. Crisis and Opportunity Learners will know how to make choices when circumstances change.

Therefore, the changing global context and the demands of the 21st-century job market make it necessary to produce learners with higher-order thinking skills. Learners constantly practicing strategic thinking are also aware of the impact on their surroundings. Being able to cope with sudden changes is an indispensable trait and will encourage learners to apply it in other areas of life.

RESULTS

Implementation of the strategic thinking model in the classroom

From a variety of strategic thinking models that many people have studied, the researcher has selected three suitable models to be used in the training of strategic thinking skills for learners at different levels: Innovative and creative thinking through project-based learning management, learning management using game theory and planning with situations or scenarios as examples in learning management.

Developing strategic thinking in high school students should begin with developing higher-level thinking abilities such as critical thinking and creative thinking, cyclical learning of all these experiences will allow cognitive and intellectual abilities to be developed. The desire to achieve the goal must be enough to move the idea to raise the status from the desire to the intention of thinking of that success as intended, no matter how small, until reaching complex issues that challenge the process of solving problems.

Factors affecting the strategic thinking ability of students at the secondary level (Decharin, 2018) said that the factors affecting the strategic thinking ability were family background. They have a good mentor, participation, and responsibility in various tasks and interaction (Chenjitsiri, 2014. For example, affecting the Strategic Thinking of Mathayomsuksa 5 Students in Secondary Education. Reasoning is critical nowadays because it is what makes students differentiate. Prioritize, choose methods, plan, and evaluate, as well as the advantages and

disadvantages that will arise from students' actions intentionally and unintentionally. Therefore, teachers, parents, schools, educational service area offices Ministry of Education, and related parties should promote, Encourage and instill in students the ability to think strategically and have the ability to reason for learning since childhood. It enables students to analyze the causes and effects of various situations to achieve that goal. It will result in students who are brave enough to make decisions and be successful in the future.

The activities enhance strategic thinking skills through activities to enhance learning using situations or scenes as a base. (Scenario-Based Learning) Learners practice strategic thinking through simulated situations on the topic. "Mental services for pregnant women who attend the first antenatal care" until they can analyze and assess the situation, plan, and determine flexible and adjusted options in accordance with the actual situation encountered. Lead to problem-solving It allows students to participate directly in learning. Learners learn by empirical self. They are creating an atmosphere for effective knowledge exchange by reflecting Gives students the freedom to express their opinions. Flexibility to learn together. It is reinforced by creating an atmosphere of appreciation (Scenario-Based Learning) that will motivate learners to achieve sustainable learning.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

From the theoretical concepts and methods of applying strategic thinking in learning management to develop the potential of new-generation learners presented above, teachers can apply them in various ways. Teachers should clearly define the lesson's objectives or strategic thinking development activity. Strategic thinking will lead teachers to instill in their students, such as setting goals, solving problems, and finding ways to reach goals. However, the teacher should consider the students' experience and appropriateness to the subject's content.

However, the instructor has applied a strategic thinking method to train students through integration in many subjects. In that case, students will have the opportunity to practice thinking and experiment in various contexts. Strategic thinking is also helpful when setting goals, planning and analyzing or evaluating cost-effective ways to reach them, and creating a new generation of highly resilient and problem-ready learners obstacles in today's rapidly changing world.

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