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Annotation. This article examines the problems of attracting students studying in general education schools to checkers clubs and ways to overcome them. Also, the positive influence of checkers on the intellectual, social, and psychological development of the student's personality is highlighted on a scientific basis. During the study, a survey was conducted among students to determine their level of interest in checkers, motivation, and participation factors.

Annotation. This article explores the problems of involving students in checkers circles in general secondary education schools and ways to address them. It also scientifically highlights the positive impact of checkers on the intellectual, social, and spiritual development of students. During the research, a survey was conducted among students to determine their level of interest in checkers, motivation, and participation factors.

Keywords: Chess, school, club, student, intellectual development, motivation, engagement, free practice.

Research relevance. Today, the development of students' intellectual potential, analytical thinking, and creative thinking in general education schools is one of the pressing issues. Chess is a powerful tool in this process and plays an important role in developing students' logical thinking skills and finding correct and quick solutions to problem situations. However, in practice, in many schools, checkers clubs are not sufficiently active or there is a lack of student participation. This article explores effective ways to attract students to circles based on checkers.

Nevertheless, the popularization of this sport - checkers - in schools is not yet at the expected level. In most schools, checkers clubs have become formal or do not operate at all. Therefore, through this study, the role of checkers in the intellectual development of students is substantiated, and effective forms and means of attracting students to checkers clubs in schools are developed. This serves as an important factor in improving the quality of education, the thinking and social activity of students. Stimulating interest in checkers in schools allows students to increase their interest in this sport, spend their free time meaningfully, and achieve mental stability and intellectual development. Unfortunately, checkers clubs are not sufficiently active in most schools, and students are often unaware of the existence of these clubs. This article highlights ways to overcome this very problem. Recommendations are provided for solving it.

Research objective. To generate students' interest in checkers, develop effective forms and means of attracting them to checkers clubs, analyze existing obstacles and problems, and provide practical recommendations.

Research Objectives:

1. Determine the attitude and interest of students in checkers;
2. Study of factors limiting participation in clubs;
3. Justification of the educational, intellectual, and social significance of checkers;

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4. Proposing modern methods of attracting students to clubs;
5. Evaluation of the effectiveness of organizing checkers classes at school.

Research Organization Methods. The study was conducted in March-May 2025 at a school in the Saykhunabad district of the Syrdarya region. A total of 150 students from grades 6-8 participated in it. Questionnaires, interviews, and practical observation methods were used. Also, some students were invited to participate in checkers club activities as a trial.

Status of study of the problem and its results. As part of the conducted scientific research, a survey was conducted among 150 students, and their interest in checkers, level of knowledge, and participation in clubs were analyzed. Based on the results obtained, the following important conclusions were made:

Although more than 80% of respondents indicated that they know how to play checkers at least at an elementary level, only 18.7% of them participated in a checkers club. This indicates that the existing opportunities are not being fully utilized.

64.7% of students expressed interest in participating in checkers clubs, which is an important basis for the development of intellectual sports in schools.

During the study, several important factors that determine the attitude towards checkers among students were identified:

Organizational shortcomings (advertising, inconvenient schedule, low awareness);
Weak interest or lack of motivation (absence of prizes, incentive system).

Also, among the students who participated in checkers clubs, the skills of analytical thinking, drawing logical conclusions, and efficient use of time were assessed higher. This confirms not only the sporting, but also the educational and developmental significance of checkers.

Based on the above analysis, the following proposals were put forward for the development of checkers circles.

Facilitating the schedule of checkers clubs for students;
Holding tournaments at the school level, awarding the winners;
Organization of draughts training sessions through electronic platforms (mobile applications, online games);

Integrating checkers clubs into interdisciplinary integration (e.g., connecting with mathematics, technology, or logic lessons).

Students' attitude towards checkers and club participation (n = 150)

Table 1

No	Indicators	Number of students	Share (%)
1.	He knows how to play checkers well.	65.	43.3%
2.	Knows the rules at an elementary level	55.	36.7%
3.	Can't play at all or hasn't learned.	30.	20.0%
4.	He is aware that there is a checkers club at the school.	48.	32.0%
5.	Participated in the draughts club.	28.	18.7%
6.	He wants to participate in the club.	97.	64.7%
7.	Reasons for not participating in the club (multiple options available):		
	Lack of organization (advertising, inconsistency with class time)	62.	41.3%

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Lack of interest.	37.	24.7%
Confrontation with lessons.	49.	32.7%
Lack of incentives (prize, competition, reward system).	44.	29.3%

Note: The majority of students (80%) know how to play checkers, but only 18.7% participated in the club. The main barriers to club participation are organizational problems (41.3%), conflicts with lessons (32.7%), and lack of motivation (29.3%)

Conclusion. The results of the conducted research showed that there is a significant positive attitude towards checkers among students studying in general education schools. Most of them understand the contribution of checkers to intellectual development, but in practice this potential is not fully realized. Despite the fact that there is a high interest among students in participating in checkers clubs, such factors as organizational problems, low awareness, inconvenience of the schedule negatively affect this process. The study confirmed that checkers are not only a sport, but also form such skills as logical thinking, problem analysis, strategic planning, and concentration. This indicates the need to consider it as an intellectual and educational component of the educational process. Therefore, the following conclusions were made on the effective organization of checkers clubs in general education schools and the active involvement of students in them. Systematic organization of the activities of checkers clubs, adapting their schedule to the lessons of students. Carrying out sufficient promotional work about the clubs through information resources, class journals, class teachers, and parents. Holding competitions, tournaments at the school and district level and introducing a system for rewarding winners. Interdisciplinary integration of checkers - for example, connecting them with mathematics, logic, and technology. Implementation of modern approaches through electronic checkers platforms (mobile applications, online games). When these measures are implemented, it will be possible to fully demonstrate not only the sports, but also the educational, upbringing, and intellectual functions of checkers. This plays an important role in the comprehensive development of students.

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