

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION OF MODERN YOUTH

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Annotation. The article explores the importance of spiritual and moral education in the upbringing of modern youth. It analyses the philosophical essence of spirituality and morality, their interrelation with culture, language, and education, and their impact on the formation of a harmoniously developed generation. The study also examines the current reforms in Uzbekistan aimed at promoting spiritual and moral values among young people. Recommendations are made on how to strengthen the educational environment through collaboration between family, school, and society, taking into account the challenges of the digital age.

Keywords: spirituality, morality, education, culture, youth, reform, Uzbekistan, moral values, upbringing, social development.

ДУХОВНО-ПРАВСТВЕННОЕ ВОСПИТАНИЕ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ МОЛОДЕЖИ

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Аннотация. В статье исследуется значение духовно-нравственного воспитания в становлении современной молодежи. Анализируется философская сущность духовности и нравственности, их взаимосвязь с культурой, языком и образованием, а также их влияние на формирование гармонично развитого поколения. В исследовании также рассматриваются текущие реформы в Узбекистане, направленные на укрепление духовно-нравственных ценностей

среди молодежи. Даются рекомендации по усилению воспитательной среды через сотрудничество семьи, учебных заведений и общества с учетом вызовов цифровой эпохи.

Ключевые слова: духовность, нравственность, образование, культура, молодежь, реформа, Узбекистан, моральные ценности, воспитание, социальное развитие.

In every period of human history, the education of youth has been regarded as the cornerstone of social development. The prosperity of any nation depends largely on the moral and spiritual health of its younger generation. In Uzbekistan, as in many countries, great attention is paid to shaping a harmoniously developed generation — individuals who are intellectually capable, physically strong, and spiritually mature.

The rapid pace of globalisation, technological progress, and the spread of mass media have created both opportunities and challenges for modern youth. While access to knowledge has increased, the influence of unfiltered information and materialistic values poses threats to moral stability. Therefore, spiritual and moral education has become not only an educational priority but a social necessity.[1]

Spirituality and morality are fundamental aspects of human nature. The term *spirituality* refers to an individual's inner world, expressed through thoughts, emotions, values, and behaviour. According to pedagogical literature, spirituality represents a state of human consciousness that manifests itself in compassion, justice, kindness, and the pursuit of truth and beauty. It reflects one's mastery of cultural, philosophical, and artistic achievements.

In contrast, *morality* is the practical expression of these spiritual qualities in daily life. The Russian lexicographer S. I. Ozhegov defines morality as “the inner, spiritual qualities that guide a person, ethical standards, and rules of conduct determined by these qualities.” Thus, spirituality and morality are inseparable: spirituality provides the inner motivation, while morality translates it into ethical action.

As noted by V. I. Slobodchikov and E. I. Isaev, a truly spiritual person is guided by the highest values of humanity — truth, goodness, and beauty — and

strives to act in harmony with them. [3] The spiritual life of a person is therefore directed towards others, towards society, and towards the service of the common good.

The upbringing of spiritually mature youth begins in the family. The family is the first social institution where moral values are introduced, modelled, and reinforced through daily communication. Respect for elders, love for parents, compassion for others, and national traditions are first learned at home.

Schools and universities play a crucial role in transforming these values into conscious moral principles. Teachers are not only transmitters of knowledge but also mentors who shape the moral character of students through personal example, dialogue, and encouragement. Subjects such as literature, history, and social studies serve as important vehicles for spiritual development by exposing students to moral dilemmas, cultural heritage, and ethical reflection.

Society, too, must contribute by creating conditions that encourage moral growth. Cultural institutions, religious communities, and the media should work together to promote tolerance, patriotism, respect for diversity, and civic responsibility. A society that values spirituality ensures social harmony, unity, and long-term progress.

The 21st century has brought unprecedented technological progress, but also new moral challenges. Modern youth live in a world of constant digital communication where the boundaries between good and bad, real and virtual, are increasingly blurred. Social networks, films, and online media exert strong psychological influence, shaping values and attitudes — sometimes in ways that contradict traditional norms.

Unchecked exposure to aggressive content, consumerism, and superficial lifestyles weakens moral foundations. Therefore, the task of educators is not to reject technology, but to guide young people towards responsible digital behaviour — developing critical thinking, empathy, and ethical judgement in the online space.

Educational programmes must integrate media literacy and ethical reflection to help students distinguish between truth and manipulation, value authenticity, and

cultivate emotional intelligence. In this way, technology can become a tool for moral enrichment rather than decline.

Uzbekistan has taken decisive steps to strengthen the spiritual and moral upbringing of youth. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. DP-3907 (August 14, 2018) and the State Programme “Youth is Our Future” aim to support young people’s education, employment, and entrepreneurship. These reforms emphasise not only material success but also moral development and civic responsibility. [1]

A modern system of preschool and 11-year general secondary education has been introduced, together with new higher education institutions and branches of foreign universities. These initiatives reflect the nation’s commitment to raising an educated, patriotic, and ethically grounded generation.

The state’s approach combines traditional Uzbek values — such as respect for elders, hospitality, and modesty — with modern principles of tolerance, creativity, and innovation. This synthesis ensures that national identity and global citizenship develop harmoniously within young people.

Language also plays a central role in this process. It is both a medium of communication and a carrier of culture and spirituality. Mastery of one’s native language, along with respect for other languages, nurtures cultural awareness and mutual understanding — vital components of spiritual education.

The moral and spiritual education of youth is the foundation of a stable and prosperous society. A nation’s true wealth lies not only in its natural or economic resources but in the spiritual and intellectual potential of its people.

Modern education must therefore focus on developing well-rounded individuals — those who combine knowledge, ethics, and civic consciousness. To achieve this, families, schools, and social institutions must work in unity, guided by a shared system of moral values.

As Albert Likhanov aptly observed, “The spiritual unity of a people and the moral values that unite us are as essential to development as political and economic

stability.” Only when a society is built on spiritual integrity can it successfully address its national goals and ensure a bright future for generations to come. [2]

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