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SPIRITUALITY AS A PRIMARY FACTOR OF NATIONAL EDUCATION: A THEORETICAL-METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the interrelationship between spirituality and national education, their role in the development of the younger generation, and issues of improving national education in the context of modern globalization. The thesis highlights the role of oral folklore, national values, and family education traditions in national education. Within the framework of reforms, the adoption of the "Program for Increasing the Effectiveness of Educating Youth in the Spirit of Loyalty to National Values and Patriotism in the Continuous Education System," the introduction of "Hour of the Future" lessons, and the development of the National Education Model are bringing the national education system to a new level.

Keywords: national education, national values, family education, oral folklore, globalization, patriotism

The issue of spirituality and national education constitutes one of the most significant factors in preserving the identity of every nation, fostering national self-awareness, and raising a well-rounded generation. Following Uzbekistan's attainment of independence, the system of national education has been reinterpreted on a new methodological foundation, with the interrelationship between spirituality, national ideology, and the psychological development of the individual being brought to the forefront. As a result of the intensification of various cultural currents, media outlets, and ideological influences, a transformation in the value system within the consciousness of the younger generation is being observed. In this process, the re-evaluation of the content and educational significance of family values, which serve as the primary foundation of national education, and their harmonization with national education, is becoming a pressing issue. The methodology of national education has been formed based on Eastern anthropology and folk pedagogy, with its theoretical roots tracing back to the heritage of Jadidism and the educational ideas of enlightenment figures such as A. Avloni, A. Fitrat, and Abdulla Qodiriy. Within this conceptual framework, human perfection is determined not solely by knowledge but by "spiritual awakening." The oral traditions of the Uzbek people, formed over millennia—fairy tales, epics, legends





and narratives, anecdotes, proverbs, and wise sayings—play an incomparable role in the healthy development of young minds. Folklore serves not merely as examples of artistic expression but as a robust foundation for national spiritual security. Uzbek folk proverbs, grounded in thousand-year-old experiential wisdom, have consistently functioned to guide individuals toward the righteous path, shape moral values, and serve as a compass in the educational process. The proverb "A child is clay, the mother is a potter" demonstrates the paramount role of the mother in child-rearing. Proverbs such as "Straighten the crooked branch while it is still a sapling" and "What is bent in the cradle goes bent to the grave" emphasize that education is most effective when initiated early. "As water makes crops grow, so education makes a person" expresses the importance of education in shaping every individual. The images within folklore are often represented through opposing polarities: good versus evil, honesty versus deceit, courage versus cowardice, generosity versus greed. Such oppositions cultivate the ability for moral discernment in children. The family constitutes the primary and most important social institution for individual development. It is within the family that a child's moral qualities, national identity, social behavior, spiritual world, and psychological stability are formed. The proverb "One who learns from the mother sews a robe; one who learns from the father shoots an arrow" narrates how parental actions and behavior influence the child. Wisdom such as "The child does what it sees, the father does what he knows" signifies that parents must serve as role models for their children. The mahalla (neighborhood community) serves as the center of value continuity and, as one of the most ancient social institutions of the Uzbek people, fulfills the functions of overseeing the educational process, integrating youth into the community, and shaping norms of etiquette and morality.

Global information flow has accelerated unprecedentedly in the present era. The internet and mobile technologies have penetrated deeply into all aspects of human life, while transnational cultural currents give rise to complex and contradictory processes within the spiritual world of youth. Although today's generation has convenient access to information sources, this inevitably influences their national identity, psychological stability, and value system. Uzbek folk proverbs, fairy tales, and other folklore genres not only speak of morality and etiquette but also hold a significant place in spiritually enriching society. They teach that the roots of education lie in the family, that morals and habits must be shaped from an early age, and that every individual should contribute to society through their virtuous qualities. From the perspective of contemporary pedagogical approaches, organizing the process of national ideology and spiritual education through person-centered approaches based on freedom of thought constitutes an important factor in ensuring the spiritual perfection of youth. Within the educational process, emphasis should





be placed not only on imparting knowledge but also on developing young people's critical thinking and decision-making abilities .

CONCLUSION

National education is an educational process transmitted from generation to generation, grounded in the historical experience, values, and spiritual-moral principles of the people, representing a complex psychological and cultural system aimed at ensuring an individual's attainment of social maturity. Oral folklore particularly proverbs, fairy tales, and epics serves as the primary source of national education, through which moral values, national self-awareness, and patriotic sentiments are instilled in the younger generation . The family and mahalla constitute the main pillars of national education, with the values formed within them guiding the individual throughout their entire life journey.

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