

INSTILLING PATRIOTISM, RESPECT FOR NATIONAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES IN YOUTH: ONE OF TODAY'S MOST PRESSING TASKS

ВОСПИТАНИЕ МОЛОДЕЖИ В ДУХЕ ВОЕННОГО ПАТРИОТИЗМА, УВАЖЕНИЯ НАШИХ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ ТРАДИЦИЙ И ЦЕННОСТЕЙ – ОДНА ИЗ САМЫХ ВАЖНЫХ ЗАДАЧ СЕГОДНЯ

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Abstract: This article provides a distinct definition of the concepts of patriotism, national traditions, and values. It also discusses the importance of educating young people in the spirit of national ideology and loyalty to the Republic of Uzbekistan, its people, and its President. The article highlights the necessity of deeply instilling in their hearts and minds the belief that defending the homeland is an honorable and sacred duty. Additionally, it emphasizes fostering pride in Uzbekistan's ancient history and rich culture, as well as admiration for national heroes who have fought selflessly for the country's independence and progress. The article also underscores the importance of strengthening confidence in the power and capability of the national army.

Аннотация: в этой статье патриотизм, понятия национальной традиции и ценностей определяются отдельно. Одновременно воспитывать молодежь в духе преданности Республике Узбекистан, ее народу и Президенту, глубоко внушить в ее сердцах и умах, что защита Родины является почетной и священной обязанностью, на пути независимости и развития нашей древней истории и культуры, нашей дорогой Родины, гордиться нашими самоотверженно сражавшимися национальными героями, формировать чувство их достоинства, укреплять уверенность в могуществе и потенциале нашей национальной армии. также упоминается.

Keywords: patriotism, values, sense of responsibility, humanism, tradition.

Ключевые слова: патриотизм, ценности, обязательства, гуманизм, традиция.

INTRODUCTION

Patriotism is a concept that expresses a person's love and devotion to their homeland. It is a universal human sentiment and a moral value that has been refined over centuries, shared by all people, nations, and ethnic groups. Historically, patriotism has evolved as a collection of emotions closely tied to the fate of one's homeland, social development, and the struggle for the sovereignty and inviolability of the land in which people live. It manifests in taking pride in the past and present of one's country and in defending its interests. The saying, "*Loving one's homeland is part of faith,*" was not coined without reason.

National traditions represent a set of concepts, symbols, characteristics, values, activities, customs, and traits that appear in various spheres of a nation's life. These traditions are passed down from generation to generation, forming an enduring heritage. National traditions serve as a reflection of universal human traditions at the level of a particular nation. Through them, each nation conveys its unique characteristics, way of life, culture, scientific and literary achievements, and accomplishments in various fields to future generations. National traditions are diverse and multifaceted.

Values

The concept of values is used to signify the universal, social, moral, cultural, and spiritual significance of certain phenomena in reality. Everything that holds importance for individuals and humanity as a whole—such as freedom, peace, justice, social equality, enlightenment, truth, kindness, beauty, material and spiritual wealth, traditions, and customs—falls under the category of values.

In our country, serious efforts are being made to restore national values, playing a crucial role in the revival of our spiritual heritage. The world today recognizes the resurgence of our national values. A clear example of this is the participation of representatives from over 50 countries in events and symposiums dedicated to the anniversaries of historical figures such as Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulug'bek, and Bahouddin Naqshband, as well as celebrations marking the jubilees of ancient cities like Bukhara and Khiva.

It is evident that if love for the homeland does not burn brightly in the heart, if deep devotion does not stir the soul, and if the sense of filial duty towards the nation does not awaken a sense of responsibility, then the words "*My homeland, my sacred place of worship, my land of prosperity*" [3:488] may remain mere abstract expressions, lacking true meaning. Today, every effort we make is for the happiness and bright future of our youth. A well-mannered, knowledgeable,

intelligent, hardworking, and faithful child is not only the pride of their parents but also the greatest treasure of an entire society.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Utilizing national values and traditions in the upbringing of a well-rounded individual is one of the most pressing tasks in today's educational process. For this reason, the study of unique traditions, ceremonies, national values, and customs established in our country has always posed significant academic challenges. In this regard, it is appropriate to mention the scholarly works and articles of J. Hasanboyev, M. Turopova, O. Hasanboyeva, A. Mavrunov, U. Qoraboyev, and others. Additionally, doctoral research by M. Ochilov, A. K. Munavvarov, S. Akhmedov, S. Ochilov, O. Musurmonova, M. Inomova, S. Nishonova, and others has focused on the impact of folk pedagogy on the education and upbringing of individuals.

The customs, traditions, and ceremonies of our people hold great educational significance. The kindness, wisdom, mutual respect, polite communication, and deep regard people show toward one another reflect the inner beauty, rich spirituality, and moral character of our nation. Most importantly, the qualities of generosity, hospitality, courtesy, compassion, conscientiousness, sincerity, honesty, discipline, diligence, self-restraint, frugality, patience, and contentment serve as exemplary models in the upbringing of today's well-rounded generation.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The family is a small homeland within the nation itself. Recognizing the sanctity of the family and striving for its strength is deeply embedded in the moral fabric of our people—it is not merely a cultural norm but a fundamental way of life. As our President has stated, strengthening the family, which serves as the fortress of spirituality and the bridge between generations, is not only a national duty but also a moral obligation for each of us. It is for this reason that all progressive initiatives in our country are first and foremost aimed at fortifying family values and securing a bright future for the younger generation. A strong family forms the foundation of a stable society, and a stable society ensures the prosperity and sustainability of a nation. The presidential decree on the "**Year of the Strong Family**" underscores this commitment, outlining key measures to support and strengthen the institution of the family.

The importance of preparing young people for family life and nurturing them in the spirit of national traditions and values is increasingly recognized as a priority. Across cities and districts, numerous cultural and educational events are being organized with the purpose of introducing young people to exemplary families, reinforcing respect for customs, and instilling a deeper understanding of familial responsibilities. As Akramjon Yo'lbarsov, the head of the regional branch

of the **"Mahalla" Charitable Public Fund**, emphasized, the role of the **mahalla** institution is becoming ever more significant in these efforts. In the sphere of education and upbringing, the **"family-school-mahalla"** concept, along with the **"Parents' University"**, is gaining prominence, ensuring that families and local communities work together harmoniously to guide and support the younger generation.

Instilling military-patriotic values in young people is an integral aspect of nation-building, transcending ethnic, linguistic, and professional boundaries. It is a structured, multi-stage, and coordinated effort carried out by state institutions, public organizations, and various associations, aimed at fostering a strong sense of duty and loyalty to the homeland. The primary objective of military-patriotic education is to encourage young people to actively participate in various sectors of society, particularly in public service and defense. By nurturing a steadfast commitment to constitutional and civic duties, this educational framework ensures that young individuals develop a profound sense of accountability for the destiny of their nation and people. Their ability to protect and uphold national interests, both in times of peace and in the face of potential challenges, ultimately strengthens the resilience and unity of the country.

The fundamental objectives of fostering a military-patriotic spirit among young people include nurturing their loyalty to the national ideology, the Republic of Uzbekistan, its people, and its President. It is essential to deeply instill in their hearts and minds the understanding that defending the homeland is both an honorable and sacred duty. Moreover, developing a sense of pride in Uzbekistan's ancient history and rich culture, as well as admiration for the national heroes who have fought selflessly for the country's independence and progress, is of paramount importance.

Another key aspect is strengthening confidence in the power and capability of the national army. It is crucial to emphasize that physically strong and morally upright young individuals are essential for the strength of Uzbekistan's armed forces. Every citizen must recognize that military service is not just a duty but a sacred obligation. Enhancing both theoretical and practical knowledge about military service among the youth ensures their preparedness for national defense.

Equally important is fostering a worldview that enables young people to assess political and social developments both within the country and globally through the lens of national interests. By instilling ideological resilience, they can be safeguarded against internal and external threats. Training young people to adapt to combat situations, make swift and independent decisions in complex circumstances, and effectively utilize modern military technology are also critical components of their preparation.

Patriotism extends beyond the battlefield—it must be reflected in every aspect of life. The readiness to defend Uzbekistan's interests not only in military service but in all spheres of society must be ingrained in every young individual. Patriotism should become a deeply rooted and intrinsic quality.

The words of Uzbekistan's First President, Islam Karimov, are particularly relevant in this regard: *"Love for one's homeland and humanistic values are inherent traits of our people. Preserving and further enhancing these unique and eternal virtues should be the primary focus of our spiritual development efforts, ensuring that our children grow up as worthy sons and daughters of a free and democratic Uzbekistan."*

A person can only be a true patriot when they have a homeland to call their own. Patriotism means cherishing one's land and people, caring for the economic, social, political, cultural, and spiritual progress of the nation, and contributing meaningfully to its development. It requires a deep commitment to safeguarding national independence and, if necessary, the willingness to dedicate one's life to the defense of the country.

The word "**Vatan**" originates from Arabic and translates to "**motherland.**" Thinkers and scholars have often described the homeland as the "**dwelling place of the heart.**" When we hear the word *Vatan*, images of our family and neighborhood come to mind. This is why the saying *"Homeland begins at the doorstep"* holds such profound meaning. The upbringing we receive in our families lays the foundation for our contributions to the prosperity of our nation. Only when our country is peaceful, our streets are well-maintained, and our people are prosperous can we truly achieve fulfillment and contentment.

Serving the homeland is not limited to physical labor; intellectual strength is equally important. Throughout history, countless individuals have given their lives for the peace and security of our country. Great military leaders such as **Amir Temur, Shiroq, Jaloliddin Manguberdi, and Bobur Mirzo** fought valiantly for the independence and honor of the nation. Even **Tomyris**, despite being a woman in a male-dominated battlefield, demonstrated extraordinary courage in war. Symbolically, even **storks**, known as "**ambassadors of kindness,**" adorn the **Arch of Goodness at Independence Square**, reflecting the deep-rooted spiritual and moral values of our land. Uzbekistan is often referred to as a "**heavenly land**", praised not only in words but also in the hearts of its people.

The restoration of national values plays a crucial role in the revival of our spiritual heritage. Today, the world acknowledges the efforts made in Uzbekistan to reclaim and honor its rich cultural legacy. Preserving national values and traditions has become one of the most pressing responsibilities in the education and

upbringing of young people. The study of our unique customs, rituals, and heritage has consistently presented scholars with important academic challenges.

Beyond formal education, instilling national values in young people requires active engagement through extracurricular activities. Several key aspects must be prioritized:

- Expanding the intellectual horizons of the younger generation by allowing them freedom of thought, listening to their ideas, and helping them identify their personal ambitions and aspirations.

- Introducing youth to **national and universal values**, as well as Uzbekistan's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, while fostering a strong desire to acquire both cultural and worldly knowledge.

- Raising them in the spirit of **humanism**, emphasizing the vital role of both **family and community (mahalla)** in their moral and spiritual development.

The **mahalla** plays a crucial role in moral upbringing, rooted in centuries-old traditions and customs. Through the wisdom of elders, personal examples set by community leaders, and collective harmony, the ideas of **kindness, respect, and social unity** are deeply instilled in people's minds. The **mahalla** is invaluable in shaping individuals with strong national values, compassion, solidarity, dignity, and a sense of responsibility toward their homeland.

Today, extensive efforts are being made to cultivate patriotism among the youth. From an early age, schoolchildren are introduced to the "**Vatan Tuyg'usi**" (Sense of Homeland) subject, designed to nurture love, respect, and hope for the country. Additionally, patriotic competitions such as "**Shu aziz Vatan barchamizniki**" (This Precious Homeland Belongs to All of Us)," "**Muqaddas Vatan**" (The Sacred Homeland)," and "**Eng ulug', eng aziz**" (The Greatest and Most Sacred) further strengthen national pride among young people. Universities also continue to organize **spiritual and educational events** aimed at fostering patriotism, enhancing students' sense of duty toward their homeland, and guiding them toward success.

CONCLUSION

Patriotism is deeply intertwined with the concept of the homeland, as it is the very existence of a nation that gives rise to patriotism. The word "**Vatan**" originates from Arabic and translates to "**motherland.**" This concept can be understood in both a broad and a narrow sense.

In a **narrow sense**, the homeland refers to the specific place where an individual is born and raised—their **home, neighborhood, or village**. In a **broader sense**, it encompasses the land where an entire nation has lived for generations, the territory where their ancestors have long resided. Regardless of its

interpretation, a deep connection to the homeland remains at the core of patriotism, shaping an individual's identity, values, and sense of belonging.

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