

THE ROLE OF SOCIO-CULTURAL REFORMS IN THE EDUCATION OF A WELL-ROUNDED GENERATION

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| ABSTRACT | KEYWORDS |
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| This article briefly describes the reforms being carried out today in the cultural and educational sphere, as well as measures aimed at raising the cultural level of young people. | |

Introduction

In today’s increasingly globalized world, the growing presence of forces that threaten societal stability, orchestrate ideological threats, and negatively impact culture and spiritual education raises deep concern in each of our hearts. This concern is particularly pressing considering that the current continuous education system in our country encompasses only one-fifth of the population. Beyond the youth engaged in this system, there is an urgent need to establish a structured approach to education and upbringing across the broader population, with the aim of achieving cultural advancement. This has become a vital demand of our time.

Indeed, education and upbringing form the foundation for building a cultured and enlightened society. Let us reflect for a moment: if pests were to attack our crops and we failed to take preventive measures, they would rapidly multiply and destroy the entire yield. Likewise, we must view the forces hiding behind the mask of “mass culture” — which negatively affect society — as such destructive pests. The ideological threats that seek to trap our youth require a firm and well-structured system of education and moral upbringing to be effectively countered. This has become increasingly relevant and urgent in our day.

One bitter truth of our time must now be acknowledged, and it is essential that those currently in leadership positions come to understand it: this Is no longer a time to be buried in paperwork merely for the sake of submitting reports. Rather, it is time to strengthen advocacy efforts in order to observe the actual impact of activities that have not yet proven effective in practice. To ensure that planned initiatives produce real results and to evaluate the effectiveness of cultural and educational measures with educational value, achieving meaningful spiritual influence has become critically important.

Moving forward, it will be necessary to analyze the performance of regional cultural councils, and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan should carry out a systematic monitoring of these activities. For this purpose, it is essential to appoint a responsible individual to oversee and manage this monitoring process.

This newly developed system is expected to yield positive outcomes. As the working groups organized by the Ministry examine the effectiveness of cultural and educational initiatives within labor collectives, it is of great importance to continuously improve the practical method through which updated information is submitted to the Ministry's council. This approach will help reinforce cultural and spiritual development on a national scale.

As we all know, today cultural and educational outreach activities are being carried out by several institutions, including families, neighborhood committees (mahallas), educational institutions, universities, and centers of culture and enlightenment. However, since these efforts are not organized within a unified system, instances of repetition often occur in promotional activities. Such repetition leads to a decline in public interest and can result in a sense of boredom.

In this context, cultural and recreational centers—as well as the Ministry of Culture itself—have initiated efforts to effectively organize and coordinate the work of all regional councils, ministries, agencies, and organizations involved in this area.

In short, these centers must serve as the main coordinating bodies for cultural and educational missions, ensuring the further development of the cultural sphere.

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly important to modernize the material and technical infrastructure of cultural and recreational facilities under the Ministry of Culture to meet contemporary standards. This includes restructuring their outreach and research activities. The development of a “Roadmap for Significantly Increasing the Effectiveness of Cultural and Educational Activities for 2022–2023” has become a critical issue of today.

To this end, the Center for Innovative Development must establish the economic mechanisms behind national-cultural and cultural-educational grant projects, ensuring their effectiveness and impact.

It is well known today that becoming a promoter of culture and enlightenment requires deep experience, strong knowledge, exceptional potential, and tireless dedication. Unfortunately, for many years, cultural promoters—those who bring enlightenment to society—have not received the attention or encouragement they truly deserve. It is now time to address these longstanding issues.

Thanks to the initiatives of our country's leadership, numerous decrees and resolutions concerning culture and the arts have been developed and are now being implemented in practice. The recent reforms and innovations within our Republic are beginning to gain global recognition. In order to inform the population about the nature of these reforms in a timely, scientific, and well-qualified manner, it has become necessary to conduct regular “Culture and Enlightenment Hour” events in an interactive, discussion-based format. Such events will help open the door to solving various problems in the cultural and educational spheres. But who should be involved in these sessions? Who will visit the regions to conduct seminars, trainings, and lectures? Who will host them, where will they meet, and how many dialogues can be organized? Who will prepare the necessary handouts, booklets, audio and video materials for the speakers? To find answers to these questions, a focused approach is needed, including the creation of a task force with a structured action plan.

The Ministry of Culture must take the initiative in this regard and ensure that these sessions are conducted in cities, districts, and villages. Only then will we be able to lay the foundation for raising awareness among the population about the goals and functions of the cultural and educational sectors. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with local authorities, must develop proposals and recommendations to address several pressing issues that require immediate attention.

Another crucial matter is the urgent need to significantly strengthen the foundations of cultural education within the continuous education system. To say this is one of today's most pressing challenges would not be an exaggeration. When it comes to cultural education, people often interpret it in different ways. However, culture—first and foremost—refers to the presence or absence of a person's inner refinement. It also encompasses external aspects such as dressing etiquette, communication culture, respectful behavior toward superiors in the workplace, and the upbringing of individuals within the family—particularly their conduct toward parents. All these aspects are essential components of a culturally enriched society.

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In this regard, the phrase “There is no break in upbringing” is often heard. Unfortunately, in the field of cultural and educational work, this principle is sometimes treated with indifference. Each institution—be it preschools, schools, colleges, universities, or neighborhood (mahalla) systems—tends to operate independently, without effective collaboration. This lack of coordination negatively impacts the overall effectiveness of our work.

Therefore, it has become necessary to establish a unified system for cultural and educational activities, in which the responsibilities of relevant institutions are clearly defined and coordinated through joint action plans. For example, in preschool institutions, it is vital to raise young children based on national and cultural values—instilling love and respect for their parents and loyalty to their homeland. To achieve this, the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Preschool Education, must implement an effective system that emphasizes the educational importance of cultural and spiritual development from an early age.

It is well known that the very first stage of education takes place in preschools. Hence, special attention must be paid to the cultural and spiritual dimensions of both privately-run and public-private partnership-based preschools. The role of the educator is especially significant in this process. Educators must be well-trained and have received education in early childhood development. Only then can we be confident that the upbringing provided to our children will yield the desired and meaningful results.

Councils for Culture and Enlightenment, as well as cultural organizations operating in local areas, should pay special attention to this issue. It is believed that assigning members of these councils to specific preschools on a permanent basis—with clearly defined responsibilities—will yield positive results.

As we know, more than 10,000 schools across our republic have been assigned well-known writers, journalists, representatives of the cultural and educational fields, and spiritual educators to carry out cultural and creative outreach activities. This initiative is rooted in the belief that improving the cultural and spiritual atmosphere in schools—enhancing students’ dress etiquette, respect for teachers, reading culture, interest in art and culture, and patriotism, while fostering a mindset shaped by noble ideas and gratitude—is a matter that brings joy to all of us.

It is essential that Culture and Enlightenment Councils in schools organize “Cultural Hours” at least once a week among students. Assigning responsible professionals from relevant fields to these sessions would be highly appropriate.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the Republican Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment, the Ministry of Public Education, and the Writers’ Union, should develop the necessary methodological manuals for these promoters and educators. This initiative, aimed at improving their skills and qualifications, will play a crucial role in solving issues in this area and is sure to yield positive results.

In the past, there used to be cultural centers and venues for spiritual gatherings in various regions. These places would host different types of cultural events, library exhibitions, music rooms, and even compact museum spaces. On weekends, young people would visit these centers and gain valuable knowledge about Uzbek musical instruments and national history.

Today, we live in an era dominated by technological processes. Most youth are limited to information coming through social media. Therefore, parents should make it a habit to take their children to theaters, museums, and cultural-recreational centers every Sunday for cultural enrichment. Parents play a crucial role in the cultural and spiritual development of the younger generation. Taking children to such places lays a strong foundation for instilling a sense of patriotism, love for parents, and interest in history.

In this regard, the Chairman of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city governors, together with the Ministry of Construction, have been instructed to take all necessary measures to build cultural, educational, and spiritual centers in regional hubs based on standard projects. These centers are intended to provide public services and serve as hubs of enlightenment and cultural development for our youth and the general population.

The ultimate goal of these initiatives is to raise the cultural awareness of our people and foster a spiritually mature generation. Additionally, it has become apparent that the “Victory Park” complex in Tashkent should be transformed into a scientific center where the youth can learn about military history and the heroism of our ancestors. It is essential that our younger generation understand the hardships endured throughout history to achieve today’s independence. Such knowledge will instill patriotism, a sense of responsibility, and devotion in their hearts.

In particular, studying and promoting the lives, military activities, and legacies of our great commanders among the youth is of great importance. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture and the Republican Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment, involving renowned scholars and creative figures, should swiftly prepare and widely publish a series of historical-literary booklets titled “The Courage and Military Legacy of Our Great Commanders.”

Currently, around 70% of the information shaping the minds of youth comes through television. Therefore, producing historical television series about our great military leaders under the initiative of the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with Uzbekfilm, would yield positive results. For instance, a music video was produced for the song “Mendirman Usha” performed by People’s Artist of Uzbekistan

and Karakalpakstan, Ozodbek Nazarbekov. This video gained immense popularity. Why? Because it held historical significance, portraying loyalty to one's homeland and family, and it effectively depicted the brave and courageous figure of Jaloliddin Manguberdi, giving us valuable insights into his life.

If similar films about other historical figures are produced and aired soon, allowing youth to visually engage with historical processes, it would undoubtedly spark a stronger sense of patriotism and loyalty to the nation.

Raising a generation of courageous and patriotic youth, who honor and understand their history, greatly depends on the active contribution and dedication of our scholars and creative minds.

References

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