



ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL THINKING OF YOUTH DURING THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE OF UZBEKISTAN

Alimova Guncha Bakhadirovna,

Independent researcher at Urgench State University

e-mail: alimovaguncha@gmail.com

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: October 11 th 2023 Accepted: November 10 th 2023 Published: December 16 th 2023	This article talks about the development of religious and spiritual thinking among young people during the period of our country's independence.
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INTRODUCTION. It is known from the path of historical development of any state that the rapid development of the country, the achievement of certain milestones, and the prosperity of the people are closely related to the level of attention paid to education and the future of youth in this state. In this sense, the problem of youth in Uzbekistan is one of the most priority areas of state policy. Today, state and public associations responsible for the youth sphere are becoming more and more active, and young people also occupy an important place in the modern historical processes of Uzbek society. Today's youth are now involved in many social, political, and cultural processes that are becoming the leading force in the overall progress of society. In addition to the socio-cultural integration of the younger generation into society, it is also important to strengthen religious and spiritual values in the historical thinking of this stratum. At the same time, the rapid penetration of factors such as globalization and Westernization also creates a "next generation" in Uzbek society, which also has new values and norms of behavior.

Analysis of the thematic literature (literature review). The issues of the factor of religion in society, the historical, theoretical and practical aspects of its influence on the worldview and thinking of young people, the role of civil society in the processes of social cooperation continue to be the focus of attention of many scientists and researchers in modern conditions. In particular, from the works and scientific articles of Uzbek scientists H.Pulatova, G.Najimova, Sh.Yovkocheva[1], S.Juraeva, E.Babomuratova, N.Alimbetova, U.Saparova, Zh.Tulenova, A.Chorieva, S.Agzamkhodzhayeva on the importance, content and influence of religious processes and tolerance on public life about youth were published in Uzbekistan. M.Kirgizboev, A.Muminov, I.Ergashev, N. Juraev's research[2] and others are devoted to the development of democratic values in our country, the participation of youth in the formation of civil society, aspects of the factor of religion related to the state political system, and the problems of youth awareness of national identity.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. A solid legal framework has been established in the country to protect the rights and interests of young people, provide them with the necessary conditions and opportunities, and it is being improved in accordance with the requirements of the time. The proposal of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to adopt the UN Convention on the Rights of Youth from the UN chair, taking into account the fact that during the same period we live with the largest stratum of youth in the history of mankind, was also warmly welcomed by the international community [3]. Based on this, the head of Uzbekistan argued that today the number of young people on a global scale has increased by more than two billion, while international terrorism and extremism are growing rapidly, and the need to protect young people is an important factor.

It should be noted that this issue is also reflected in the "Strategy of Action on the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021" and its logical continuation - the "Strategy for the Development of new Uzbekistan". In particular, the following priorities have been established aimed at protecting the rights of young people:

- to educate young people who are physically healthy, mentally developed, independent-minded, devoted to the Motherland, with a strict life perspective, deepen democratic reforms and increase their social activity in the process of developing civil society.;
- employment of graduates of secondary specialized, professional and higher educational institutions and involvement in the field of private entrepreneurship;

Support and realization of the creative and intellectual potential of the younger generation, the formation of a healthy lifestyle among children and youth, their widespread involvement in physical education and sports.

In general, Uzbekistan uses all its strength and capabilities to create modern, advanced and innovative conditions for the education of young people, professional development, and maturation of mature people. Because the more emphasis is placed on the comprehensive support of the younger generation, the more spiritually mature, physically healthy, patriotic and selfless education is, as well as the protection of rights and interests, the higher its effectiveness. Therefore, Uzbekistan looks at the youth stratum, which is recognized as an active stratum of society, not as a "problem", but as a great power, a strategic resource of the state, ensuring the prosperity of the country. As a result, today highly educated, modern-minded young people with a strict position are becoming an increasingly decisive force in the future development of the country.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS. It is known that the Land of Uzbekistan is considered one of the ancient cradles of Islamic science and culture. In order to comprehensively study the rich historical, scientific, and spiritual heritage of our people, widely familiarize the broad masses of the world community with it and, most importantly, deeply reveal the original humanistic logic of the Islamic religion, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev has put forward a number of initiatives. The slogan "against ignorance – enlightenment" is embodied in the concept of these initiatives.

Effective reforms in all spheres of our country's life, including ensuring freedom of religion, are continuing within the framework of the "Strategy of Action on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021", developed at the initiative of the head of state and approved on February 7, 2017, as well as the "new strategy for the development of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", which is considered an integral part. They can be classified as follows:

Firstly, the effectiveness of the work aimed at creating the necessary conditions for believers to visit the Holy Steps has increased. In particular, 350 people made the Hajj pilgrimage in 1991, while in 2018 their number reached 7,350 people, an increase of 21 times compared to the original figure [4].

Secondly, Christians and Jews living in our country have also been provided with a number of opportunities to visit the steps sacred to them. Over the past period, more than two thousand believers have organized a trip to such places of pilgrimage located in Russia, Greece and Israel.

Thirdly, the number of members of the Council on Religious Affairs of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been increased from 9 to 17 members, covering all representatives of faiths registered in our country.

Fourthly, in order to reduce the influence of extremist ideas in society, various preventive measures are being carried out in cooperation with government and non-governmental organizations. In 2018 alone, about 40,000 events were organized, while more than 2.5 million residents were reached.

Fifthly, over the next five to six years, more than 20,000 citizens who were monitored as having links to religious extremist groups were excluded from "special accounts". Special attention is paid to the issues of non-return of these persons to the criminal path, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and their social adaptation.

Sixth, in 2017, the international research centers of Imam Termizia and Imam Bukhari, the Center for Islamic Civilization and the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan were established in the country.

Seventh, according to the proposals of the head of state dated June 15, 2017 at the conference on "Ensuring social stability, maintaining the purity of our holy religion is the requirement of the era" [5] 5 scientific schools specializing in the study of the sciences of the word, hadith, Fiqh, Creed and mysticism were established in the regions. These educational centers currently serve to explore and popularize our rich scientific and historical heritage. Thus, it is assumed that an attempt will be made to religious radicalize the population and an atmosphere of mutual harmony will be created.

In particular, on November 8, 2017, the Kalom Scientific School in the Samarkand region, on November 10, the Akida scientific school in the Kashkadarya region and the Bahauddin Naqshband School of Mystical Sciences at the Mir Arab Higher Madrasah in Bukhara, on November 13, the School of Islamic Law in the Ferghana region, on April 16, 2018, the Hadith Scientific School in the Samarkand region [6]. such camps have started to work.

Eighth, on April 16, 2018, the decree of the President of Uzbekistan "On measures to radically improve the activities of the religious and educational sphere" was adopted [7].

Ninth, on the basis of the Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan and the Tashkent Islamic University under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the charitable public foundation "Waqf" was established at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan and the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan.

Thirdly, the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of May 31, 2018 approved the "Regulation on the procedure for state registration, re-registration and termination of activities of religious organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan" [8]. A new draft law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" was prepared and adopted on June 26, 2021 [9].

First of all, the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On measures to improve the procedure for carrying out activities in the field of preparation, import and distribution of religious materials", adopted on January 20, 2014, was amended and supplemented on April 19, 2019 [10].

CONCLUSION. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.As Mirziyoyev noted: "Today, when the world is rapidly changing and various new threats and dangers are emerging, it is more important than ever to pay special attention to spirituality and enlightenment, moral education, the desire of young people to acquire knowledge, grow up stability and

progressive development of peoples." This inclusion poses new challenges even for our science in the historical period of civilizational changes taking place at the global and regional levels, having drawn the appropriate conclusion.

Over the past years, the foundation has been laid for comprehensive support for young people, for their entry into society as a perfect person. Such attention paid to young people ultimately bears fruit. This is clearly evidenced by the achievements of our youth on an international and national scale. As a result of these reforms, there is no doubt that our future will be bright in the hands of such young people. Because it is today's youth that is the foundation of our tomorrow, the New Uzbekistan, the third Renaissance.

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