

DEVELOPING THE SPIRITUALITY OF YOUTH AS A KEY DIRECTION OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN'S POLICY

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Abstract: The article highlights the issues of enriching the spiritual world of the younger generation and fostering feelings of patriotism and national pride in the context of building the New Uzbekistan. It also analyzes the social-pedagogical mechanisms of protecting the youth from ideological assaults in the era of globalization.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, spirituality, youth policy, the Third Renaissance, ideological immunity, national values, intellectual potential

In the current era of globalization, the global community is experiencing complex and contradictory processes. The intensification of geopolitical competition, the escalation of struggles in the information space, and the expansion of various ideological and doctrinal threats are placing new tasks before societies. Especially due to the rapid development of digital technologies and global communication networks, the unprecedented increase in information flow is creating new forms and methods of influencing human consciousness and thought. In such a situation, strengthening a healthy spiritual environment within society and shaping a stable social space based on national and universal human values has become a pressing issue.

As emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the pace of development in today's era has accelerated to an unprecedented degree, while profound transformation processes are taking place in the system of socio-political views. These processes are also influencing the Central Asian region. In such a complex environment, ensuring stability in society, protecting national interests, and forming a strong system of spiritual values in the minds of citizens is considered one of the key directions of state policy.

In the present era of globalization, protecting the minds and hearts of youth from foreign ideologies and fostering their loyalty to national and universal human values is viewed as the foundation of state stability. In New Uzbekistan, enhancing the spirituality of youth is not just a social task, but a strategic priority of state policy.

The further democratization and liberalization of state and societal life, as well as the five priority areas for national development determined by our President, form the basis for the strategies ensuring the national rise of our country. These include the "Action Strategy" (February 7, 2017), the "Five Important Initiatives" (March 19, 2019), and the "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy (February 16, 2026), which all aim to integrate the social layer of youth with all sectors and systems of society, adapt them, and ensure their direct participation in the processes of state and societal construction, as well as in the further improvement of the political system. These tasks have been clearly defined.

On September 19, 2017, in his speech at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, proposed the development of special resolutions on "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" and "Youth Issues." In response to this, it is noteworthy that on December 12, 2018, during the next session

of the UN General Assembly, a special resolution titled “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance” was adopted.

In order to enhance the education level of Uzbekistan’s youth and promote the implementation of their advanced ideas, attention to youth has been further strengthened in the development of New Uzbekistan, in line with the execution of the “State Policy on Youth” law adopted on September 14, 2016, and based on the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan dated July 5, 2017, “On Improving the Effectiveness of State Youth Policy and Supporting the Activities of the Union of Youth of Uzbekistan.” Specifically, in accordance with the President’s Decree on June 30, 2020, “On Comprehensive Reforms of State Youth Policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan,” the Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established. The goal is to study and analyze youth issues, select and guide young professionals, and strengthen their participation in the activities of the state and society.

As emphasized by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, “Ensuring the full realization of our children’s talents, abilities, and noble aspirations, increasing their social activity, and providing them with all opportunities to occupy a worthy place in life will remain our main goal going forward” [2]. In fact, in the implementation of significant state programs on issues such as healthcare, environmental protection, providing employment opportunities for the population, especially youth, supporting socially vulnerable groups, and other socially important matters, the state has established a targeted strategy as a guiding force.

On February 16, 2026, the President signed a decree titled “Additional Measures for Consistently Continuing Reforms within the Framework of the Country’s Priority Areas for Development until 2030 and Advancing to a New Stage.” According to this document, the “Uzbekistan - 2030” strategy, aimed for 2026-2030, was approved. The strategy outlines 100 goals and 437 performance indicators. The financial sources for each indicator are clearly specified, and their implementation is planned year by year. Within the framework of this document, nearly 60 state bodies have been assigned specific tasks. Among these, particular attention has been paid to enhancing the spiritual and educational knowledge of youth.

In conclusion, as a result of the attention given to youth issues as one of the core areas of state policy in the New Uzbekistan strategy, spiritually developed youth have become the greatest asset of the state and the driving force behind reforms. This direction of policy serves as a guarantee for long-term stability and national progress. The rise in the socio-political, spiritual-educational, and legal-cultural levels of youth, who stand among the creators of the New Uzbekistan, is the foundation for the development of our country, the well-being of our people, and spiritual elevation. In the policy of New Uzbekistan, the development of youth spirituality means preserving the national gene pool and ensuring future progress. Spiritually awakened, patriotic, and modernly educated youth will remain the key factor determining the standing of our country in the global community.

References

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