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## METHODS OF TEACHING RELIGION

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**Abdiyev Jenisbay Genjebayevich**

Assistant Teacher Of The Department Of "Uzbek Language And Foreign Languages", Nukus Branch Of Tashkent University Of Information Technologies Named After Muhammed Al-Khorezmi, Uzbekistan

### ABSTRACT

Religious studies is a scientific field dealing with the study of religions as cultural phenomena and social behavior. The study of religions allows us to better understand the history of mankind, its culture, customs and customs. Religion plays a significant role in the life of an individual and society, shaping people's values, beliefs and worldview. In the modern world, the diversity of religious traditions and cultural contexts requires a comprehensive approach to the study of religions. Religious studies allow us to gain a deep understanding of religious teachings, rituals and symbols, as well as their impact on society.

### KEYWORDS

Religious studies, education, teaching methods, research projects, practical exercises, knowledge, modern technologies, online resources.

### INTRODUCTION

Religious studies is a unique discipline that studies religious phenomena, beliefs, practices and their significance for human culture and society. It covers a variety of religious systems, from ancient myths and rituals to modern religious movements, and surrounds them with analytical, philosophical and historical study.

One of the key tasks of religious studies is the analysis of religious texts and sources [4]. The study of sacred books, rituals, symbols and traditions helps to understand the unique aspects of various religions and their influence on the thinking and behavior of believers. In addition, understanding the evolution and

history of religions helps to form a deep context for their development. An important aspect of religious studies is also the study of religious thinking and faiths. Understanding the spiritual practice, worldview and values of believers makes it possible to identify the meaning and purpose of religious teachings, as well as their impact on human consciousness and behavior. The critical analysis of religious concepts plays an important role in the development of religious studies. The approach based on logic, philosophy and sociology helps to understand the essence of religions, their adaptation to the modern world and their relationship with other aspects of society. Finally, religious studies promotes dialogue and understanding between different faiths, encouraging tolerance and mutual respect. Creating platforms for communication and exchange of opinions helps to overcome misunderstandings and conflicts based on religious differences. Thus, religious studies plays an important role in understanding and tolerating the diversity of religions in the world. Its task is to expand knowledge, promote dialogue and promote a deep understanding of religious phenomena as part of human experience and cultural heritage [1].

The religious studies curriculum is an important and multifaceted field that requires a careful approach and a variety of teaching methods for students to successfully master. Teaching religious studies as a scientific discipline is a valuable process that combines

theoretical knowledge, practical work and research for a deep understanding of religious phenomena. The first and important method of teaching religious studies is lectures. Lectures allow teachers to present theoretical concepts, historical contexts, and basic principles of religious studies. Presentations, video demonstrations and other visual aids can complement lectures, enriching the learning process. Seminars and discussions can be added to the lectures. The organization of open discussions and debates allows students to participate more actively in the educational process, express their opinions, analyze different points of view and develop critical thinking. Textual analysis is another important method of teaching religious studies. The analysis of sacred texts, religious literature and sources helps students to better understand the essence of religious teachings and rituals, as well as their cultural and historical significance. Research projects are an effective way to develop students' analytical and independent research skills [3]. Conducting research on specific topics in religious studies contributes to in-depth knowledge and understanding of the material being studied. Practical activities, such as visits to religious events and museums, enrich the students' experience by allowing them to directly learn about religious practices and rituals. This method helps students to better understand the living aspects of the religions being studied. Testing, knowledge control and assessment of the level of training of students play an important role

in the process of teaching religious studies. These methods allow teachers to assess the level of assimilation of the material and help students develop an understanding and interest in the study of religions. The use of modern technologies in education, such as online resources, webinars and electronic textbooks, opens up new opportunities for interactive and accessible learning. This contributes to the creation of a modern and innovative educational environment for the effective study of religious studies. All of these methods of teaching religious studies jointly contribute to the construction of an interesting and effective educational process. They help students to understand in depth the diversity of religious phenomena, develop critical thinking and create the basis for a tolerant and respectful attitude towards various religious traditions [5].

Research in the field of religious studies is increasingly becoming an important component of the educational process, especially in the modern world, where multinational and multi-confessional societies face challenges and a variety of cultural and religious traditions. The application of religious studies in education has a number of key aspects that contribute not only to a deeper understanding of religious teachings, but also contribute to the formation of values, the development of intercultural dialogue and the improvement of critical thinking among students. Firstly, the study of religions in education contributes

to the development of intercultural education. Knowledge of various religious traditions helps students to better understand and respect cultural diversity, as well as trains them to interact with representatives of other faiths. This creates the basis for a tolerant and respectful attitude towards different cultures and religions. Secondly, religious studies promotes the development of interdisciplinary skills, which allows students to gain a deeper understanding of history, culture, art and politics through the prism of religious concepts and beliefs. An interdisciplinary approach helps students gain a more complete and objective understanding of the world around them. In addition, the study of religious studies develops critical thinking among students. The analysis of religious texts, the discussion of ethical issues and the study of historical facts require students to be able to analyze information, develop their own conclusions and argue their position. These critical thinking skills are essential for successful studies and professional activities. One of the main aspects of the application of religious studies in education is the formation of value orientations. The study of religious teachings and ethical concepts helps students to define their values, ideals and views on life. This contributes to the development of their worldview and helps them become more aware and responsible citizens. And finally, the study of religious studies prepares students for interreligious dialogue. Understanding the differences and similarities between religions helps

students learn to respect other beliefs, build dialogue based on mutual understanding and cooperation, which helps strengthen interaction in a multinational and multi-confessional society [2]. Thus, the application of religious studies in education not only enriches students' knowledge of religious traditions, but also contributes to the development of a wide range of skills and values necessary for successful social and professional development. This makes the study of religious studies an important component of the modern educational program, contributing to the harmonious socio-cultural development of the individual and society.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, successful religious studies teaching requires the use of diverse and innovative teaching methods that help stimulate student interest, develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and an understanding of the diversity of religious traditions. Interactive lessons, multimedia resources, field studies, comparative analysis of religions and discussion practices are all important elements of successful religious studies teaching. Creating an inspiring and stimulating learning environment where students can actively discuss, explore and immerse themselves in the world of religions contributes to their education, the formation of a tolerant worldview and the development of critical thinking. A variety of teaching

methods helps to attract the attention of students, make the learning process exciting and effective.

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