

# Developing spiritual awareness in raising young people to be spiritual and complete individuals

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**Abstract:** The article highlights the special significance of enlightenment in shaping the moral and ethical worldview of students in New Uzbekistan. It emphasizes that enlightenment serves as the pathway to spirituality, acting as a key instrument in its formation. Additionally, the study examines enlightenment as an integral component of a nation's history, analyzing its impact on the spiritual and cultural development of society.

**Keywords:** Students, conscience, moral and ethical worldview, freedom of speech, enlightenment.

**Introduction:** Today, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, remains committed to tradition, emphasizing that paying special attention to the education and upbringing of youth is a demand of the times. He states:

"Educating young people with high moral values, modern knowledge, professional skills, and independent thinking in the spirit of national and universal values is one of our most important priorities. In this regard, we rely on our centuries-old national traditions and the rich spiritual heritage of our ancestors."

## METHODS

### The Role of Enlightenment in Shaping the Moral and Ethical Worldview of Students

Enlightenment plays a crucial role in shaping the moral and ethical worldview of students. It serves as a pathway to spirituality, acting as a key instrument in its formation. Furthermore, enlightenment is an inseparable part of a nation's history, contributing to the development of cultural and ethical values.

The proposal of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United Nations General Assembly regarding the adoption of a special resolution titled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" has further elevated Uzbekistan's international prestige.

The main objective of this resolution is to ensure universal access to education, combat illiteracy and ignorance, and promote tolerance and mutual respect. Additionally, it aims to safeguard religious freedom, protect the rights of believers, and prevent discrimination based on faith and belief.

As recognized by the global community, Uzbekistan has long been a cradle of culture and civilization. The scientific and intellectual achievements that emerged in Uzbekistan during the Middle Ages laid the foundation for European advancements in science and knowledge.

The works of great scholars such as Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna), Abu Rayhan Beruni, and Abu Nasr Farabi not only systematized and expanded worldly knowledge but also became cornerstones for the progress of global civilization, influencing not just their own era but shaping centuries of scientific and philosophical thought.

The great thinker Abu Rayhan Beruni once said:

"Do not rely on the fame of your ancestors; earn your own renown. Whoever takes pride only in their noble ancestors without contributing anything themselves is already dead, while their ancestors remain alive."

This statement serves as a timeless call to preserve, develop, and build upon the rich intellectual and

cultural heritage of Uzbekistan, ensuring that future generations continue to contribute to human civilization rather than merely glorifying the past.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the thinkers of the Eastern Renaissance, pure morals, noble ethics, honesty, and divine enlightenment are the foundations of spiritual and intellectual perfection. Only morally and intellectually advanced individuals can serve as a true reflection of a nation. Furthermore, only enlightened and spiritually developed individuals are capable of working selflessly for the prosperity and progress of their people and state.

The famous Eastern philosopher Sheikh Aziziddin Nasafi, when discussing the virtues of a perfect human, emphasized that such a person must possess high moral character, self-awareness, and both secular and divine knowledge. He stated:

"Know that a perfect person is someone who has attained excellence in Sharia, Tariqa, and Haqiqa. If you do not understand this phrase, let me explain it in another way: a perfect person is someone who possesses the following four qualities in full measure—noble speech, noble actions, noble morals, and knowledge."

### Educating the Youth to Fight Ignorance with Enlightenment

It is crucial to educate young people in the spirit of combating ignorance with enlightenment by making them aware of the various forms of ignorance and its manifestations:

Rejection of societal progress – expressing irrational hostility toward positive changes in both material and spiritual aspects of life.

Opposition to governmental reforms – resisting economic, political, legal, and cultural transformations without understanding their true purpose.

Disrupting international relations – attempting to undermine the principles of equality and mutual cooperation between nations.

Disrespect for cultural values – destroying national and ethnic heritage with barbaric disregard for the traditions and identities of different peoples.

Denial of scientific achievements – hindering progress by rejecting the contributions of science and innovation.

Exploiting religion for political purposes – fomenting conflicts among people and attempting to overthrow legitimate governments under the guise of religious ideologies.

Violation of human rights – engaging in human

trafficking, violating the rights of women and children, and profiting from exploitation and injustice.

Understanding and recognizing these harmful aspects of ignorance is essential in shaping a generation that values knowledge, critical thinking, and moral integrity. Only through enlightenment, ethical education, and respect for human values can societies successfully counter ignorance and foster a peaceful, progressive, and just world.

Ignorance, depending on its subject and nature, can manifest in several destructive forms. Ignorance-driven behavior is characterized by:

a) Resorting to physical force instead of reason and knowledge to solve societal problems.

b) Stubbornly disregarding the wisdom of enlightened scholars and making decisions based solely on personal convictions.

c) Being consumed by ambition and desiring absolute power, seeking total obedience from others while refusing to be accountable to anyone. Those who resist such authority are seen as personal or societal enemies.

d) Valuing superficial wealth, material possessions, physical pleasures, lust, and fame as the ultimate goals of life, mistakenly equating them with true happiness and prosperity.

e) Obsessively seeking social prestige, engaging in mutual flattery and self-promotion, and craving public admiration in both speech and action.

f) Striving for absolute authority by intimidating other nations through military force, aiming to establish a monopoly on power and control.

### Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the Dangers of Ignorance in All Spheres of Life

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasized the multifaceted nature of ignorance, stating [1]:

"When we speak of ignorance, we often refer to religious extremism and dogmatism. However, today's realities show that ignorance exists in all spheres, and if we fail to combat it in a timely manner, it can lead to severe consequences. Today, we encounter ignorance in economics, education, healthcare, and culture—in short, in all aspects of life. This plague has become a shackle that holds us back. Without breaking free from this chain, we cannot speak of progress and development."

This statement highlights the urgent need to combat ignorance through enlightenment, education, and rational thinking, as failing to do so can hinder social, economic, and cultural progress. Only by embracing

knowledge, morality, and wisdom can a society break free from the chains of ignorance and move toward sustainable development and prosperity.

In today's world, combating ignorance through enlightenment requires modern and humane approaches. The key strategies include:

Forgiving and reintegrating individuals who have fallen into destructive ideological traps but have not committed violent crimes. These individuals should be granted amnesty, allowing them to reintegrate into society.

Providing employment opportunities to rehabilitated individuals, ensuring their economic stability without discrimination against them or their families.

Creating a positive ideological environment in families, social groups, neighborhoods, and workplaces to support and rehabilitate those who have been granted amnesty.

Granting citizenship to long-term foreign residents who have honestly contributed to the country through work and loyalty, thereby strengthening their sense of belonging to the nation.

Organizing meetings between young people and former extremists who have repented and returned to their homeland, allowing them to share real-life experiences of the dangers of destructive ideologies.

Persuading individuals through knowledge and exemplary actions, as emphasized by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev [2]:

"We must convince people with knowledge, intelligence, and enlightenment, through concrete examples from history and real-life experiences."

**The Role of Moral and Ethical Consciousness in Society's Progress**

The moral development of individuals must take precedence in the social and economic progress of society. The higher the level of morality, the stronger the foundations of justice, humanity, and prosperity not only within families but across the entire nation.

A morally strong and enlightened society can only be achieved through:

The education and training of morally upright individuals who truly believe in spiritual development and uphold ethical values.

The promotion of stability, prosperity, and social harmony, ensuring sustainable national progress.

Government policies prioritizing moral education, a principle upheld since the early years of Uzbekistan's independence.

**The Power of Moral Conviction in Human Behavior**

One of the key manifestations of moral consciousness is conviction, which is shaped by life experiences and upbringing. Moral conviction consists of:

A strong emotional and intellectual attachment to ethical norms and principles.

The internal acceptance of moral values as guiding standards for behavior.

A deep sense of justice and belief in ethical correctness as a personal commitment.

However, moral conviction is more than just an intellectual acceptance of ethical necessity; it is a powerful internal force that shapes an individual's life goals, motivations, and behavior. A person with strong moral conviction remains steadfast in their principles, even in the most difficult circumstances, demonstrating rational and emotional resilience in the face of adversity.

Thus, ensuring that moral and ethical values remain at the core of personal and societal development is crucial for fostering a harmonious, enlightened, and progressive society.

There are many aspects and challenges associated with spiritual perfection, but one of its key indicators is independent thinking. In its elementary form, independent thinking exists in almost every person, as individuals naturally exercise self-governance in daily situations. However, the independent thinking we are discussing refers to the ability to objectively and promptly analyze every event and process occurring in our country and to form one's own well-reasoned opinions and positions.

When addressing independent thinking among young people, it is crucial to acknowledge the societal issues that arise due to its absence. Some of the most widespread challenges include:

Drug abuse among youth

Susceptibility to destructive ideologies due to weak ideological immunity

Youth involvement in crime and legal offenses

These three social ills often lead young individuals down a path of irreversible consequences, branding them as criminals and ultimately causing their downfall. At the root of these problems lies a lack of ideological education, which prevents young people from understanding the true causes and dangers of these negative influences. Furthermore, it results in their inability to resist harmful ideologies, leading them to blindly follow others' beliefs and actions without critical evaluation.

**The Importance of Ideological and Moral Education**

As the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Islam Karimov, emphasized:

"Only when the material and spiritual worlds harmonize and become like two wings of a bird can a society achieve full and free development."

Unfortunately, as reality demonstrates, there is still no universal education system that can guarantee the development of young people into highly spiritual individuals and prevent moral decline.

**The Growing Threat of Moral Crisis and the Need for Protection**

Today, in a complex global environment, the increasing moral crisis in certain regions poses a direct threat to our cultural and ideological integrity. This situation demands not only the preservation of national values but also their continuous enhancement. More importantly, it necessitates protecting the hearts and minds of young people from the influence of harmful ideologies and extremist doctrines.

Thus, promoting independent thinking, strengthening moral and ideological resilience, and ensuring a well-rounded education system are essential to safeguarding the future of Uzbekistan's youth and the nation's spiritual prosperity.

**The Need to Strengthen Moral and Ideological Consciousness in the Face of Modern Threats**

Undoubtedly, no matter where in the world threats against spirituality emerge, they cause concern for every conscious individual and nation who cares about their present and future. Such spiritual and ideological attacks pose a significant danger to national and religious identity, with children and youth being the most vulnerable to these influences. Therefore, there is a growing necessity to enhance the moral and ethical consciousness of younger generations.

**The Role of Education in Strengthening Moral and Ethical Values**

Developing moral and ethical values at all levels of the education system has unique characteristics. In particular, higher education institutions play a crucial role in reinforcing these values, shaping them into essential life principles for students.

In educational institutions where proper moral education is implemented, students develop the ability to [3]:

Engage in meaningful struggles in their academic and professional lives,

Think independently and act as dedicated individuals,

Understand history correctly and have confidence in their own abilities,

Actively participate in national reforms,

Preserve traditions and cultural heritage,

Respect democracy and uphold positive social values, Remain loyal to noble ideals and use enlightenment as a defense against harmful ideologies,

Demonstrate awareness, creativity, and spiritual elevation,

Actively participate in social organizations,

Combat ideological threats and expose the negative aspects of globalization,

Preserve national peace and security,

Unmask the real nature of the so-called "export of democracy."

To ensure a stable and prosperous future, it is essential to integrate moral education into the educational process, helping students develop strong ideological immunity and the ability to resist destructive influences. Only through knowledge, awareness, and moral strength can young people become true defenders of their national identity and spiritual heritage, ensuring the peace, progress, and stability of their homeland.

## **CONCLUSION**

**The Role of Higher Education in Strengthening National Identity and Ideological Resilience**

One of the key aspects of strengthening independence is the active ideological struggle against destructive influences. This includes:

Using national celebrations and ceremonies as platforms for ideological promotion and raising national consciousness.

Combating the negative effects of globalization, information warfare, and the threats of mass culture through critical awareness.

Defending national identity by fostering a strong sense of belonging and patriotic responsibility.

Opposing destructive ideologies, including treachery, indifference, regionalism, terrorism, and cosmopolitanism.

Developing a deep faith in a great future, instilling hope and confidence in national progress.

**The Crucial Role of Higher Education in Youth Development**

For these values to take root, higher education institutions must play a leading role in shaping the ideological and moral foundation of young people.

We believe that universities should utilize the opportunities provided by the state effectively, placing greater emphasis on educational and ideological programs. To achieve this, universities should:

Implement a comprehensive system of moral education that enhances students' national and cultural awareness.

Conduct specialized educational programs that focus on patriotism, ideological resilience, and critical thinking.

Strengthen moral and ideological instruction, ensuring that students actively resist negative influences while embracing progressive national values.

By fostering a strong sense of national pride, ideological resilience, and cultural awareness, higher education institutions can equip young people with the knowledge and values needed to protect and uphold their independence. Only through education, critical awareness, and active participation can youth become the true defenders of their nation's sovereignty and identity.

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