

Educating in The Spirit of Independence Through Art: The Importance of Artistic Creativity for Youth

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Abstract: This article presents a socio-philosophical analysis of the concept of youth, the development of artistic creativity among young people, and their upbringing in the spirit of the idea of independence. It examines the state policy on youth, its legal foundations, and stages of improvement as a systematic and law-governed process. The article also highlights the factors influencing the upbringing of youth in the spirit of independence and the role and significance of developing artistic creativity in young people within the life of society.

Keywords: Youth, development of artistic creativity, upbringing in the spirit of the idea of independence, youth policy, laws adopted on youth issues, youth artistic creativity, its essence as a systematic and law-governed process.

Introduction: The sustainable development and progress of every state are directly linked to the policies it implements in the field of youth. Young people represent a socially active segment of the population that contributes significantly to the prosperity and advancement of the country, the well-being of its citizens, and the nation's integration into the ranks of leading global societies. Educating a healthy and well-rounded generation and turning them into active participants in the political, social, and economic reforms taking place in the country, as well as making them the true support of society, is one of the top strategic priorities of our state's policy.

METHOD

In recent years, nearly 100 laws and regulatory documents related to the effectiveness of youth policy have been adopted in Uzbekistan. Chapter XIV of the Constitution of Uzbekistan is titled "Family, Children, and Youth," and Article 79 directly concerns youth issues. This article states: "The state shall ensure the protection of the personal, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of youth and promote their active participation in the life of society and the state" [1]. Furthermore, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan stipulates that the state must

create the conditions necessary for the intellectual, creative, physical, and moral development of youth.

On September 14, 2016, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On State Youth Policy" was adopted. Article 3 of this law provides definitions of the concepts of state youth policy and youth. According to these definitions, state youth policy is a system of socio-economic, organizational, and legal measures implemented by the state to foster the social development of youth and create conditions for the realization of their intellectual, creative, and other potential. Youth (young citizens) are defined as individuals who have reached the age of fourteen and are not older than thirty [2].

RESULTS

When social life is viewed as a holistic, systematic, and law-governed process, attention is consistently given to the fact that it comprises various social groups and strata, among which youth occupy a special place. In social life, youth are recognized as the foundation of society, the progressive segment of the population, and the trustworthy successors of the future. The level of development of any society is determined by the knowledge, worldview, thinking, and moral image of its youth. The stability and strength of a country are

directly dependent on the active and practical participation of young people who are physically healthy, spiritually developed, well-rounded, broad-minded, politically and legally literate, and economically educated.

Social groups refer to collections of individuals who regularly interact with one another in social life and can include occupational, religious, ethnic, and various demographic groups (such as youth, women, elders, etc.).

Youth are defined as a socio-demographic group undergoing the formative period of their spiritual worldview and experiencing the primary phase of social growth, intensive socialization and adaptation, and socio-psychological and physiological maturity, typically between the ages of 14 and 30. This phase in young people's lives is associated with several important social milestones, including acquiring education, forming a family, starting work activities, developing professional skills, and striving to gain a firm social and political standpoint. The socialization and adaptation of youth into public life occur through their acquisition of the universal and national values, rules, norms, ethics, and behavioral standards inherent to a particular society, community, or group. The active participation of youth in society, and their adaptation to social, political, legal, economic, moral, and ideological relationships, as well as their functioning as individuals within social life, positively influences social development. Youth socialization, on the one hand, affects social relations, and on the other, changes as they enter these relationships and are influenced by them [3].

Ensuring the healthy development of youth, providing them with quality education, supporting their well-rounded upbringing, and encouraging their interest in culture, art, sports, information technology, and reading are issues that are being addressed at the level of state policy.

"We will continue with determination the great work we have begun to educate our youth in the spirit of love and loyalty to our Motherland and the ideals of independence, to support the realization of their talents, abilities, and noble aspirations," [4] said President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The concept of youth is defined differently across the social sciences, political theory, and philosophy. One such definition states: "Youth is a special social age group distinguished by age limits and its status in society, marking the transition from childhood and adolescence to social responsibility. Youth are a collective of individuals who participate actively in specific areas of social life, are granted certain

privileges, and assist in the process of social development. The age boundaries that define youth vary by country, with the lower limit ranging from 14 to 16 years old and the upper limit from 25 to 35 or even older" [5].

Notable researchers such as American scholars Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton, and Neil Smelser, as well as Russian scholars V.T. Lisovsky and N.M. Blinov, have conducted studies on youth-related issues. V.T. Lisovsky considers youth as "a generation going through the stage of socialization and mastering educational, professional, cultural, and other social functions," while Igor Kon defines youth as "a socio-demographic group distinguished by socio-psychological traits and a unique social status, unified by common age characteristics" [6]. In the process of studying youth as a distinct social group, significant attention has always been paid to aspects such as their age, status, and place in society.

As a socially active segment of society, youth play a vital role in the development of the state and society by preserving and advancing the achievements, material and spiritual culture, and social progress already attained. In the process of engaging in state and public life, they acquire goals, objectives, and opinions of their own and display a positive attitude toward innovation. As both objects and subjects of education and upbringing, youth rely on defined values and moral standards. They actively contribute to the socio-economic and moral development of the country.

In the youth policy pursued by Uzbekistan, special attention is given to ensuring the physical and intellectual well-being of young people, instilling in them qualities such as entrepreneurship, diligence, and independent thinking, as well as educating every youth in the spirit of love, loyalty, and devotion to their homeland. It is of great importance that young people gain a deep and comprehensive understanding of their nation's history, customs, and traditions, and of their people's role in the development of world civilization—this plays a key role in raising them in the spirit of independence.

"We have set the goal of transforming Uzbekistan into a developed country, and we can achieve this only through rapid reforms, knowledge, and innovation," says President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. "To do so, we must first enhance the practical effectiveness of reforms and ensure that our people are more active and initiative-driven in promoting new ideas at the local level. At the same time, we must educate a new generation of reform-minded, strategic-thinking, knowledgeable, and skilled professionals" [7].

After gaining independence, under the leadership of

the First President of Uzbekistan, 22 laws related to children and youth, 27 presidential decrees and decisions, 46 decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers, and more than 200 regulatory-legal documents were adopted. Additionally, the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) ratified nearly 10 international treaties on the rights of children and youth. In Uzbekistan, the protection of youth rights and freedoms, and the support of their moral, intellectual, and physical development, are being carried out by fostering their artistic creativity and expanding their scientific, philosophical, political, legal, and artistic knowledge, imagination, and worldview. Special attention is given to nurturing a culture of artistic and creative thinking in talented, gifted, and entrepreneurial youth based on the harmony of national and universal values.

This effort aims to instill in the consciousness and hearts of youth the ideas of social cooperation, interethnic harmony, and interfaith tolerance—promoted through national ideology and philosophy—by stimulating their interest in artistic creativity, literature, art, and culture, thereby expanding their aesthetic awareness and cultural outlook, and strengthening their ideological immunity.

The emerging national ideology and philosophy in Uzbekistan serve to unite citizens around noble goals such as building a democratic, legal state and a civil society based on humanistic principles as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic. Strengthening the socio-political and legal activity of every citizen—especially young people—and fostering civic culture is being implemented through the development of artistic creativity among youth. The creation of an effective and consistent system of social upbringing and the formation of civic culture in society are being harmoniously carried out in conjunction with the development of artistic creativity among the younger generation.

Today, global life and human development have reached a stage where intellectual capacity, reasoning, ideas, and advanced technologies—not military power—have become decisive factors [8].

Today's youth must be socially active, independent thinkers, and possess modern knowledge and professional skills in order to compete on the international stage. For this, they need broad knowledge, a wide worldview, and creative artistic thinking.

"We have firmly committed ourselves to building a great future for Uzbekistan, and this great work must begin not tomorrow, but today. To achieve this, we must create the necessary conditions for our youth now," says President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. "In this

regard, I assure you: not only will we continue the work we have begun to fulfill the dreams, aspirations, innovative ideas, and initiatives of our youth, but we will elevate it to a new and even higher stage" [9].

On August 4, 2020, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev issued the decree "On Measures for the Fundamental Reform and Advancement of State Youth Policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan." According to this decree, the Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established, with key tasks including educating young people in the spirit of loyalty to the homeland, respect for national and universal values, involving the younger generation in science and innovation, and uniting them under the slogan "From National Revival to National Uplift!" The decree also included goals such as sending talented youth to leading foreign universities, ensuring their participation in international competitions, promoting involvement in culture, art, physical education, and sports, increasing digital literacy, promoting reading among youth, ensuring employment of women, and coordinating the implementation of five major initiatives aimed at supporting the intellectual capacity and talents of youth. These are now regarded as important aspects of Uzbekistan's youth policy.

CONCLUSION

Raising physically healthy, mentally and intellectually developed, independent, and patriotic youth with strong life principles, and increasing their social activity in the process of deepening democratic reforms and developing civil society, are currently recognized as key priorities for the state and society in Uzbekistan. Supporting and realizing the creative and intellectual potential of the younger generation, promoting a healthy lifestyle among children and youth, and engaging them in physical education and sports are interconnected with fostering their artistic creativity and enhancing their aesthetic awareness and cultural development.

Efforts are also being strengthened to equip all school computer labs with modern technologies and high-speed internet, and to supply new computer game centers with educational quizzes, developmental strategies, and other useful programs aimed at broadening the knowledge and worldview of the younger generation. As part of a new initiative to strengthen youth reading habits, books on various topics are being distributed to every region and district. Model bookstores are being established in city and district centers, mobile book pavilions are being installed, and "Bibliobus" services are being launched to deliver library services to rural and remote areas.

To ensure the employment of women, various

enterprises are being established in each district, and job opportunities are being created in densely populated areas with abundant labor resources, thereby improving living standards. Increasing attention is being given to creating modern, advanced, and innovative conditions for youth education, skills training, and personal development. Supporting the younger generation in all aspects, nurturing them to be spiritually mature, physically healthy, patriotic, and dedicated, and protecting their rights and interests are among the most important priorities in Uzbekistan's state youth policy.

Therefore, a national attitude is being formed in Uzbekistan that regards youth as a powerful force and a strategic resource for the country's development. Educating youth to be highly knowledgeable, modern-minded, principled, and culturally creative, and instilling the ideas and ideology of independence in their minds and hearts, is at the core of Uzbekistan's youth policy.

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