



THE SYSTEM OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN PERSONAL EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

This thesis theoretically analyses the essence of the system of spiritual and moral values, their role, and mechanisms of influence in personal education. It highlights how values serve as a guiding factor in the formation of an individual's spiritual maturity and reveals their coherence and social significance within the educational process. Furthermore, the study substantiates the harmony between national and universal values and demonstrates the effectiveness of their integration into the pedagogical process. The theoretical ideas presented in this research provide a scientific basis for developing moral qualities in individuals, enhancing spiritual culture, and organising the educational process in the spirit of humanism..

Introduction.

In the current era of globalisation and the increasing flow of digital information, the issue of preserving national identity and strengthening commitment to spiritual and moral values among young people has become of particular importance. The development of society is directly dependent on the human factor, especially on the upbringing of a spiritually mature personality. Therefore, a deep study of the system of spiritual and moral values, as well as an analysis of their role and significance in personal education from a pedagogical perspective, is among the priority directions of today's educational system.

The system of values plays a decisive role in shaping an individual's spiritual perfection and moral qualities. It is, therefore, essential to reveal the theoretical foundations of integrating these values into the educational and upbringing process.

The main purpose of this research is to theoretically analyse the essence of the system of spiritual and moral values, to elucidate their role and importance in personal education from a pedagogical viewpoint, and to identify effective ways of applying them in the modern educational process. The central idea is to determine the theoretical and practical foundations for nurturing a spiritually mature, morally pure, faithful, and patriotic individual based on the harmony of national and universal values.

Spirituality is the moral and psychological foundation of human life and the principal criterion that defines a nation's identity. In today's era of globalisation, the formation of a strong spiritual immunity in the minds of young people and the protection of their consciousness from harmful ideological influences have become the sacred duty of every specialist and every citizen. In this respect, the issue of spiritual upbringing is a nationwide task that concerns all layers of society.

President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev emphasises this point, stating: “If someone believes that the issue of spirituality is only the responsibility of the Centre for Spirituality or the relevant ministries and agencies, they are mistaken. This is one of the most important and fundamental tasks before us.”[1]

This idea expresses that the matter of spirituality should not be confined to the competence of a particular institution or system, but rather be deeply integrated into all aspects of social life. In other words, every teacher, parent, student, and citizen must actively participate in shaping the spiritual environment.

The revival and elevation of spirituality strengthen an individual’s inner world, moral responsibility, and sense of national identity. Therefore, as the President rightly noted, spirituality must become an internal duty for every citizen. Indeed, the spiritual environment of society is closely linked to the individual’s inner world, worldview, and foundation of faith. The basis of spirituality lies in values — they find their expression in human thought, morality, and behavior.

From this point of view, “spiritual values correspond to the forms of social consciousness and are divided into cultural, educational, moral, religious, legal, scientific, and other types. They manifest as a criterion for determining the level of human intellect, perfection, the purpose of knowing the world, and the degree to which knowledge corresponds to truth, or as a certain ideal. The main function of spiritual values in human education and in society is directly related to these aspects.”[2]

This idea indicates that values are an inner force that leads a person towards perfection. They enrich human thinking, provide spiritual motivation for striving toward goals, and ensure moral stability within society. Consequently, spiritual values are not merely a theoretical concept but serve as a practical and moral principle that guides every individual’s life.

Therefore, spiritual values are an inseparable component of human perfection and social development. Through them, a person’s worldview, moral standards, and sense of social responsibility are formed. In this regard, moral values occupy a special place within the system of values, as they define a person’s inner feelings, manners, and attitude towards society.

“The historical analysis of the study of morality and moral values shows that every nation and people have taken the issue of morality seriously and created teachings based on both religious and secular principles”[3]. This demonstrates that the matter of morality is not limited only to the sphere of spiritual education, but has become the core element of human culture and thought.

Thus, every era and civilisation has developed its own unique approach to moral values: in the teachings of Eastern thinkers, morality has been interpreted as a criterion of perfection, whereas in Western philosophy it has been harmonised with the ideas of human freedom and legal responsibility. As a result, moral values have formed a system of enduring principles that summarise humanity’s spiritual experience and call it towards goodness.

The formation of moral values is a direct outcome of human intellect, life experience, and upbringing. Morality plays a vital role in manifesting such virtues as kindness, justice, and honesty in human behaviour. Therefore, since ancient times, thinkers have paid special attention to the idea that a person attains perfection through education and moral cultivation.

“Proper education makes a person knowledgeable, conscious, cultured, enlightened, and can even elevate them to the level of a perfect human being. Through education, a person ‘reaches towards the heavens’ on the path of perfection, and his best ‘companions’ in this journey are the lessons and examples drawn from life, as well as the wisdom acquired through reading books”[4].

This idea implies that the process of education is a means that affects the most delicate layers of the human psyche and encourages one toward goodness. Spiritual and moral values formed through education transform a person not only into a socially useful member of society but also into an internally pure, mature, and responsible individual. Thus, proper upbringing is a force that elevates the human soul and fills one's entire life path with meaning.

The rise of a person's spirituality is primarily determined by their attitude towards their national values and cultural heritage. In the process of acquiring moral qualities, receiving proper education, and arming oneself with knowledge and enlightenment, a person begins to comprehend the historical roots of their people and deeply feel their vital significance. From this point of view, "Ignorance or disregard for one's cultural heritage and values is a sign of lack of culture. Failure to enrich and elevate them to a higher level is detrimental to the nation and its future. Only a person who has developed a high level of spirituality can truly understand their identity and uniqueness, and find the strength and determination to contribute to the prosperity of contemporary society"[5].

The conducted theoretical analyses show that spiritual values play a crucial role in the formation of an individual's personality, as well as in determining their life position and social activity. The process of elevating human spirituality is not confined to the education system or the activities of specific institutions; rather, it is closely linked to the overall spiritual and cultural environment of society.

It has been determined that a profound study of moral and spiritual values and their integration into the consciousness of young people are among the most effective factors in shaping a well-rounded, patriotic, and responsible individual. Moral education forms the foundation for nurturing an educated, cultured, and mature personality.

Moreover, a person who deeply understands their cultural heritage and national values develops self-awareness and occupies an active position in society as an independent-minded and spiritually mature individual. Conversely, indifference towards one's cultural heritage and detachment from historical roots lead to personal spiritual decline and, ultimately, to the moral weakening of society.

The conducted theoretical analyses reveal that the role of spiritual and moral values in human education is closely related not only to the system of moral concepts but also to the overall socio-psychological development of the individual. In the modern context, the proper formation of a value system in youth education has become a pressing issue that requires the integrated cooperation of state policy, the education system, and the family environment.

The harmony between national and universal values positively influences personal development. In particular, the balanced integration of religious, moral, cultural, and scientific values fosters a sense of responsibility, patriotism, tolerance, honesty, and justice among the younger generation.

Moreover, the rich spiritual heritage of the Uzbek people — especially the moral principles advanced in the works of thinkers such as Alisher Navoi, Ahmad Donish, and Abdulla Avloni — remains relevant in today's educational process. Their ideas on education, perfection, enlightenment, and humanity harmonise with the principles of modern pedagogy.

The discussion makes it evident that, in the current era of globalisation, one of the most effective ways to preserve spiritual values and strengthen them in the minds of young people is to enhance the spirit of national pride, spiritual immunity, and patriotism within the process of education and upbringing. Otherwise, ideological emptiness or cultural alienation may negatively affect the spiritual world of the individual.

Based on the above analyses, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Spiritual and moral values are among the key factors that shape an individual's worldview, beliefs, and behaviour.

2. The consistent integration of values into the educational process determines the level of young people's spiritual maturity and contributes to their growth as well-rounded individuals.

3. Studying and adhering to national values serve as vital sources for developing self-awareness, national pride, and a sense of patriotism.

4. A system of national values harmonised with universal human values fosters youth who are ideologically strong, faithful, and enlightened.

5. The formation of spiritual values in personal education requires the joint and responsible efforts of families, educational institutions, and social organisations.

In general, a deep study of the system of spiritual and moral values and its integration into the educational and upbringing process serve as the key guarantees for ensuring the comprehensive development of the individual and the stability of the nation and society..

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