



## **ON THE THREAT OF SUBCULTURES TO THE BUILDING OF THE STATE AND SOCIETY**

***Zokirova Bahor Bekmuhammad kizi***

*First-year student of Tashkent State University of Law*

*Mail ID: zokirovabahor@icloud.com*

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the role of subcultures in the development of the state and society from a systematic perspective. It explores the origins and characteristics of subcultures as well as their impact on social processes. The study highlights negative aspects, including social fragmentation, conflicts with core societal values, and potential threats to stability. The article offers recommendations for policymakers on managing subcultural dynamics and integrating them into societal development. The findings emphasize the importance of considering subcultures in state cultural policies to ensure sustainable social progress.

**Keywords:** subculture, social development, state policy, cultural diversity, social integration.

### **Introduction**

In the current era of globalization and the development of information technologies, various cultural movements and trends have emerged in all aspects of social life, among which subcultures occupy a special place. A subculture is a cultural manifestation created by social groups that differ from the main culture, but are inextricably linked with it. They have their own worldview, values, customs and symbols, and are widespread among young people, art lovers or people of a certain profession. Subcultures can have both positive and negative effects on the development of the state and society. On the one hand, they appear as a source of social innovation, a factor that develops creativity and cultural diversity. On the other hand, there is a possibility that some subcultures may come into conflict with the main culture, cause social conflicts and disagreements. Therefore, studying the phenomenon of subculture and determining its place in the development of the state and society is an urgent issue.

### **The concept of subculture**

"Subculture (from Latin: sub- "under" and culture) is a term in sociology, anthropology and cultural studies, denoting a sharply different part of society's culture. A subculture is usually characterized by its own system of values, special etiquette, manners, and clothing. Examples of subcultures are national, geographical, professional, and age-related associations of people in any large territorial region of the world. The origin of this term began to be used in the mid-20th century after the publication of the book "The Lonely Crowd: A Study of the Changing Character of America" by the American sociologist David Riesman. In the 50s, English sociologists in their research introduced the concept of subculture as an association united by similar interests, tastes, and goals. In their opinion, a subculture is formed by people who are dissatisfied with generally accepted standards and values" [1: 15].

Ken Gelder identifies six main ways to understand the concept of subculture:

-by their often negative attitude towards work;

-by their negative attitude towards mainstream culture, since subcultures are not "culture-specific" and do not fit into the traditional cultural tariff;

-by their association with territory (street, club, etc.) rather than with property; -by their transition from the home to forms of street life;

-by their excessive and exaggerated stylistic connections;

-by their rejection of the mundane aspects of ordinary life.

Through similar methods, we can gain a broader understanding of the concept of subculture.

## **TYPES OF SUBCULTURES AND THEIR NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SOCIETY AND THE STATE**

1. Youth subculture. In many countries, young people are forming and joining their own subcultures. Examples include emo, hip-hop, punk, anime fans, etc. According to a study conducted in the USA by the Pew Research Center, approximately 40% of young people aged 16 to 29 consider themselves to belong to a particular subculture. These groups are often distinguished by their music and clothing. Their danger is that when young people join subcultures that differ from the general values of society, they may develop views that go against general social norms. For example, the "emo" subculture is often associated with suicide or other similar concepts of depression. To put this into perspective, in countries like Russia and Mexico, there have been cases where some teenagers have committed suicide due to the depressive themes of the emo subculture.

2. Internet and online subculture. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of online subcultures through social networks. The number of members of subcultures such as "gamer" and "anime" on the Internet is increasing. According to statistics, in 2022, the number of users belonging to the gamer subculture exceeded 3.24 billion globally. This is equivalent to about 41% of the world's population. A dangerous aspect of this subculture is that some online subcultures or anonymous forums are known for promoting radical views or recommending suicide. Young people and people with weak mental health are falling under the influence of such subcultures. In the early 2000s, several cases of suicide were observed in Japan under the influence of subcultures that were engaged in suicide.

3. K-pop subculture. Korean pop music is becoming one of the most popular subcultures in the world, and this is especially true for young people. "According to data provided by the Korea Creative Content Agency in 2020, this subculture industry generated \$ 10 billion in revenue per year and its number of fans exceeded 100 million globally" [2]. Mass cultures such as K-pop have negative effects on society and the state. This subculture is seen as a threat to national culture in some countries. They are reducing the appreciation of their own culture among young people.

4. Goth and punk subculture. These subcultures are especially widespread in Europe, and their adherents often express themselves through musical styles and clothing. According to a survey conducted in the UK in 2018, approximately 5% of young people considered themselves to belong to the goth subculture. These subcultures tend to challenge traditional societal values and can encourage social rebellion and disorder. In some countries, punk subculture groups have been known to organize radical and anti-government protests, which can pose a threat to state governance and social order.

5. "The quadrober subculture is a subculture that imitates the habits and movements of animals, and is mainly spread among teenagers. They wear accessories and jewelry that reflect a certain animal, such as a puppy, cat, monkey, etc., as well as gloves with tails, ears, paws and masks,

and they are manifested among people with the movements of animals. This culture is evaluated differently among people in society, some say it is useful, some say it is dangerous. This subculture was discovered in Japan as a sport by Kenichi Ito, and now quadrobics, which has emerged as this sport, is today alienating the future generation from human qualities and bringing society closer to the brink of destruction" [3]. Not only children, but also adults consciously allow this subculture to grow. Based on this, we can see that special food, clothes, masks, etc. for quadrobbers are found in stalls. According to experts, this subculture is gaining popularity under the Western subculture. While quadrobbers initially performed at various festivals, today teenagers are using this method as part of their communication. This subculture began to spread widely among Russian youth in the spring of 2024, and unfortunately, today the number of young people with a quadrober subculture is increasing in Uzbekistan as well. "These actions were observed in Tashkent on October 10-11, and quadrober children, imitating the movements of a dog, attacked people" [3]. Officials and public activists have expressed their opinions on this situation. "We are a people who, first of all, value kindness to every living creature and not harming animals as important virtues of humanity. However, any nation condemns any attempt to abandon being a human being, a slave to nature, to commit aggressive acts that are observed in animals, and denies universal values. Quadrobbery is especially dangerous for young people who are impressionable, prone to imitation, and curious about new things. It makes a child isolated from society, distant from people, and alienated from any rules of conduct," says Otabek Khusanov, head of the Republican Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment.

## **WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO PREVENT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SUBCULTURES?**

Many measures can be taken to prevent the threat of subcultures to the state and society. These actions are carried out through such means as strengthening the social environment, improving the minds of young people, and establishing a spirit of mutual respect. The following can be effective in preventing the threat of subcultures:

1. Strengthening the education system. Providing education based on healthy social values and mutual respect in schools and universities. Introducing young people to national values and history and forming a spirit of patriotism.
2. Organizing healthy entertainment and various activities for young people. Involving young people in creative and sports activities, directing them to positive activities by organizing events and clubs.
3. Increasing the importance of family education. Creating a healthy environment in the family, giving children the right upbringing and valuable skills reduces the negative impact of subcultures. This issue is also enshrined in legislation. This is also enshrined in our Constitution, and failure to comply with Article 77 of our Constitution may result in administrative liability, "Parents of minors are obliged to raise their children in the spirit of humanity, patriotism, hard work, respect for spiritual, national, and universal values."
4. Explaining negative subcultures and highlighting their harm. Providing young people with information about negative subcultures and the dangers they pose. This is done through social networks such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, the media, and television. Because many subcultures spread precisely through social networks.

## **Conclusion**

There are many subcultures in the world, and of course they have their negative aspects for the development of society and the state. We need to use subcultures only in the right way. We need

to stay away from dangerous subcultures and not be indifferent to similar situations around us.

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