

**THE ROLE OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN STRENGTHENING EDUCATIONAL
VALUES IN THE MODERN ENVIRONMENT**

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Annotation: This article analyzes the role of children's literature in strengthening the educational and moral upbringing of the younger generation in the modern socio-cultural environment. Children's literature serves as an important tool in fostering kindness, patriotism, diligence, compassion, and respect for national values among young readers. The paper explores the thematic and ideological aspects of contemporary works written for children in the context of digital transformation and the growing influence of information technologies. It also discusses effective pedagogical methods for integrating the moral and aesthetic values of children's literature into the educational process, as well as the use of digital tools for promoting reading culture among children. The study highlights the significance of children's literature in shaping personality, nurturing moral consciousness, and developing aesthetic taste in the modern educational environment.

Key words: children's literature, education, moral values, modern environment, upbringing, information technology, digital culture, aesthetic education.

In the era of rapid globalization and digital transformation, the role of children's literature in shaping the moral, intellectual, and emotional development of the younger generation has become increasingly significant. Children's literature not only entertains but also serves as a vital educational tool that instills ethical values, national identity, and a sense of cultural belonging. Through literary images, stories, and characters, children learn to distinguish between good and evil, develop empathy, and understand social norms and traditions.

In today's information-driven society, where children are constantly exposed to digital media and online content, the importance of promoting high-quality children's literature is even greater. It offers an alternative to superficial entertainment by fostering deep thinking, imagination, and critical awareness. Modern authors and educators are tasked with ensuring that the moral and educational messages embedded in children's books are relevant to the challenges of contemporary life.

Furthermore, children's literature plays an essential role in language development and the preservation of cultural and spiritual heritage. It serves as a bridge between generations, transmitting universal human values while reflecting national traditions and worldview. Therefore, studying and enhancing the pedagogical potential of children's literature in the modern environment is one of the key priorities in contemporary education.

The study of children's literature and its educational potential has been the focus of numerous scholars both in Uzbekistan and abroad. Researchers emphasize that children's literature serves as a powerful medium for moral and emotional education, helping to shape personality and social behavior from an early age [1, B. 45]. According to pedagogical theorists, literary works written specifically for children are an essential component of value-based education because they combine aesthetic enjoyment with ethical instruction [2, B. 67].

In Uzbek literary studies, scholars such as Q. Yo'ldoshev, S. Ahmad, and O. Sharofiddinov have analyzed the moral and spiritual dimensions of children's literature, highlighting its function in developing patriotic feelings, respect for elders, and kindness toward others [3, B. 52]. Their works point out that folklore-based narratives and modern children's prose effectively integrate traditional values with the realities of modern society. In recent years, researchers have also

explored how technological change and globalization influence the content and style of children's literature, noting that contemporary authors tend to address issues such as environmental awareness, digital ethics, and intercultural understanding [4, B. 89].

Western scholars like J. Stephens and P. Hunt have also contributed to the theoretical framework of children's literature by focusing on narrative structure, reader response, and the representation of childhood in literature. Their research shows that stories for children reflect societal norms and help construct moral imagination [5, B. 33]. Similarly, Vygotsky's sociocultural theory underscores the role of imaginative literature in the cognitive and emotional development of children, emphasizing that reading fiction strengthens empathy, symbolic thinking, and creative reasoning [6, B. 71].

In the Uzbek pedagogical context, children's literature is viewed not merely as a means of entertainment, but as a vital instrument in moral upbringing and linguistic development. Contemporary educators advocate for integrating children's literary works into digital learning platforms and classroom discussions to strengthen students' emotional intelligence and reading culture [7, B. 64].

Therefore, the review of existing literature reveals that children's literature plays a dual role: it transmits moral and cultural values while adapting to the changing social and technological environment. However, the need for systematic approaches to incorporating modern pedagogical methods—such as interactive reading, storytelling, and multimedia adaptations—remains an urgent topic for further research [8, B. 92].

The conducted analysis shows that in the modern educational environment, children's literature continues to serve as one of the most influential tools in shaping the moral, emotional, and intellectual development of young readers. However, its impact largely depends on how effectively it is integrated into the educational process and adapted to the interests of today's digital generation [1, B. 48].

The research findings demonstrate that the use of modern children's literature in pedagogical practice fosters empathy, imagination, and cultural awareness among students. For instance, when teachers use stories and poems that reflect contemporary moral challenges—such as respect for diversity, environmental protection, and honesty—students not only develop reading comprehension but also form a stronger sense of ethical responsibility [2, B. 60].

Empirical observations in educational settings reveal that reading sessions combined with creative discussions, dramatizations, and digital storytelling activities significantly increase students' engagement and retention of moral messages [3, B. 71]. In particular, interactive teaching approaches—such as group analysis of a story's moral lesson or the creation of alternative endings—encourage critical thinking and personal reflection in learners.

In the Uzbek context, children's literature that incorporates national traditions, folklore, and modern realities has shown a strong positive influence on students' emotional intelligence and cultural identity. For example, stories based on folk wisdom or national heroes foster patriotism and cultural pride, while contemporary narratives addressing family, friendship, and environmental care develop empathy and social sensitivity [4, B. 84].

The results also indicate that digital transformation has opened new opportunities for enhancing the pedagogical role of children's literature. Audiobooks, animated stories, and online reading platforms make literature more accessible and engaging for young learners. These tools, when used purposefully, help cultivate reading habits and bridge the gap between traditional literary culture and modern technology [5, B. 96].

Furthermore, teachers and educators note that the combination of classical and modern literary texts ensures a balanced development of students' moral and aesthetic values. Classical works provide ethical depth and linguistic richness, while modern texts offer relevance and relatability

to current social realities. This balance is crucial for ensuring that children's literature remains a living and evolving part of the educational process [6, B. 102].

In conclusion, the analysis confirms that children's literature has an enduring pedagogical value. When effectively incorporated into modern education—through interactive, digital, and value-based learning methods—it becomes a powerful means of nurturing well-rounded, empathetic, and morally conscious individuals.

In the context of modern education, the analysis of the educational role of children's literature reveals its crucial importance in shaping the moral and social development of the young generation. Through children's literature, a child not only enriches his or her vocabulary but also internalizes ethical values, humanism, national identity, and positive patterns of social behavior [1, p. 37].

The discussion shows that today's digital technologies, the Internet, and information flow significantly influence children's worldview. Therefore, adapting children's literature to the modern digital environment—by presenting it in the form of audiobooks, mobile applications, and animated stories—is essential. Such approaches enhance children's interest in reading and stimulate their motivation for independent learning [2, p. 45].

The educational power of children's literature primarily depends on the authenticity of the ideas and characters it depicts. When a child finds relatable problems, engaging plots, and positive examples in a story, the text leaves a lasting impact on their consciousness. Hence, educators should select literary works considering age-specific psychological characteristics and evaluate their moral and aesthetic value [3, p. 59].

Another significant point is that the integration of national traditions and universal values in children's literature enhances its educational effectiveness. For instance, Uzbek folk tales, epics, and modern works often emphasize themes such as respect for parents, diligence, loyalty, and patriotism. At the same time, contemporary children's literature that touches upon ecology, technology, and global peace helps foster broader thinking and a sense of responsibility in young readers [4, p. 72].

Furthermore, teachers' ability to use children's literature effectively in the classroom plays a vital role. Activities such as discussions, dramatizations, literary analysis, and creative writing tasks based on literary works develop students' imagination, communication skills, and expressive abilities [5, p. 88].

The discussion also highlights the importance of maintaining quality in the modern publication of children's books. New works should meet the aesthetic, editorial, and content-related needs of young readers. The first book a child reads can shape their lifelong attitude toward reading [6, p. 91].

In conclusion, the educational influence of children's literature depends not only on its content but also on the methodology and format of its teaching. Therefore, modern educators should apply innovative and interactive methods to strengthen the moral, cultural, and intellectual development of children through literature.

In conclusion, children's literature plays an essential role in shaping the moral, intellectual, and emotional development of the younger generation in the modern era. It serves as a powerful educational tool that nurtures imagination, cultivates empathy, and strengthens a sense of national identity and universal human values. In the digital age, when visual and technological influences dominate children's daily lives, the significance of literature in fostering humanistic values and emotional sensitivity becomes even more critical.

The research confirms that incorporating children's literature into the educational process through interactive and creative methods—such as dramatization, discussion, storytelling, and digital adaptation—greatly enhances students' engagement and learning outcomes. Furthermore,

aligning literary works with children's psychological characteristics and contemporary social realities increases their educational effectiveness.

Therefore, educators, writers, and parents must work collaboratively to promote high-quality children's literature that reflects both national traditions and global values. This approach will ensure that literature remains not only a source of entertainment but also a guiding force for moral education and lifelong personal growth in the digital age.

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