

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL VALUES AND TRADITIONS IN ENHANCING  
NATIONAL THINKING

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**Abstract.** This article explores the importance of national values and traditions in enhancing national thinking. It examines the concepts of national values and traditions, their role in society and individual life, and their significance in the spiritual education of the younger generation. The study highlights how cultural heritage and moral teachings contribute to shaping the ethical and ideological foundations of youth.

**Keywords.** National thinking, national values, national traditions, spiritual education, cultural heritage, national identity, education.

National thinking forms the spiritual and educational foundation of society. It defines the ideological framework of a nation and plays a crucial role in the self-awareness of future generations. The role of national values and traditions in shaping and enhancing national thinking has been extensively studied from a scientific perspective.

For instance, the *Avesta* emphasizes the principle of “Good Thought – Good Word – Good Deed,” which guides moral reasoning. Similarly, spiritual and ethical teachings in the Holy Quran and Hadith help cultivate moral purity and faith in young people. The national values of any society cannot be separated from its history, spirituality, culture, unique customs, and traditions. Values are understood as the set of natural and social phenomena that are important to individuals and humanity, serve the interests and goals of a nation or social group, and are recognized and appreciated by them<sup>1</sup>.

As emphasized by our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: “The ideology of the new Uzbekistan we are creating will be based on the principles of goodness, humanity, and humanism. When we speak of ideology, we primarily mean the education of thought, as well as the upbringing in national and universal values. These are founded on the centuries-old life experiences and values of our people.”<sup>2</sup>

Values are inherently diverse. Among them, natural, material, spiritual, socio-political, and ethical values are particularly distinguished. However, the highest of all values is the human being—their life, rights and freedoms, and the opportunity to lead a healthy and prosperous life. Upholding human dignity and honor constitutes a fundamental factor in the moral refinement and sustainable development of society<sup>3</sup>.

National values are manifested in close connection with the history, way of life, spirituality, and culture of a nation. In recent times, attention to national values has increased in Uzbekistan. These values are characterized by a strong sense of respect for the homeland, loyalty to the

<sup>1</sup> Values and Social Development (Collection of Scientific Papers). – Tashkent: “Uzbekistan”, 1997. – P. 198.

<sup>2</sup> On January 19, 2021, under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a video conference was held on the issues of fundamentally improving the system of spiritual and educational work and strengthening the cooperation between state and public organizations in this area. <https://xs.uz/uzkr/post/agar-kimdir-manaviyat-masalasi-bu-faqat-manaviyat-markazi-yoki-tegishli-vazirlik-va-idoralarning-ishi-deb-ojlaska-khato-qiladi-shavkat-mirziyoev>

<sup>3</sup> Тўланов Ж. Қадриятлар фалсафаси. – Т; “Ўзбекистон”, 1998. Б.333.

memory of ancestors, reverence for elders, consideration for the young, modesty, and moral conscientiousness<sup>4</sup>.

When discussing the functions of national values, the following can be highlighted:

- They provide moral guidance for the full spiritual development of an individual.
- They contribute to the formation of a shared national identity and social cohesion.
- They strengthen a sense of self-awareness and national pride within society.
- They cultivate respect for the history and culture of the country among the younger generation.

According to scientific research, national values not only enrich the inner world of an individual but also positively influence the economic, political, and cultural development of society. For example, the preservation of national culture and its integration into contemporary social life has become a priority direction of Uzbekistan's cultural policy.

As emphasized by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: "If the body of society is the economy, then its soul and spirit are morality. In building the new Uzbekistan, we rely on two strong pillars. The first is a robust economy based on market principles. The second is strong morality grounded in the rich heritage of our ancestors and national values<sup>5</sup>."

The customs and traditions of the Uzbek people have played a significant role over the centuries in the formation of the Uzbek nation, and the Uzbek family remains alive through its customs and traditions. One of the main distinctive features of every Uzbek family is hospitality and showing respect to elders. Typically, Uzbek families live in extended households composed of several generations, which is why they prefer large homes with spacious courtyards. Greetings are carried out according to tradition, either by shaking hands or embracing, often accompanied by inquiries about the person's health and well-being both at work and at home. Many customs are related to family life, including the birth and upbringing of children (such as the cradle ceremony and circumcision celebration) and marriage ceremonies (such as the Fatiha ceremony). Uzbek national customs are not only reflected within the family but also in various social spheres, including mosques, teahouses, markets, morning meals, national holidays, Navruz celebrations, and bridal greetings. Each of these settings has its own distinctive set of traditions, highlighting the rich and multifaceted nature of Uzbek cultural heritage<sup>6</sup>.

The application of national values and traditions in the educational process is an important task in the spiritual education of modern society. Pedagogical research indicates that if national values are systematically integrated into educational institutions, they contribute effectively to the formation of the moral and spiritual worldview of young people.

In conclusion, the significance of national values and traditions in enhancing national consciousness goes beyond merely preserving cultural heritage; it is also crucial for fostering moral integrity, social responsibility, and national pride among individuals. Scientific studies, including international surveys, confirm the role of national customs and values in shaping national identity. Therefore, the integration of national values and traditions into modern

<sup>4</sup> Ishimov, A. The Role of National Values in Family Education. *Digital World: Mathematical and Informatics Approaches*, Republican Scientific-Methodological Conference.

<sup>5</sup> On January 19, 2021, under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a video conference was held on the tasks of fundamentally improving the system of spiritual and educational work and strengthening the cooperation between state and public organizations in this area.

<sup>6</sup> "About the Customs and Traditions of Uzbekistan..." <https://legacy.uz/uz/ozbekistonig-urf-odat-va-ananalari-haqida>

education, cultural policies, and upbringing strategies is considered a priority for the development and enhancement of national thinking.

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