

SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS IN GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS OF SOUTHERN REGIONS

Sharopova Nigora Akbarovna,
PhD, University of Economics and Pedagogy

Abstract:

During the years of independence, cultural and educational events became one of the important issues at the center of the state's attention. The scope of events aimed at fostering the spiritual and moral development of students was expanded. The issue of spirituality was viewed as a force that purifies a person spiritually, strengthens their inner world, willpower, and solidifies their faith and beliefs.

Keywords: Spirituality, well-rounded generation, Southern regions of Uzbekistan, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, competitions, school, creativity center, students.

Introduction

During the years of independence, cultural and educational events became one of the important issues at the center of the state's attention. The scope of events aimed at fostering the spiritual and moral development of students was expanded. The issue of spirituality was viewed as a force that purifies a person spiritually, strengthens their inner world, willpower, and solidifies their faith and beliefs.

To fully develop the spiritual worldview of young people, the study, restoration, and promotion of the material and spiritual cultural heritage created by our ancestors became a priority. Reforms aimed at developing spiritual worldview started to be implemented from the early years of independence. The wealth of spirituality plays a key role in strengthening the foundation for the future. The time-honored traditions and values that our people have preserved and enriched over centuries also hold a special place in enriching the spirituality of the youth. Educational institutions played a central role in shaping the spiritual life of society. In general education schools, much attention was given to instilling love and loyalty to the Motherland, respect for cultural heritage, and history in students. It became a tradition to organize various events to promote the history of Uzbekistan, cultural heritage, and traditions among students.

In general education schools, events such as "Uzbekistan – Festival of Songs," "Festival of Flowers," "Festival of Birds," as well as essay contests on topics like "The Homeland is Sacred," "Turkestan – Our Common Home," and other competitions, as well as talent showcases, school sports olympiads, and folk art competitions have been regularly held. School museums displaying artifacts related to the country's ancient historical monuments, pilgrimage sites, and handicrafts also actively operated.

It became a tradition for experienced teachers in general education schools to organize open lessons, evening events, and various meetings under themes such as "Do You Know Your Family Tree?", "Teenagers and the Law," "Chemistry Alphabet Festival," and "Journey to the World of Mathematics." At the national level, events such as "Spirituality and Enlightenment Day" and "School Day" were regularly held in educational institutions in the



southern regions, introducing students to the latest developments in Uzbekistan's economic, social, and cultural life, as well as the achievements of recent years. At schools, discussions, evening gatherings, meetings, and educational hours on ethics, national customs, and values were held with students. [1, №55.].

In the press, columns dedicated to the spiritual and educational upbringing of school students were regularly published. The genres of the materials varied, and their content was diverse. Notably, articles were published in columns such as "Now It's the Student's Turn," "Looking for Talents," "What's New in the Modern Educational Institution?", "Our Torches," "Words from the Heart," and several other sections [2, №52.].

In the general education schools of the cities and districts of the southern regions of Uzbekistan, spiritual events have been regularly held, and schools and their pedagogical staff have actively participated in competitions. For example, according to the results of the diagnostic analysis conducted by the Shahrizabz district of Kashkadarya region's Department of Public Education, the Mirzo Ulugbek 95th Secondary School was named the winner of the preliminary round of the "School of the Year-98" competition. The school team operated under the slogan "We shape the spirituality of talented youth based on national and universal values" and aimed to enrich the education system with advanced methods, achieve the continuity of education and upbringing, and raise individuals with high-level knowledge and legal culture. Teachers regularly conducted unconventional, creative lessons. As a result, in the 1995-1996 academic year, Nodir Odilov, a talented student of the school, won the Republic Olympiad in mathematics. He later studied at a prestigious university in the United States.

Additionally, students such as Otabek Qalamboyev and Olmos Kholboyev from the school successfully participated in the entrance exams organized by the "Umid" Foundation for supporting talented youth, and were accepted into universities in the United States. [3, №98.].

In 2000, dedicated to the "Year of Healthy Generation," several events were organized in educational institutions across the Republic. On June 1st, "International Children's Protection Day," various events were held in educational institutions of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. For example, in the city of Termez, a children's festival called "Happy Future" was held, where Veronica Boronova, an 11th-grade student of the 1st General Secondary School in Jarkorgan district, was awarded gifts from sponsor organizations. [4, 9-10.].

Along with other regions of the Republic, the Departments of Public Education of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions hosted the activities of the "Student Creativity Center," "Young Technicians Creativity Center," "Young Tourists Center," and "Ecological Education Center." In 2008, the Republic-level competitions "Creative Inventor" and "Youth Development - The Future of the Homeland" were held, where representatives of Surkhandarya region secured the 1st and 2nd places. [5, 12-14.].

In 2006, to instill in youth loyalty to our rich cultural heritage, historical traditions, and national values, as well as to bring out children's talents, the "Children's Folklore Ensembles" competition stages were held. In the 2005-2006 academic year, the young drum ensemble of Surkhandarya region's school students won the prestigious 3rd place at the Republic stage of the "Zarb-2005" competition held in Tashkent. [6, 9-10].

In the years of independence, it became a tradition to hold the "Teacher of the Year" competition. Teachers from district schools actively participated in this competition. For



example, in 1993, O. Sherdanova, a primary school teacher from the 31st school of Jarkorgan district, Surkhandarya region, in 1994, Z. Samanova, a teacher of Russian language and literature from the 7th school, in 1995-1996, G. Tursunova, a primary school teacher from the 51st school, in 1998, D. Kholto'rayeva, a primary school teacher from the 14th school, in 2000-2001, N. Eshmominova, an English teacher from the 27th school, in 2003, M. Rahmonova, a primary school teacher from the 19th school, in 2004, D. Allamuradova, a teacher of the Uzbek language and literature from the 7th school, and in 2005, Z. Bobonova, a physics teacher from the 2nd school, became winners at the regional stage of the competition [7, 9-10].

Students from the schools of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions have been active participants in Republic-level competitions. For example, in the 2008-2009 academic year, Sevara Halimova, an 8th-grade student from the 8th school in Qarshi city, participated in the "Think, Search, Find!" competition, Madina Eshonqulova, a 9th-grade student from the 13th school, participated in the "Art Buds" competition, and Sitora Raimova, an 8th-grade student from the 29th school, became the winner of the regional stage of the competition [8, 180].

In order to spend schoolchildren's free time meaningfully, they were involved in various clubs. For example, in 2008, in the G'uzar district, 3 schools and 341 clubs in extracurricular educational institutions involved 3520 students. Among them, 1460 students were engaged in 145 clubs at the student creativity center, 1380 students in 128 clubs at the youth technical creativity center, and 680 students in 68 clubs at the young travelers and local historians center, participating in various types of clubs. In the district, the youth technical creativity center, student creativity center, and young travelers and local historians center were active. At the district youth technical creativity center, 46 teachers taught the secrets of different professions to 1380 students in 128 clubs. The club activities were organized in 22 schools, 4 preschool institutions, 2 neighborhoods, and 2 centers [9, 5-9].

In the Kitob district, 2350 students were involved in 211 clubs in 5 schools and extracurricular educational institutions. Among them, 568 students participated in 56 clubs at the student creativity center, 920 students in 79 clubs at 2 youth technical creativity centers, 382 students in 36 clubs at the young travelers and local historians center, and 480 students in 40 clubs at the "Bioekosan" student center, engaged in various types of clubs [10, 5-9].

Similarly, such events were organized among the students of general education schools in Surkhandarya region. In the years of independence, the quality, effectiveness, and scope of events in the direction of spiritual and educational work among the region's students increased. The region's students actively participated in district, regional, and Republic stages of competitions such as "Uzbekistan - My Homeland," "Do You Know the Law?," "Constitution - The Foundation of Our Happiness," "Voice of the Future," and "New Generation."

Meetings with writers such as the National Hero of Uzbekistan, People's Poet A. Oripov, People's Writer Shukur Kholmirzaev, People's Poet Usmon Azim, and writer Erkin Azam were held in various general education schools of the region. Students of the region's general education schools also actively participated in Republic-level competitions. Music art also had a special place in the spiritual education of students in general education schools. The "Quralay" folklore ensemble, organized in Boysun district, won the Republic stage grant of the "New Generation" competition in 2010. 8th-grade student Volodina Veronica from 10-DMI was awarded the "Zulfiya" State Prize in 2010 [11, 2-8].



In Surkhandarya region's schools, various creative clubs were organized. For example, in the 27th general education school in Denov district, the "Young Creators Club" provided training on the delicate aspects of literature and art to students of various ages [12, №9].

In the 2012-2013 academic year, a total of 18 Children's Music and Art Schools (BMSM) in Kashkadarya region graduated 192 students, with 103 of them continuing their education in middle-level vocational colleges in various fields of music and art.

On May 21, 2013, a traditional XII congress of the "Kamalak" children's organization was held at the "Lochin" camp in Shahrisabz district under the motto "For the Homeland, Friendship, and Patriotism!" along with the "Kamalak Knowledgeable" Republican competition.

Additionally, from June 19-23 of the same year, the Republican stage of the competition "Academic Music and Pop Performance" was held at the 1st BMSM in Qarshi city, where 7 students won 2nd place, and 6 students earned 3rd place. In the 18th BMSM (Children's Music and Art School) in Yakkabog' district, the competition "You Are Unique, Sacred Homeland!" was held in five music categories. In the Republican stage of the same competition held in Samarkand city, students N. Mirzaqulova and O. Nazarov from the 8th BMSM in Koson district took 3rd place. Furthermore, in the International competition held in the Kemerovo region of Russia, X. Khalilov, a teacher from the 16th BMSM (Children's Music and Art School) in Shahrisabz district, actively participated in the pop singing category and won 3rd place [13, 1-13].

In conclusion, during the years of independence, conducting spiritual and educational events among general education school students became one of the main directions of state policy, with the issue of spirituality seen as a force for the spiritual purification of the individual, strengthening their inner world, will, and faith. Educational institutions played a key role in shaping the spiritual identity of the youth.

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