

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL-CULTURAL CENTERS IN STRENGTHENING INTERETHNIC RELATIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

In the complex social structure of Uzbekistan, national-cultural centers play a key role in supporting relationships between the different ethnic groups that live in the country. Located at the crossroads of Central Asian cultures, Uzbekistan has many ethnicities, each with its own traditions and histories. The creation of national-cultural centers is important for promoting cultural exchange and understanding, encouraging cooperation among communities. By hosting cultural events, language classes, and art activities, these centers help break down stereotypes and build social unity. They are not just places to celebrate cultural heritage but also venues for conversation and healing, helping to create a sense of togetherness despite differences. As Uzbekistan works towards a stronger national identity in a global world, the role of these centers becomes more essential, supporting the values of inclusivity and respect needed for peaceful coexistence.

Keywords: National – cultural centers, interethnic relations, cooperation, spirituality, society, development.

Introduction

National-cultural centers play an important role in ensuring interethnic harmony in each state, preserving and developing the culture of different nationalities, and raising the sense of patriotism among young people. In such a multinational state as Uzbekistan, the activities of these centers are important for strengthening national unity, transmitting national values to future generations, and forming an atmosphere of tolerance in society. National-cultural centers are important places that help promote cultural heritage and strengthen community involvement among various ethnic groups. These centers aim to keep, celebrate, and share the special customs, languages, and traditions of different nationalities in a country. In Uzbekistan, where many ethnicities live together, national-cultural centers are essential for connecting different communities. They offer opportunities for cultural sharing, provide educational activities, and host events that support discussions among various ethnic groups. By being inclusive, these centers foster a feeling of belonging for minority groups and improve social unity, which supports national cohesion. Additionally, through their programs, national-cultural centers work to eliminate stereotypes and false information, which often lead to ethnic conflicts. Therefore, they play a vital role in building good relations between ethnic groups and encouraging mutual respect and peaceful living in Uzbekistan's diverse society.

Overview of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan

Interethnic relations in Uzbekistan are made up of a mix of cultural identities, historical backgrounds, and social interactions among different ethnic groups like Uzbeks, Russians, Tajiks,



Kazakhs, and more. This variety shows the country's rich history as a meeting point of different civilizations and as part of the Silk Road[1]. After the Soviet Union fell apart, Uzbekistan saw a rise in ethnic nationalism, which brought both chances and problems for interethnic communication. Although the government has put policies in place to keep peace and stability, tensions sometimes occur, especially over language, education, and cultural issues. Still, the existence of interethnic communities has created an environment where cultural exchanges happen, leading to better understanding and cooperation. National-Cultural Centers have played a key role in encouraging these interactions, acting as spaces for cultural expression and conversation that help to strengthen connections among varied ethnic groups in the country.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan affirms the state's commitment to ensuring equal rights for all nations and ethnic groups. Based on this principle, national-cultural centers perform a number of important functions. Firstly, they carry out work aimed at preserving and developing the cultural heritage of different nationalities. For this purpose, efforts are made to form national values in the minds of young people through the promotion of national traditions, customs, and works of art. Secondly, the centers pay great attention to fostering a sense of patriotism. By informing young people about the history, cultural heritage, and achievements of Uzbekistan during the years of independence, it strengthens their sense of loyalty to the country. Thirdly, strengthening interethnic harmony is one of the main tasks of the centers. Numerous events are organized to promote friendship and harmony among representatives of different nationalities. Fourthly, the centers will conduct spiritual and educational work. One of the centers' priorities is to familiarize the younger generation with world and national historical values, as well as to teach them to preserve their national identity in the context of globalization[2].

National-cultural centers play an important role in the formation of patriotism among young people. Firstly, they work in close cooperation with the education and upbringing system. Seminars, historical conversations, and events will be organized jointly with schools and higher educational institutions. This serves to bring young people closer to the history, culture, and national values of their nation. Secondly, the centers hold events such as national holidays, concerts, poetry readings, and spiritual meetings in order to increase the spirit of patriotism. Thirdly, through cultural events, young people learn to understand their national roots and show respect for them. Through national songs, dances, and theatrical performances, a sense of patriotism is developed in young people[3].

National-cultural centers also play an important role in improving interethnic relations. Firstly, they organize multinational events, festivals, and conferences. Representatives of different nationalities participate in this, strengthening mutual friendship and solidarity. Secondly, the centers implement projects for the exchange of experience between young leaders of different nationalities. This strengthens their cultural and social ties. Thirdly, the centers will conduct work aimed at fostering a sense of tolerance and respect for each other's cultures among young people. This will further strengthen interethnic harmony and social accord. In conclusion, national-cultural centers perform important tasks in educating young people in the spirit of patriotism, preserving national values, and strengthening interethnic harmony.



Method and Methodology

Cultural identity is important for creating peace in a society with many ethnic groups by helping to build respect and understanding between them. In places like Uzbekistan, where different ethnicities live together, supporting individual cultural identities can help reduce conflicts and promote teamwork. National-culture centers are crucial for this, as they help keep and honor different heritages while encouraging communication between various communities. These centers offer educational resources, cultural programs, and chances for people from different backgrounds to interact, highlighting the importance of shared values and traditions. Through events like festivals, art shows, and language classes, these organizations not only protect the cultural stories of different groups but also foster a sense of belonging that goes beyond ethnic lines. This focus on both preservation and engagement is vital for creating united societies where diversity is seen as a strength, not a division.

The start of national-cultural centers in Uzbekistan goes back to the time of the Soviet Union, which had both harsh rules and some support for ethnic identity. Many ethnic groups in Uzbekistan had their cultures limited by a government that pushed for Russification. In the late 1980s, there was a rise in the demand for cultural independence, which set the stage for creating these centers. After gaining independence in 1991[4], the new Uzbek government saw the need to encourage cooperation and dialogue between the different ethnic groups living in the country. Therefore, national-cultural centers were created not just to keep cultural practices alive but also to promote understanding and respect among these groups. By offering a place for different ethnic traditions, languages, and histories, these centers are key in building an inclusive national identity, thus helping to improve interethnic relationships and social unity in present-day Uzbekistan.

Discussion

The start of National-Cultural Centers in Uzbekistan can be seen in the late Soviet time. During this period, there was a growing focus on supporting ethnic variety within the larger idea of socialist beliefs. These centers were mainly created in the early 1990s as a reaction to the rising need for cultural expression among different ethnic groups after the Soviet Union fell apart. They aimed to support the languages, customs, and art forms of various communities, giving space for cultural preservation and interaction. Their creation marked an important change in policy, moving away from a Soviet approach that often hid ethnic identities to a more open method that recognized the diverse cultures of Uzbekistan. As a result, National-Cultural Centers have played a key role in encouraging conversation and understanding between different ethnic groups, acting not only as cultural places but also as important venues for improving relationships through joint activities and events[5].

Interethnic relations in Uzbekistan have been shaped a lot by the region's history, society, and politics. After the Soviet Union ended, there was a greater focus on national identity in Uzbekistan, which caused some tensions among different ethnic groups like Uzbeks, Russians, and Tajiks, among others. However, the creation of national-cultural centers allowed for more dialogue and understanding among these groups. These centers have been important in promoting cultural exchanges, encouraging community involvement, and keeping the unique traditions of various ethnicities alive. Thus, instead of just existing side by side, different nationalities have created a complex web of interactions over time. Through educational programs, cultural activities, and



community projects, national-cultural centers have helped reduce conflicts, leading to a more peaceful social environment in Uzbekistan and boosting the unity of its diverse society[6].

The Soviet time had a big effect on cultural policies in Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan. The Communist Party's goals aimed to form a single Soviet identity and promote local cultures at the same time. This mixed method appeared through the creation of national-cultural centers, which sought to honor the different ethnic identities in Uzbekistan while strengthening a common revolutionary spirit. By putting money into education, arts, and media, the Soviet system helped spread a mixed cultural identity that encouraged discussions between different ethnic groups. These policies not only gave minority groups a chance to showcase their heritage but also helped connect various ethnic communities under a shared socialist vision. As a result, the influence of Soviet cultural programs still affects modern practices in Uzbekistan, supporting an atmosphere where national pride and relationships between ethnicities can grow. The interaction of these historical elements shows how important cultural policies are in fostering unity in diversity.

The gaining of independence in Uzbekistan marked a major change in the cultural diversity of the country. Free from outside control, Uzbekistan made a fresh commitment to its various ethnic identities, creating a space where different cultural expressions could grow. This new freedom made it possible to revive traditional practices, languages, and customs that had been pushed aside in earlier times. Additionally, the creation of national-cultural centers was essential in promoting dialogue and understanding among the diverse population. By honoring the distinct heritages of different ethnic groups, these centers helped cultural exchange and improved social unity, thus reducing ethnic conflicts. The effects of independence went beyond just political freedom; it sparked a cultural revival that recognized and valued the complexities of Uzbekistan's multicultural identity, ultimately strengthening connections among its varied communities and establishing a foundation for lasting interethnic relationships[7].

National-Cultural Centers in Uzbekistan have important roles that help promote harmony between different ethnic groups and encourage cultural exchange in the country. These centers mainly work as places for cultural education, allowing various ethnic groups to show their traditions, languages, and artistic talents. They organize events like festivals, exhibitions, and workshops, which help different communities recognize and appreciate each other, reducing stereotypes and encouraging conversations. Furthermore, these centers are important in keeping and sharing the unique cultures of minority groups, making sure their identities stay strong and visible in the country's story. They also serve as links between ethnic communities and government, helping to represent the rights and needs of minority groups. By promoting interaction and understanding, National-Cultural Centers not only honor cultural diversity but also support a united national identity, which is vital for the unity of Uzbekistan's multiethnic society[8].

The promotion of cultural heritage and traditions is very important to the work done by national-cultural centers in Uzbekistan. These centers are key in keeping and renewing the many cultural stories that make up the country's ethnic mix. By putting on events like traditional festivals, art shows, and educational workshops, these centers act as places for cultural sharing. This helps different ethnic groups celebrate their own traditions while also sharing them with others. This boosts individual identities and helps build respect and understanding among different communities. People who visit these centers often see a variety of art, food practices, and historical stories, which helps them appreciate the complex mix of Uzbekistan's social structure. By their



work, national-cultural centers not only highlight cultural diversity but also help with communication between ethnic groups, helping to create a more peaceful and inclusive society [11].

The role of national-cultural centers in Uzbekistan is important for language learning and preservation, which helps support interethnic relations. These centers offer resources and planned programs to teach different languages, making a space where people from varied ethnic groups can connect. This interaction improves language abilities and builds respect and understanding among cultures, as language helps people appreciate different traditions and viewpoints. Also, the centers frequently hold workshops and cultural events that highlight the linguistic history of Uzbekistan's ethnic groups, underlining the need for language preservation. Through these efforts, the centers not only help keep minority languages alive but also encourage peaceful living together, which is essential in a diverse society. Thus, the focus on language learning in these national-cultural centers plays a key role in strengthening

Cultural events and festivals are very important in improving relations between ethnic groups in Uzbekistan, especially with the help of national-cultural centers. These centers help create events that celebrate the many traditions and customs of the country's different ethnic groups, which helps build understanding and respect among them. By putting together festivals that focus on distinct cultural expressions—like music, dance, and food—national-cultural centers give space for discussions among various communities. These events not only showcase cultural heritage but also offer chances for exchanges and teamwork. Going to these events allows people from different backgrounds to meet in a joyful setting, which helps to break down social divides and create a sense of togetherness. The welcoming aspect of these festivals supports the wider aim of improving interethnic relations in Uzbekistan, showing that appreciating culture can result in respect and a common national identity [9].

Conclusion

In Uzbekistan, national-cultural centers are very important for community involvement and encouraging talks among different ethnic groups. These centers help maintain cultural identities and promote understanding and appreciation of various traditions, which fosters a feeling of togetherness [10]. By hosting activities like cultural festivals, workshops, and discussion groups, national-cultural centers provide chances for people from different backgrounds to meet and have important discussions. This kind of communication builds trust and lessens biases, creating a base for collaborative ties among communities. This involvement is crucial in a multicultural society where past conflicts can disrupt unity. Also, by involving community members in planning and carrying out activities, these centers make people feel included, turning them into active participants in the dialogue. Thus, national-cultural centers play a key role not just in enhancing local cultural diversity but also in strengthening interethnic relationships in Uzbekistan.

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