



The Significance of The Jadids' Scientific Heritage In Developing The Spirituality of Youth In New Uzbekistan

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DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.47134/intelektualitas.v1i4.3642>

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Received: 21-12-2024

Accepted: 21-01-2025

Published: 21-02-2025



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Abstract: *This article discusses the scientific heritage of the enlightened Jadids, their views on education and upbringing, and their significance in developing the spirituality of the youth, who are the builders of New Uzbekistan today. This study explores the enduring significance of the Jadids' scientific heritage in fostering spirituality among youth in New Uzbekistan. The research employs a qualitative methodology, including historical and textual analysis, to examine the contributions of prominent figures like Mahmudkhodja Behbudi and Abdulla Avloni. Results highlight that the Jadids' reforms in education, such as establishing new-method schools and promoting national consciousness, continue to influence modern strategies for youth development. The findings underline the importance of integrating their values into contemporary educational frameworks to nurture spiritually mature and socially responsible individuals. In conclusion, the study reaffirms that the Jadids' legacy serves as a vital blueprint for cultivating well-rounded youth, essential for building New Uzbekistan.*

Keywords: *New Uzbekistan, Jadids, Mahmudkhodja Behbudi, Abdulla Avloni, Spirituality, Education and Upbringing, Progressives*

Introduction

In our country, special attention is being given to enhancing the spirituality of young people and fostering in them a sense of respect for national values and loyalty to both national and universal values. The issue of raising young people to be spiritually mature, physically healthy, and a well-rounded generation has become more relevant than ever.

Nurturing a healthy and well-rounded generation, turning them into active and direct participants in the political, social, and economic reforms being implemented in the country, and making them the true pillars and support of society remains one of the country's key strategic priorities. Specifically, in recent years, nearly 100 laws and subordinate regulations related to the effectiveness of youth policy have been adopted (Abdirashidov, 2024).

The relevance of the topic

Today, the state policy on youth, which is being consistently implemented, plays a crucial role in creating the necessary conditions for young people to receive education that meets the demands of the times, grow and develop, and demonstrate their knowledge and potential. In particular, it contributes to nurturing highly spiritual young people who are

independent thinkers, respectful of national and universal values, possess firm life principles and beliefs, and are capable of resisting harmful influences that are alien to our national mentality (Soegova, 2022).

Understanding national identity, knowing the history of the homeland, studying the heritage of ancestors, and being loyal to national customs and traditions are factors that contribute to the development of the spirituality of young people.

The President of our country has repeatedly emphasized that the scientific, educational, literary, and artistic heritage of the Jadid forefathers, who gave their lives for the freedom of our homeland and the happiness of our people, holds immense significance for the upbringing of youth. Actively promoting this invaluable legacy plays an important role in helping our people, especially the younger generation, appreciate the value of today's peaceful and free life (Azimov, 2020).

Indeed, the roots of the idea of the Third Renaissance, which aims to unite our people for the development of the country and build a comprehensively advanced "New Uzbekistan" on the world map, can be traced back to the activities of the enlightened Jadids.

They dedicated their entire lives to the idea of national awakening, mobilizing all their strength and resources to lift the nation out of ignorance and backwardness and rescue our people from the mire of heedlessness (Kislov, 2019).

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, expressed the following thoughts in an interview with the newspaper "New Uzbekistan": "...we all know well that at the beginning of the last century, our patriotic and nationalist forefathers courageously stepped into the arena of struggle, raising the banner of ideas such as "Jadidism", which stood for renewal and freedom, justice and equality, knowledge and enlightenment, and the recognition of national identity. The goal of these great individuals was to equip the people of Turkestan, who had long been trapped in the whirlpool of ignorance and backwardness, with secular knowledge, advanced professions, and to lead them onto the path of universal development. The new-method schools, theaters, libraries, museums, newspapers, and magazines established by the Jadids, as well as the charitable societies formed to send Turkestan's children abroad for education, awakened our people from centuries of slumber and provided unparalleled strength to the national liberation movement (de Lima, 2020). Unfortunately, the establishment of Bolshevik dictatorship in our country and the continuation of Tsarist colonial policies in a new form prevented our enlightened forefathers from fully realizing their goals and aspirations. However, it is the absolute truth to say that their noble dreams and aspirations have remained alive in the blood and historical memory of our people and continue to live on to this day".

Methodology

The study adopts a qualitative research approach, focusing on historical and textual analysis of primary and secondary sources related to the Jadid movement. Key documents include publications, textbooks, and articles by notable Jadids, as well as contemporary policy analyses. The research examines the historical context, the educational reforms introduced by the Jadids, and their impact on the development of youth spirituality and

national identity. Data were systematically analyzed to identify themes relevant to the objectives of this study, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter (Bobojonova, 2024).

Result and Discussion

Indeed, at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, during the difficult and turbulent period in the socio-political life of the people of Turkestan, supporters of Jadidism sought to achieve progress by reforming the education system and enlightening the people. Today, significant attention is being paid to the development of the education system, which is one of the priority areas of the comprehensive reforms being carried out in our country (Amonova, 2020).

A century ago, the Jadids strived to educate the youth and achieve independence in Turkestan by opening schools, establishing theaters, libraries, and museums, publishing newspapers and magazines, and introducing a modern education system. The reforms implemented by the Jadids were continued with extensive reforms after we achieved independence.

The Jadids believed that the appropriate path to lifting the region out of decline and colonial conditions and achieving progress was to provide modern education to the people and the younger generation. In other words, “The representatives of the movement known as the “Jadidism Movement” prioritized fundamentally reforming education and upbringing, establishing new schools, and managing them as key steps towards the independence of the country and its people”.

Thus, the Jadids, aiming to nurture the younger generation – Turkestan’s future – in a spirit of national and political awareness, first established modern new-method schools at their own expense. Under the influence of the Jadid movement, the education system of Turkestan underwent a profound transformation. To expand the knowledge of intellectuals and young students, they began establishing bookstores and libraries.

The progressive Jadids embodied the advanced ideas of their time and put forward thoughts related to all aspects of societal life, especially those connected to education and upbringing. Their views in this regard have not lost their significance to this day. As examples, we can cite the activities of Mahmudkhodja Behbudi, known as the “Father of Central Asian Jadids”, and the renowned educator and enlightened scholar Abdulla Avloni.

Mahmudkhodja Behbudi is known as a playwright, publicist, religious figure, and public leader. He traveled several times to major cities in Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, and Russia. During his travels, he became acquainted with new-method schools and established connections with Tatar intellectuals. In Samarkand, he collaborated with Siddiqiy Ajziy and Abdulqodiriy Shakuri to establish new-method schools (Khodjaev, 2023).

He published textbooks for the new schools, such as “Risolai Asbobi Savod” (1904), “Risolai Jug’rofiyai Umroniy” (1905), “Muntaxabi Jug’rofiyai Umumiy” (1906), and “Kitobat ul-Atfol” (1908).

In 1913, Mahmudkhodja Behbudi began publishing the newspaper “Samarqand” and the journal “Oyina”. He established a publishing house and a library named after himself.

The newspaper and journal published relevant articles dedicated to issues such as the nation's concerns, the pain of the homeland, enlightening the people, and ensuring their freedom. These publications reached Turkic peoples under the Russian Empire, as well as Iran, Afghanistan, India, and Turkey.

Abdulla Avloni sought to convey his views to the people through newspapers he published, such as "Taraqqiy" (Progress), "Shuhrat" (Fame), and "Osiyo" (Asia). After these newspapers were banned from publication, he established several new-method schools and personally taught in these schools. Along with this, he also published several textbooks for schools. Notably, these included "Birinch Muallim" (First Teacher), "Ikkinchi Muallim" (Second Teacher), and "Turkiy Guliston yoxud Axloq" (Turkic Gulistan or Morality). The schools established by Avloni were distinguished by their focus on providing children with both modern knowledge and a strong emphasis on national and moral values in their education and upbringing. Additionally, it is significant that in 1909, he established the "Jamiyati Xayriya" (Charitable Society) to directly support the education and literacy of orphans and children without access to learning opportunities.

Behbudi placed special emphasis on students learning the history of their homeland. He believed that this would serve to awaken their national consciousness and contribute to the ethnic unification of society. The words, "One who does not know the name of their own clan or recognize their seven ancestors is a slave – a mankurt!" hold significant importance in understanding national identity.

Through their works, Behbudi and Avloni called on the younger generation to pursue knowledge and serve their homeland with dedication. They explained in a simple and eloquent manner that any problem could be solved through proper education and upbringing. Avloni stated, "The happiness of every nation, the peace and prosperity of states depend on the proper upbringing of the youth".

The future of our homeland, the destiny of our people, and the reputation of our country in the global community primarily depend on how our children grow, develop, and what kind of individuals they become as they enter life (Capello, 2020).

Abdulla Avloni envisioned young people who love and cherish their homeland as individuals with exemplary character. As exemplary qualities, he specifically highlighted the following: integrity, diligence, contentment, courage, knowledge, patience, discipline, conscience, love for the homeland, and others.

There is no doubt that young people with exemplary qualities will not only cherish and protect their homeland but also grow into individuals who serve its prosperity and dedicate all their abilities to its development (Álvarez-García, 2019).

Abdulla Avloni expressed the following thought: "From a young age, to strengthen our intellect and understanding, we must not waste our precious life on meaningless words such as games, idle talk, or frivolity. Instead, we should read various books, newspapers, and journals to broaden our thinking and sharpen our intellect"

Therefore, in developing the spirituality of young people and nurturing well-rounded individuals, we must pay special attention to organizing the meaningful use of their free time as one of the most important factors.

Summarizing the views of the enlightened Jadid thinkers, it is important to emphasize the following aspects that were given special attention to raise young people as spiritually mature individuals:

Firstly, every parent must pay attention to their child's upbringing with a deep sense of responsibility;

Secondly, educators and teachers working in preschool and general secondary education institutions must actively strive to uncover each child's abilities and talents, while also viewing every child as a future individual of significance;

Thirdly, parents must responsibly create sufficient conditions for their children from a young age to grow up physically strong and healthy by promoting a healthy lifestyle, personal hygiene, and proper nutrition at the right time;

Fourthly, it is emphasized that taking young people on trips to museums and historical cities to familiarize them closely with the history of their homeland is of great importance.

The family and educational institutions play an extremely important role in the comprehensive growth and development of our youth. For this reason, during this period, it is a crucial factor to ensure that young people allocate their free time wisely and to create sufficient opportunities for them to spend their leisure time meaningfully.

The young people we are nurturing today are the future leaders of our society and homeland. Because, as Abdulla Avloni said, "The progress and prosperity of every nation depend on the knowledge and enlightenment, skills, and artistry of its youth" [1.50].

Indeed, the ideas put forward by our Jadids a century ago align with the goals and objectives we have set for ourselves in nurturing spiritually mature and well-rounded individuals in the New Uzbekistan we are building today.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as the builders of New Uzbekistan are well-rounded and highly spiritual young people, nurturing such youth requires us to look to our great history as a guide. The exemplary lives, activities, and spiritual legacy of our enlightened Jadid predecessors serve as a roadmap for this endeavor. After all, the Jadids were the visionaries of the nation who dreamed of a new era and an advanced society built on the foundation of knowledge and enlightenment.

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