

The Socio-Spiritual Foundations of Shaping National Values in Students Based on a Culture of Reading

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Abstract: This article analyzes the socio-spiritual foundations of the formation of national values in students through a reading culture. In addition, the article also provides recommendations for strengthening national values at the social level.

Keywords: reading, culture, reading, student, national value, spirituality, social environment, education, historical memory, spiritual perfection, library, literature, popular science, society.

Reading is one of the most important cultural processes that sharpens human thinking, deepens its spiritual world, and paves the way for spiritual maturity. Especially in the hearts and minds of the younger generation, the role of reading culture is of incomparable importance in establishing national values. Through the pages of books, the reader receives not just knowledge, but also direct communication with the historical memory of the people, their invaluable spiritual heritage, customs and traditions that have come down to us from centuries. Each line, each image awakens in his mind a sense of national identity and strengthens his sense of spiritual responsibility. Therefore, the issue of forming a reading culture in students is one of the most urgent socio-spiritual tasks for the development of today's society, awareness of national identity, and education of a well-rounded person.

The concept of national values embodies the worldview, moral standards, beliefs, language and culture of the people, formed over the centuries. These values have been passed down from generation to generation through oral and written sources [1]. The most reliable and stable form of written sources is the book. Therefore, the culture of reading is an important tool that ensures the continuity of national values. In the process of reading artistic and scientific works, the reader becomes acquainted with the history, aspirations, spiritual ideals of his people and begins to feel them from the inside.

In today's globalization environment, various information flows are rapidly and powerfully entering the minds of young people [2]. Digital technologies, social networks and mass cultural products often promote ideas that are far from the national spirit. In such a situation, the culture of reading becomes a factor that protects students spiritually, develops critical thinking and the ability to make moral choices in their minds. A student who becomes friends with a book learns to evaluate any information based on national and universal values.

Reading culture is a set of special knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for studying printed publications and electronic sources. In our opinion, based on modern approaches to reading culture, a brief definition can be given as follows: reading culture, as a specific social phenomenon, process, activity, is a set of special knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for studying printed publications and electronic sources [3]. Such an interpretation of reading culture shows that it is not limited only to

the reading process, but is a complex system that ensures the intellectual and spiritual development of a person. After all, in the process of reading, the reader acquires the skills of selecting, analyzing, comparing and drawing conclusions from information. This develops his ability to think independently and ensures a conscious and critical attitude to the text read. It is these aspects that distinguish reading from simple reading and raise it to the level of spiritual activity serving the development of a person.

The process of forming a reading culture in students begins, first of all, with the family. The attitude of parents to books, the presence of a reading environment at home have a strong influence on the child's future interest in reading. If a child learns to value books from an early age, to see them as a source of knowledge and wisdom, this habit will be further strengthened during school. In this regard, the restoration and development of family reading traditions is one of the important social foundations for preserving national values. The school is the main social institution that systematically forms a reading culture. In the educational process, the personal example of the teacher, the content and quality of the recommended literature, and the orientation of students to independent reading are of great importance. In particular, national literary samples, folk oral literature, and works by our great ancestors form a sense of national pride, patriotism, and spiritual responsibility in students. Through these works, the reader understands his or her identity and feels a deep sense of belonging to his or her people.

Works of fiction enrich the emotional world of the reader during the reading process. The fate of the heroes, their inner feelings, choices and decisions do not leave the reader indifferent. He puts himself in the place of the hero, ponders over such concepts as good and evil, justice and oppression, loyalty and betrayal. For example, Gulkhani's "Zarbulmasal" is a rare artistic source in Uzbek classical literature that combines folk thought, deep wisdom and sharp satire. Through symbolic images, the work illuminates the shortcomings of society, human qualities and moral criteria, and educates the reader in the spirit of vigilance, ingenuity and wisdom. Chingiz Aitmatov's story "The White Ship" deeply artistically expresses the conflict between childhood dreams, the desire for justice and the cruel reality. The work illuminates the problems of man and nature, love and carelessness through symbolic images, and does not leave the reader indifferent. In Said Ahmad's stories "The Madman of Karakoz", "The Leopard" and "The Former", various aspects of human character, complex relationships between society and the individual are vividly and touchingly depicted. Through these stories, the reader understands human truth in a combination of laughter and suffering. Jack London's story "Love of Life" glorifies the boundless will and perseverance of man to live. The idea of not losing hope even in the face of difficult trials constitutes the main spiritual foundation of the work. Nodar Dumbadze's story "Hellados" reveals the feelings of humanity, sincerity and love through simple but deeply meaningful images. The work encourages the reader to appreciate the goodness in the human heart. This is one of the most effective forms of moral education. Such moral criteria reflected in fiction are reinforced in the reader's mind as national values.

Reading popular science and historical works not only expands the reader's thinking, but also forms his social consciousness, historical memory and spiritual responsibility. A reader who deeply knows the history of his people, who is aware of the great achievements of his ancestors in science, culture and state administration, looks to the future with confidence, feels himself a worthy successor of great traditions. It is this feeling that constitutes an important spiritual basis for understanding national identity.

The role of historical and artistic works in this process is of particular importance. Through Abdurauf Fitrat's drama "Abulfayzkhan", the reader deeply observes the activities of historical figures, complex processes in state administration and their impact on the fate of the nation. The scenes of political and spiritual crisis reflected in the work encourage the reader to be vigilant and learn lessons from history. Abdulla Oripov's drama "Sahibqiron" glorifies the ideals of statesmanship, justice, and strong will through the figure of Amir Temur. This work strengthens the feelings of patriotism and national pride in the minds of the reader.

Odil Yakubov's novel "The Treasure of Ulugbek" reveals the incomparable role of science and enlightenment in the development of society at a high artistic level. The image of Mirzo Ulugbek embodies the ideas of devotion to science, the pursuit of truth, and selflessness, and encourages the reader to find perfection through knowledge and thought. Abdulla Qodiriy's novels "Bygone Days" and "Scorpion from the Altar" illuminate the spiritual problems of society, moral decline, and human choices against the backdrop of historical scenes. Through these works, the reader deeply understands the issues related to the fate of the nation and feels the importance of historical memory. Abdulhamid Cholpon's novel "Night and Day" artistically deeply expresses the spirit of the people during the colonial era, the desire for freedom, and the ideas of national awakening. The work encourages the reader to understand historical injustices, to reflect on the ideas of national freedom and the protection of human dignity. Thus, the reading of popular science and historical and artistic works forms historical memory, national pride and spiritual responsibility in the reader's mind, and educates him as a person who understands his identity and looks to the future with confidence.

The issue of language also plays a special role in the formation of a reading culture. A work read in the native language penetrates the reader's heart more deeply, shapes his thinking in the national spirit. National values, mentality and worldview are transmitted through the native language. Therefore, regularly introducing students to literature in the native language is an important socio-spiritual task.

In the modern era, it is necessary to combine traditional and innovative approaches in the development of a reading culture. E-books, audio works and digital libraries can increase students' interest in reading. However, the issue of content always remains a priority. Regardless of its form, reading should be based on national and spiritually rich works. Only then will it fully educate the student's personality.

The socio-spiritual environment plays a direct and decisive role in the development of a reading culture. The attention of society to books, the appreciation of writers and poets, the activities of libraries and cultural institutions instill deep respect and love for books in the minds of readers. When society appreciates that a book is not just a collection of pages to be read, but an important tool that enriches the human soul, expands thinking, and shapes social consciousness, young people also accept reading as an integral part of their lives. Social attention to reading in society awakens intellectual interest and spiritual maturity in the reader. For example, the prestige of writers and poets, the presentation of their works to the public, and the glorification of books and literature at social events strengthen respect for books and love for them in the hearts of readers. At the same time, the activities of libraries, book exchanges, literary clubs, and book festivals attract young people to reading and systematically develop a reading culture.

In a society where reading has social prestige, young people perceive books not only as a source of knowledge, but also as a means of life guidance, moral and spiritual education. They strive to shape their lives through books, to apply the examples of goodness and wisdom in them in their daily actions. As a result, the culture of reading serves to strengthen national values not only at the personal level, but also at the societal level. Qualities such as respect, conscientiousness, kindness and responsibility develop among people, and the spiritual foundation of society is strengthened. In this regard, books and reading become not only a means of acquiring knowledge, but also a social institution that ensures the spiritual and moral stability of society. In a society that respects the value of reading, young people not only realize their identity, but also responsibly approach the preservation of national memory, appreciation of the heritage of their ancestors, and the creation of a rich spiritual foundation for future generations. Culture formed through reading enriches the human personality, ensures the continuity of national values, and contributes to the socio-spiritual development of society.

I would like to make the following recommendations:

- a. In order to develop an interest in reading and a habit among students, it is necessary to organize regular book reading classes in schools and families. At the same time, it is important to familiarize

children with works of various genres, teach them to think through questions and answers and discussions.

- b. It is necessary to expand the activities of libraries, cultural centers and popular science events, and promote reading as a socially influential activity. This will instill in the minds of young people a sense of respect for books and acceptance of reading as an integral part of life.
- c. It is important to familiarize students with the historical personality, literary heritage and national values of their people. Through historical and artistic works such as “Bygone Days”, “Scorpion from the Altar”, “Night and Day”, “The Treasure of Ulugbek”, national identity, patriotism and spiritual perfection can be formed.
- d. During the reading process, students are encouraged to analyze the text, identify the main ideas and values, understand the author's opinion, and develop the skills of drawing independent conclusions.
- e. By introducing students to the life and work of local and foreign writers, poets, and scientists, and including their works in the curriculum, students will develop a sense of national pride, creative interest, and spiritual education.
- f. By involving family members in the reading process, creating a reading environment in the family, and strengthening respect for books through the social environment, the spiritual well-being of young people is ensured.
- g. Through e-books, popular science videos, online libraries, and interactive platforms, students' reading culture can be expanded and they can be taught to harmoniously perceive modern knowledge and national values.

In conclusion, the formation of national values in students based on a reading culture is a complex but extremely important socio-spiritual process. This process begins in the family and continues at the school and community level. Through books, the student gets acquainted with the spiritual treasure of his people, realizes his identity and learns to look to the future with responsibility. In a society with a developed reading culture, national values are stable, and a spiritually mature generation comes of age. Such a generation is the future of the nation, the most reliable strength and wealth of its spiritual and cultural continuity.

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