

The Role of Information Education in Protecting Youth from Ideological Threats

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Abstract: This article analyzes informational and ideological threats that negatively affect the minds of young people in the modern information space and reveals the importance of information education in preventing them. Information education is considered as the main pedagogical and psychological means of teaching the younger generation to make a conscious choice based on ideological views, moral norms and social values, and making them immune to negative informational influences. The article analyzes the role and methodology of information education in forming a conscious attitude of young people towards information, ensuring their mental and spiritual stability, and developing critical thinking, thereby creating immunity against various destructive ideas. At the same time, ideological views in national and historical and spiritual sources, approaches to information education based on classical heritage are covered on a deep scientific basis.

Keywords: Information Education, Ideological Threats, Forming The Minds of Young People, Information Security, Critical Thinking, National Values, Ideological Immunity

Introduction

In the modern era of globalization and information technology, the struggle in the information space is taking on new and extremely complex forms. Particularly in the 21st century, the battle for the human mind and soul through the dissemination of various alien ideas, malicious ideological influences, and disinformation—that is, false information—via information and communications media has become even more acute. This process aims not only to transmit information but also to shape, influence, and, in some cases, destroy a person's worldview, values, and consciousness. It should be noted that information-based influence has historically been used as an effective weapon in various ideological conflicts[1]. However, the pervasive nature and speed of modern digital technologies and media have greatly expanded the reach of this method. For example, biased information disseminated through the media—television, radio, the internet, and social media—now has the same impact as traditional propaganda and agitation methods, and in some cases, even surpasses them[2].

That is why threats in the information space today come not only from external forces but also threaten the internal stability and spiritual foundations of society. The goals of information attacks are to provoke a spiritual crisis in society, foster self-doubt in the younger generation, instill indifference toward the Motherland and national values, and prepare for the weakening of the institution of the family[3].

In particular, young people, as the most vulnerable group to information influence, have become the main target of these threats. Attempts to undermine people's spiritual stability through manipulative information, populist ideas, and content aimed at spreading a sense of the futility of life have become more frequent.

This situation creates the need to make information education an integral part of society's educational processes, especially among young people. Information education is a set of educational

mechanisms that teach individuals how to select, analyze, think critically, and correctly evaluate information sources. Its main goal is to develop individuals who are not free from the influence of information, but prepared, resilient, and impervious to it[4].

Consequently, the strategic importance of information education in ensuring national security and spiritual stability in the face of information attacks and ideological threats is growing. Educational institutions, the media, civil society institutions, and families must work in concert in this process[5].

Literature Analysis and Methodology

The lectures of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on information policy and ideological processes, as well as his works in various fields, serve as the theoretical foundation and methodological source. These works are significant because they form the fundamental and methodological basis of this article, while the relevant legislative acts, presidential decrees, resolutions, and other regulatory documents constitute the normative and methodological basis of the study[6].

In the process of ensuring ideological stability in the public life of Uzbekistan and fostering principles of critical thinking, ideological immunity, and spiritual immunity in the minds of young people, the concept of information education is particularly important. In the modern era of globalization, various ideological and information attacks and threats that directly affect the public consciousness and value systems of young people are widely disseminated not only through traditional but also through modern digital platforms. Therefore, information education is becoming a means not only of equipping young people with necessary knowledge and moral skills, but also of shaping them into conscientious individuals capable of directing the flow of information[7].

Scientific research conducted by Uzbek scholars in this field provides an important theoretical and practical foundation. In particular, such pressing issues as combating information and ideological threats in Uzbekistan, ensuring information security, developing ideological immunity, and strengthening ideological stability based on national values have been thoroughly analyzed by renowned scholars such as Sh. Pakhrutdinov, A. Mukhtorov, B. Aliyev, B. Amanov, F. Dzhurakulov, O. Musayev, B. A. Begalov, B. Yu. Khodiyev, V. Kuchkarov, G. Gafforova, D. Norkulov, I. Ergashev, and G. Nazarov[8].

This article utilizes such methods of scientific inquiry as dialectics, historicism, logic, analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis, observation, and review.

Result and Discussion

Today, information warfare, along with attacks and threats on this front, necessitate serious information and educational work, has a rich history. Particularly in the 21st century, the dissemination of various foreign ideas and ideologies through information communications has become an even more sophisticated weapon of spiritual warfare. This method was also used in the past as a weapon of ideological struggle. It is no coincidence that even today, in the tactics of global ideological warfare, the dissemination of various lies (disinformation) is placed on the same level as propaganda and agitation through radio, television, newspapers, and magazines. As a result of such actions, attempts are made to morally destroy society, discredit government policy, instill in young people a sense of mistrust and indifference toward themselves, their families, and the future, and cultivate in them apathy toward the defense of their homeland and nation[9].

In this context, methods such as generalizing specific facts (extrapolation), making lies appear true, inflating a small problem into a big lie, and prioritizing emotions and feelings over reason are also used. Unfortunately, despite the important work we are doing in the areas of formalism, spirituality, and ideology in propaganda, our delays in this work are sometimes a hindrance. Indeed, in many cases, instead of preventing threats in the information sphere, their specific causes and sources, we are forced to deal with their consequences. Sometimes, even in this area, the necessary vigilance,

speed, and awareness are lacking[10]. However, undoubtedly, in our time, information education and upbringing must warn us of impending internal and external threats in this area, reveal their true causes, and teach us to combat recklessness and negative actions. This represents an extremely pressing social need for educational work among students and young people in educational institutions to develop their understanding and perceptions of information security. At the same time, this means that students and young people can form a rational attitude toward events unfolding in the political, spiritual, and moral environment of our society, based on information and knowledge obtained through the media, and develop scientific observation and enlightened thinking[11]. As is well known, negative external influences, permeating through the media and succumbing to alien ideas, are viewed as a system of certain behavioral patterns or actions that contradict the spiritual and moral norms of society. In this regard, information education and upbringing represent an educational approach aimed at protecting young people from the corruption and confusion associated with this sphere[12]. It would not be wrong to say that the cornerstones of these principles were laid in the most ancient sources created by our ancestors and in the works of our scholars. Examples of this include the wise thoughts of the 11th-century scholar Yusuf Khos-Hajib in his work "Kutadgu Bilig": "A careless person closes his eyes and plunges into the sleep of carelessness." "O man of strong will, do not be careless, be vigilant," and Ahmad Yugnakiyya in his work "Hibbat-ul-Haqa'i": "Do not approach the evil one, for talking to an evil person quickly teaches you to do evil." The saying of our great-grandfather, Alisher Navoi, "If you are aware, you are a king," also means the same thing. [13]

It is known that with the onset of a new stage of social, scientific, spiritual, and educational development, the meaning of a given term or concept is clarified and enriched.

Information education also prevents some young people from blindly following the wrong behavior of some adults, parents, and educators. In this regard, the open, unanalyzed acceptance of any external attitude by a young person, a sense of mistrust in justice, resentment, and a desire for revenge are inevitably taken into account. In this case, information education serves to protect each student and young person from socially dangerous behavior based on destructive ideas, to engage them in socially useful activities, and to organize respectable behavior within a group by fostering a spirit of devotion to noble ideas. The following characteristics should be considered in the information education of young people and which contribute to a tendency toward destructive ideas:

- a tendency toward aggressive actions in interactions with others; a desire to solve problems through violence, a desire to humiliate a partner to demonstrate one's individuality;
- a tendency toward self-destructive behavior, that is, an underestimation of one's own life's value, a tendency toward risky actions, succumbing to boundless emotions, etc.- adolatli haqqoniylikdan chekinishga intilish, shaxsiy muammolarni xayoliy – kompensatorlik usuli bilan hal etishga moyillik, hayotning faqat hissiy tomoniga e'tibor berish, sensor turli gedonistik me'yor va qadriyatlarni ustivor bilish;
- a tendency toward anti-collective behavior, that is, disagreement with the lifestyle and moral norms typical of the neighborhood, neighbors, classmates, and peers, and practical action against this through negative behavior.

All this ensures a methodologically specific and targeted nature of informational and educational work among young people and increases the effectiveness of youth outreach[14]. Conducting separate informational and educational work with young people can also be considered a special educational approach. In this regard, the following key objectives of informational and educational work can be identified:

- timely identification of weak-willed, delinquent young people among young people, as well as parents and others who have a negative influence on them;
- eliminating the causes and conditions that encourage young people to embrace alien ideas and protecting young people from deviating from traditional national values. It is crucial to ensure the interconnectedness and consistency of the educational and preventive work of those involved in

outreach, to monitor the daily lives of young people with misbehavior, and to appropriately select information and preventive measures. This process requires instilling in adolescents the need to consistently adhere to national moral norms, and to pay special attention to methods and means of educational and supervisory influence, fostering positive qualities, and eliminating negative aspects. At the same time, it is necessary to identify ways to influence the information environment to eliminate morally destructive factors that negatively impact students and young people, and to create a system for changing their attitudes. This will allow us to identify tools based on positive information that can effectively influence each age group. When implementing a program for young people based on positive information, the following requirements must be met:

- the content, focus, and consistency of the educational and informational process; on the one hand, teaching young people their spiritual and educational needs, and on the other, exploring the individual aspects of their personality and general patterns of development;
- avoiding coercion when educating young people to utilize and develop their internal, often unexpressed, socially beneficial interests and abilities;
- adolescent activity, their sense of positive influence, and the demonstration of initiative and willpower in this process.

When developing a specific informational and educational preventive program, the primary goal is to achieve adolescent compliance with generally accepted norms, rules, and other social values. Based on this goal, a range of objectives is determined. The main ones are:

- strengthening and developing positive spiritual aspects of young people through informational and educational work;
- disseminating information that instills in young people a culture of communication, social responsibility, and activism.

Informational and educational work requires consideration of youth activity; its goal is to ensure the possibility of implementing appropriate measures aimed at eliminating the negative impact of nature. It fosters positive principles of self-organization and accelerates the process of developing a generally positive orientation in young people. It should be noted separately that various distortions, official exaggerations, and additions, such as the "pursuit of personal interests," undermine the moral authority of educational institutions and negatively impact the quality of education for young people and students. Such vices, characteristic of the former Soviet era, have been harshly criticized in recent years by various experts and the public, leading to calls for a serious reform of public education. Therefore, from the very beginning of national independence, in the process of reforming economic, political, and spiritual life, special attention was paid to addressing essential issues of public education and the upbringing of the younger generation[15].

Today, in the context of information attacks on young people, it is important to develop and implement theoretical and methodological aspects, forms and means of information education against the influence of such threats as international terrorism, films promoting evil, Western immoral philosophy, proselytism, and religious extremism. In this regard, "it is necessary to take into account that in the information education of young people, changes in the life of society also entail changes in the life and way of life of people; such processes do not occur spontaneously, but are formed at the spiritual and moral level of society, in the national idea. In turn, this is of great importance for the development of a democratic society, built in the process of ensuring universal peace and stability in our country" [2]. Information education of young people is a set of educational activities aimed at preserving creative ideas that exist individually, in a group, in society in a specific territory or in an educational institution, preventing the spread of destructive ideas, protecting the population, especially young people, from various information attacks, and strengthening loyalty to the national idea. In this regard, following a scientific and philosophical analysis and study of contemporary aspects of youth information education, we consider it appropriate to consider the need to implement the following measures:

- implementing the principles of national education in which our ancestors believed, promoting

ideas of loyalty to national values among all participants in the educational process, and striving to foster a sense of uncompromising struggle against the penetration of terrorism, fanaticism, and destructive ideas that contradict the aspirations of our state;

- popularizing modern knowledge among young people, fostering a desire for secular knowledge in adolescents, and taking measures to strictly prevent them from acquiring various informal informational knowledge;

- organizing the activities of an institutional system that provides legal, psychological, spiritual, and educational knowledge in every educational institution;

- popularizing the experience of teachers, mentors, and parents who have achieved good results in information education, and effectively utilizing all areas of the media in this regard;

- Increasing the effectiveness of providing information to young people in their extracurricular activities and focusing on organizing various clubs, events, and creative gatherings; - Studying and incorporating the suggestions and opinions of parents, teachers, and educators in establishing cooperation with various organizations on the proper organization of youth vacations and free time, taking into account their proposals in this regard, will help achieve the expected results.

Conclusion

In the modern era of globalization, when information and ideological threats influencing the minds of young people are increasing, the role of information education in protecting them is incomparable. Information education is being developed as an effective educational mechanism that leads young people to ideological and moral stability, developing their ability to think critically, analyze information, and make informed choices.

Analysis shows that young people's susceptibility to negative information influences, their acceptance of behavior patterns and views that contradict the spiritual values of society, is associated with a lack of conscious information sensitivity. Thus, the comprehensive and integrated development of an information education system, the infusion of information security knowledge and skills in educational institutions, and the education of young people based on national and moral values are essential conditions for ensuring spiritual stability in our country.

Information education is important not only for protecting young people from various ideological threats, but also for their development as individuals who are useful to society and as socially active and responsible citizens. Therefore, considering information education an important priority area of public policy, further improvement of its scientific and theoretical foundations and the effective organization of practical activities will contribute to building a society with a solid spiritual foundation.

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