

**THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF SPIRITUAL EDUCATION IN THE UPDATED
UZBEKISTAN**

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Annotation: In this article, the analysis of the role of education in the updated society and the importance of work in the rise of spirituality was expressed.

Key words: upbringing, education, spirituality, development.

The main goal of Uzbekistan after gaining independence was to build a state that meets global standards, implement new reforms in the political, social, and economic spheres, and create a legal system that consolidates these reforms through laws. It must be noted that there have never been, nor will there ever be, universal templates for socio-economic development applicable to all countries. Additionally, Uzbekistan, as an ancient land with cultural, educational, and historical traditions formed over centuries, had to search extensively to find its own path. Therefore, “Independent Uzbekistan, from the very day of its birth, was forced to stand on its feet and walk on its own.”

It is also worth emphasizing that, at the time of Uzbekistan's independence, there were skeptics both inside and outside the country who doubted its success. I.A. Karimov, deeply analyzing the development processes of the country's early years, laid out five key principles as the foundation for Uzbekistan's state-building and economic reform program:

1. Economic reforms should never lag behind politics and should not be subordinated to any ideology. This means that the economy should take precedence over politics. Both internal and external economic relations should be free from ideological influence.
2. During the transition period, the state must play the role of the main reformer. The state should determine the priority directions of reforms, develop a policy of change, and implement it consistently.
3. Respect for the law and adherence to regulations must be paramount. This means that the new Constitution and laws adopted democratically must be respected and followed by everyone without exception.
4. Implement strong social policies, considering the demographic composition of the population. Alongside the introduction of market relations, proactive measures must be taken to ensure social protection for the population. This has been the most pressing task in the move towards a market economy and will remain so.
5. Ensuring security, interethnic harmony, and religious tolerance, as well as pursuing a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial, and pragmatic foreign policy.

When discussing the supreme value of independence for the citizens of Uzbekistan, it is defined as the foundation of societal development, the condition for present and future progress, the benchmark for all reforms, and ultimately the guiding principle for all. As such, it continually sets new tasks before the members of society and demands their fulfillment. Each stage of progress consists of various problems and measures to address them. Experience from the international community, including that of both large and small nations and states, shows that delaying the resolution of problems that arise in the early years of independence can lead to severe social upheavals.

Independence, on one hand, places great responsibility on choosing the path of national development freely, and on the other, creates unparalleled opportunities to eliminate old structures and lay the foundation for a new society. From this perspective, independence can be regarded as the most essential condition for democracy.

Based on the collection, in-depth study, and generalization of received proposals, a draft decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, “On the Strategy for Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan,” was developed, which:

- Approved the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021;
- Approved the state program for implementing the Action Strategy in the “Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests.”

The projects were widely discussed among the general public, and they were posted on various information platforms for discussion, resulting in numerous suggestions and comments. Citizens demonstrated high political and legal activity, showing significant interest and engagement in the ongoing reforms. The conceptual issues regarding the social-political, socio-economic, and cultural-humanitarian development of the country were incorporated into the Action Strategy based on President Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s election campaign, as well as his meetings with the public, business circles, and state authorities.

The goal of the Action Strategy is to drastically increase the effectiveness of reforms, create conditions for the comprehensive and rapid development of the state and society, modernize the country, and liberalize all spheres of life.

Specifically, five priority areas for the development of the country were identified:

1. Improving state and public construction;
2. Ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system;
3. Further development and liberalization of the economy;
4. Developing the social sphere;
5. Ensuring security, interethnic harmony, and religious tolerance, as well as pursuing a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial, and pragmatic foreign policy.

Each of these areas consists of specific sections aimed at deepening the reforms and renewal processes in the country.

The implementation of the Action Strategy is planned in five stages, with a state program approved each year according to the themes of the respective years. The “Action Strategy,” announced by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on February 7, 2017, is, in essence, a genuine national strategy, designed for a specific period in five priority areas: deepening democratic reforms in state and public construction, ensuring the rule of law, and security. It is expected that state programs will be adopted every year for the next five years, based on the yearly themes. Changes during the modernization process will occur in all areas of human and societal activity. These changes will result in the formation of new concepts, principles, and approaches, which

will further expand the scope of the national idea and create new opportunities to instill it in the minds and hearts of the younger generation.

The national idea, as a complex system, encompasses issues such as the formation of young people's spiritual world, the unification of all nationalities within our homeland, and the elevation of individuals to higher spiritual and moral standards.

The path of development in our country is embodied in the "Uzbek model." The goal of both the national idea and the development model is to aspire to higher levels of progress and elevate our spirituality for the future of our people.

It is essential to recognize that, at present, the deepening processes of globalization are affecting every state, nation, and ethnic group, including the consciousness of the youth. The acceleration of information flows and the diversity of sources create conditions for the widespread dissemination of various ideas, ideological, and cultural streams. Moreover, the access that university students, as the most important and promising foundation for highly skilled labor, have to various information sources highlights the need to protect them from the negative impacts of such streams. For this reason, every higher education institution must not only focus on students' knowledge, skills, and professional competence but also on developing their ideological immunity and sense of involvement.

In conclusion, education in Uzbekistan has always been a priority of state policy. The upbringing of spiritually strong individuals has been a core focus since the early days of independence. The positive results achieved in building a democratic society in Uzbekistan are a clear indication of the practical, scientific, and life-enhancing significance of the spiritual education provided to its citizens, especially the younger generation.

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