ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 10| Issue: 12| December 2024|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2024: 8.402 || ISI Value: 1.188

THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN YOUTH SPIRITUALITY IN THE ERA OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

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ABSTRACT

The article explores the impact of innovative technologies on youth's spirituality, upbringing, and personal development. While highlighting positive aspects such as educational platforms and creativity opportunities, it examines negative effects like social dependency and declining interest in reading. The importance of spirituality and reading in youth development is emphasized.

KEYWORDS: *youth, spirituality, upbringing, innovative technologies, influence, social dependency, reading culture, enlightenment, information, internet, social media, development, education, society.*

Today, many issues related to the spirituality, upbringing, and personality of the youth continue to be highly relevant. This is because the future of the youth is, undoubtedly, the future of our country, Uzbekistan. Every effort made for the future of the youth can be likened to laying the foundation for our nation.

Our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev once said, "If you ask me what troubles you, I would say the education and upbringing of our children [1]." This statement is not made without reason. Youth is the primary force that unites society and the nation. They are the most active group in any society. With their views, initiatives, and innovative ideas, the youth play a leading role in the development of society.

The terms "Young Khivaliklar" or "Young Bukharaliklar" are not coincidentally connected with "youth." In every era, youth has been the foundation of society. A spiritually developed and well-educated youth is crucial not only for society but for ensuring the strong future of humanity as a whole.

In the era of globalization today, technology has become the main driving force of development. It has radically changed the way we live, enabling us to reach new heights. These technological advancements include achievements in medicine, education, transportation, finance, manufacturing, and agriculture.

Moreover, innovative technologies have had a positive impact on the spirituality of modern youth. Through online educational platforms (such as Moodle, Coursera), electronic libraries, and virtual learning programs, the youth now have ample opportunities for spiritual and intellectual development [3]. They are learning more about world culture, science, and art. Additionally, technology has opened up a new arena for the creativity of youth. Blogs, videos, podcasts, and platforms for art allow young people to showcase their talents, express their thoughts freely, and demonstrate their worldview.

However, as the two sides of a coin, innovative technologies, despite offering numerous benefits for the youth's spirituality, are also showing negative consequences over time.

Currently, the youth spend a significant portion of their time on the internet, social media, and gaming applications. This has led to their detachment from reality and worsened relationships with family and society. As a result, the spiritual image of the youth is becoming more negatively influenced, and issues such as family and parental matters are losing their importance.

In the past, the ideal person for the youth was often a parent or someone they admired, but now, it is a famous blogger or an influential figure on social media. The youth do not realize that the lives of these popular social media figures, which they see as ideal, are not always as perfect as they seem.

For instance, on Instagram, a few people regularly post pictures of their luxurious lives on their pages, and these posts are seen by millions of young people, changing their perceptions of life. In many cases, the youth lose motivation when they are unable to achieve the same life outcomes as those they see on Instagram, which can lead to depression [4]. The harmful or inappropriate content available on social media and the internet negatively influences the youth's consciousness. This particularly occurs through materials that promote violence, immorality, and harmful ideologies.

The easy access that youth have to such information, with no barriers to prevent it, not only harms their spirituality but can also destroy their sense of self, making them vulnerable to "malevolent forces" and turning them into easy prey [5].

Excessive dependence on innovative technologies significantly hinders the development of youth's thinking and social skills. Firstly, the ability to think independently

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weakens, as they tend to align their decisions with the opinions of the majority on online platforms. Secondly, superficial information replaces deep analytical thinking. For example, a large portion of today's youth is unable to read books.

Their patience is too limited for reading books, as the information on social media and the internet is more interesting and easier to access, making the youth prefer these over books. Sadly, bookshops and libraries in the centers of cities and districts are almost empty. Reading books plays a crucial role in the intellectual and spiritual development of individuals, as it not only enhances knowledge but also fosters critical thinking, moral values, and emotional growth. Books provide a window into different worlds, offering diverse perspectives and experiences that help shape one's worldview. Through the written word, individuals gain insight into the complexities of human nature, culture, history, and philosophy, which helps them better understand themselves and the world around them. Moreover, the act of reading nurtures discipline, patience, and concentration, qualities that are essential for personal growth and success in various aspects of life.

Our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasizes: "Development without books, achieving high spirituality, is impossible. A person who does not read books, and a nation that does not read, has no future" [2].

In conclusion, the spirituality and upbringing of the youth are the main pillars of any society. The opportunities provided by innovative technologies, particularly the achievements in education and creative activities, play a vital role in the development of youth [7].

However, excessive dependence on technology can lead to a decline in their ability to think independently and social skills. The negative influences of social media, materials promoting immorality, and the decreasing interest in reading books pose a serious threat to the spirituality of the youth.

Therefore, it is crucial that parents, teachers, and every member of society approach the upbringing of youth with equal responsibility. Promoting reading and teaching the proper use of technology remain pressing issues in ensuring spiritual elevation.

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