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Analysis of the Process of Forming Reading Culture among Youth in the Republic of Uzbekistan

M. Y. Khakimova

Head of the Department of «Library and Information Activities», State Institute of Arts and Culture of Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article analyzes the process of cultivating a reading culture among youth in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It examines the main factors influencing youth reading preferences, including social, educational, and cultural aspects. The role of educational institutions, family traditions, and media environments in fostering an interest in reading is evaluated. Special attention is given to the challenges posed by the influence of digital technologies on reading culture and potential ways to overcome these challenges to maintain a sustained interest in literature among youth.

Keywords: reading culture; youth of Uzbekistan; reading preferences; educational programs; digitalization; social factors; literary development; impact of technology.

In the current context, where the world is experiencing rapid changes in technology, information, and communication, the issue of developing a reading culture among youth becomes one of the key tasks of educational policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Introduction

In recent years, we have observed a significant decline in interest in reading among youth. The digital age and ubiquitous access to information via the internet have altered students' habits and attitudes towards literature. Nevertheless, reading remains a crucial tool for developing intellectual, emotional, and social skills in children. It is important not only to preserve interest in reading but also to foster it, making reading an integral part of each student's educational and personal growth.

The formation of a reading culture among the younger generation is a pressing issue, particularly in the context of a modern society characterized by rapid technological development, information overload, and changing social norms. Reading culture becomes a vital factor in the spiritual and intellectual development of individuals. Developing a strong reading culture is crucial for education, professional training, and socialization. It promotes critical thinking, broadens perspectives, enhances communication skills, and raises overall cultural awareness.



In the context of the global information society, where information is available in vast quantities but often in a superficial form, reading becomes an essential tool for deep understanding and analysis. This is especially important in the context of educating the younger generation, who must adapt to a constantly changing world. However, in recent decades, there has been a decline in interest in reading, particularly among young people. This decline is associated with the rise of digital media, visual culture, and changing information consumption patterns.

Several negative aspects affecting the formation of a reading culture need to be highlighted:

- **Decline in Interest in Reading:** Most young people prefer spending time on gadgets or social media rather than reading books.
- **Quality of Reading:** The lack of critical reading and analytical skills results in reading becoming a mere formal procedure rather than a tool for personal and intellectual growth.
- **Shortage of Relevant Literature:** There is an insufficient amount of modern and relevant literature that meets the interests and needs of young people.

Thus, the relevance of the issue of forming a reading culture is determined by the need to overcome these negative trends and nurture generations capable of independent and conscious reading. Effectively addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach, including educational programs, family upbringing, and social and cultural initiatives aimed at popularizing reading as both a value and an element of cultural identity.

It is important to note that the issue of cultivating a reading culture requires special attention from educational institutions, libraries, public organizations, and the government. In contemporary conditions, this issue is of paramount importance for preserving and developing cultural heritage, improving educational standards, and enhancing social well-being.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the culture of reading has deep historical roots. However, in recent decades, there has been a decline in interest in literature, especially among young people. One of the factors is the development of digital technologies, which are displacing traditional books. Statistics show that young people increasingly prefer spending time on the internet, playing games, or socializing on social media rather than reading books. Nonetheless, the government and society recognize the importance of this issue and are making efforts to address it. A significant step towards reviving the reading culture has been the adoption of national programs. In Uzbekistan, active work is being done to promote reading among youth, including organizing various campaigns, competitions, and events aimed at increasing interest in books. New educational programs are being launched to develop critical reading skills, text analysis, and interpretation, fostering a sustained interest in reading among school students. Access to literature is being expanded through the growth of library networks, the implementation of digital libraries, and online platforms.

Social and cultural factors also play a crucial role in shaping a reading culture: the role of the family, and mass culture (digital information is often perceived as more accessible and attractive, but it rarely promotes deep thinking and conscious perception). The school and family play key roles in cultivating a reading culture. In the Uzbek educational system, numerous activities and programs have been introduced to encourage reading. It is important for teachers to themselves demonstrate a love for books and serve as role models for their students. Additionally, it is essential to instill in students a consistent reading habit using various methods such as extracurricular reading sessions, literary clubs, and competitions. The family should also actively participate in this process. Regular family reading sessions, discussing what has been read, and creating a home library can significantly increase children's

interest in literature. Parents need to understand that their personal example is the most powerful motivating factor for their children.

Thus, the state of reading culture among the youth in Uzbekistan requires further attention and a comprehensive approach to address the issues. Programs aimed at increasing interest in reading, improving the quality of education in this area, and enhancing the roles of family and school in the process are necessary.

Modern educational programs and technologies can significantly contribute to promoting the formation of a reading culture. In Uzbekistan, contemporary educational programs incorporate various approaches to popularize reading. One of these is the integration of modern technologies into the learning process. E-books, audiobooks, and other digital resources can be powerful tools for engaging students with reading. It is important not only to offer books in digital formats but also to use multimedia resources that can make the reading process more interactive and engaging.

Moreover, the implementation of new teaching methods, such as project-based learning and collaborative reading followed by discussion, makes the reading process more engaging and meaningful for students. These approaches help students not only better understand the material but also develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

Thus, modern educational programs and technologies play a crucial role in shaping future generations who are capable of adapting to the challenges of the times and actively participating in societal development. Their successful implementation requires a comprehensive approach that considers not only technological aspects but also pedagogical, social, and cultural factors.

****Conclusion****

The formation of a reading culture among youth in the Republic of Uzbekistan is a complex but necessary process. Only through the joint efforts of schools, families, and the state can we ensure that reading becomes an integral part of every student's life. It is crucial to continue developing programs aimed at popularizing reading, modernizing libraries, utilizing modern technologies, and instilling a love for books in students. Only then will we be able to nurture a generation ready to face the challenges of the modern world, equipped with broad horizons, critical thinking, and a high level of cultural development.

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