

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE KASHKADARYA REGION DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**Botirova Go‘zal Shovkat kizi**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the processes of spiritual life and cultural development in the Kashkadarya region during the years of independence. It highlights the cultural and educational reforms implemented in the region, the revival of national values, the preservation of historical heritage, and the activities of cultural institutions. Furthermore, the study scientifically examines the positive changes that occurred in the fields of culture and spirituality during the independence period, the measures aimed at improving the spiritual awareness of the population, and their role in the development of society. As a result of the research, the stages of cultural development and the important factors of spiritual progress in the Kashkadarya region during the years of independence are revealed.

Keywords: Kashkadarya region, independence period, cultural development, spiritual life, national values, cultural and educational reforms, historical heritage, cultural institutions, spiritual progress.

INTRODUCTION. After Uzbekistan gained independence, fundamental changes were implemented in all spheres of the country’s life. In particular, raising the spiritual life of society, developing national culture, and restoring historical heritage became one of the important directions of state policy. During the years of independence, extensive work was carried out to preserve national values, customs, and traditions, to study the rich historical and cultural heritage of the people, and to pass it on to future generations.

These processes were clearly manifested in the Kashkadarya region as well as in all regions of the country. Particular attention was paid to the development of culture, art, literature, education, and spirituality in the region. The activities of cultural palaces, libraries, museums, theaters, and other cultural and educational institutions were improved, and restoration and reconstruction works of historical monuments were carried out. At the same time, numerous events were organized to widely promote national traditions and values and to educate the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, national pride, and spiritual maturity.

Literature Review and Methods. In conducting this research, scientific literature, monographs, articles, and official documents related to the spiritual life and cultural development of the Kashkadarya region during the years of independence were studied. In particular, scientific studies devoted to reforms implemented in the field of culture and spirituality in the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional development processes, and issues of preserving historical and cultural heritage were analyzed. In addition, sources related to the history of the Kashkadarya region, works of local researchers, statistical data, archival documents, and periodical press materials were widely used. These sources play an important role in highlighting the development processes of cultural and educational life in the region during the independence period.

During the research process, the methods of historicity, systematicity, comparative analysis, and source studies were employed. Through the historical method, the stages of formation and development of cultural and spiritual life in the Kashkadarya region during the independence period were consistently studied. By means of systematic analysis, the activities of cultural institutions, their role in social life, and the processes of spiritual development were comprehensively examined. The comparative analysis method was used to compare cultural processes of different periods and identify their distinctive features.



DISCUSSION AND RESULTS. This study analyzes the processes of spiritual life and cultural development in the Kashkadarya region during the years of independence. It also scientifically highlights the reforms implemented in the field of culture and spirituality in the region, the activities of cultural institutions, and their role in the development of society. The research findings serve to identify the stages of development of cultural and spiritual life in the region and determine the promising directions of this sphere.

Due to the economic difficulties that emerged during the first years of independence and the insufficient implementation of cultural and educational promotional activities, the number of library visitors significantly decreased. In particular, in 1993, the number of members in the Qarshi city library decreased by 55 people, while the number of books issued to readers decreased by 12,601 copies. In addition, there were certain problems related to staffing. In 1993, the level of provision of qualified specialists in Qarshi city libraries amounted to only 42 percent [1].

In the following years, certain positive changes were observed in this situation. In particular, in 1996, the average number of readers per library in Qarshi city reached 1,156, which was recorded as the highest indicator in the region. During the same period, this figure amounted to 936 readers in Shahrisabz city, 569 in Qamashi district, and 325 in Bahoriston district [2].

On February 14, 2003, the decision of the Kashkadarya Regional Administration “On the Capital Reconstruction, Provision with Modern Equipment, and Computerization of the Regional Library Named after S. Nasafiy” was adopted. Based on this decision, repair works of the library building, strengthening of its material and technical base, and equipping it with modern technical devices were carried out. Beginning in 2007, the library was connected to the Internet network, and a special server room was established for creating an electronic catalog and forming electronic versions of literature. At the same time, special attention was paid to improving the qualifications of library employees, and 113 librarians attended special training courses in computer literacy. Cultural and educational events were regularly organized in the library. Among them were artistic evenings entitled “Your Independence is Eternal – Your Future is Bright,” discussions on topics such as “The World Needs Peace,” “Knowledge is a Shield Against All Misfortunes,” and “My Mother Tongue is the Pain in My Heart.” In addition, book exhibitions titled “Peace is Our Noble Goal,” “Teachers with Ocean-like Kindness,” “Language is the Scholar of Knowledge,” and “A Unique and Great Figure,” dedicated to the 80th anniversary of writer Sh. Rashidov, were organized. Furthermore, events devoted to Navruz under the title “Symbol of Elegance – Blessed be Navruz of the World, Your Steps are Precious to My Soul,” an artistic evening entitled “The World Recognizes Temurbek” dedicated to the 661st anniversary of Amir Temur’s birth, and spiritual-educational discussions with readers on the occasion of International Family Day under the theme “The Human Heart is More Delicate than a Flower” were conducted [3].

Alongside the central city library, several branch libraries also operated actively. The branch library named after A. Beruniy was located in room 1 of building 30 in the second residential district of the city. Branch Library No. 2 named after G‘. G‘ulom operated near the oil factory, and its book collection consisted of 28,540 copies. During 2007, 14,628 copies of literature were provided to 923 readers [4].

The Oybek Children’s Library affiliated with the city central library was located in the “Paxtazor” residential district of the city. The building of the library was in good condition, and books were arranged alphabetically and according to subject areas. In addition to serving readers, great attention was also paid to the promotion of literature. Literary and musical evenings dedicated to the 55th anniversary of Raim Farxodiy and International Children’s Day on June 1 were organized, and permanent exhibitions such as “Journey into the World of Fairy Tales” and “Children are Our Future” were arranged. Likewise, the Hamza Library in the city possessed a



collection of 17,634 books, and thematic corners such as “Year of Human Interests,” “Purity of Language – Purity of Heart,” and “Fairy Tales Lead to Kindness” were established there [4].

In accordance with the Resolution of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I.A. Karimov, dated June 20, 2006, “On Organizing Information and Library Provision for the Population of the Republic,” significant changes were introduced into the activities of city libraries. During this period, the Central Library of the city operated four halls: a reading hall, a researchers’ hall, a teenagers’ hall, and a hall dedicated to the works of the President. The total library fund amounted to 314,736 copies, including 29,475 copies related to art and sports, 100,500 copies of fiction literature, and 30,279 copies related to technology and agriculture [4].

In Qarshi city, clubs for the deaf and mute as well as clubs for the visually impaired operated continuously. In cooperation with schools, both clubs annually organized events dedicated to International Women’s Day on March 8, Navruz celebrations, the birthday of A. Navoi, Constitution Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and New Year celebrations [5]. Chess, checkers, handicraft, carpentry, and drama clubs were also organized within these institutions.

During the years of independence, Uzbek folk applied art was revived and enriched with new traditions in accordance with the demands of the time. The field was fundamentally renewed following the announcement of Decree No. 1741 of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I.A. Karimov, dated March 31, 1997, “On Measures for State Support for the Further Development of Folk Artistic Crafts and Applied Arts.” In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a resolution on June 4, 1997, “On the Establishment of the ‘Hunarmand’ Association of Folk Craftsmen and Issues of Its Activity” [6].

The announcement of the Decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I.A. Karimov, dated March 30, 2010, “On Further Support for the Development of Folk Artistic Crafts and Applied Arts,” became an important event in the development of the field [7].

Events such as the “Tashabbus,” “Young Creators” exhibition, “Master-Apprentice” exhibition, “Uzbek Women with Golden Hands,” “Consumer Goods Fair,” “Republican Exhibition of Young Potters,” “Bazar-Art,” and “Echoes of Centuries” played an important role in the development of Uzbek folk applied art.

Various exhibitions, auctions, and competitions were regularly held in Uzbekistan to demonstrate the creativity of masters of folk applied art. Events such as the “Tashabbus,” “Young Creators” exhibition, “Master-Apprentice” exhibition, “Uzbek Women with Golden Hands,” “Consumer Goods Fair,” “Republican Exhibition of Young Potters,” “Bazar-Art,” and “Echoes of Centuries” occupied an important place in the development of Uzbek folk applied art. For example, in April 2015, the Qarshi city stage of the “Tashabbus – 2015” competition was held, in which more than 60 advanced, entrepreneurial, and initiative-driven businessmen and craftsmen participated with their products and services [8].

At the event, the limited liability company “Nasaf Metall,” which at that time produced nearly 40 types of sports equipment and inventory, was recognized as the “Best Entrepreneur of the Year,” while craftsman Fayzi Manzarov, engaged in decorating ceramic and porcelain products, was named the “Best Craftsman of the Year.” They received qualification to participate in the regional stage of the competition [8].

According to Resolution No. 322 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 29, 2010, “On Approval of the Program of Measures for Strengthening the Material and Technical Base of Culture and Recreation Parks and Further Improving Their Activities in 2011–2015,” a number of activities were implemented in the culture and recreation parks of Qarshi city. Large-scale repair works, installation of new attractions, and beautification projects were carried out in the parks.

Conclusion: During the years of independence, significant changes occurred in the spiritual life and cultural development of the Kashkadarya region. During this period, restoring national



values, traditions, and customs, preserving historical heritage, and widely promoting it became one of the priority directions of state policy. As a result, large-scale reforms aimed at developing the spheres of culture and spirituality were implemented in the region. The activities of cultural institutions — libraries, museums, cultural centers, theaters, and other educational establishments — were further improved. Their material and technical base was strengthened, and modern information technologies were introduced. In particular, the computerization of library activities, the creation of electronic catalogs, and connection to the Internet significantly expanded the opportunities for the population to access information.

At the same time, various cultural and educational events, artistic evenings, book exhibitions, and spiritual-educational discussions were regularly organized in the region, serving to improve the spiritual awareness of the population. Events dedicated to national holidays, historical dates, and the anniversaries of great ancestors played an important role in educating the younger generation in the spirit of national pride, patriotism, and spiritual maturity. Overall, during the years of independence, cultural life and spiritual development in the Kashkadarya region consistently progressed, making a significant contribution to strengthening the social and spiritual environment of society, fostering national identity, and preserving cultural heritage. These processes will continue to serve as an important foundation for the further development of the region's cultural and spiritual progress in the future.

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