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THE SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: This article analyzes the spiritual and educational role of museums in youth upbringing from both theoretical and practical perspectives. In the context of the 21st century, museums are viewed not only as institutions preserving historical artifacts, but also as important social institutions contributing to the formation of national identity, historical memory, and patriotic values among young people. In particular, based on the activities of O‘zbekiston tarixi davlat muzeyi and Temuriylar tarixi davlat muzeyi, the study examines the impact of museum exhibitions on youth consciousness, as well as the effectiveness of interactive displays, educational projects, and innovative pedagogical approaches. The research highlights issues of museum pedagogy, promotion of cultural heritage, and enhancement of youth social engagement. It also reveals the importance of cooperation between museums and educational institutions, their role in strengthening spiritual values, and broadening the worldview of young people based on scientific conclusions.

Keywords: museum, museum pedagogy, youth upbringing, spiritual and educational activity, cultural heritage, historical memory, national identity, patriotism, interactive exhibition, educational integration

INTRODUCTION

The twenty-first century is characterized by globalization and the rapid development of information technologies, processes that directly influence the worldview, values, and social consciousness of young people. Under such circumstances, educating the younger generation in the spirit of national and universal values, while fostering historical memory and patriotism, has become one of the most pressing tasks. In this regard, museums occupy a special place as important socio-cultural institutions. Museums serve not only as repositories of tangible and intangible heritage but also as educational platforms that contribute to the spiritual and intellectual development of youth.

Today, institutions such as the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan and the State Museum of the History of the Timurids are introducing interactive and innovative forms of engagement with young people, striving to present history in a vivid and impactful manner. Museum exhibitions, educational projects, displays, and public discussions contribute to the development of independent thinking, historical awareness, and civic responsibility among young people. Therefore, the scientific study of the spiritual and educational role of museums in youth development constitutes one of the significant directions of contemporary museology.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The role of museums in youth education has been widely discussed in both international and national scholarly literature. In particular, conceptual documents developed by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) emphasize the educational and social functions of museums and provide a broad interpretation of their role in societal development. According to ICOM studies, museum

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pedagogy serves as an effective tool for fostering critical thinking, cultural awareness, and social integration among young people.

Similarly, UNESCO materials highlight that the preservation of cultural heritage and its transmission to future generations are essential components of sustainable development. UNESCO programs related to cultural diversity and heritage preservation recognize museums as important institutions of non-formal education.

Local scholars have also analyzed the significance of museums in strengthening historical memory, promoting national identity, and cultivating patriotism. Recent research has identified interactive exhibitions, digitalization processes, and museum-education integration as key areas of contemporary museum development. Overall, the existing literature provides a strong foundation for considering museums as important institutions in the spiritual and intellectual development of youth.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The formation of national aesthetic culture among students is one of the important issues of the present day. Works of fine art play a significant role in accomplishing this task.

It is well known that after Uzbekistan gained independence, a process of fundamental renewal and development began in all spheres of society, accompanied by a reassessment of the nation's history and cultural heritage. Along this path, the multinational people of Uzbekistan have continued to move steadily toward progress [1].

The Surkhandarya School of Painting is considered one of the major artistic schools in Uzbekistan. Established by prominent artists such as V. Volkov, V. I. Balabanov, G. Zelberman, I. Khrepchenko, R. Choriyev, O'. Tansiqboyev, and M. Saidov, this artistic tradition continues to flourish today through the efforts of talented painters from Surkhandarya, including members of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan such as R. Norboyev, T. Shoymardonov, O. Qodirov, M. Botirov, T. Shomirzayev, A. Ermo‘minov, M. Tojiyev, Q. Alloyorov, and S. Ahmedov [4].

The themes of their artistic works have evolved to focus primarily on the homeland, Uzbek villages, family life, beautiful landscapes, the colorful world of nature, and love. The limitless world of painting has reached a level capable of captivating viewers and enriching their aesthetic perception [5].

The ability to appreciate the simple phenomena of nature reflects a person's aesthetic taste and broad worldview. Every refined imagination and creative fantasy is ultimately inspired by nature [6]. The musicality of a nightingale’s song has inspired composers, while the precision of the hexagonal honeycomb structures built by bees has long fascinated architects.

Artists deeply perceive the beauty of nature and convey the relationship between humans and the natural world primarily through landscape painting [7]. By depicting the beauty of nature in their works, artists reveal the inner spiritual world and emotional experiences of human beings.

One such artist was Ro‘zi Choriyev, an Academician of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan, People's Artist of Uzbekistan, recipient of the “El-Yurt Hurmati” Order, and an outstanding painter known for his warmth, openness, and sincere personality [8].

Observing the works of this master artist, one can clearly perceive the landscapes of Surkhandarya, the beauty of nature, and the character of Uzbekistan itself. His artistic legacy inspires pride and admiration, and many scholars and art enthusiasts continue to study and write about his achievements. Becoming acquainted with Ro‘zi Choriyev’s art is comparable to enjoying the golden rays of the sun. A part of this artistic heritage has been included in the new exhibition of the State Museum of History and Culture of Surkhandarya Region [9].

During the reporting period, museum staff collected information from literature related to fine arts and the independence era. On February 28, 2020, museum employees organized an event entitled

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"Spring Festival – The Season of Renewal" in the museum courtyard. Elderly women, retired museum employees, and staff members on maternity leave were invited to participate.

During the event, young museum employees presented festive performances, songs dedicated to sumalak were performed, and elderly women prepared traditional sumalak in large cauldrons. The museum courtyard featured festive tables with traditional spring dishes, including green samsa, sumalak, pilaf, and chuchvara. In February 2020, Museum Director S. Inoyatova, Department Head S. Karimova, and museum staff members X. Cho'ponov and E. Beknayev visited Boysun district to collect historical artifacts for the museum's new exhibition [10].

These activities demonstrate that museums function not only as repositories of historical objects but also as active cultural and educational centers that contribute to youth education, the preservation of traditions, and the strengthening of social cohesion.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study indicate that museums have become important spiritual and educational institutions for youth development in the twenty-first century. They perform not only the function of preserving historical and cultural heritage but also the task of transmitting this heritage to younger generations through modern pedagogical and innovative approaches.

Museum exhibitions, interactive displays, thematic projects, and educational programs serve as effective tools for developing historical thinking, strengthening national identity, and fostering patriotism among young people. Furthermore, cooperation between museums and educational institutions enriches theoretical knowledge with practical experience, promotes independent thinking, and enhances social engagement.

The use of modern information and communication technologies increases the attractiveness of museums and enables them to reach broader audiences. Overall, museums play an invaluable role in the spiritual development of youth, the preservation of historical memory, and the transmission of national values. Therefore, further improvement of museum activities, the wider implementation of innovative approaches, and the development of effective mechanisms for engaging young people remain important priorities for the future.

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