

The Role of National Values in Spiritual Education: the Harmony of Traditionalism and Modern Approaches

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Abstract. This scientific article analyses the role of national values in spiritual education and examines the harmony between traditionalism and modern approaches in the educational process. The study aims to explore the importance of spiritual education in shaping moral consciousness, social responsibility, and national identity among young people in the context of globalisation and rapid technological development. The research uses a qualitative descriptive method based on library research. Data were collected from academic books, journal articles, official educational documents, and previous studies related to spiritual education, national identity, traditional values, and modern educational reforms. The collected data were analysed through content analysis by identifying and interpreting key themes connected with moral development, cultural heritage, and educational transformation. Examples from Uzbekistan and international experience were used to explain the interaction between historical heritage, national traditions, and modern educational reforms. The results of the study show that the effective development of spiritual education depends on preserving national values while adapting to modern social and educational realities. The study concludes that harmony between traditional moral foundations and modern educational approaches is essential for strengthening spiritual development and preserving national identity in contemporary society..

Keywords: spiritual education, national values, traditionalism, modern approaches, moral development, cultural heritage, national identity.



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INTRODUCTION

Spiritual education has always been an important part of human life and social development. Every society tries to pass its moral values, traditions, and cultural worldview from one generation to another. Through spiritual education, people learn

respect, responsibility, kindness, honesty, and love for their nation and culture. Because of this, spiritual education is closely connected not only with schools and educational institutions, but also with family, society, traditions, and everyday life.

Today, the issue of spiritual education has become even more important. The modern world is changing very quickly. Technology, social media, globalisation, and digital communication strongly influence the way people think, communicate, and live. Young people especially spend most of their time in the digital environment, where they are constantly exposed to different ideas, cultures, and lifestyles. Under such conditions, preserving moral values and national identity has become one of the important tasks of modern education. Spiritual education should not be understood only as teaching moral rules or traditions. It is a broader process that shapes a person's worldview, social behaviour, and attitude toward other people and society. It helps individuals understand concepts such as respect, tolerance, patriotism, responsibility, and humanity. A spiritually educated person is usually more aware of social values and more capable of building healthy relationships with others.

National values play a very important role in this process. Traditions, customs, language, literature, folklore, historical memory, and cultural heritage help preserve the spiritual identity of society. These values connect generations and create a sense of belonging among people. In many societies, spiritual education is deeply connected with national culture because cultural heritage often shapes people's moral understanding and social attitudes.

The harmony between traditionalism and modern approaches has become one of the key issues in spiritual education. Traditionalism helps preserve cultural continuity, moral stability, and historical identity. Modern approaches, on the other hand, encourage creativity, independent thinking, communication skills, and openness to new ideas. These two directions should not be viewed as enemies or opposites. In reality, they can support each other and work together more effectively when balanced properly. The experience of Uzbekistan clearly shows this process. In recent years, greater attention has been given to preserving national values, strengthening cultural heritage, and improving spiritual education among young people. Respect for family, elders, traditions, and national identity continues to hold an important place in society. At the same time, educational reforms, digital technologies, foreign language learning, and international cooperation are becoming stronger parts of the educational system. This reflects an attempt to combine traditional moral foundations with modern educational development.

World experience also demonstrates that modernisation does not necessarily weaken spiritual or cultural values. Countries such as Japan and South Korea continue to preserve many aspects of their national culture while also becoming highly modern and technologically developed societies. Their educational systems often combine respect for cultural traditions with innovative teaching methods and modern educational technologies. This article analyses the role of national values in spiritual education and examines how traditionalism and modern educational approaches can work together in modern society. It also explores how cultural heritage, globalisation, and educational reforms influence moral development and national identity in the contemporary world.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive research method to analyse the role of national values in spiritual education and the relationship between traditionalism and modern educational approaches. Qualitative research was chosen because this topic focuses on understanding social, cultural, and educational phenomena in depth rather than

measuring them numerically. The study aimed to explore how spiritual education is influenced by national culture, moral values, globalisation, and educational reforms in modern society.

The data for this research were collected through library research. Various academic books, journal articles, official educational documents, and previous studies related to spiritual education, national identity, traditional values, and modern educational development were reviewed and analysed. The study also examined the ideas of several educational and sociological scholars, including Émile Durkheim, John Dewey, and Paulo Freire, whose theories help explain the connection between moral education, society, and modern learning approaches.

Data analysis was conducted using content analysis. Relevant information from the selected sources was organised into several main themes, such as the concept of spiritual education, the role of national values, the influence of globalisation, and the harmony between traditional and modern educational practices. After categorising the information, the researcher interpreted and compared the findings to identify common patterns, differences, and practical implications for contemporary education.

Through this method, the research provides a theoretical understanding of how spiritual education can preserve moral values and national identity while adapting to the demands of modern educational development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The role of national values in spiritual education remains very important even in today's fast-changing world. Although globalisation, technology, and social media continue to influence the way people think and live, moral and cultural values still shape human behaviour, social responsibility, and national identity. Spiritual education helps young people understand respect, responsibility, kindness, patriotism, and social awareness. Because of this, many educational systems continue to pay serious attention to moral development alongside academic knowledge.

Émile Durkheim explained that education helps preserve the moral unity of society (Durkheim, 1922), and this idea is still relevant today. National traditions, customs, language, and cultural heritage help younger generations stay connected to their roots and understand their identity more deeply. In Uzbekistan, respect for elders, family values, hospitality, and cultural traditions continue to play an important role in spiritual education. At the same time, modern reforms in education are introducing new teaching methods, technologies, and interactive approaches into schools and universities. This shows that traditional values and modern educational development can work together rather than oppose each other.

Modern society also requires spiritual education to become more practical, engaging, and closer to real life. Young people today receive information very quickly through digital platforms and global media, so traditional methods alone may not always attract their attention. John Dewey emphasised that education should be connected with real-life experience (Dewey, 1938), and this principle is especially important in spiritual education. Students understand moral values more naturally when they discuss real social issues, participate in group activities, and connect lessons with everyday life.

Because of this, interactive lessons, discussions, teamwork, and digital educational tools are becoming more common in modern educational practice. Paulo Freire also believed that education should encourage independent thinking and conscious participation in society (Freire, 1970). Spiritual education today should therefore help

young people not only memorise moral ideas but also understand their importance in modern life. This approach makes moral learning more meaningful and applicable to contemporary social challenges.

The experience of countries such as Japan and South Korea shows that modernisation does not have to weaken spiritual or cultural values. These countries continue to preserve discipline, respect, and cultural traditions while also developing modern educational systems and advanced technologies. Overall, the harmony between traditionalism and modern approaches makes spiritual education more meaningful, balanced, and effective for contemporary generations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the article examined the role of national values in spiritual education and analysed the harmony between traditionalism and modern educational approaches. The analysis showed that spiritual education remains closely connected with cultural heritage, moral values, and national identity in modern society. The study also highlighted the importance of combining traditional moral principles with modern educational methods in the process of spiritual development. It was observed that national traditions, cultural values, and modern teaching approaches can support each other and contribute to more effective spiritual education. During the discussion, the views of several researchers and the experience of different countries were used to explain the relationship between spiritual education, traditional values, and modern educational development. As a result, it became clear that maintaining harmony between traditionalism and modern approaches plays an important role in strengthening moral consciousness and preserving national identity in contemporary society.

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