

Heritage and Innovation: Cultural Development Challenges in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: Within academic circles, there exists a pressing need to examine the ongoing issues surrounding national and cultural development in Uzbekistan. This entails a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of this development, extending beyond spiritual realms to encompass political, economic, scientific, and educational domains. Current challenges in national and cultural development are explored within the context of these diverse spheres, shedding light on the complex dynamics at play. By scrutinising these interconnected areas, scholars aim to gain deeper insights into the factors shaping Uzbekistan's societal landscape. This approach recognises the intrinsic linkages between different sectors and emphasises the importance of holistic strategies to tackle contemporary issues and foster sustainable progress.

1 INTRODUCTION

In exploring the essence of a society or an individual's aspirations, one invariably turns to their ethnocultural framework and the dynamics shaping their relationship with it. Culture, being a universal phenomenon, serves as a reflection of one's identity and collective ethos. Traditionally, scholarly discourse has compartmentalized culture as a distinct domain, focusing on its artistic, linguistic, and traditional elements. However, a broader perspective aligns culture with wider societal contexts, recognizing the intricate interplay between culture and various facets of social existence.

Such an approach acknowledges that culture is not an isolated phenomenon but one deeply intertwined with social, economic, political, and technological dimensions of society. This interconnectedness underscores the importance of understanding culture as a dynamic and pervasive influence that shapes and is shaped by broader social phenomena. Delving into this relationship is imperative for a more nuanced understanding of how culture impacts societal dynamics, including social norms, values, behaviors, and institutional structures.

Investigating culture within the broader social fabric offers deeper insights into its significance and impact. It allows for a comprehensive exploration of how cultural practices and beliefs influence social interactions, economic development, political processes, and technological advancements. This broader approach to studying culture helps to illuminate the ways in which cultural identities are constructed, maintained, and transformed in response to changing social conditions.

By integrating the study of culture with an analysis of its societal context, we can better appreciate its role in shaping individual and collective aspirations, ultimately leading to a more holistic understanding of the forces that drive social change and continuity.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The innovative development of national culture in Uzbekistan traces back to pivotal legislative acts like the "Law on the State Language" (1989) and the "Declaration of Independence" (1990), marking a significant shift in cultural policy.

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These documents, serving as conceptual frameworks, underscore the socio-political significance of national culture, framing it within the broader context of societal development.

Granting Uzbek the status of the state language symbolized the assertion of national identity, recognising language as a unifying force essential for understanding and serving national interests.

Scholars like S. Otamurodov and K. Khanazarov explore the intrinsic link between language, spiritual development, and ethnocultural essence, emphasizing the pivotal role of language in shaping national consciousness.

The bilingual character of the Uzbek language, as highlighted by Khanazarov, not only reflects historical and cultural evolution but also fosters cultural cohesion and creativity.

While acknowledging the importance of mastering foreign languages in a globalised world, scholars like N. Mahmudov stress the preservation and primacy of the mother tongue in education.

Mahmudov criticises the overreliance on electronic texts in language and literature classes, advocating for a balanced approach that nurtures a love for traditional books alongside modern technology.

Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev since 2016, Uzbekistan has witnessed sweeping reforms aimed at transparency, justice, and human-centric development.

Initiatives like the "Strategy of Actions for Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" reflect a commitment to innovation and progress across various sectors.

Over 80 decrees and decisions have been issued to bolster cultural development, improve social and spiritual environments, enhance entrepreneurship, and preserve tangible cultural heritage, among other objectives.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The innovative development of culture and art in Uzbekistan traces back to pivotal legislative measures, notably the "Law on the State Language" (1989) and the "Declaration of Independence" (1990). These laws set the stage for a comprehensive cultural policy, reflecting the nation's aspirations for identity and self-expression.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's "Resolution on Measures for Innovative Development of Culture and Art in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (2018) marks a

significant milestone in addressing systemic issues within the cultural sector. This resolution critically examines challenges such as inadequate financing, insufficient professional training, limited global integration, and neglect of cultural heritage preservation.

To tackle these challenges, the resolution outlines a multifaceted approach that includes fostering entrepreneurship in cultural patronage, enhancing professionalism, promoting international integration, and revitalising cultural institutions through innovative approaches. By encouraging public-private partnerships and international collaboration, the government aims to breathe new life into the cultural sector.

Despite historical reliance on state funding, the cultural sector in Uzbekistan faces significant deficiencies. For instance, the closure of public libraries and neglect of historical sites underscore the urgent need for innovative solutions and private sector involvement. President Mirziyoyev's initiatives aim to address these shortcomings by incentivising cultural workers, promoting innovation, and revitalising cultural infrastructure.

Efforts to train qualified personnel, exemplified by the establishment of institutions like the National Institute of Painting and Design, have been hampered by systemic challenges and a lack of material support. However, the government's commitment to investing in human capital and providing necessary resources signals a shift towards a more vibrant cultural landscape.

President Mirziyoyev's initiatives, including the establishment of the Culture and Art Development Fund, demonstrate a proactive approach to cultural development. By providing financial incentives and support, the government seeks to empower cultural institutions and promote innovative practices. These initiatives aim to leverage the rich cultural heritage of Uzbekistan to foster economic growth and social cohesion.

The "Roadmap" for cultural development outlines strategic priorities for integrating Uzbek culture into the global arena while preserving its unique identity. Emphasising intellectual development, cultural recreation opportunities, and the promotion of traditional arts, this roadmap sets the stage for a dynamic cultural landscape that reflects the nation's diversity and heritage.

Innovative methods, such as the introduction of modern technologies in museums and the promotion of international ethno-cultural tourism, are central to the sector's transformation. By embracing technology and embracing cultural exchange, Uzbekistan aims to

position itself as a hub of cultural innovation and creativity on the global stage.

The revival of traditional folk games through initiatives like the Farish National Folk Games Olympiad exemplifies the innovative potential within Uzbek culture. By celebrating heritage and fostering community engagement, these initiatives contribute to national pride and cultural revival. Through such endeavours, Uzbekistan seeks to preserve its cultural legacy while embracing the opportunities of the modern world.

The establishment of the Tashkent City Museum and monuments honouring cultural luminaries underscores the government's commitment to preserving and promoting Uzbek cultural heritage. By creating spaces for cultural expression and education, these institutions play a vital role in shaping the nation's identity and fostering a sense of belonging among its citizens.

Legislative measures, such as the "Law on Cultural Activities and Cultural Organizations," further support cultural development by establishing cultural centres, launching new institutions, and promoting traditional arts. These laws reflect the government's recognition of the importance of culture in nation-building and its commitment to nurturing a vibrant cultural ecosystem.

President Mirziyoyev's vision for spirituality as a driving force in national life underscores the cultural sector's importance in shaping the country's identity and future trajectory. By promoting values of tolerance, compassion, and unity, Uzbekistan aims to build a society that embraces diversity and celebrates its cultural heritage. Through sustained investment and innovative policies, the nation is poised to realise its potential as a beacon of cultural excellence in the region and beyond.

4 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the vision for the development of national culture in Uzbekistan encompasses a holistic understanding that transcends mere spiritual or subjective realms. It recognises the integral role of culture in all aspects of social life, demanding innovative approaches and a concerted effort to integrate historical and cultural heritage into the fabric of modern society. By embracing these principles, Uzbekistan seeks to position its cultural assets on the global stage, fostering intellectual growth and nurturing a generation equipped with the skills and values necessary for advancement.

The ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan reflect a commitment to realising this vision, promising a future where national cultural development reaches unprecedented heights. As the country continues to innovate and evolve, its cultural identity remains a cornerstone of progress, embodying both a cherished tradition and a dynamic force for change. The symbiotic relationship between innovative development and cultural enrichment underscores the profound significance of Uzbekistan's cultural journey, shaping its destiny and contributing to the global tapestry of human experience.

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