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THE ROLE OF FAMILY AND NATIONAL VALUES IN THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

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Abstract: This paper examines the role of the family and national values in the spiritual and moral development of children. Particular attention is paid to the educational potential of family traditions, folk wisdom, proverbs, and the pedagogical ideas of Eastern thinkers. The study demonstrates that children acquire their first moral principles, social habits, and cultural values within the family. Karakalpak proverbs and traditional sayings provide important examples of moral guidance, emphasizing respect for parents, responsibility, kindness, family unity, and the importance of education. The study argues that the integration of national cultural heritage into contemporary educational practice can contribute to the formation of morally responsible and culturally aware young people.

Keywords: family, children, moral education, spiritual development, national values, Karakalpak culture, traditions, proverbs, parents, pedagogy.

Introduction (Literature Review)

The family is the first and most influential social environment in which a child develops. From early childhood, children learn through observation, communication, imitation, and interaction with their parents. Therefore, family upbringing plays an essential role in the formation of moral values, behavioral patterns, cultural identity, and social responsibility.

The educational traditions of the Karakalpak people have historically emphasized respect for parents, family unity, honesty, diligence, responsibility, and kindness. These values have been transmitted from generation to generation through customs, oral traditions, folklore, proverbs, and literary works. The source material describes the family as a “school of parents,” where children acquire their first knowledge, habits, and moral qualities through everyday experience.

The ideas of prominent Eastern thinkers, including Al-Farabi, Beruni, Ibn Sina, Alisher Navoi, Berdakh, and others, also demonstrate the importance of education and moral development. Their intellectual heritage emphasizes wisdom, family responsibility, respect for elders, and the formation of a worthy individual.

Materials and Methods

The study is based on a theoretical analysis of pedagogical ideas, national traditions, Karakalpak folklore, proverbs, sayings, and literary heritage related to family upbringing and moral education.

The following methods were used:

- theoretical analysis of pedagogical and cultural sources;
- analysis of Karakalpak proverbs and folk wisdom;
- comparative analysis of traditional approaches to family education;
- interpretation of cultural and literary examples;
- generalization of the educational potential of national values.

Particular attention was given to the role of oral traditions as a means of transmitting moral principles from one generation to another.

Results

The analysis demonstrates that family education is closely connected with national cultural values. Parents serve as the first models of behavior for children, while family traditions provide practical examples of respect, responsibility, kindness, and social interaction.

Karakalpak folk wisdom contains a considerable number of proverbs that express important principles of family upbringing. For example, the proverb "Wealth is your parents, strength is your children" emphasizes the importance of both generations and presents the family as a source of spiritual and social support. Another proverb states: "Gold and silver have no shadow, but parents have no price." This saying highlights the irreplaceable value of parents and the importance of gratitude and respect toward them.

Another traditional saying, "When the father scolds, he loves; when the mother disciplines, she protects," reflects the traditional understanding of parental responsibility and care. Similarly, the proverb "Better a child's happiness than a father's throne" places the well-being of children among the most important family values.

Particularly meaningful for moral education is the proverb "Do not trust your father's property; trust his words." It emphasizes that moral and intellectual inheritance may be more important than material wealth. The saying "The words of ancestors are the eyes of reason" further demonstrates the role of historical memory and traditional wisdom in shaping the worldview of younger generations.

These proverbs can be effectively used in contemporary educational practice. For example, teachers may organize discussions around the following questions: What does the proverb teach us? What values does it express? Is this value relevant to modern family life? How can young people demonstrate respect and responsibility toward their parents?

The source material also contains the proverb "A daughter imitates her mother in handicraft, and a son follows his father in his craft." This saying illustrates the importance of parental example in the development of children's practical and social skills. Children traditionally learned many behaviors by observing and imitating adults in everyday family life.

Another important principle is expressed in the saying “The chick does what it sees in the nest.” This proverb reflects the idea that children reproduce the behavior and values they observe at home. Therefore, parents' personal example can be considered one of the most powerful informal methods of moral education.

The educational potential of folklore is also reflected in the traditional epics of the Karakalpak people. Works such as *Kyrk-Kyz*, *Alpamysh*, *Edige*, *Koblan*, and *Gorogly* contain ideas related to courage, honesty, patriotism, loyalty, diligence, family honor, and love for one's homeland. Such literary and oral heritage can serve as valuable material for moral and cultural education.

Thus, proverbs and sayings should not be regarded merely as elements of folklore. They can function as concise pedagogical texts that communicate ethical principles and encourage children to reflect on their behavior, relationships, and responsibilities.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study confirms that the family and national cultural heritage play an important role in the spiritual and moral development of children. Karakalpak proverbs preserve the accumulated life experience of previous generations and communicate important values such as respect for parents, responsibility, kindness, family unity, wisdom, and care for younger generations.

The inclusion of proverbs and folk sayings in educational activities can make moral education more culturally meaningful and engaging. Teachers can use them for classroom discussions, speaking activities, reflection tasks, role plays, essay writing, and intercultural communication activities.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. Karakalpak proverbs and sayings must be systematically incorporated into moral and cultural education;
2. teachers should use folk wisdom as discussion material in language and literature lessons;
3. parents and teachers have to cooperate in transmitting positive family values;
4. students have to be encouraged to compare traditional values with contemporary social realities;
5. national folklore and literary heritage must be used to develop cultural awareness and respect for one's heritage.

In conclusion, the wisdom preserved in family traditions and folk proverbs represents an important educational resource. Such wisdom can help connect the moral experience of previous generations with the educational needs of today's young people.

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