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MILITARY-PATRIOTIC EDUCATION IN THE HERITAGE OF ANCESTORS

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Abstract: The protection of the homeland, the preservation of peace and prosperity of the nation is not only a sacred duty but also a call for every young person. To fulfill this noble mission, it is essential to utilize the educational power of literature—not only in the classroom but also through extracurricular activities—to raise true patriots who are devoted to independence. Fostering a sense of patriotism begins with instilling love for the motherland, respect for it, and the desire to contribute to its progress. In this, literary heroes, historical figures, and national martyrs can serve as brilliant role models.

Keywords: Homeland, youth, history, sports, education, ethics, Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, family, armed forces.

Currently in Uzbekistan, several laws and resolutions enacted by our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev aim to address these issues and improve the physical upbringing of youth. Notable practical efforts have also been implemented in this direction.

Today, youth education in the spirit of patriotism is carried out in accordance with the main principles and priorities of the state youth policy. In this era of globalization and rapidly developing information and communication technologies, important tasks related to military-patriotic education are determined, including the role and cooperation of state and non-state organizations, families, communities, and educational institutions, while taking into account national and international legal norms. Strengthening health, hardening the body, and increasing resistance to various diseases are among the health-enhancing goals of this pedagogical process. The success of these goals depends on adherence to the pedagogical principles of physical education. Practical sessions address key issues related to the physical development of students. Furthermore, it is essential to preserve and value the Uzbek people's cultural heritage—art, historical and architectural monuments—and understand their history and contemporary significance. The timeless monuments such as mosques, madrasahs, palaces, observatories, towers, mausoleums, and ancient cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent, and Turkestan evoke admiration and pride. They awaken a deep respect in the hearts of youth for our glorious past and our ancestors' immense knowledge and skills.

Teachers must guide students to be faithful to their nation, homeland, and faith, cultivate strong thinking, conscience, and moral integrity, instill responsibility toward the country, live with national interests, and dedicate themselves to development and public good. This includes using various methods and tools to foster patriotism. To form patriotic feelings in youth, it is necessary to explore and implement new pedagogical technologies, encourage independent thinking and creativity, and support and develop students' initiatives.

Characteristics of military-patriotic upbringing in youth

Preparing youth for national defense is a long process that continues throughout life. Patriotism begins in the family and should be sustained in school from the early grades. The most relevant subjects for this stage are humanities, sciences, mathematics, and physical education. At this age, students begin to understand concepts like "defense of the homeland" and "military regulations," recognizing the strength of the national economy and the armed forces as guarantees of peace.

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Patriotic emotions in adolescents manifest as a desire for heroism and bravery, gaining respect among peers, setting high standards for themselves, and demonstrating social activity. In developing these qualities, the teachings of Amir Temur hold special value. The great commander emphasized justice and discipline, showing personal initiative and applying effective strategies. Amir Temur was distinguished from other rulers by his just and pragmatic governance. His noble qualities, firm faith, and integrity provided inspiration and guidance in battles.

Despite ruling half of Asia, Amir Temur began his political speeches with modest words like: "I, Temur, the servant of God, say..." demonstrating his humility and unparalleled patriotism. Alisher Navoi wrote of Amir Temur's talents, saying he understood poetry and prose so well that even reading one of his couplets surpassed composing hundreds. These descriptions reflect Temur's bravery, justice, patriotism, and devotion to his people and religion—qualities that serve as powerful examples for youth.

Currently, in secondary specialized educational institutions, great attention is given to the subject "Pre-Conscription Basic Training," through which students gain knowledge of the structure, purpose, and tasks of the Uzbek Armed Forces, including tactics, shooting, drill training, military topography, and civil defense. Future defenders learn the military oath, understand military regulations, and become familiar with military equipment and life in military units. They acquire necessary practical skills for preparing young soldiers.

Tasks related to preparing adolescents for military service include acquainting them with the nation's struggle for independence, heroism, military traditions, and the honored history of the armed forces. Experience shows that such achievements and stories of the homeland's heroic past deeply influence students' thinking and behavior.

Every instructor of "Pre-Conscription Basic Training" must create an environment in which students can experience new understandings of patriotism. Well-structured and organized lessons instill discipline, develop execution and organizational skills.

Physical education plays a critical role in preparing youth for military service. Understanding and adapting to the physical demands of combat life require resilience, physical fitness, and mental strength. Organizing military clubs within schools helps students gain basic military skills. Club themes should align with resources, available specialists, and student interests.

Competitions in military-applied sports are vital in preparing youth for service. These are organized by "Pre-Conscription Basic Training" and physical education teachers and include events like shooting, obstacle courses, grenade throwing, water crossings, and heavy lifting. These competitions are often held in May during military sports festivals with participation from military officers, veterans, and school staff.

The role of family education

Family plays a pivotal role in nurturing a love for the homeland and fostering a correct understanding of military service, heroism, and military professions. Respecting the memory of fallen relatives, preserving awards, photographs, and memorabilia, and listening to stories of war heroes and veterans significantly influence a child's development. It is crucial that children know about their grandfathers' and fathers' participation in historical wars and their contributions in Afghanistan or other theaters of conflict.

The increasing complexity of military service and rising expectations for today's soldiers require a new perspective on military-patriotic education. The primary role in forming these values belongs to education and teaching. However, this theoretical conclusion is often not realized in practice due to limited application of available teaching resources. Many general

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education teachers approach the issue of military-patriotic upbringing superficially and fail to recognize its potential within their subjects.

Pedagogical teams often perceive the task of preparing defenders of the homeland as the domain of military departments, the "Vatanparvar" organization, defense ministries, or youth organizations. Yet, it is clear that unless students' educational activities are infused with ideas of peace, national defense, and readiness to protect the homeland, temporary events will have little lasting effect. In today's world, only individuals with broad thinking and deep beliefs can become true patriotic citizens and defenders of the nation.

One of the state's primary duties is to use methods and forms of military-patriotic education to instill a sense of personal responsibility for defending the homeland and to prepare the public mentally to resist any form of aggression.

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