



Article

The Role of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan in the Spiritual Development of Society During the Years of Independence

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Abstract: In the years of independence, the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan has played a key role in reviving national spirituality, educating youth in patriotism, and developing society's spiritual life. The article analyzes the Union's organizational changes, leadership, directions of spiritual education through literature, and the impact of Presidential policy (PP-3652, Sh. Mirziyoyev speeches). The study highlights achievements of independence and future tasks.

Keywords: Union of Writers of Uzbekistan, independence period, spiritual education, national values, patriotism, Presidential policy, literature

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Introduction

In the years of independence, the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan strengthened its position as a central institution in the development of the spiritual life of Uzbek society. The independence achieved in 1991 opened broad opportunities for the restoration of national spirituality, the strengthening of the spirit of patriotism, and the upbringing of the younger generation based on noble values. Being an active participant in this process, the Union promoted national pride, the native language, historical heritage, and modern spiritual renewals through literature. [1][2]

This is connected with the fundamental improvement of the system of spiritual and educational work in the "New Uzbekistan" development strategy. The documents adopted under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev are aimed at supporting the activities of the Union and transforming literature into the main factor of the spiritual development of society. In particular, the Presidential Decree No. PQ-3652 dated April 5, 2018, defined the renewal of the Union's organizational structure, the material and spiritual encouragement of creators, and the bringing of the literary process closer to the spiritual life of society [3][4].

As emphasized by President Sh. Mirziyoyev in his speech at the meeting with creative intellectuals: "If the body of society's life is the economy, then its soul and spirit is spirituality" [5]. This idea clearly demonstrates the role of the Union in the period of independence.

The Union played an active role after independence in the restoration of national values and in strengthening literature as a means of spiritual education. As emphasized in the speeches of the President and in official publications, spirituality continues to remain the foundation of national advancement [6][7].

The purpose of this article is to analyze the activities of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan during the years of independence, to examine its contribution to the spiritual development of society, and to evaluate the impact of state policy on strengthening literature as a factor of national and moral education.

The study is based on the principles of historicism, objectivity, comparative analysis, and systematic approach. The research relies on official state documents, Presidential decrees, speeches, archival materials, and publications related to the activities of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan during the years of independence.

Particular attention was paid to the analysis of Presidential Decree No. PQ-3652, speeches by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev delivered at meetings with representatives of creative intellectuals, and institutional materials concerning the organizational structure and activities of the Union.

The article also employs institutional and cultural-historical methods in examining the Union's influence on the spiritual and educational life of society, including literature, youth education, publishing activity, and the promotion of national values.

Materials and Methods

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Results

In the years of independence, the organizational structure and leadership system of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan underwent fundamental changes: it moved from the ideological rigidity of the Soviet period to a new stage based on the principles of national independence and spiritual revival. [8]

Although the Union was founded in 1934, after independence its charter, activities, and goals were directed toward the development of national values, the native language, and literary heritage. Its organizational structure was formed as follows: a Chairman (Chairman of the Presidium), three Deputy Chairmen, creative sections (poetry, prose, dramaturgy, criticism, children's literature, and others), regional branches (with responsible secretaries in all regions), as well as the "Ijod" Public Foundation and its press organs ("Sharq yulduzi", "Guliston" magazines, and the "O'zbekiston adabiyoti va san'ati" newspaper).[9]

The Union's staff consists of approximately 47 employees, with 24 staff members working in the regions. The Union operates in cooperation with the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Academy of Sciences, and the Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment [10].

The history of leadership in the years of independence is divided into the following stages:

1991–2001 (Transitional Period) - During this period, figures such as Abdulla Oripov, Bobur Alimov, and Muhammad Ali served in the leadership of the Union. In these years, the process of moving away from the Soviet legacy, restoring national values, and strengthening the status of the Uzbek language as the state language took place.

2001–2018 - In the leadership of the Union, Muhammad Yusuf (for a short period) and later Sirojiddin Sayyid served as First Deputy. During this period, under the influence of the policy of the First President Islam Karimov, spiritual strengthening, support for young creators, and the development of literature in the spirit of patriotism were intensified [11].

From 2018 to the present

The People's Poet of Uzbekistan Sirojiddin Sayyid was elected Chairman of the Union. Under his leadership, the Union has been elevated to a new stage: on the basis of President Sh. Mirziyoyev's Decree No. PQ-3652 (2018), a new building was constructed,

the Alley of Writers was established, and the first books of young poets and writers are being published in thousands of copies at state expense and delivered to educational institutions and libraries [12].

These changes transformed the Union into a center of national spirituality: having moved away from Soviet ideology, it was oriented towards the upbringing of the younger generation, the preservation of the native language, and literary heritage within the framework of the President's policy [13].

In the years of independence, the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan has become not only a creative association but also an important institutional center in the development of the spiritual life of society. Working in close cooperation with the President's policy, state bodies, and cultural-educational organizations, the Union has directly influenced the dissemination of literature to a broad audience, the organization of spiritual events, and the upbringing of the younger generation. [14]

The activities of the Union developed on the basis of Presidential decrees and decisions. In particular, the Presidential Decree No. PQ-3652 dated April 5, 2018, stipulated the systematic renewal of the Union, the encouragement of creators, and the expansion of spiritual and educational projects. Within the framework of this decree, a new building was constructed for the Union, the Alley of Writers was established, and the "First Book" project was launched [15].

In the meetings of President Sh. Mirziyoyev with creative intellectuals, the role of the Union was especially emphasized: "Writers and poets are the spiritual leaders of the nation, their word is an important force in spiritually strengthening society".

Discussion

The transformations that took place in the activities of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan during the years of independence demonstrate the growing importance of spirituality and literature in the process of nation-building. Unlike the Soviet period, when literature functioned mainly within ideological limitations, the years of independence created opportunities for the free development of national consciousness, historical memory, and patriotic education.

The support provided by the state, especially through Presidential policy and Decree No. PQ-3652, strengthened the institutional foundations of the Union and transformed it into one of the leading centers of spiritual and educational activity in Uzbekistan. The establishment of the Alley of Writers, the support of young creators, and the publication of literary works at state expense significantly expanded the influence of literature on society.

Particular significance belongs to the Union's role in educating youth in the spirit of patriotism and devotion to national values. Through literature, cultural events, and cooperation with educational institutions, the Union contributes to preserving the native language, strengthening national identity, and protecting society from the negative effects of globalization and spiritual alienation.

The speeches of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev regarding the importance of spirituality and the role of writers in society further confirm that literature remains one of the principal factors of moral and cultural development in modern Uzbekistan.

Conclusion

In conclusion, during the years of independence, the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan has firmly strengthened its position as a leading institution in the development of the spiritual life of society. Having freed itself from the ideological constraints of the Soviet period, the Union has been directed towards the ideas of national independence, patriotism, the preservation of the native language and cultural heritage, and the upbringing of the younger generation in the spirit of noble values.

Within the framework of the President's policy – particularly starting from the period of laying the spiritual foundations by Islam Karimov, and within the framework of Shavkat Mirziyoyev's "New Uzbekistan" strategy and Decree No. PQ-3652 – the Union's activities have been fundamentally renewed, received comprehensive material and spiritual support, and become the center of spiritual and educational events.

“Literature is a mirror of national spirituality, and writers and poets today serve as the spiritual leaders of the nation”. At the same time, in the context of globalization and modern threats, the role of the Union has become even more relevant – literature continues to remain the leading force in spiritual renewal and the preservation of national identity.

The leadership and initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, in harmony with the activities of the Union, will continue to remain one of the main guarantees for ensuring spiritual development in the future as well.

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