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EDUCATING THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND AND PATRIOTISM

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Abstract: This article discusses the essence of the concept of patriotism, its role in the upbringing of the younger generation, and ways to foster a sense of love for the Homeland in students during the educational process. The issues of family and school cooperation, the educational significance of historical heritage, and the development of patriotic qualities in students through modern pedagogical methods are also analyzed.

Keywords: Homeland, patriotism, love of homeland, spirituality, youth education, family, school, values, historical heritage, responsibility.

In an era of globalization, when various ideas and views are penetrating the minds of young people, forming a strong spiritual immunity in them is one of the most important tasks. In particular, developing a sense of love for the Homeland and patriotism in the hearts of the younger generation is one of the most urgent objectives of the educational process. The fate of the Homeland, its progress and future, depend precisely on young people growing up to be knowledgeable, conscious, and responsible. Patriotism is a noble quality that expresses a person's devotion to their country, people, history, and national values. The role of the family, school, and society in shaping this feeling in the younger generation is immeasurable.

Through educational work conducted in educational institutions, it is possible to strengthen students' sense of responsibility for the prosperity of the Homeland. The goal is to highlight effective pedagogical methods for forming love for the Homeland and patriotic qualities in students; to reveal the essence of the concept of patriotism; and to identify effective methods for fostering patriotic feelings in students [1].

The Homeland is a sacred place where a person is born and grows up, where their first dreams and hopes take shape. Love for it is the spiritual foundation of the nation, the guarantee of the people's unity and solidarity. Patriotism is a high moral virtue, manifested in knowing the history of one's country, preserving its values, showing respect for the heritage of ancestors, and striving to develop it.

Love for the Homeland is one of the greatest feelings in the human heart. This feeling is nourished by boundless respect for the people's history, language, religion, culture, and values. The Homeland is the sacred place where a person's umbilical cord was cut, where they first heard songs, and where they grew up in the embrace of a caring people. For this reason, patriotism is considered the most important criterion of social progress and national development. First and foremost, patriotism is not merely high-sounding words, but a practical virtue. A person who loves their Homeland acts with firm responsibility in preserving, developing, and beautifying it.

They consider it an honor to dedicate their knowledge, strength, and talent to the service of the people. Fostering a sense of patriotism in the hearts of the younger generation is one of the most important tasks of the educational process carried out in the family, school, and society. Love for the Homeland begins, above all, with getting to know it. Pride in one's country's history, great scholars, glorious ancestors, and the unique beauty of its nature encourages young people toward goodness. Attention to historical heritage, cherishing values, and continuing the path of ancestors — these are the main goals of a true patriot.

Indeed, a people who know their history and take pride in their great ancestors will have a bright future. In the current era of globalization, it is natural that various ideas influence the minds of young people. At such a time, patriotic education must be strengthened, and young people must be given a strong spiritual immunity. Because the fate of the Homeland, its prosperity and well-being, lies in the hands of today's younger generation. Contributing to the

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country's prosperity, preserving peace, and showing respect for the laws are also important manifestations of patriotism. Likewise, patriotism means feeling responsibility for the peace and progress of the country [2].

Scientists, teachers, doctors, farmers, military personnel, and artists who contribute to the development of the country are all true patriots. Thanks to their labor, society progresses and our lives improve. Athletes make our people's name known throughout the world. Every student, through their studies and aspirations, bears responsibility for the prosperity of the Homeland. The following directions are of great importance in the process of shaping patriotic education in students:

- education through historical heritage
- influence through fiction and reading
- instilling patriotism through practical activities
- use of interactive methods

For example, informing students about the lives and activities of great historical figures such as Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur during lessons awakens in them a sense of pride in the Homeland.

There are a number of effective methods for instilling a sense of patriotism in students. Fostering love for the Homeland in students must begin with family upbringing. Parents must continuously inform their children about national values, folk traditions, and historical heritage. Secondly, it is important to organize lessons and events in school that strengthen the spirit of patriotism. For example: conversations on the topic "My Homeland is my pride"; events dedicated to historical dates; reading patriotic poetry and stories; excursions to museums and historical monuments. Involving students in practical activities is also of great importance [3].

Improving the school grounds, planting trees, protecting nature, and participating in charity campaigns help develop in them a sense of responsibility before society. Today, the use of the following innovative methods in the educational process is also effective:

The Cluster Method is one of the effective methods that serves to activate students' existing knowledge, systematize it, and form new ideas. In this method, the main concept is written in the center (for example, "Homeland"), and around it are placed the thoughts, concepts, and ideas expressed by students. The word "Homeland" is written on the board or poster. Students are asked for ideas related to this concept (for example: native land, nature, history, ancestors, flag, language). Each idea is written in the form of separate branches. Finally, the resulting cluster is summarized. Through this method:

- Students' range of thinking is broadened.
- They independently systematize their knowledge.
- They understand the connections between concepts.

Its significance in shaping patriotism: Through the cluster, students begin to understand the concept of "Homeland" more deeply. They perceive the Homeland not merely as a territory, but as a sacred concept associated with history, values, the mother tongue, and national pride. This fosters in them a sense of respect, love, and responsibility toward the Homeland.

The Brainstorming Method is aimed at developing students' free, independent, and rapid thinking, and is of particular importance in identifying their personal attitudes on the topic of the Homeland. Here, the teacher poses a question: "What should be done for the Homeland?" or "How do you describe your Homeland?" Students express their ideas without any restrictions. Each answer is accepted and recorded. The ideas are then analyzed and summarized. Through the Brainstorming Method:

- Students learn to think independently.
- A free-expression environment is created.
- Creative and critical thinking is developed.

Its significance in shaping patriotism: Through brainstorming, students express their personal views on the Homeland. In this process, they comprehend concepts such as loving the

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Homeland, defending it, and developing it. As a result, students develop an active civic position and a sense of patriotism.

The Project Method is an innovative method that ensures students conduct independent research, study problems, and achieve results. Students are given topics such as "My Homeland," "Historical Monuments of Uzbekistan," and "Our National Values." Students are divided into groups and work on the project. Information is gathered (from books, the internet, and interviews). Finally, a project presentation is held. As a result, students develop:

- Research skills.
- Skills for independent and teamwork.
- The ability to work with information.

Its significance in shaping patriotism: Through the project method, students study the history, culture, and riches of their Homeland in depth. This process strengthens their feelings of national pride, honor, and respect. The student not only acquires knowledge but begins to feel themselves as part of that Homeland.

Media Resources are tools that enhance the visual quality of the educational process and strongly influence students' emotional and conscious perception. Documentary films or short video clips about the Homeland, history, ancestors, and independence are shown. Questions are posed to students during viewing. A discussion is organized about the material viewed. Through media resources:

- Students' attention and focus increase.
- Knowledge is consolidated through visual memory.
- The lesson becomes interesting and impactful.

Its significance in shaping patriotism: Media resources evoke a powerful emotional impact in students. For example, footage about historical heroes and struggles on the path to independence generates in them feelings of pride and honor. This further strengthens their love for the Homeland.

Summary:

- The Cluster Method — broadens students' range of thinking.
- Brainstorming — helps express independent opinions on the topic of the Homeland.
- The Project Method — develops students' research skills.
- Media Resources — enhances the power of influence through documentary films and video clips.

These approaches serve to strengthen students' feelings of love for the Homeland. As a result, young people grow up as individuals who respect the history of their country, value national traditions, and feel a sense of responsibility for the prosperity of society. Young people who possess patriotic qualities are an important factor in social progress, because they strive to mobilize their knowledge and potential for the development of the country.

Shaping love for the Homeland and patriotic qualities is one of the most important directions of youth education. This process yields effective results only when carried out through the cooperation of the family, school, and society. Using historical heritage, national values, fiction, and modern pedagogical methods in the educational process shapes in students feelings of love, pride, and responsibility toward the Homeland. Love for the Homeland is the foundation of social progress, the core of youth education, and the main factor of national advancement. For this reason, consistent work to strengthen this noble quality in the minds of young people must be continued in every educational institution, in every classroom, in every lesson and event. Patriotic, knowledgeable, and responsible young people are the main pillar of social progress and national prosperity.

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