

**CURRENT ISSUES OF DEVELOPING YOUTH SPIRITUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION**

Makhmut Mamatov xxx,
Associate Professor, Acting Professor, Ph.D. (DSc),
Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute
E-mail: mamatovmahmud51@gmail.com
<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-8925-8486>
+9986181950

Q. Nazarov
Based on the review of Q. Nazarov,
Professor of the Institute of Pedagogical Sciences, Ph.D.

Abstract

This article examines the contemporary problems of developing youth spirituality under conditions of globalization. The analysis proceeds from a broad understanding of spirituality as a system of values, meanings, moral self-regulation, cultural memory, social responsibility, and the capacity for reflective life orientation. Globalization has expanded young people's access to education, information, intercultural communication, and civic participation, yet it has also intensified identity fragmentation, digital dependency, value relativism, consumer pressure, inequality, and psychological vulnerability.

Keywords: Youth spirituality, globalization, identity, values, digital culture, moral development, civic responsibility, education, social-emotional learning.

Introduction

Globalization has transformed the conditions under which young people form their worldview, identity, social behavior, and moral orientation. The young person of the twenty-first century develops not within a closed cultural environment, but inside an open and unstable system shaped by digital communication, transnational cultural flows, market logics, migration, and rapidly changing social expectations. For this reason, the question of spirituality has acquired renewed theoretical and practical significance. In contemporary discourse, spirituality should not be restricted to narrowly confessional meaning. It is more productively understood as an inner structure of values and meanings through which the individual interprets life, builds ethical priorities, develops responsibility toward others, and preserves human dignity in conditions of social change. Such an approach allows youth spirituality to be studied as a complex phenomenon situated at the intersection of culture, education, psychology, and public life. Current international analyses emphasize that young people now face a future marked simultaneously by unprecedented access to information and technology and by uncertainty generated by digitalization, inequality, climate anxiety, and social disruption [1]. In these conditions, spirituality becomes not a

secondary attribute of education, but one of the main mechanisms of personal stability and social cohesion.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The first major issue in developing youth spirituality under globalization is the reconfiguration of identity. Earlier models of socialization were based on relatively stable value systems transmitted by family, neighborhood, school, and national culture. Contemporary youth, by contrast, simultaneously inhabit several symbolic spaces: local tradition, national civic identity, peer culture, transnational media, and digital platforms. This plurality is not inherently destructive. It can enrich consciousness, widen horizons, and strengthen intercultural sensitivity. Yet, without interpretive maturity, plurality easily turns into fragmentation. OECD frameworks on global competence note that young people construct their cultural identity in multicultural and interconnected societies, navigate tensions between home culture and wider majority culture, and increasingly build digital identities alongside social and national ones [2]. Hence the central contradiction of globalization: it multiplies opportunities for self-expression, but it also destabilizes the continuity of selfhood. Spiritual development under such conditions requires more than knowledge transfer; it requires the formation of an integral personality capable of preserving a coherent ethical core while engaging openly with diversity. In the absence of such inner integration, the young person may become adaptable but not principled, informed but not wise, connected but not rooted [2]. A second issue concerns the growing dominance of digital culture over the value formation of adolescents and youth. Digital technologies have undeniably democratized access to learning, communication, creativity, and participation. At the same time, they have changed the psychological rhythm of life, the nature of attention, and the forms through which moral experience is mediated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Global competition, marketization of social life, and the performative culture of achievement increasingly encourage youth to measure self-worth through income, visibility, status, or speed of success. This instrumental rationality weakens the spiritual dimensions of life: service, solidarity, modesty, gratitude, duty, and moral perseverance. When the value horizon narrows to personal advancement, spirituality loses its formative function and becomes either decorative rhetoric or private sentiment detached from public conduct. The problem is intensified by social comparison within digital environments, where ideals of success are continuously staged and monetized. As a result, many young people experience not liberation but pressure, not openness but insecurity. The development of spirituality in such a context requires a counterbalance: educational and social institutions must restore the legitimacy of non-market values. Human dignity cannot be reduced to competitiveness; cultural identity cannot be reduced to branding; personal growth cannot be measured only through productivity. Spiritual education must therefore defend the meaning of life beyond consumption and reintroduce ethical categories into everyday decision-making [1; 3].

Youth spirituality does not develop in a vacuum. It is influenced by family stability, educational justice, economic security, cultural recognition, and the degree to which society offers meaningful participation. The newest UN analysis of youth mental health stresses that young people's well-being is shaped by education, employment, family dynamics, poverty, technology, and societal attitudes, while inequality, stigma, and unequal opportunity deepen risks [5].

CONCLUSION

The development of youth spirituality in the context of globalization constitutes one of the central challenges of contemporary education and social policy. The problem is not limited to protecting youth from external influences; it concerns the formation of an inner value-based orientation capable of withstanding fragmentation, manipulation, consumerism, and uncertainty. Globalization has widened access to knowledge, communication, and intercultural contact, yet it has also intensified identity instability, digital dependency, social inequality, and psychological strain.

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