

ISSUES OF FORMING THE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF KARAKALPAK CULTURE IN YOUNG PEOPLE

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Abstract. This article discusses the contemporary challenges and opportunities involved in forming and preserving the unique aspects of Karakalpak culture among youth. It analyzes the cultural identity crisis caused by globalization, urban migration, and technological change. The study proposes pedagogical, institutional, and community-based strategies for sustaining the originality of Karakalpak traditions—language, rituals, values, and aesthetics—within the minds and practices of the younger generation.

Keywords: Karakalpak culture, youth identity, cultural continuity, globalization, traditions, education, ethnopedagogy, cultural uniqueness.

INTRODUCTION

The cultural uniqueness of any nation or region is formed over centuries through language, customs, beliefs, artistic expressions, and social institutions. In the case of Karakalpakstan, this uniqueness is deeply intertwined with its nomadic past, oral epic traditions, ecological setting, and communal values. However, in the 21st century, young people face a growing disconnection from these traditions due to urbanization, digital globalization, and weakened intergenerational transmission.

This article addresses the urgent issues of forming and preserving the unique aspects of Karakalpak culture among youth. It seeks to identify the key cultural components that define Karakalpak identity, examines the current threats to their continuity, and offers practical solutions for embedding cultural awareness and pride in the lives of young people.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Karakalpak culture is characterized by:

Oral narrative tradition (e.g., dastans, legends, folk tales)

Spiritual and communal rituals (e.g., ashar, toi, navruz, funeral practices)

Artistic expressions (e.g., embroidery, carpet weaving, musical instruments like kobiz)

Traditional knowledge systems (e.g., herbal medicine, animal husbandry, ecological wisdom)

Language and symbolism (e.g., metaphorical speech, poetic structures, native proverbs)

These components are not static artifacts but dynamic elements that once shaped daily life, intergenerational learning, and spiritual worldviews. The danger today is not the absence of culture, but its fragmentation, commodification, and marginalization in youth consciousness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Key Challenges in Cultural Formation Among Youth

Globalization and Cultural Standardization

Modern youth are immersed in global pop culture, often leading to a loss of interest in local traditions. Westernized models of success, appearance, and entertainment dominate digital spaces, overshadowing indigenous values [1].

Educational Gaps

School curricula often underrepresent or superficially treat regional culture. Teachers themselves may lack resources or training in ethnopedagogy, leading to minimal engagement with local identity.

Urbanization and Migration

As young people move from rural areas to cities, they leave behind the social environments where traditions are practiced. Cultural practices become distant memories rather than lived experiences.

Language Shift

The decreasing use of the Karakalpak language among youth, especially in mixed-language environments, erodes access to oral literature, metaphors, and identity-forming expressions.

Digitalization and Distraction

Although technology has the potential to preserve culture, it is often used passively. Youth tend to consume rather than create content, and cultural storytelling is rarely integrated into their online life.

Despite these challenges, there are numerous opportunities for re-embedding Karakalpak uniqueness in youth identity:

Creative Reinterpretation of Culture: Encouraging youth to reinterpret traditional forms through modern media (e.g., podcasts, hip-hop lyrics using proverbs, digital art) bridges past and present [2].

Community Cultural Projects: Youth involvement in folk festivals, museum exhibitions, and oral history documentation fosters ownership and pride.

Heritage-Based Education: Introducing localized content across subjects—history, literature, ethics, and art—makes learning culturally rooted.

Elder-Youth Collaboration: Projects that pair elders with youth in craft-making, storytelling, or ecological education help restore intergenerational bonds.

Digital Archiving and Storytelling: Platforms dedicated to Karakalpak culture (YouTube, mobile apps, VR experiences of historical sites) make cultural knowledge engaging and accessible.

Pedagogical and Institutional Strategies

Cultural Literacy Modules: Schools should implement structured programs on Karakalpak cultural heritage, including language, mythology, and ethical systems.

Training Teachers in Ethnopedagogy: Teachers need continuous professional development in culturally responsive pedagogy.

Student-Led Cultural Clubs: Giving youth agency in designing and leading cultural initiatives boosts participation.

Support from Ministries and NGOs: Governmental and non-governmental actors should fund and promote initiatives that support cultural continuity [3].

CONCLUSION

The preservation and promotion of Karakalpak cultural uniqueness among youth is not only a matter of heritage—it is a matter of identity, resilience, and sustainable development. While the forces of globalization and urbanization pose real challenges, the cultural richness of Karakalpakstan offers vast resources for building strong, proud, and rooted young citizens. Through collaborative educational reform, community engagement, and innovative use of technology, it is possible to ensure that the unique aspects of Karakalpak culture are not only remembered but actively lived by future generations.

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