



MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN (ON THE EXAMPLE OF LIBRARY AND CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN KARSHI DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE)

Marjona Arifjon qizi Namozova

second-year undergraduate student in History, University of

Economics and Pedagogy. E-mail: sahodat@mail.ru

Phone number: +998 907204895

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada O'zbekiston mustaqilligining dastlabki yillarida Qarshi shahrida madaniy-ma'rifiy faoliyatni tiklash va zamonaviylashtirish bo'yicha amalga oshirilgan sa'y-harakatlar tahlil qilinadi. Ayniqsa, kutubxona xizmatlarini rivojlantirish, infratuzilma, kitob fondi, kompyuterlashtirish jarayonlari va ma'naviy-ma'rifiy tadbirlarni tashkil etish masalalariga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Qarshi shahri, kutubxona, ma'rifiy tadbirlar, kitob fondi, raqamlashtirish, kitobxonlar, madaniy hayot.

Аннотация: В статье анализируются усилия, предпринятые в городе Карши в первые годы независимости Узбекистана по возрождению и модернизации культурно-просветительской деятельности. Особое внимание уделяется развитию библиотечного обслуживания, включая инфраструктуру, книжные фонды, процессы информатизации и организацию духовно-просветительских мероприятий.

Ключевые слова: город Карши, библиотека, просветительские мероприятия, книжный фонд, цифровизация, читатели, культурная жизнь.

Abstract: This article analyzes the efforts undertaken in the city of Karshi to revive and modernize cultural and educational activities during the early years of Uzbekistan's independence. Particular attention is paid to the development of library services, including infrastructure, book collections, informatization processes, and the organization of spiritual and educational events.

Keywords: Karshi city, library, educational activities, book collection, digitalization, readers, cultural life.

Introduction

This article explores the practical measures taken to restore and enhance cultural and educational life in Karshi during the first years following Uzbekistan's independence. It focuses on changes in library operations, the development of infrastructure, the growth in readership, and the organization of spiritual-educational events.

Literature Review: Sources concerning the development of library services in Karshi during the independence period mainly consist of official reports and local records. For example, the report of the Karshi City Department of Culture and the 1997 activity report





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of the Karshi Central Library provide valuable data on the state of cultural institutions, readership statistics, and distribution of books. These documents, along with records from local and children's libraries, serve as a basis for chronological and thematic analysis of the progress in the field.

Research Methodology: This study applies historical-analytical and socio-economic research methods. Primary sources include archival materials from Karshi city libraries, official resolutions and decrees, local authority reports, and relevant statistical data.

The following methods were used in the research:

- **Historical-chronological method** – to track and assess library development over time;
- **Economic analysis** – to evaluate material and technical support for libraries;
- **Comparative method** – to assess the performance and public engagement of Karshi libraries in comparison with other districts in the region.

Analysis and Results: During the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, practical efforts were initiated to restore and improve the cultural and educational environment in the city of Karshi. In 1993, several cultural institutions, including four clubs and one House of Culture, operated in the city, forming the core infrastructure for public cultural services [1]. Along with them, the central library and nine affiliated branches served the population by distributing literature and organizing educational activities. In 1997, the central library provided services to more than two thousand readers, distributing over sixty thousand book copies and recording more than twenty-four thousand visits [2].

However, in 1993, the number of readers significantly decreased to just over fifty, and the number of distributed books dropped by more than twelve thousand copies [3]. Staffing shortages also posed serious challenges, as only 42% of the library staff were trained professionals [4].

Nevertheless, the implementation of various programs to encourage reading led to notable improvements in subsequent years. By 1996, the average number of readers per library exceeded one thousand—one of the highest regional indicators. For comparison, this figure was over nine hundred in Shakhrisabz, above five hundred in Kamashi, and more than three hundred in Bahoriston [5].

On February 14, 2003, the Kashkadarya Regional Administration adopted a resolution to renovate and digitalize the S. Nasafiy Regional Library. As a result, starting in 2007, the library gained internet access, began developing an electronic catalog, and digitized its collections. A dedicated server room was established, and over one hundred employees completed computer literacy training [6].

In addition, literary and cultural events were regularly held, including celebrations for Navruz, Amir Temur's 636th birthday, and the International Day of Families [7].

In the early 2000s, along with the central library, several branch libraries provided cultural and educational services in Karshi. Their locations were determined based on the



needs of local communities. For instance, the Abu Rayhan Beruni Library operated in the second microdistrict and served nearby residents [8].

The Gafur Ghulom Library, located near the oil factory, housed more than twenty-eight thousand book copies and served nearly one thousand readers with over fourteen thousand book issues in 2007—indicating effective outreach in industrial areas [8].

The Oybek Children’s Library, part of the central system, was located in the Pakhtazor neighborhood. Books were organized alphabetically and thematically for easy access. Events such as “Journey to the World of Fairytales” and “Children Are Our Future” were organized, along with celebrations of Raim Farhodiy’s 55th anniversary and June 1st, International Children’s Day [9].

The Hamza Library held over seventeen thousand books and maintained permanent corners on topics such as “Year of Human Interests” and “Purity of Language Reflects Purity of Heart” [9].

Following the Presidential Decree of June 20, 2006, library activities entered a new phase of modernization [10]. The library’s collection approached 334,000 volumes, including nearly 30,000 on arts and sports, over 100,000 in fiction, and more than 30,000 on technical and agricultural topics [11].

Furthermore, clubs for people with disabilities, including those who are hearing- or visually-impaired, remained active in Karshi. These clubs organized chess, checkers, handicrafts, woodwork, and drama clubs. Cultural events were regularly held for International Women’s Day, Navruz, Alisher Navoi’s birthday, Constitution Day, and other key holidays [12].

Conclusion and Recommendations

To further enhance library services in Karshi, it is essential to accelerate digitization, expand electronic information databases, and regularly organize professional development courses for library staff. Promoting reading culture among children and youth through interactive events and monitoring the performance of cultural-educational institutions while publicizing the outcomes through mass media will yield sustainable results.

Although there were several achievements in the cultural-educational sphere in Karshi during the independence years, especially in library development, the early period was marked by challenges such as staff shortages, insufficient technical infrastructure, and declining readership. However, thanks to government policies and local initiatives, the sector has since stabilized, with library and information services entering a new phase of progress.

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