



APPLICATION OF IDEAS FROM ABDURAUUF FITRAT'S
"FAMILY" IN THE FAMILY POLICY OF CONTEMPORARY UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the ideas on family values, marriage, mahr (bridal gift), and wedding customs presented in the work "Family or Rules of Family Management" by Abdurauf Fitrat, a prominent figure of the Turkestan Jadid movement in the early 20th century, in comparison with the current family policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Fitrat's key views — such as his criticism of matchmaking without mutual acquaintance, turning mahr into a commercial transaction, and extravagant wedding ceremonies — are examined in depth alongside the normative legal documents No. 2736-III (2019) and No. VII-10-104-11-151-K/25 (2025). The study demonstrates the relevance and practical application of Fitrat's ideas in modern Uzbek state policy aimed at strengthening the family institution, reducing extravagance, and promoting spiritual and moral values in family life.*

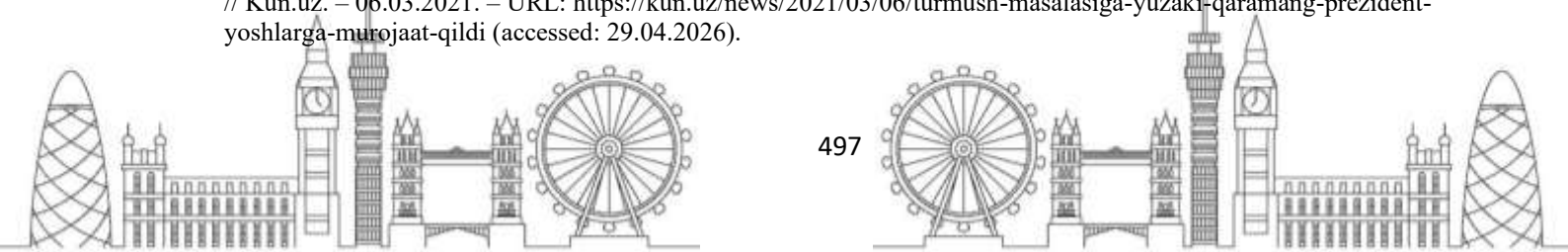
Keywords: *Abdurauf Fitrat, family, family policy, mahr, wedding extravagance, family values, state regulation, family upbringing, modern family, Uzbekistan.*

Introduction

Abdurauf Fitrat was one of the brightest representatives of the Turkestan national awakening movement in the early 20th century. His work "Family or Rules of Family Management," written in Bukhara in 1915, remains a unique and highly relevant source not only for its time but also for the present day. Fitrat viewed the family as the most important socio-spiritual cell of society and insisted that it should be built not on money, ostentation, and artificial customs, but on genuine love, respect, justice, and enlightenment.

A strong family is the foundation of a stable society; without it, the entire nation faces the risk of weakening and losing its future. In this regard, family policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan today is one of the priority directions at the state level. As the President of Uzbekistan has emphasized: "I would like to address our young men and women: approach marriage, family, and the fate of children with the deepest sense of responsibility. Do not treat this matter superficially and do not put both your own life and the life of another person at risk..."⁷⁵

⁷⁵ Mirziyoyev Sh. M. Do not treat the issue of marriage superficially: President's address to young people and youth // Kun.uz. – 06.03.2021. – URL: <https://kun.uz/news/2021/03/06/turmush-masalasiga-yuzaki-qaramang-prezident-yoshlarga-murojaat-qildi> (accessed: 29.04.2026).





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This appeal clearly demonstrates the state's special attention to issues of family responsibility, the strengthening of the marriage institution, and the spiritual preparation of young people. From this perspective, the joint resolution of the Oliy Majlis No. 2736-III of September 14, 2019, and the normative legal document No. VII-10-104-11-151-K/25 of September 10, 2025, represent important measures aimed at regulating weddings and family events, preventing extravagance, and curbing excessive ceremonies.

Main Part

Fitrat refers to the family as “the socio-spiritual link of society” and demands that it be built on love rather than money. He sharply criticizes the practice of inflating mahr and turning weddings into displays of wealth: “...the bride's side would artificially raise the mahr by claiming the girl was expensive. The wedding became a demonstration of wealth, accompanied by lavish feasts and enormous expenses”.⁷⁶ Fitrat considers matchmaking without the bride and groom seeing each other as one of the main causes of family unhappiness. In his view, mahr should not be a commercial transaction but a symbol of respect. Justice and love between spouses must be paramount in the family. Fitrat also places special emphasis on child-rearing: raising children in the spirit of love, diligence, and morality determines the future of society.

The central idea of the work is that if the family is not strong, the happiness and dignity of the nation will be endangered. Fitrat expressed this thought as follows: “Every nation's happiness and dignity certainly depend on the internal order and harmony of that people. Peace and harmony, in turn, rest upon the order within the families of that nation”.⁷⁷

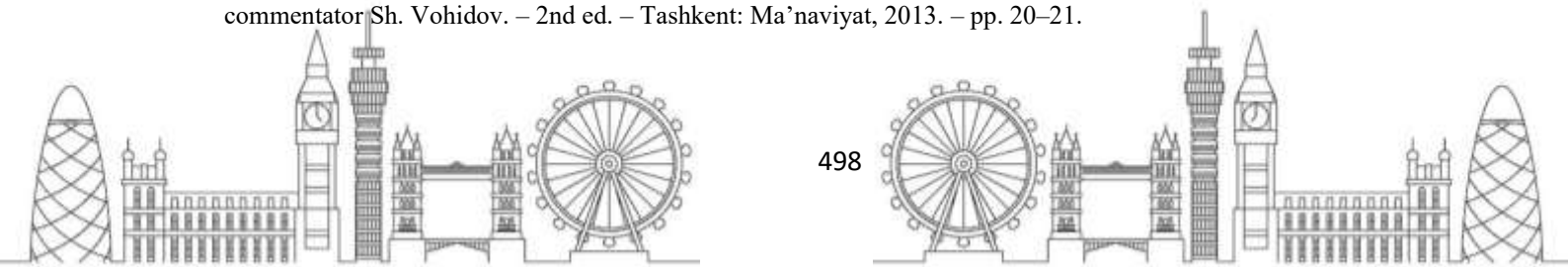
Today, Uzbekistan pays great attention to strengthening the family institution. The joint resolution No. 2736-III of September 14, 2019, became the main document regulating weddings and family events. It stipulates that weddings may last only one day, from 06:00 to 23:00, and limits the number of participants to 200. Excessive rituals (“kelin navkari,” “chorlar,” etc.) are prohibited.

The new resolution No. VII-10-104-11-151-K/25 of September 10, 2025, further strengthened these regulations. Mandatory interviews are now conducted with young couples applying for marriage and their parents. Programs such as the “Young Couples Club” and “Family School” have been established. Supervision by mahallas and internal affairs bodies has been intensified. These measures are aimed at protecting families from financial debt and credit burdens.

There is a clear similarity between Fitrat's criticism and modern legislation. While Fitrat described weddings as “a heavy burden and extravagance,” the 2019–2025 resolutions also limit ostentation and promote thrift. A similar parallel exists regarding mahr: Fitrat defined

⁷⁶ Fitrat A. Family or Rules of Family Management / Responsible editor D. A. Alimova. Translator and commentator Sh. Vohidov. – 2nd ed. – Tashkent: Ma'naviyat, 2013. – pp. 20–21.

⁷⁷ Fitrat A. Family or Rules of Family Management / Responsible editor D. A. Alimova. Translator and commentator Sh. Vohidov. – 2nd ed. – Tashkent: Ma'naviyat, 2013. – pp. 20–21.





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it as “not trade, but a symbol of respect,” and current laws restrict excessive demands from the bride’s side.

In the sphere of family upbringing and morality, Fitrat demanded that children be raised in the spirit of love and diligence. Today’s “Parents’ University” and mahalla interviews pursue exactly the same goal. As a result, Fitrat’s ideas formulated a century ago are finding practical expression in modern state policy. According to statistics, wedding expenses have somewhat decreased due to the 2019–2025 measures. However, cases of demanding luxury cars or apartments as mahr still occur on social networks. This represents a modern form of the “ignorance” that Fitrat criticized. In some regions, traditional attitudes continue to hinder full implementation of the law. Additionally, the persistently high number of divorces remains a pressing issue affecting the stability of the family institution. According to official statistics, in the first six months of 2025, the divorce rate in Uzbekistan stood at 175.6 per 1,000 marriages.⁷⁸

Conclusion

The ideas advanced in Abdurauf Fitrat’s “Family or Rules of Family Management” are conceptually close and harmonious with the current family policy of Uzbekistan. Fitrat regarded the family as the fundamental socio-spiritual foundation of society and emphasized the primacy of love, justice, respect, and enlightenment in strengthening it. His criticisms of mahr, wedding ceremonies, and family relations are being practically implemented today through normative legal documents.

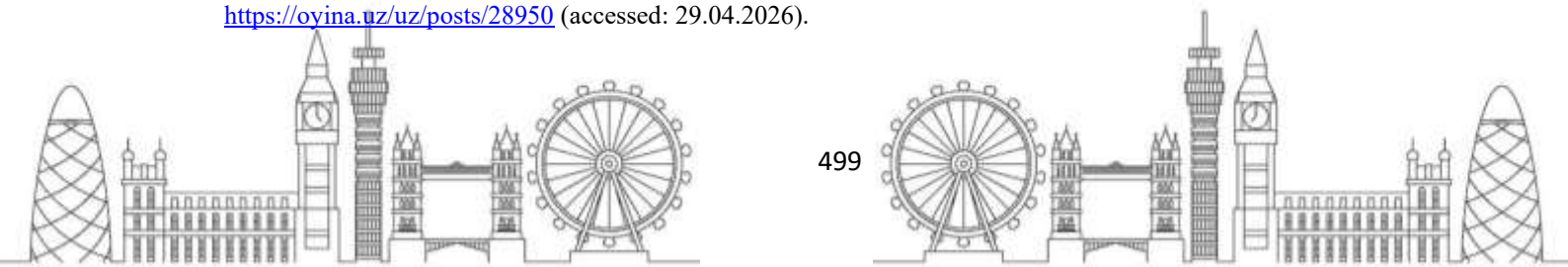
The 2019 resolution No. 2736-III and the 2025 resolution No. VII-10-104-11-151-K/25, which regulate family relations, curb excessive extravagance in weddings and ceremonies, and prepare young people spiritually for family life, demonstrate the continuity of Fitrat’s ideas in modern policy. At the same time, certain social problems – the continued high rate of divorces, misinterpretation of mahr, and the lingering influence of traditional attitudes in some regions – indicate the need for further improvement in this area.

In general, the deep study and practical application of Fitrat’s family views in state policy will serve the formation of a healthy, stable, and spiritually mature society.

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⁷⁸ Statistics on the increase in the number of divorces in Uzbekistan in the first six months of 2025 // Oyina.uz. – URL: <https://oyina.uz/uz/posts/28950> (accessed: 29.04.2026).





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