

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY IN INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: *This article explores the philosophical and social significance of social gerontology in the context of Uzbekistan. It highlights the importance of intergenerational relationships and the cultural, moral, and spiritual transmission between generations. The article analyzes the role of the elderly in modern society, discusses local scientific research, and emphasizes the need to address aging not only as a biological process but also as a social and cultural phenomenon.*

Keywords: *Social gerontology, aging, intergenerational relations, social philosophy, Uzbekistan, elderly care, moral values*

Gerontology is based on a comprehensive study of aging. It is not only interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary but also international and interprofessional in its goal to raise awareness about the concept of aging across societies around the world.

Gerontology studies the process of aging and human development from middle age to the later stages of life. It includes:

1. Studying physical, mental, and social changes in elderly individuals,
2. Analyzing societal transformations as a result of population aging,
3. Applying these insights in policymaking and programming.

Gerontology consists of key components such as geriatrics, gerohygiene, and geropsychology. These study the nature of diseases in the aging organism, hygiene practices specific to elderly individuals, and the psychology and behavior of the elderly, respectively.

Geriatrics focuses, first, on the study of health and diseases in later life; second, on providing comprehensive care for the elderly and ensuring their well-being through formal and informal support systems. Therefore, it is essential to highlight that elderly medicine is one of the most critical aspects of gerontology.

This article provides initial associations in addressing whether gerontology should be developed in the field of philosophy and the philosophy of science and technology. The philosophy of gerontology is not only related to philosophical inquiry but is also a practical body of knowledge applicable to the study of humanity, its nature, and the evolution of human life.

Learning in this field requires data collection and practical application. Gerontology is considered a branch of philosophical anthropology, focusing on researching and developing diverse lifestyles that promote peaceful and harmonious living.

It is known that gerontology encompasses issues related to the aging process and the health of elderly individuals. Its primary task is to identify changes associated with aging rather than those caused by other factors such as culture or society. Hence, gerontology is closely linked with medicine.

The theoretical and methodological foundations of intergenerational inheritance are based on the relationships between generations. According to M.B. Glotov, "A generation is a socio-demographic and cultural-historical unity of individuals objectively shaped during a specific historical period, distinguished by age difference and conditioned by particular social circumstances for conducting activity."

In our view, the concept of "generation" has other meanings too. It often merges with the notion of "age" or has unique characteristics tied to its historical and contextual interpretation.

Etymologically, the word generation connects to the root "gan" (to produce offspring), the Latin generatio (produced, fruit), and the Russian sociological term koleno (branch of a family tree or generational link).

In a general sense, intergenerational continuity refers to the transmission of social, economic, moral, and cultural values from one generation to another, revealing itself in the individual's developmental capabilities. Therefore, intergenerational continuity is one of the foundational criteria and necessary conditions for societal progress.

Gerontology, as a philosophical and historical concept, represents intergenerational continuity and expresses social and cultural values. National-spiritual heritage, religious traditions, and customs passed down to and developed by younger generations reflect this continuity within cultural domains.

Today, gerontology is applied as a subject of socio-philosophical research in exploring the theoretical and methodological aspects of aging. Each generation inherits from the previous one under changing conditions. Therefore, generational continuity also includes the object of research itself.

We believe that a socio-cultural analysis should be conducted to examine the impact of social interaction between the elderly and the youth on society and to understand the continuity of cultural influence. Future research in this area should focus on the development of both theoretical and practical recommendations to harmonize intergenerational relations in Uzbekistan.

Thus, identifying the scientific-philosophical criteria of gerontology and the specific features of intergenerational social interactions in shaping societal development should be approached through a socio-cultural framework. This enables deeper analysis of the historical socio-cultural context of aging and generational exchange.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the study demonstrates that social gerontology in Uzbekistan is becoming increasingly relevant due to demographic changes and evolving societal needs. Strengthening intergenerational ties, valuing the elderly, and promoting a culture of respect and inclusion are essential for sustainable development and social harmony. Further academic research and institutional support in the field of gerontology are necessary to meet the demands of an aging population.

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