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POSSIBILITIES OF USING MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION OF YOUNG MILITARY PERSONNEL

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Abstract The 21st century is the era of technology, deeply penetrating all spheres of modern life, including the spiritual and moral education of youth. Today, digital devices, the Internet, and information and communication technologies play a significant role in shaping the worldview, values, and character of young people, especially those serving in the military. This article explores the opportunities and prospects for using modern technologies in the spiritual and moral education of young military personnel. It analyzes the effectiveness of digital tools, social media, online platforms, gamification, artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality in promoting national values, patriotism, integrity, and discipline among youth. The article also addresses potential risks, the importance of media literacy, and the need for collaboration among educators, parents, and organizations to ensure the effective and ethical use of technology in the upbringing process. Practical recommendations are provided for the integration of innovative approaches in the military education system to develop morally strong, responsible, and patriotic young servicemen.

Keywords spiritual and moral education, young military personnel, digital technologies, social media, media literacy, national values, patriotism, gamification, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, educational innovation

Introduction

The 21st century is an era of technology; digital devices, the Internet, and information and communication technologies (ICT) have deeply penetrated all areas of modern life. Naturally, these processes significantly influence the upbringing of people, especially youth. Today, modern technologies have become an integral part of spiritual and moral education, and their proper and rational use is an important means for developing a morally mature and ethically pure generation.

Spiritual and moral education is aimed at enriching one's inner world, distinguishing between good and evil, fostering patriotism, dedication, honesty, discipline, and respect for others. In the past, such education was mostly carried out through oral advice, educational books, and the traditional mentor-student system. Today, however, this process is unimaginable without modern technologies. This is because each generation lives in a different information environment, and currently, young military personnel belong to Generation Z. Therefore, using previous methods is no longer effective, mainly due to the clash of values between generations. The older generation is now compelled to consider the environment in which young people live.

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In today's complex and challenging times, one of the state's priority policies is to raise youth, especially young servicemen, as healthy, well-rounded, and independent thinkers based on modern knowledge, professional skills, and new technologies.

The Role of Modern Technologies in Spiritual and Moral Education

Today's youth mainly get information from the Internet, mobile devices, social networks, and various online platforms. Thus, using these tools effectively in imparting spiritual and moral values is expedient. For example, by promoting videos, articles, books, and broadcasts about national values, patriotism, honesty, and compassion on social media, it is possible to positively influence the consciousness of young people. Additionally, gamified apps and interactive programs make spiritual education easier and more engaging.

Currently, many virtual educational platforms, online courses, webinars, and podcasts serve to improve the spiritual and moral level of youth. For instance, online lectures and training on topics such as love for the Motherland, family values, humanity, and compassion are regularly conducted. Moreover, artificial intelligence can recommend suitable spiritual and literary books and materials based on individual preferences, raising youth education to a new level.

Virtual museums dedicated to national values, online excursions about historical figures, and video lessons based on historical events are being widely implemented. These tools help revive historical memory among young people, strengthen their respect for their nation, and foster feelings of national pride and honor.

Of course, improper use of these technologies or delaying their adoption can lead to spiritual decline. Therefore, wise use of modern technologies and cooperation among parents, educators, and organizations is essential to raise youth in a healthy and ethical information environment.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan's Resolution No. 267 of June 29, 2023, "On Measures to Improve the Effectiveness of Military-Patriotic Education of Youth," states that such education should be organized in various forms, including scientific-practical conferences, Q&A events, book readings, games, meetings with prominent people, as well as through television and radio programs, films and cartoons, artistic and musical works, soldier's songs, mass media, websites, electronic games, and other technical means. This highlights the need to further intensify work in this field.

Upbringing through the Internet and Social Networks

It is difficult to imagine modern life without the Internet and social networks. These tools play an important role in the lives of every young person. Young people spend more time on social networks, look for news online, and use internet services for learning. Thus, the Internet and social networks are not only sources of information but also strong means that directly affect youth education.

If used properly, the global Internet is a vital source for spiritual development, broadening worldview, and forming moral qualities. For example, spiritual and educational videos, articles, motivational speeches, and online lessons are widespread on many social networks. Through these, youth can absorb values such as patriotism, humanity, honesty, and striving for knowledge.

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Today, online meetings and lectures between military leaders, veterans, scholars, and young servicemen through social networks are highly convenient and effective, saving valuable time and resources while achieving high results.

Platforms such as Telegram, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok host various bloggers, communities, and professionals who run pages devoted to spiritual and educational content. These regularly provide youth with videos, articles, recommendations, and advice promoting intellectual growth, patriotism, and morality. Such pages advocate for humaneness, compassion, respect for parents, friendship, healthy lifestyles, and high moral values.

For example, a humorous YouTube video series called “Soldiers,” dedicated to one of the country’s military academies, gained significant popularity and increased young people’s interest in military service.

However, there are negative aspects to the Internet and social networks as well. Incorrect information, harmful content, and the promotion of foreign ideas can have a detrimental effect on youth upbringing. Especially, materials contrary to moral standards, violence, pornography, and offensive content can distort the worldview of youth. Therefore, it is essential to teach youth to use the Internet wisely and responsibly and to foster information discernment.

In the upbringing process, parents, educators, and society must direct the positive sides of the Internet for youth education. Youth should be shown and encouraged to follow pages and content promoting science, patriotism, and spirituality. Promoting more positive, useful, and educational content online can raise youth to be morally mature individuals.

It is necessary for every person, especially youth, to use the Internet for enlightenment and self-development. Rational use of Internet tools in education is both a necessity of modern life and a crucial foundation for spirituality.

Innovative Educational Methods and Their Influence

Today’s fast-paced, information-rich era requires new approaches in the upbringing of the younger generation, especially young military personnel. Developing youth morally and ethically, broadening their worldview, and educating them as healthy, patriotic, and responsible citizens is nearly impossible without modern teaching methods and information technologies.

Spiritual and moral education has always been a top priority in the military. Strong moral character and a firm ethical foundation directly influence servicemen’s efficiency, loyalty to the homeland, and steadfastness in fulfilling their duty. Now, innovative methods based on modern information technologies play a major role in this education.

First, gamification (game-based learning) should be noted. This method increases the engagement of young military personnel. Through virtual games, quizzes, and tests, they not only improve their military skills but also learn values such as patriotism, honesty, discipline, and loyalty. Reward systems further enhance their motivation to learn. Multimedia teaching tools—videos, animations, audio lessons, and graphic illustrations—are also effective in conveying spiritual topics. Videos

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dedicated to famous military heroes or animations about historical events evoke feelings of pride and honor in young people.

Online education and webinars have become convenient and effective forms of instruction for young servicemen. Spiritual and educational discussions, webinars involving military psychologists, veterans, and mentors, help increase their spiritual knowledge and encourage critical thinking and active participation in debates.

Among innovative methods, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies are especially important. With these technologies, young military personnel can experience challenging situations, develop ethical decision-making skills, and apply spiritual values in real-life contexts.

Mobile learning (M-learning) and specialized educational apps are also widely used for spiritual and moral education. Short lessons, tests, and questions on military-ethical topics are delivered via smartphones or tablets. Short, clear, and engaging information helps young servicemen make the most of their free time and constantly reinforce their moral knowledge.

Artificial intelligence (AI)-based learning methods are also being developed. AI programs can recommend individualized spiritual-ethical materials, books, articles, and motivational videos tailored to the psychological state of each serviceman.

Integrating information technologies with innovative educational methods is highly effective in the spiritual and moral education of young military personnel. These methods are based on taking into account the interests of youth and using modern technologies wisely. Widespread implementation of such methods in military units strengthens youth's loyalty to the homeland, fosters responsibility and discipline, and, most importantly, helps them develop as morally mature individuals.

Promoting National Values through Modern Technologies

The development and strength of every nation are based on its national values. These values include customs, traditions, patriotism, respect for the native language, humanity, and hard work—qualities forming a rich spiritual heritage passed down through generations. In today's globalized era, modern technologies have become essential tools for preserving and transmitting these values to the younger generation.

The rapid development of ICT and the wide dissemination of the Internet and digital platforms have opened up new opportunities for promoting national values. Now, everyone, especially youth, can easily and clearly access information about national values, the heritage of ancestors, historical figures, and national holidays through modern technologies.

Today, social networks are one of the most influential tools for promoting national values. Platforms like Telegram, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok regularly feature videos, articles, photos, and podcasts reflecting national values. Through this content, youth can easily, interestingly, and simply learn about customs, traditions, spiritual heritage, historical events, and heroes. Mobile apps featuring samples of folk art, proverbs, folk tales, national songs, and epics are also becoming popular among youth, helping students and the general public get closer to their national culture.

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Furthermore, VR and AR technologies are also being used to promote national values. For example, virtual tours of national museums, historical monuments, and ancient relics are being created, increasing youth's interest in national history and heritage and filling them with national pride.

Multimedia teaching tools—video lessons, animations, educational films, radio broadcasts, and online textbooks—are also important in promoting national values, codes of conduct, and ideas of humanity to the younger generation.

Online publications and blogs also play an active role in popularizing national values. Many bloggers, scientists, and journalists in Uzbekistan prepare interesting materials about national values, customs, spiritual values, and historical figures, delivering them to a wide audience via the Internet.

Promoting national values through modern technologies is a necessity of our time. The Internet, social networks, mobile applications, and virtual technologies allow us to instill our rich cultural heritage and national values quickly and effectively in the hearts of the younger generation. Thus, conducting this process in modern and engaging ways draws more attention from youth and guarantees higher results. We all need to make rational use of modern technological opportunities to preserve and promote national values.

Recommendations for Effective Use of Modern ICT in Spiritual and Moral Education of Young Military Personnel

- Expand modern information resource centers in military educational institutions and units;
- Develop mobile apps for youth focused on patriotism and increase the number of films and series artistically depicting historical facts;
- Create military-spiritual simulators based on virtual and augmented reality;
- Implement AI-based personal upbringing platforms for military personnel.

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