

The Development of Education in Central Asia During the Jadid Period

(On the Example of Preschool Education)

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Abstract

This article examines the development of education during the Jadid period in Central Asia, with a specific focus on preschool education. The Jadid movement emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a response to the need for educational and intellectual reform in Muslim societies. This progressive movement advocated for a phonetic teaching method ("usul-i jadid") and emphasized secular education, science, culture, and democratic ideals. Jadids played a significant role in establishing new-method schools and promoting cultural awareness. The movement's impact on preschool education included innovative teaching approaches and a focus on child development, providing a foundation for modern educational practices.

Keywords

Jadidism, Central Asia, Preschool Education, Usul-i Jadid, Educational Reforms, New-Method Schools, Intellectual Renewal, Child-Centered Learning, Modern Pedagogy, National Identity, Cultural Integration, Progressive Movement.

Introduction

The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked a pivotal period in Central Asia's history, as the region grappled with Russian colonialism and the challenges of modernization. Amidst this backdrop, the Jadid movement emerged, advocating for reforms in education, culture, and politics. The term "Jadid," derived from "usul-i jadid," referred to the phonetic method of teaching reading and writing. This new method became a symbol of the movement's broader goals of intellectual renewal and cultural progress (Bazarbayev, Tursun, & Sadykova, n.d.).

While the Jadids are often associated with their reforms in traditional schools and madrasas, their influence extended to preschool education. This article explores how Jadid ideals shaped the development of preschool education in Central Asia, emphasizing child-centered teaching methods and early learning as foundational to societal progress.

The Jadid Movement and Educational Reforms

The Jadid movement was rooted in the belief that education was the key to overcoming the social, economic, and cultural challenges faced by Muslim societies. Jadids criticized the stagnation of traditional religious schools, advocating for modern, secular education that

incorporated subjects such as mathematics, geography, and natural sciences (Bazarbayev et al., n.d.).

Key elements of Jadid educational reforms included:

1. **Phonetic teaching methods:** The "usul-i jadid" approach made reading and writing more accessible to students by replacing the outdated syllabic method.

2. **Focus on science and culture:** Jadids promoted scientific knowledge and cultural awareness as essential components of education.

3. **New-method schools:** These institutions combined modern curricula with practical skills and cultural enrichment.

These reforms laid the groundwork for incorporating progressive ideas into preschool education.

Preschool Education During the Jadid Period

Child-Centered Approaches

The Jadids recognized the importance of early childhood education as a means of preparing children for formal schooling. They emphasized the need for child-centered teaching methods that catered to the developmental needs and interests of young learners. Activities such as storytelling, games, and drawing were introduced to stimulate creativity and critical thinking.

Integration of Cultural Values

Preschool education during the Jadid period was not limited to academic learning. It also served as a vehicle for instilling cultural and moral values. Traditional tales, proverbs, and songs were used to teach children about their heritage and foster a sense of national identity (Wikipediya, n.d.).

Innovative Teaching Materials

Jadid educators introduced innovative teaching materials, including visual aids and hands-on learning tools. These resources were designed to make learning more engaging and effective for young children, reflecting the movement's commitment to pedagogical innovation.

Role of Women in Preschool Education

The Jadid movement also recognized the critical role of women in early childhood education. By empowering women as teachers and caregivers, the Jadids sought to create a supportive environment for children's intellectual and emotional development.

Impact on Modern Education

The Jadid movement's influence on preschool education has had lasting effects on the educational systems of Central Asia. Modern preschool education in the region continues to reflect the principles of child-centered learning, cultural integration, and innovative pedagogy.

championed by the Jadids. Furthermore, the movement's emphasis on the importance of early learning has reinforced the foundational role of preschool education in shaping lifelong academic and social success.

Conclusion

The Jadid movement was instrumental in transforming education in Central Asia, including the often-overlooked area of preschool education. By introducing progressive teaching methods and emphasizing the holistic development of young learners, the Jadids not only prepared children for formal schooling but also contributed to the broader goals of intellectual and cultural renewal. Their legacy endures in the modern educational practices of Central Asia, highlighting the enduring relevance of their vision for societal progress.

References

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