
Dialectics Of Spirituality And Popular Culture

Boymurodov Zoxid Shokirovich,

teacher in Karshi state university

Abstract

This article describes the essence of the reforms carried out during the years of independence, its aspects related to human spirituality. Thoughts were expressed to strengthen the process of spiritual education. The interconnection of spirit and mass culture, contradictory effect of mass culture to words spiritual social life and the prophylactics of its negative effects are the main points of the present article. All the negative and positive sides of mass culture are revealed in certain examples.

Key words: *globalization, legalization, deformation, diffusion, individualism, egocentrism.*

Every nation in the world has its own traditions, customs and national values. In this respect, nations differ from one another, and their social life is unique. The spiritual values and norms, the cultural heritage, which originated in a certain nation and refined for hundreds of years, are considered to be the priceless wealth of the nation. Modernization and the acceleration of global (economic, political, ideological, cultural, etc.) relations among states have had a significant impact on national culture and the system of spiritual values. The process of globalization, machines and technologies that are entering our lives at a maddening pace, require a deeper understanding of the significance of such wealth. Taking into consideration of spiritual and ideological threats in various forms and meanings, it has become priority for us to take drastic measures and prevent them. The negative impact of some trends and certain aspects of popular culture are also enlisted as spiritual threats.

Since our national spirituality today is embracing many new elements, it is evident that spirituality and popular culture are closely interrelated to each other.

Relationships like these appear in many forms and meanings. On the one hand, there is the process in which our national spirituality adopts elements of modernity and enriches, as a result. On the other hand, it seems to have adverse effects on spirituality, leading to its weakening and sometimes loss. Relations are not always optimistic. The processes in it are extremely complex and multifaceted.

Once popular culture aims to spread and popularize one belief or a practice, then it comes up with a relevant idea in accordance with its purpose, usually masking its efforts in various ways. Therefore, the practices of mass culture are rapidly spread and accepted. There is worryingly increasing number of things that attract people's attention and are shallow in content, mostly based on evanescent emotions. It is common for some people to deviate from the normal codes of conduct and ignore traditional moral norms. Wearing ripped jeans was considered a shame, but today it has become a tradition and is even understood as a sign of modernity. While these trends may not be legally restrictive, it does not mean that they should be ignored. Because spirituality strives to create a normal environment that is ethical for everyone.

The primary basis of spirituality, moral values seem to be weakening and even are at a loss. "Simple moral norms condemn murder, theft, violence, deception, and slander as a great evil. At the same time, elementary moral norms urge a person to care for his parents, to respect adults, to be gentle and polite in personal relationships" [1,159].

Some "creative" groups that promote immorality, anti-social behavior and violence are trying to justify their efforts by linking their beliefs to human rights, freedom, liberty, and democracy, and are often going beyond that. The subordination of morality to the rules of law is "giving a hand" to such thinkers. For example, today in some Western countries, same-sex marriage is legalized and they are even allowed to adopt children. Such cases are leading to disregard for traditional family and marriage values, excessive liberalization of marital relations, cohabitation, and, in some cases, deformation and even loss of moral values. The role of the family in society remains

relative, and its most important fundamental function of ensuring the continuity of generations is neglected. This is exacerbating demographic problems in some Western countries. These conditions significantly impact not only on the moral decline, but also on the material and economic life, and the lack of working-age population can lead to a decline in production capacity and, consequently, the worsening economic potential of the country. The growing demand for labor and the influx of migrants on the basis of labor migration have led to significant changes in cultural relations. Immigrants need to accept the norms of society in order to adapt quickly to the new environment and feel like locals. This leads to the diffusion of national cultures, that is, to the integration of each other. In fact, none of the vices of immorality, obscenity, violence and depravity that come under the mask of popular culture are in line with the national culture, traditional and moral values of people. In this regard, the First President Islam Karimov said "Spreading the ideas of moral depravity and violence, individualism, egocentrism, gaining wealth at its expense, ignoring the thousands of years of traditions and values of other peoples and their spiritual foundations of life, the dangerous threats aimed at tearing them down under the guise of "Popular culture" cannot be left ignored. Today, the perception of immorality as a culture and, conversely, disregard for the original spiritual values as obsolescence, pose a serious threat to today's progress, human life, the sanctity of the family conception and the upbringing of young people "[1,117].

Indeed, in the era of globalization, there are growing ideological threats that poison the minds of young people in our country and threaten their spiritual world. As a result, some of our young people have strayed from the right path and fallen into bad groups. What is the popular culture that destroying their spirituality and making our youth selfish and ignorant, and when did it come into being? In fact, it would be unfair to have a very negative and one-sided attitude towards popular culture. Popular culture is expressed in the non-critical consumption of some products and certain cultural practices, including different values. Various philosophers, scholars, and sociologists

have analyzed the origins of popular culture in each period from the point of view of that period. While some believe that popular culture has emerged in the recent past (Yelena Smolskaya), others claim its history dates back to millennia (D.Uayt).

From the point of view of the present, mass culture can be said to be a product of modern society. It is not a question of its history and formation, but of the fact that over time, the basis of popular culture has become more negative than positive. In the past, its adaptation to the national mentality was highly expected, but today it turns out to be vice versa. Popular culture easily destroys national cultural boundaries, leading to the adaptation, degradation, and in some cases, loss of traditional values of people's spiritual life. Because it aims to standardize the human mind, the way of life and even the whole society. There is a lot going on today. For example, everyone uses a cell phone, they dress the same. This is mainly due to the development of machinery and technology, industrial production. Let's look back to 30-40 years ago, not too long before now, cable phones were used in the homes of a few people. We easily accept the marvels of modern technology in terms of convenience, and they help us to do our work several times faster and more efficiently. However, popular culture as a social phenomenon sometimes has a contradictory effect on the development of spirituality. On the one hand, mass culture also serves to enrich the national culture. Not any culture should be viewed as something rigid. Development requires keeping pace with the times and adapting to the innovations it creates. The versatility, popularity, compactness, and quick adaptation of the products that are being created today attract people's attention, interest them easily. Today's products are quickly accepted for convenience and they help people to fill their free time and relax. On the other hand, these products, which are superficial in content and insignificant in value, do not benefit people's spiritual growth, but are aimed at manipulating them rather than enriching their consciousness. Under the influence of consumer psychology, people get used to buying products that are currently in vogue. Anyone who buys a newly-advertised product begin to feel like a modern

person, up to date with the world, and if vice versa, he feels outdated. Products are so easily accepted that actual demand and quality of them are usually ignored.

One of the threats to national spirituality is the weakness or absence of national symbols in the products of popular culture. Spiritual threats are directed against a person's inner world, destroying his consciousness, worldview, and psyche. Interestingly, these threats never mind age, nation, language, religion, race, or people. However young people with less life experience and less knowledge are at higher risk. Given the fact that the majority of the population of our country is young, it is important to resist the spiritual threats of various forms and content. Due to the acceleration of the Internet, especially the social network on it, information of different content is entering the lives of every household, everyone and is becoming a necessity for them. Internet services have already turned into one of the main functions of mobile phones. This in itself means that it is no longer impossible to restrict Internet news. The conveniences and opportunities that modern civilization offers are unmatched and the Internet could never be given up. However, there are other conflicting aspects of the issue inferring to its negative impact on human spirituality, and these views inevitably encourage one to think, to observe, and to act. "Modern consumption, current lifestyle, quality of life, convenience, TV, radio, Internet, OKV, various types and forms of electronic communication are pertaining to more of a popular culture" [2, 238]. Above-mentioned influences should be taken into account to enrich the spirituality of our youth and to overcome some shortcomings and it should be the priority of the general public. Changes in the lifestyle of young people have an adverse effect on their worldview. Therefore, it is wrong to look at the issue as a temporary situation. "There are two reasons why some of our young people are falling into the virtual world and being separated from the real world. First, they do not have an independent spiritual image. As a result, "outside" things can easily attract him, and he gradually loses his value in the

real world. Second, this type of young people are reluctant to go further to self-development, and it might, therefore, also puts them in a mood of flexibility. [4,17].

It is important to note that there is not even a single culture which suddenly appears, it is always formed gradually. Through small, seemingly insignificant events of popular culture engage, educate, accustom, and enlighten people. That's the most worrying part of the issue. Any easily accepted light and superficial content offered by popular culture cannot serve to enrich human knowledge, worldview, and spirituality.

Meaningless songs, movies, pictures, and commercials are all products with a "shimmering surface". Such "cultural products" do not either enrich a person's knowledge or do not serve to enrich his spirituality. On the contrary, they stimulate lust and temptation in a person, create indifference and ignorance to original values and may even lead to dependence and loss of national spirit. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the critical attitude to light "cultural products" that contradict the culture of our nation. Although it is impossible to ban them, so as to counteract the evils that are alien to the nature and mentality of our people, which some people call the "modernity", it is necessary to evoke ideological, spiritual and cultural immunity, a high sense of patriotism, deep knowledge and faith. "Ideological and spiritual-cultural immunity is formed not through appeals, exhortations, propaganda, but first of all through the imparting of positive knowledge, its transformation into a person's inner soul, conviction and through the creation of real human feelings in people" [2, 248]. Only then can we fully achieve our noble goal of building a great free and prosperous future. In this process, spirituality becomes a factor that leads the nation to growth and development. A nation with strong spiritual power will develop a sense of creativity, kindness and patriotism, and peace and tranquility will prevail forever.

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