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**DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CULTURAL
AWARENESS THROUGH THE TRADITIONAL
ART OF BAXSHI PERFORMANCE****Irnazarov Oybek Yuldashovich**Lecturer dots., Department of Musical Mastery and
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Abstract: *The preservation and transmission of national cultural heritage is one of the important objectives of contemporary education. In this context, the traditional art of baxshi performance represents a valuable cultural and educational resource for developing students' cultural awareness, national identity, aesthetic perception, and respect for historical heritage. The baxshi tradition combines epic storytelling, music, poetic expression, oral creativity, and moral values that have been transmitted from generation to generation. This article examines the pedagogical potential of baxshi performance in the formation of students' cultural competence. Particular attention is given to the educational significance of epic narratives, traditional musical instruments, oral storytelling, artistic performance, and interaction between generations.. The study concludes that baxshi performance can serve as an effective pedagogical instrument for connecting younger generations with their historical and spiritual heritage.*

Keywords: *baxshi, cultural awareness, cultural heritage, national identity, traditional art, oral tradition, epic literature, music education, aesthetic education, students, Uzbek culture.*

INTRODUCTION

Culture plays a fundamental role in the development of an individual's worldview, social identity, moral values, and relationship with society. In the contemporary educational environment, the formation of cultural competence is becoming increasingly important because globalization and rapid technological development can influence the ways in which younger generations perceive their national traditions. Education therefore has an important responsibility to introduce students to the cultural heritage of their communities and provide opportunities for them to understand, appreciate, and creatively continue traditional practices. Traditional forms of art are particularly valuable in this process because they combine historical memory with artistic expression[2].

The art of the baxshi occupies a special place in the cultural heritage of Central Asia. The baxshi is traditionally associated with the performance of epic narratives, combining poetic recitation with musical accompaniment. Through epic stories, performers transmit ideas about courage, loyalty, friendship, justice, family, homeland, and moral responsibility. "Baxshi" performance is not simply an artistic activity. It represents a complex cultural phenomenon in which literature, music, oral tradition, memory, performance, and social values interact. For this reason, its educational potential extends beyond the development of musical or literary abilities. Introducing students to baxshi traditions can help them understand the relationship between artistic expression and national history. Listening to epic narratives and analyzing their characters can encourage students to reflect on ethical questions and traditional concepts of heroism, responsibility, and human dignity. The

purpose of this article is to examine the role of baxshi performance in developing students' cultural awareness and to identify effective pedagogical approaches for incorporating this traditional art into the educational process[2].

The cultural significance of baxshi performance. "Baxshi" performance is an important component of the oral cultural heritage of the peoples of Central Asia. The tradition is particularly associated with epic storytelling, in which large-scale narratives are performed through a combination of spoken or sung poetry and musical accompaniment. The cultural significance of the baxshi tradition can be considered from several perspectives. First, it preserves historical and collective memory. Epic narratives contain representations of social relationships, traditional customs, concepts of honor, and ideas about the relationship between individuals and their communities. Second, baxshi performance contributes to the preservation of the oral tradition. Before the widespread use of modern recording and publishing technologies, oral performers played an essential role in transmitting literary and cultural material between generations. Third, the tradition has significant aesthetic value. The combination of voice, rhythm, melody, poetic language, gesture, and performance creates a distinctive artistic form. Finally, baxshi art contains an important educational dimension. Epic narratives often present moral conflicts and demonstrate the consequences of human decisions, providing material for ethical and cultural reflection.

"Baxshi|" art and the formation of cultural awareness. Cultural awareness involves understanding one's own cultural heritage while developing respect for the traditions and cultural expressions of others.

Baxshi art can contribute to this process by providing students with direct contact with traditional artistic forms. Such knowledge contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of national culture.

Importantly, cultural education should not be limited to memorizing information about traditional art. Students should have opportunities to listen, observe, analyze, discuss, and participate in artistic activities. Active engagement allows cultural knowledge to become a meaningful personal experience[6].

Epic narratives performed by baxshis contain numerous educational themes. They frequently address such concepts as courage, loyalty, friendship, justice, love of homeland, respect for elders, and responsibility toward one's community. Teachers can use these themes as the basis for discussions and analytical activities. For example, students can examine the decisions made by epic heroes, identify moral conflicts, and discuss how traditional values relate to contemporary life. Literary analysis of epic texts can also develop students' critical thinking skills. Students can compare different characters, examine narrative structures, identify symbolic elements, and discuss the social context in which particular stories developed. This approach transforms traditional literature from an object of passive study into a source of intellectual and ethical inquiry.

Methodological approaches to teaching baxshi heritage. The effective use of baxshi art in education requires an appropriate methodological framework. Several approaches can be applied. Students can listen to recordings or watch performances by experienced baxshis.

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Music is an essential component of baxshi performance. Traditional instruments and melodic structures contribute significantly to the

emotional and artistic character of the performance. The study of traditional musical instruments can therefore become an important element of cultural education. Students can learn about the construction, sound, historical development, and cultural significance of instruments traditionally associated with baxshi performance, including the dutar and other regional instruments[2,3]. Musical practice can also improve students' auditory perception, rhythmic abilities, concentration, and emotional responsiveness. When music is studied together with the narrative content of epic performance, students gain a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between sound, language, and storytelling. One of the important educational outcomes of studying traditional art is the strengthening of students' connection with their cultural heritage. National identity should not be understood as isolation from other cultures. Rather, it can be developed through awareness of one's own history and cultural traditions combined with respect for cultural diversity. Baxshi art provides students with an opportunity to explore the historical experiences, values, and artistic imagination of previous generations. Through this process, students may develop a stronger sense of cultural continuity. The teacher should nevertheless avoid presenting tradition as something static. Students should be encouraged to consider how traditional artistic forms can be preserved while also being interpreted in contemporary cultural contexts[3].

The teacher has a central role in introducing students to baxshi heritage. Effective teaching requires more than providing historical information. Teachers should create opportunities for students to interact with cultural materials directly. The teacher should also create

an environment in which students feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their own interpretations. Digital technologies provide new possibilities for preserving and teaching traditional cultural heritage. Audio and video recordings can make baxshi performances accessible to students who may not have the opportunity to observe live performances[3,4]. Digital presentations, online archives, interactive maps, virtual exhibitions, and multimedia projects can further increase students' engagement. At the same time, technology should function as a means of supporting cultural learning rather than replacing direct artistic experience. Whenever possible, students should have opportunities to meet performers, attend live performances, or participate in practical cultural activities. The combination of traditional cultural content and modern educational technologies can make heritage education more accessible to younger generations[5].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of pedagogical approaches indicates that the systematic inclusion of baxshi heritage in education can contribute to several dimensions of students' development. First, students acquire greater knowledge of national cultural traditions and historical narratives. This knowledge provides a foundation for understanding cultural identity. Second, interaction with epic texts and performances can improve students' communication and interpretation skills. Students learn to listen carefully, analyze artistic content, and express their own opinions. Third, practical activities involving recitation, rhythm, music, and performance can strengthen students' artistic abilities and confidence. Fourth, discussions of moral themes within epic narratives can encourage students to reflect on values such as courage, loyalty,

responsibility, justice, and respect. Another important outcome is the development of intergenerational awareness. Students begin to recognize that cultural heritage is not simply a collection of historical artifacts but a living process transmitted through people, artistic practices, and educational institutions. However, the effectiveness of cultural education depends on the quality of methodological organization[6]. Merely presenting students with information about baxshi art is unlikely to produce deep cultural engagement. Active learning, authentic materials, practical activities, discussion, and independent research are more effective in developing meaningful cultural awareness.

CONCLUSION

The traditional art of baxshi performance possesses considerable educational potential for developing students' cultural awareness, artistic competence, and connection with national heritage. Through epic storytelling, music, poetic expression, and moral narratives, baxshi traditions provide students with access to important elements of historical memory and cultural identity. The integration of baxshi heritage into education should be based on active and student-centered methodologies. Listening, observation, textual analysis, practical performance, project work, comparative study, and digital learning resources can be effectively combined to create a comprehensive educational experience. Particular importance should be given to connecting traditional cultural values with contemporary educational objectives. Therefore, baxshi performance can serve as an effective instrument for cultural education and intergenerational transmission. Its systematic use in the educational process can help develop students who are knowledgeable

about their cultural heritage, respectful of traditional values, aesthetically sensitive, and capable of contributing creatively to the preservation and development of national culture. Students should not merely memorize information about baxshi art; they should learn to interpret, appreciate, discuss, and creatively engage with it.

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