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ISSUES OF INFORMATION SECURITY AND SPIRITUAL STABILITY IN NEW UZBEKISTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract. This article analyzes the interconnection between information security and spiritual stability in Uzbekistan amidst globalization and digital transformation. As a result of the rapid development of modern information and communication technologies, the possibilities for obtaining, creating, and disseminating information in society are expanding significantly. At the same time, new information threats are emerging, such as disinformation, manipulative information, fake news, malicious content, cyber fraud, and synthetic content created based on artificial intelligence. The article analyzes modern initiatives aimed at defining spiritual development as a priority area in the development strategy of New Uzbekistan, access to information, and the development of media competence.
Keywords: New Uzbekistan, globalization, information security, spiritual stability, spiritual immunity, information threat, disinformation, media literacy, digital culture, critical thinking, artificial intelligence.

Introduction. The 21st century is characterized by the acceleration of globalization processes, the widespread use of digital technologies, and the unprecedented acceleration of information exchange. The Internet, social networks, messengers, digital media, and artificial intelligence technologies have fundamentally changed human capabilities for obtaining and using information. At the meeting with the youth in 2017, the head of Uzbekistan spoke about upbringing: "It is known that the upbringing of the younger generation has always been important and relevant." But in the 21st century in which we live, this issue is becoming a matter of life and death. [1] - they did not assert it for nothing.

Today, information has become not only a means of knowledge and communication but also an important factor influencing the social, political, economic, and spiritual life of society. Therefore, the issue of the security of the information space is one of the important conditions for the development of the state and society.

In the process of building a New Uzbekistan, reforms are being implemented to widely introduce digital technologies into various spheres of state and public life, expand access to information, develop education and science, and strengthen the role of civil society institutions and the media.

In the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026, "ensuring spiritual development and elevating the sector to a new level" is designated as a special priority. This strategy considers human dignity, education, civil society, spiritual development, and national security as interconnected directions. [2] This situation indicates the need to approach information security issues in the context of globalization not only from a technical perspective but also as a spiritual and educational process.

Modern forms of information threats differ from traditional threats. While information threats previously primarily manifested as one-sided propaganda or the dissemination of misinformation, in today's digital environment, they can be carried out through algorithmic dissemination, fake accounts, manipulative videos, deepfakes, bots, and content created on the basis of artificial intelligence.

At the multilateral seminar on media and information literacy held in Uzbekistan in 2025, UNESCO emphasized the need to develop citizens' skills in critically evaluating information amid the rise of disinformation and fake content under the influence of digital platforms and artificial intelligence. [3] Thus, in the context of globalization, issues of information security and spiritual stability for Uzbekistan are emerging as complementary concepts.

Methods. Systematic, comparative-analytical, historical-logical, regulatory-legal, and content-analytical methods were used in the study. Information security has been studied as a complex phenomenon based on the interconnection of the individual, society, the state, the education system, the media, and digital platforms. Tasks related to spiritual development, human dignity, education, security, and civil society defined in the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan were analyzed. In the Strategy, spiritual development is defined as a separate priority for the country's development.

Results. In the traditional approach, information security is more closely linked to the technical protection of data, ensuring privacy, and protecting information systems from cyberattacks. In the context of modern globalization, the concept of information security has expanded significantly. It can be conventionally divided into the following four directions:

Technical security: Protection of information systems and devices;

Legal security: protection of the rights of the individual and society in the field of information;

Media Security: Working with reliable and verified information;

Moral security: Resilience of the individual to the influence of harmful and manipulative information.

Modern information security implies not only the technical protection of a person but also the ability to understand, evaluate, and consciously respond to information.

Threats that may be relevant in the digital information space of Uzbekistan can be divided into several groups.

Disinformation is deliberately created or modified false information to mislead people or achieve a specific goal. It can spread quickly on social media, attract users' attention through emotional headlines, and reach a wide audience through repeated sharing.

Manipulative content - Manipulative information is formed by extracting a specific part of factual information, disconnecting it from context, or enhancing emotional impact. The primary goal of such content is often to encourage the user to react quickly rather than to reflect deeply.

Artificial intelligence and deepfake - with the development of artificial intelligence technologies, the possibilities for artificially generating images, audio, and video are also expanding.

When UNESCO discussed the issue of media and information literacy in Uzbekistan in 2025, it specifically noted the increase in disinformation and fake content under the influence of artificial intelligence and digital platforms as a significant problem. This means that for a modern person, the principle of "I have seen, therefore it is true" is no longer sufficient.

In the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, spiritual development is defined as a special priority. This approach allows for the linking of spiritual development with other areas of societal development, including human capital, education, civil society, and security. [4]

In recent years, institutional attention to the issue of media and information literacy has been increasing in Uzbekistan. The development of media literacy demonstrates the need for cooperation between various stakeholders, rather than just journalists or educational institutions themselves.

Youth is one of the social groups most actively interacting with the information flows of globalization. Their active use of the Internet, social networks, and digital platforms creates broad and communicative opportunities. The main means of ensuring the information security of young people is not to block information, but to form an individual who can analyze it independently.

Discussion. Today, the process of globalization is encompassing new territories, regions, and all spheres of activity. As our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted: "In the current situation of increasing globalization and competition in the world, if we do not train highly educated personnel in all fields, we may lag behind progress" [5]. If we take the process of globalization in the information sphere alone, its impact is manifested in the fierce struggle for global leadership and the poisoning of human consciousness, especially the consciousness of the youth. The research results show that the separation of information security and spiritual stability in the context of globalization is methodologically limited.

First, technological protection is necessary but not sufficient. Antivirus, authentication, data protection, and other technical tools help ensure digital security. However, if a person disseminates false information themselves, technical protection cannot solve this problem.

Secondly, spiritual stability and critical thinking are interconnected. It is not enough to possess spiritual values; a person must also be able to analyze information in a modern information environment.

Thirdly, the education system is of decisive importance. In the development strategy of New Uzbekistan, the development of human capital, quality education and spiritual development are identified as priority areas, which directly links this issue with educational policy.

Conclusion. In the context of globalization, the expansion of the information space creates new risks alongside great opportunities for Uzbek society. Disinformation, misinformation, manipulative content, cyber fraud, and synthetic content created with the help of artificial intelligence are imposing new requirements on information security.

The study of information security and spiritual stability as an interconnected process in New Uzbekistan is important from both scientific and practical perspectives. The definition of spiritual development as a special priority in the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan demonstrates the importance of this issue in the development of the state and society.

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