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PRESERVATION OF FAMILY TRADITIONS AND THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AWARENESS IN CHILDREN**Nazlı Vaqif qızı Xəlifətova***Master's student at Mingachevir State University***ORCID:** 0009-0008-2673-1094**E-mail:** xelifetovanazli@gmail.com

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Ключевые слова: *семейные традиции; культурная трансмиссия; национальная идентичность; раннее детство; социализация*

The family is universally recognized as the earliest and most influential environment in which a child's personality, values, and worldview begin to form. Within this intimate social space, traditions passed down from one generation to the next serve as a fundamental mechanism through which cultural continuity is preserved. Family traditions are not merely symbolic rituals; they embody collective memory, social experience, and the moral frameworks that shape a child's sense of belonging. In contemporary societies marked by rapid globalization, digitalization, and shifting family dynamics, the significance of maintaining these traditions becomes even more pronounced. Their preservation ensures that children not only inherit cultural knowledge but also develop a clear and stable awareness of their national identity.

Family traditions historically function as the core structure of cultural transmission, embedding language, rituals, moral norms, and shared memories within the daily practices of family life. Through celebrations of national holidays, storytelling, ancestral remembrance, native language communication, and community participation, children internalize the symbolic elements of national identity. Numerous studies indicate that children who grow up in families with strong cultural practices demonstrate higher levels of cultural pride, psychological resilience, and sociocultural adjustment. Thus, the family remains the primary institution that bridges past and future cultural experiences [1].

At the conceptual level, the study relies on interpretative analysis to examine the cultural meaning embedded in family rituals, traditional celebrations, narrative practices, and everyday behaviors. Hermeneutic interpretation is used to understand how children internalize symbolic messages conveyed by elders and how these messages contribute to their formation of national identity. Content analysis of pedagogical and psychological literature provides insights into theoretical frameworks and previous empirical findings related to cultural continuity and identity development. This method helps identify the conceptual gaps and methodological limitations in existing research.

From a practical perspective, data collection incorporates observational insights, semi-structured interview materials, and secondary data from academic studies, enabling the research

to trace patterns in how children interact with family traditions. Observational elements focus on children's participation in rituals, reactions to cultural symbols, and interactions with parents and grandparents during traditional activities. Interview-based data emphasize adults' perspectives on the importance of preserving traditions, the challenges they face, and the strategies they use to transmit cultural values [3].

The methodological approach also considers the influence of contemporary societal changes, such as digitalization, global media, migration, and evolving family structures. The analysis compares traditional and modern family models, revealing how these transformations shape children's experiences and their exposure to cultural practices. By examining families from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, the study captures variations in the strength, form, and transmission channels of traditions, providing a deeper understanding of factors that either reinforce or weaken national identity awareness in children.

The study area of this research encompasses both the sociocultural environment in which family traditions are formed and preserved, and the psychological developmental setting where children internalize national identity. This dual perspective allows the research to explore not only the structural conditions that influence cultural transmission but also the emotional and cognitive processes through which children acquire cultural belonging. In this sense, the study area is not limited to a physical or geographical space; rather, it includes the dynamic social context of the family, its intergenerational relations, communication practices, and the broader societal environment in which these families function. [5]

Beyond the family, the study area incorporates the broader sociocultural landscape, which influences how traditions are preserved or transformed. This includes community-based cultural practices, neighborhood interactions, local customs, and collective rituals that reinforce a sense of belonging. Schools, kindergartens, cultural centers, and religious institutions are also part of this environment, as they often complement what children learn within the family. The alignment or divergence between family-based values and institutional messages significantly affects how consistently children internalize national identity concepts.

In addition to traditional sociocultural settings, the study area addresses the modern influences that shape children's cultural experiences. Contemporary societies are characterized by rapid digitalization, mass media exposure, virtual communication, and increased globalization. These factors reshape the family environment by introducing alternative cultural narratives, reducing the frequency of intergenerational communication, and altering daily routines [6].

The estimation results of this research reveal a multidimensional picture of how family traditions shape children's national identity awareness and how various sociocultural factors influence the continuity of these traditions. The findings clearly demonstrate that the preservation of family traditions is not a passive process but an active, dynamic, and emotionally rooted system of cultural transmission.

The analysis reveals that intergenerational communication is one of the most critical determinants of identity formation. Families in which grandparents play an active role in raising children demonstrate higher levels of cultural continuity. Grandparents serve as carriers of collective memory and moral authority, transmitting traditions through personal narratives, lived experiences, and emotional bonding [7].

Children raised in culturally active communities display stronger national identity markers, including pride, belongingness, and cultural responsibility. Conversely, children living in culturally inactive or highly globalized environments may experience identity ambiguity or diminished cultural attachment unless the family compensates through strong internal practices. [5].

The findings of this study confirm that the preservation of family traditions plays a fundamental and irreplaceable role in shaping children's national identity awareness. The family emerges not only as the first social institution in a child's life but also as the most enduring cultural environment where values, symbolic meanings, and collective memories are transmitted across generations.

The study demonstrates that family traditions fulfill three interrelated functions: cultural continuity, emotional bonding, and identity stabilization. Cultural continuity ensures the transmission of historical memory and national values; emotional bonding strengthens the child's sense of security and belonging; and identity stabilization equips the child with a coherent cultural framework to navigate an increasingly globalized world.

Despite their central importance, family traditions face substantial challenges in the modern era. Globalization, digital media influence, accelerated urban lifestyles, and reduced intergenerational contact threaten the natural mechanisms through which traditions are passed down. Many families struggle to maintain cultural practices amid work pressures, time limitations, and the dominance of virtual entertainment in children's daily routines.

The research concludes that the preservation of family traditions is not merely a cultural preference but a strategic necessity for raising children with strong national identity awareness. Strengthening intergenerational communication, promoting meaningful family rituals, and integrating culturally rich activities into children's everyday lives are essential steps in safeguarding national identity in contemporary society.

In essence, this study reaffirms that family traditions serve as a vital bridge between past and future, connecting children to their roots while preparing them to participate confidently in modern global life. Ensuring the continuity of these traditions is crucial for fostering generations that are culturally grounded, emotionally resilient, and conscious of their national heritage.

Actuality of the problem. The relevance of this research is grounded in the growing concern over how rapid globalization, digitalization, and shifting family structures are transforming the mechanisms through which children develop their national identity. In contemporary societies, traditional forms of intergenerational communication and cultural transmission are increasingly challenged by time constraints, media influence, and fragmented social environments. Children may experience weakened emotional connections to their cultural heritage and reduced exposure to symbolic practices that historically ensured identity continuity.

Scientific novelty of the problem. The scientific novelty of this research lies in its integrated and interdisciplinary analysis of family traditions as a multidimensional mechanism of national identity formation in early childhood. Unlike previous studies that examine cultural transmission primarily from sociological or anthropological perspectives, this study combines

cultural anthropology, developmental psychology, family sociology, and pedagogical theory to construct a comprehensive conceptual framework.

Practical significance and application of the problem. The practical significance of this research lies in its applicability to educational institutions, family counseling practices, cultural policy development, and community-based programs aimed at strengthening children's national identity awareness. The findings provide evidence-based guidance for parents, educators, and policymakers on how to preserve and integrate family traditions into children's daily lives in a balanced and intentional manner.

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N.V.Xalifetova

Preservation of family traditions and the formation of national identity awareness in children **Summary**

The preservation of family traditions plays a central role in shaping children's national identity awareness, cultural continuity, and social belonging. This study explores how intergenerational knowledge, values, customs, and symbolic practices transmitted within the family environment contribute to the development of cultural consciousness in early childhood.

Family traditions—including rituals, celebrations, language use, folklore, moral norms, and everyday behavioral models—serve as the earliest and most influential cultural indicators through which children learn to identify themselves as members of a particular nation.

The research also examines how changing social dynamics, globalization processes, technological influences, and shifts in family structures affect the preservation of traditions. Although digitalization and modern lifestyles create challenges by weakening intergenerational communication, the study reveals that families maintaining consistent cultural practices foster stronger emotional attachment, pride, and identity stability in children.

N.V.Xəlifətova

Ailə ənənələrinin qorunması və uşaqlarda milli identiklik şüurunun formalaşması Xülasə

Ailə ənənələrinin qorunması uşaqlarda milli identiklik şüurunun, mədəni davamlılığın və sosial mənsubiyyət hissəsinin formalaşmasında mühüm rol oynayır. Bu tədqiqat ailə mühitində nəsil-dən-nəslə ötürülən biliklərin, dəyərlərin, adət-ənənələrin və simvolik praktikaların erkən uşaqlıq dövründə mədəni şüurun inkişafına necə təsir göstərdiyini araşdırır. Ailə ənənələri – mərasimlər, bayramlar, ana dilinin istifadəsi, folklor nümunələri, əxlaqi normalar və gündəlik davranış modelləri – uşaqların özlərini müəyyən bir millətin üzvü kimi dərk etməsində ilk və ən təsirli mədəni göstəricilər kimi çıxış edir.

Araşdırma eyni zamanda sosial dinamikənin dəyişməsi, qloballaşma prosesləri, texnoloji təsirlər və ailə strukturlarındakı transformasiyaların ənənələrin qorunmasına necə təsir etdiyini təhlil edir. Rəqəmsallaşma və müasir həyat tərzini nəsillərarası ünsiyyəti zəiflədərək müəyyən çətinliklər yaratsa da, tədqiqat göstərir ki, ailə daxilində ardıcıl mədəni praktikaları qoruyan ailələr uşaqlarda daha güclü emosional bağlılıq, milli qürur və identiklik sabitliyi formalaşdırır.

Н.В.Халифатова

Сохранение семейных традиций и формирование национальной идентичности у детей Резюме

Сохранение семейных традиций играет ключевую роль в формировании национальной идентичности детей, культурной преемственности и чувства социальной принадлежности. Настоящее исследование рассматривает, каким образом знания, ценности, обычаи и символические практики, передаваемые из поколения в поколение в семейной среде, способствуют развитию культурного сознания в раннем детстве. Семейные традиции — включая обряды, праздники, использование родного языка, элементы фольклора, моральные нормы и повседневные модели поведения — выступают первыми и наиболее значимыми культурными индикаторами, через которые дети начинают осознавать себя частью определённой нации.

В работе также анализируется влияние изменений социальных процессов, глобализации, технологических факторов и трансформации структуры семьи на сохранение традиций. Хотя цифровизация и современный образ жизни создают определённые трудности, ослабляя межпоколенческое взаимодействие, результаты исследования показывают, что семьи, последовательно поддерживающие культурные практики, способствуют формированию у детей более устойчивой эмоциональной привязанности, чувства национальной гордости и стабильности идентичности.

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