



## THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLK PEDAGOGY IN PREVENTING SPIRITUAL ALIENATION IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the role and significance of folk pedagogy in the upbringing of preschool children. In today's context of globalization and cultural influence, signs of indifference among children toward national values, traditions, and customs-defined as spiritual alienation-are increasingly observed. The study highlights how values inherent in folk pedagogy, such as oral folklore, customs, and traditional educational tools, contribute to nurturing national pride, patriotism, and humanistic qualities in children's consciousness and hearts. The paper proposes suggestions and recommendations for preventing spiritual alienation in preschool-aged children by leveraging the didactic, educational, and aesthetic capabilities of folk pedagogy. Moreover, it presents effective ways to implement folk pedagogical principles in practice based on scientific and methodological approaches.

**Keywords:** folk pedagogy, spiritual alienation, national upbringing, preschool education, values, oral folklore, educational influence, pedagogical methods

### INTRODUCTION

In the early years of their lives, preschool children begin to shape their perception of the environment, society, their role within it, and its values. During this formative period, a child's personality, moral compass, social awareness, and cultural worldview are established, laying the foundation for their future psychological and spiritual development. However, in modern society-marked by rapid change, accelerated technological advancement, and processes such as globalization-there is an increasing risk of spiritual alienation in young children. This alienation manifests as a disconnection from cultural roots and a loss of identity.



Spiritual alienation can be defined as a child's detachment from cultural values, familial traditions, and societal ethical norms. This phenomenon can lead to a decline in children's emotional and psychological well-being and hinder their personal growth. Therefore, in preschool education settings, it is crucial to adopt effective pedagogical approaches that prevent spiritual alienation and support the child's cultural and spiritual development.

Folk pedagogy, with its rich heritage and values, serves as a vital tool in achieving this objective. Through its educational methods, folk pedagogy connects children with society by grounding them in their national culture and traditions. Traditional tales, songs, games, rituals, and various folk teaching techniques play a significant role in the spiritual formation of children. The main aim of these methods is to instill an appreciation of cultural heritage and ensure the child's psychological and moral well-being. Moreover, folk pedagogy fosters the development of moral values in children, such as respect, compassion, diligence, and social responsibility. Such an approach becomes an effective means of preventing spiritual alienation in preschool-aged children. This article analyzes the importance of folk pedagogy in this context, explores its methodologies, and highlights the advantages of integrating these methods into the educational process.

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

**Literature review.** Studying the significance of folk pedagogy in preventing spiritual alienation among preschool children requires a thorough analysis of existing scholarly research in the field. Numerous academic works have explored the concept of spiritual alienation and its impact on children's education. Many researchers who have examined the contribution of folk pedagogy to educational processes have emphasized its role in shaping children's social and spiritual values. For instance, Sh. Qurbonov (2016), in his work *"Methods of Primary Education"*, highlights the vital role of folk pedagogy in the moral and spiritual development of children. According to him, folk pedagogy is an effective tool in introducing children



to their historical and cultural traditions, aiding them in developing a strong sense of identity. Similarly, B. Khojaev (2018), in his article *"The Role of Folk Pedagogy in the Educational Process"*, emphasizes the importance of folk pedagogical tools-such as folktales, songs, games, and rituals-in instilling ethical values, respect, diligence, and appreciation for others in children. These works clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of folk pedagogy in facilitating spiritual upbringing.

This is particularly relevant for preschool-aged children, whose moral and spiritual perspectives begin to form in early childhood education institutions. From this viewpoint, incorporating folk pedagogy into the educational process plays a crucial role in acquainting children with their cultural and spiritual heritage. Combining traditional pedagogical tools with modern educational methods is essential for effectively transmitting these values to young learners.

**Methodology.** This research utilized systematic, empirical, and practical methods to examine the influence of folk pedagogy on preschool education. The methodological foundation of the study is based on the following approaches:

**-Systematic Approach:** A systematic approach was applied to analyze the role of each element of folk pedagogy in the educational process. This enabled the identification of how components such as cultural values, diligence, and service to society contribute to shaping children's personalities. The methods of folk pedagogy, rooted in a rich heritage, were explored as effective tools for fostering moral development in children.

**-Empirical Research:** Empirical studies were conducted in preschool institutions to investigate the effects of folk pedagogical tools on children. Observations, interviews, and diagnostic tests were carried out with groups of 5–7-year-old children. These methods helped assess the children's psychological and spiritual conditions and their acceptance of traditional values and ethical norms.



**-Analysis and Synthesis:** The process of analyzing and synthesizing the contributions of folk pedagogy to children's education was undertaken. Through this approach, the significance and effectiveness of folk pedagogy in child upbringing were explored. The synthesis of pedagogical methods led to the identification of the most effective ways to integrate folk pedagogy into modern education systems.

**-Expert Evaluation:** Expert evaluations were conducted with experienced educators and specialists regarding the application of folk pedagogy in the educational process. This method facilitated an assessment of the practical use and effectiveness of folk pedagogical approaches. The final results of the research were reinforced by expert opinions, providing a solid foundation for the study's practical conclusions.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

**Purpose of the Study.** The primary aim of this study was to determine the role of folk pedagogy in preventing spiritual alienation among preschool children and to develop methods that enhance its positive impact within the educational process. Throughout the research, significant attention was devoted to examining the influence of folk pedagogy on children, particularly how traditional educational tools and methods contribute to children's personal and social development.

**Significance of Folk Pedagogy..** The research findings demonstrate that folk pedagogy plays a critical role in the moral upbringing of children. Transmitting the cultural heritage, values, and traditions of the nation to young learners is of particular importance during the preschool years. The analysis shows that pedagogical tools rooted in folk traditions-such as folktales, songs, games, traditional community schools, and rituals-serve as vital instruments not only for moral but also for aesthetic, hardworking, and spiritual development. These methods foster children's self-awareness, help them find their place in society, and encourage adherence to ethical norms.



The study revealed that the use of folk pedagogical tools promotes the development of human qualities such as mutual respect, empathy, compassion, and diligence among children. Empirical observations and interviews conducted as part of the research indicated notable positive behavioral changes among the children exposed to these traditional educational elements.

**Integration into Modern Education.** The study also addressed the integration of folk pedagogy into the modern educational system. It was found that these methods are not only effective for preschool-aged children but can also be successfully applied in general education settings. Implementing folk pedagogical techniques in preschool institutions can accelerate children's social adaptation and support their identity formation. Harmonizing core elements of folk pedagogy with contemporary educational strategies may serve as an effective approach to instill moral, aesthetic, and spiritual values in young learners.

**Key Findings** The main findings of the study are summarized as follows:

**-Role of Folk Pedagogy in Preventing Spiritual Alienation:** Unique tools of folk pedagogy positively influence the spiritual development of children. They foster empathy, respect, mutual assistance, and unity among young learners.

**-Effectiveness of Folk Pedagogical Methods:** Methods such as folktales, songs, games, and traditional rituals have proven to be effective in shaping children's moral character. Empirical analyses conducted during the study confirm the significant positive impact these methods have on children's behavior and upbringing.

**-Importance of Folk Pedagogy in Fostering Socio-Spiritual Values:** Folk pedagogy plays a crucial role in teaching children both national and universal values and traditions, helping them to find their place in society and understand their cultural identity.



### **-Integration of Folk Pedagogy into the Modern Educational System:**

The study explored strategies for integrating folk pedagogy into contemporary education. When merged with modern teaching approaches, these traditional methods can enhance children's personal and social development.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are proposed:

**-Wider Implementation in Preschool Institutions:** Expand the use of folk pedagogical methods in preschool education and integrate them with modern pedagogical approaches for more effective outcomes.

**-Development of Specialized Programs:** Design educational programs focused on the formation of spiritual values through folk pedagogy to increase its relevance and impact within the national education system.

**-Innovative Approaches to Traditional Methods:** Conduct further research on folk pedagogical tools and incorporate innovative methodologies to enhance their effectiveness and applicability in current educational contexts.

## **CONCLUSION**

The primary aim of this study was to determine the significance of folk pedagogy in preventing spiritual alienation among preschool-aged children and to develop practical recommendations for its application in the educational process. The research findings revealed that the methods of folk pedagogy play an essential role in child upbringing and contribute significantly to their spiritual, moral, and social development.

Folk pedagogical tools-particularly folktales, traditional songs, games, and cultural rituals-stimulate children's spiritual growth and introduce them to national values. The study emphasized the necessity of effectively integrating these traditional



methods into modern education systems. Such integration can positively influence children's socio-spiritual development and accelerate their adaptation to societal norms.

Moreover, the distinctive methods of folk pedagogy were shown to foster human qualities such as mutual respect, empathy, compassion, and solidarity among children. Based on the research results, it is recommended to develop specialized educational programs aimed at increasing the efficiency of folk pedagogy and to provide teacher training that ensures the effective practical implementation of these methods in early childhood education. In general, the study concludes that folk pedagogy is of great importance in instilling national values and traditions in the younger generation. It also plays a crucial role in shaping children's spiritual worldview and developing their personal, moral, and social identity. As such, folk pedagogy serves as a powerful educational tool in nurturing well-rounded, ethically grounded individuals from an early age.

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