



THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE HERITAGE OF ABU RAYHAN BERUNI IN EDUCATING STUDENTS IN THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM

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Abstract

This article examines the role and importance of the scientific and creative heritage of Abu Rayhan Beruni in the development of the modern system of education and upbringing, particularly in educating the younger generation, including students, in the spirit of patriotism within the education system of our country. It also highlights that reforms carried out in the economic, social, spiritual, and educational spheres have been elevated to the level of state policy.

Keywords: Young generation, student, school, youth, science, education, upbringing, consciousness, thinking, patriot, patriotism, spirituality, enlightenment, heritage, creativity.

Main Text

After our people gained independence, within a historically short period significant achievements were attained in the economic, socio-political, and spiritual-educational spheres of our society. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev No. PF-5712 “On Approval of the Concept for the Development of the Public Education System until 2030” [1], as well as the Decree No. PF-5847 dated October 8, 2019, “On Approval of the Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of



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the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030” [2], improving the quality of education and upbringing in both the public and higher education systems, improving the existing regulatory and legal framework, further enhancing the international reputation of public and higher education institutions, and ensuring the active participation of future national specialists in large-scale reforms being implemented in the country are among the most pressing issues of today.

Accordingly, in shaping the consciousness and thinking of students and educating them in the spirit of patriotism, studying the political and historical role and significance of the scientific and creative heritage of Abu Rayhan Beruni in the development of the modern education and upbringing system is an urgent necessity. These needs are closely and inseparably linked with our contemporary society and way of life, which are based on market relations and aimed at building a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

In today’s rapidly globalizing world, enriching the consciousness and spiritual thinking of young people and fostering patriotic feelings among them has been elevated to the level of state policy in the socio-economic, political, and spiritual-educational spheres implemented in our country. In this regard, the First President of Uzbekistan I. A. Karimov stated:

“We are mobilizing all our strength and capabilities so that our people are not inferior to anyone in the world and so that our children grow up stronger, more knowledgeable, wiser, and undoubtedly happier than us. In this process, the issue of spiritual upbringing undoubtedly has incomparable significance. If we lose our vigilance and sensitivity, determination, and sense of responsibility in this matter, and leave this extremely important task to chance, we may lose our sacred values, the spirituality nourished by them, and our historical memory, and ultimately deviate from the path of universal development we aspire to” [3].

Today, as the global community continues to develop rapidly, the serious attention and importance given by our President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev and the state to issues of education and upbringing in the spheres of spirituality and enlightenment, the tasks of strengthening and preserving independence, and the need to carry out consistent efforts to explain to young students—who represent a healthy and



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spiritually mature generation—the true purpose, essence, and meaning of life, are dictated by life itself and remain highly relevant. A clear proof of this is the adoption of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 311 dated July 24, 1998, “On Measures to Further Deepen Spiritual and Educational Reforms and Increase Their Effectiveness” [4]. While defining the priority directions of development of our republic, this resolution identifies the elevation of society’s spirituality as its main priority.

Speaking of spirituality, the First President of the independent Republic of Uzbekistan I. A. Karimov emphasized: “I primarily understand spirituality as a powerful inner force that calls a person to spiritual purification and elevation, enriches their inner world, strengthens their faith, will, and conviction, and awakens their conscience” [5]. It is widely recognized today that no developed society can exist without spirituality, and that the progress of any advanced society is achieved through educating young people who possess high moral thinking and consciousness, are devoted to their homeland and people, think independently, can responsibly and consciously solve complex problems, are inquisitive and innovative, loyal, and patriotic. As our people say, “Spirituality is the strength and power of a person, a nation, and a society. Where there is no spirituality, there can never be happiness.”

Most encouragingly, even today, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev continues to attach great importance to this issue. This is because the three pillars of our independence—independent national policy, economic strength, and the spirituality of the people—are interconnected and must develop harmoniously. From ancient times, educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism has been the cherished aspiration of our great scholars. This is clearly evidenced by the study of the scientific and creative heritage of the great encyclopedic thinker Abu Rayhan Beruni.

Our ancestor Beruni was a remarkably talented and diligent researcher who made an immense contribution to the development of world science. His immortal scientific works have held great significance in world civilization and continue to serve as a guiding source in the fields of science and enlightenment today. Abu



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Rayhan Beruni devoted his entire life to science, and even during his lifetime he was recognized as one of the most renowned scholars and thinkers of his era. One of his contemporaries, the historian Yaqut, wrote: “Beruni made an extraordinarily great contribution to the development of science. No one like him has yet been created by time in intellect and enlightenment.”

Today, life itself demonstrates the great importance of the teachings and advice expressed by Beruni in his time for educating students and instilling patriotism in them. In particular, his views on the methods and ways of acquiring scientific knowledge remain relevant today. In teaching students, Beruni emphasized the importance of:

- not boring the learner;
- avoiding the constant repetition of the same subject or discipline;
- presenting new topics in an engaging and illustrative manner, closely connected with real life, and similar approaches.

He attached special importance to learning through understanding and observing purity, advancing the idea that societal progress depends on the development of enlightenment. Beruni believed that education should correspond to a person’s psychological state and abilities and should not cause fatigue. He wrote: “Our goal is not to exhaust the learner. Constantly studying the same thing becomes boring and wears out patience. If a student moves from one subject to another, it is like walking through diverse gardens: as soon as one garden ends, another begins. A person wishes to see and enjoy them all. It is not without reason that it is said: ‘Every new thing brings pleasure.’”

Beruni condemned evil in human life and despised it. According to him, the main way to eliminate this vice is to identify and uproot its roots. Evil has many branches, but its foundation consists of three things: greed, anger, and ignorance. If these foundations are removed, the branches wither away. The basis of these vices lies in appetite and anger. Appetite is the strongest and most destructive enemy of humans, deceiving them with the pleasure of food and the desire for revenge. According to the scholar, these vices lead to suffering and sin, and a



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person who succumbs to them loses their human essence. Beruni likened such people to predators, four-legged beasts, or even devils and demons.

Beruni exalted truthfulness and honesty, condemning falsehood as a vice that causes discord among people. He believed that it is preferable for a person to verify information with their own eyes and have a clear understanding of it. Beruni equated truthfulness with justice, stating that just as people love justice, they also love truthfulness, though those who do not understand its essence and appeal cannot truly love it. Emphasizing the superiority of humans over all other beings, Beruni advanced the idea that a person's primary duty is to achieve their goals through labor and to encounter goodness through doing good.

In his works such as "*Chronology of Ancient Nations*," "*India*," "*Mineralogy*," "*Kitab as-Saydana*," "*Al-Qanun al-Mas'udi*," "*Geodesy*," and others, Abu Rayhan Beruni emphasized the important role of moral education that promotes patriotism in human development. According to him, patriotism and morality should be among the most fundamental qualities of a person. These traits do not form instantly but develop through social interaction, the social environment, and the process of societal development, manifesting as a result of the struggle between good and evil. Good and evil serve as criteria that shape human behavior. Positive qualities include honesty, justice, self-restraint, modesty, kindness, perseverance, caution, generosity, eloquence, fairness in leadership, and entrepreneurship. Negative traits include hostility, envy, stinginess, unhealthy competition, selfishness, careerism, and excessive ambition.

Beruni used pride in a positive sense and wrote in "*Chronology of Ancient Nations*":

"True pride consists in excelling in noble character and high morals, acquiring knowledge and wisdom, and purifying oneself from existing impurities as much as possible. Whoever possesses such qualities will be judged in their favor, and whoever lacks them will be judged against them."

Every morally beautiful and harmonious individual can make their way of life both balanced and graceful. Harmony is the foundation of beauty and elegance. Beruni stated that among human qualities, cleanliness and good manners are most



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important, and that the closest thing to a person is their nature and spirit. Therefore, a person should engage in activities that suit their nature. He emphasized the harmony between a person's inner world and external beauty, including clothing, daily behavior, speech, heart, and actions. The development of modesty, refinement, taste, chastity, grace, and eloquence in every individual leads to a more beautiful life.

The thinker's views on ethical norms of human life are pedagogically significant in educating young people in the spirit of patriotism. Abu Rayhan Beruni left an immensely rich scientific and creative heritage for today's younger generation. It is known that he authored and translated more than 160 works across various fields of science. From the nineteenth century onward, interest in Beruni's legacy expanded widely in Europe and Asia. His works were translated into Latin, French, Italian, German, English, Persian, and Turkish. Numerous European and Asian scholars highly praised his contributions. The American historian George Sarton regarded Beruni as the foremost scholar of his era, while the prominent orientalist V. R. Rosen noted the extraordinary breadth of his scientific views and their alignment with the true spirit of modern science.

Indian scholars also highly appreciated Beruni's immense contribution to the study of Indian philosophy, science, and customs. Russian scholars likewise showed great interest in his legacy, publishing numerous works dedicated to his life and scholarship. In independent Uzbekistan, Beruni's legacy continues to receive significant attention. Many distinguished historians have authored studies about his work, international conferences have been held in his honor, and his major works have been published in Uzbek and Russian. Today, streets and institutions bear his name, and a State Prize in science named after Beruni has been established.

Conclusion

In conclusion, every young generation living on the soil of our country and considering themselves patriotic must study and carefully preserve the scientific and creative heritage of our great thinkers, including Abu Rayhan Beruni, in order



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to safeguard the unity and integrity of our nation. It is necessary to instill in the consciousness and thinking of every student the understanding that achieving the goals they set for themselves depends on their own efforts; that is, it relies on their perseverance and determination, complete dedication, boundless diligence, as well as the maturity of their political awareness and spiritual thinking.

“We have set ourselves the great goal of laying the foundation for the Third Renaissance in our country. To achieve this, we must create an environment and conditions that will nurture new Khwarizmis, Berunis, Ibn Sinas, Mirzo Ulugbeks, Navoiys, and Baburs. First of all, the development of education and upbringing, the establishment of a healthy lifestyle, and the advancement of science and innovation should serve as the main pillars of our national idea” [6]. All of these are considered the fundamental conditions for the progress of our state and the well-being of our people. This, in turn, directly depends on the correct and effective practical use of the scientific and creative heritage of our past scholars, including Abu Rayhan Beruni, in educating students in the spirit of patriotism.

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