



## EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE ART OF BAKHSHI PERFORMANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SURKHANDARYA'S MUSICAL CULTURE

*Irnazarov Oybek Yuldashovich*

*Lecturer dots., Department of Musical Mastery and Culture,*

*Termiz State Pedagogical Institute*

[irnazarov79@gmail.ru](mailto:irnazarov79@gmail.ru)

***Abstract:** This article provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the educational role and significance of the art of bakhshi performance in the development of Surkhandarya's musical culture. As an important component of oral folk creativity, the bakhshi tradition serves as a key factor in the spiritual and moral upbringing of the younger generation, fostering national self-awareness and shaping aesthetic taste. The article highlights the bakhshi schools specific to the Surkhandarya region, their distinctive performance styles, and their potential within the educational process.*

***Keywords:** Surkhandarya musical culture, art of bakhshi performance, folklore, national values, spiritual education, traditional performance.*

### **Introduction**

The Surkhandarya region, located in southern Uzbekistan, is distinguished by its rich cultural heritage, folklore traditions, and musical schools. In particular, the art of bakhshi performance occupies a special place in the region's musical culture. Epics (dastans), lyrical recitations (termas), and epic songs performed by bakhshis embody the historical memory, spiritual values, and moral views of the people.

In the context of globalization, preserving national culture and transmitting it to the younger generation has become an urgent task. From this perspective, the



scientific study of the educational potential of the art of bakhshi performance is of particular importance.

## Main Part

The historical and cultural foundations of the art of bakhshi performance have been revered since ancient times. Bakhshi performance represents the epic branch of oral folk creativity, expressing ideas such as heroism, patriotism, love, loyalty, and historical events. The Surkhandarya school of bakhshi performance is distinguished by its powerful vocal range, dramatic expressiveness, and unique style of epic narration. Among Uzbek epic traditions, the epic Alpomish holds a special place. For centuries, this epic work has been performed by bakhshis, serving to educate young people in the spirit of courage, patriotism, and devotion. The educational potential of bakhshi performance is broad and multifaceted. It fulfills the following functions:

1. **Spiritual and moral education** – The ideas of kindness, justice, and bravery reflected in epics shape the moral qualities of youth.
2. **Development of patriotism** – Through the images of historical heroes, national pride and self-awareness are strengthened.
3. **Aesthetic education** – Musical melodies, poetic texts, and dramatic expression contribute to the development of artistic taste.
4. **Enhancement of speech and thinking culture** – The artistic richness of epic texts expands linguistic competence and intellectual capacity.

During the performance process, young people also acquire patience, stage culture, and creative thinking skills. The bakhshi traditions formed in Surkhandarya are regarded not only as a musical-aesthetic phenomenon but also as a socio-cultural one. This art form has developed in close connection with the lifestyle, customs, rituals, and worldview of the local population. Performances at village gatherings, weddings, and seasonal celebrations have historically strengthened social cohesion.



The Surkhandarya school is characterized by natural vocal power, dramatic interpretation, the integration of epic text with musical intonation, and improvisational elements. In this process, the bakhshi appears not only as a performer but also as a storyteller, actor, and spiritual mentor. The live communicative environment created during performances enhances their educational impact.

The principle of intergenerational continuity plays a crucial role in bakhshi art. Through the master-apprentice tradition, knowledge and performance skills are transmitted from one generation to another, fostering responsibility, discipline, and dedication among young performers.

Today, integrating bakhshi art into the modern education system has gained particular importance. Studying epic excerpts within folklore lessons, conducting musical analysis, and interpreting character systems develop students' analytical and aesthetic thinking. In music and art schools, practical training in bakhshi performance styles enhances students' artistic competence. Cultural events and competitions organized in the region also contribute to encouraging young bakhshis. In particular, the International Bakhshi Art Festival held in Termez since 2019 demonstrates that this tradition is recognized not only regionally but also internationally. Another important aspect of bakhshi art is its psychological and educational influence. Complex life situations, moral choices, and trials reflected in epic texts encourage independent thinking and sound decision-making. Positive qualities of epic heroes serve as personal ideals for youth. Moreover, bakhshi art contributes to the development of language culture. Poetic expressions, archaic words, and artistic devices used in epics enrich vocabulary and strengthen oral fluency, especially when integrated with mother tongue and literature subjects.

## **Literature Review and Methods**

In folklore and ethnomusicological research, bakhshi art is evaluated as an important institution preserving historical and cultural memory. Particular attention to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at the international level, especially through initiatives of UNESCO, has further increased the importance of



traditional performing arts. The research employed historical-comparative, analytical, and observational methods. The repertoire and pedagogical activities of bakhshis in Surkhandarya were studied, and elements of pedagogical experimentation were used to evaluate the effectiveness of integrating epic materials into education. The analysis indicates that while bakhshi art has been widely studied from folkloristic and art historical perspectives, its educational potential has not been sufficiently examined pedagogically. Therefore, systematic research and the development of methodological recommendations remain urgent tasks.

## Results and Discussion

The findings demonstrate that the art of bakhshi performance plays an important role in developing Surkhandarya's musical culture by:

- ensuring continuity of the regional musical school;
- strengthening national identity among youth;
- serving as an effective educational tool in spiritual and educational activities;
- contributing to cultural tourism and international cultural relations.

Integrating bakhshi art into general education and specialized music schools enhances respect for national values. Studying epic excerpts, organizing creative meetings with bakhshis, and conducting practical workshops produce effective results.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the art of bakhshi performance serves as a significant spiritual and educational factor in the development of Surkhandarya's musical culture. It contributes not only to preserving musical heritage but also to educating the younger generation in a national spirit, shaping their aesthetic taste, and ensuring their spiritual maturity. Future research should focus on deeper scientific study of bakhshi traditions, harmonizing them with modern pedagogical technologies, and supporting young performers.



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