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PRESERVING CULTURAL TRADITIONS THROUGH EDUCATION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF UKRAINE AND JAPAN

Introduction. Amid the growing interaction of diverse cultures, the issue of preserving national identity takes on particular significance. Cultural traditions serve as the foundation that ensures every nation's uniqueness, while schools act as key institutions responsible for transmitting these traditions to future generations. Through various educational programmes, celebrations, and cultural events, schools help foster a sense of pride in young people for their homeland.

Ukraine and Japan, nations with distinct historical and cultural paths, demonstrate unique approaches to preserving traditions through education. By analysing educational practices, events, and innovative methods in both countries, one can identify effective models for integrating cultural heritage into modern educational processes.

The study aims to analyse and compare the role of schools in Ukraine and Japan in preserving cultural traditions.

Schools are crucial in preserving cultural traditions and shaping national identity in both countries. In Ukraine, this process is centred on fostering patriotism through studying history, literature, and ethnography. Students actively engage in learning traditional crafts such as pysanka painting, making motanka dolls, and participating in customary rituals [3]. Emphasis is also placed on studying the works of classical Ukrainian writers, including Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, and Lesia Ukrainka, which instil a sense of belonging to a resilient and talented nation.

In Japan, educational practices focus on integrating traditions into everyday life. Lessons in calligraphy (書道, shodō), tea ceremony (茶の湯, chanoyu), and

origami (折り紙) not only transmit cultural knowledge but also nurture patience, attention to detail, and a harmonious worldview. A distinctive feature of the Japanese approach is the seamless combination of tradition with modernity, enabling young people to remain connected to their cultural roots even amidst rapid technological advancements [1].

School celebrations in both countries serve as a means of transmitting cultural values. In Ukraine, special attention is given to national and religious holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and Independence Day [3]. On these occasions, students participate in themed activities such as poetry recitals, competitions, workshops, and festive performances, strengthening their bond with cultural heritage and fostering a sense of unity. In Japan, school festivals, such as the celebration of 紅葉 (Momiji, Maple Leaf Day) or 正月 (Shōgatsu, New Year), highlight the connection between nature and culture. Students create traditional poetry, dances, and decorations, helping them better understand their roots and feel part of an ancient and majestic culture [2].

In a world characterised by active globalisation, nations face the challenge of adapting traditions to contemporary realities and technologies. In Ukraine, new forms of celebration have emerged, including online contests, webinars on traditional crafts, interactive exhibitions, engaging lectures from national museum representatives, and various online initiatives, enabling young people to participate in cultural events from anywhere in the world [5]. Multimedia resources such as thematic documentaries and mobile applications encourage younger generations to explore national culture conveniently and captivatingly. Similarly, Japan integrates modern technology into its educational processes. For instance, calligraphy and tea ceremony lessons are held online, while collaboration between schools and cultural centres creates interactive spaces for exploring traditions.

Numerous academic studies underscore the importance of celebrations and educational programmes in shaping national identity. In Ukraine, commemorating state events such as Constitution Day or Ukrainian Statehood

Day fosters unity and patriotism among young people. In Japan, the educational system is rooted in cultural aesthetics and a connection with nature, contributing to the development of balanced and well-rounded individuals [1].

A comparison of Ukraine's and Japan's approaches reveals their unique values: the Ukrainian system prioritises historical memory and national consciousness, aiming to cultivate respect for heritage. In contrast, the Japanese system emphasises aesthetic appreciation and the development of balance in all aspects of life. Both countries employ different yet equally effective methods for shaping national identity and preserving cultural heritage.

Conclusion. In conclusion, educational institutions are a vivid example of effectively integrating national history and traditions into the learning process. They play a crucial role in preserving authentic cultural values in the modern world. The experiences of both countries demonstrate that education can be a powerful tool for safeguarding cultural identity and passing it on to future generations, contributing to the harmonious development of individuals in the context of globalisation.

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