

DEVELOPMENT AND HISTORY OF NATIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: *The article examines the development and support of national crafts to the level of state policy. Opinions were expressed on the importance of legal and regulatory documents adopted by the President of Uzbekistan. The article highlights the relevance of the topic, scientific novelty, the measures taken to further develop the national handicrafts, the practical aspects of the problems that need to be addressed today. The Fergana Valley has long been one of the main centers of handicrafts in the region. the development of pottery, goldsmithing is covered.*

Keywords: *money changer, weaver, potter, coppersmith, craftsman, applied arts, wood carving, knife making, pottery, jewelry, tourism, apprentice.*

1. Relevance:

As far as we know, in the history of Movarounnahr in the 9th-12th centuries, crafts played an important role in the country. A majestic palace, a mosque, a madrasah, a prayer hall, a khanaka and caravanserais, as well as workshops have been erected. The cities expanded and were surrounded by a single arched wall (horde), shahristan (inner city) and rabod (outer city), which appeared in the early Middle Ages, and the number of city gates increased. In the center of the city were the Registan Square, the wall, the court palace, as well as the luxurious palaces of the nobility, courtiers, priests, landowners and wealthy merchants, royal weapons, tools, saddle making workshops, craft workshops and stalls. Cities are expanding, and new neighborhoods of artisans, artisans, and bazaars are emerging along their entrances. The neighborhoods had homes and shops for jewelers, money changers, weavers, potters, coppersmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, and other artisans. At the same time, Bukhara, Samarkand, Old Gurganj, Merv, Binkat, Kesh, Nasaf, Ah-sikat became major centers of medieval craftsmanship. According to Narshahi, in the IX century there was a large textile enterprise "Bayt ut-tiroz" near the Bukhara arch. It is woven with precious colored fabrics, palos, curtains, pillowcases, bedspreads and outerwear. In Samarkand, copper, jewelry and sarroj are more developed. Various fabrics, chimpanzees, silk and handkerchiefs were woven, and high-grade paper was produced. Shosh was famous for its daily products and leather goods, while Ilaq was famous for its silver and lead mines and its silver coinage. Khorezm also plays an important role in the economic life of Movarounnahr. Here, along with other areas of handicrafts, boat-building is developing. Boats made in Khorezm and Termez regularly transported cargo along the Amudarya¹.

¹ Шониёзов К. “Ўзбек халқининг шаклланиш жараёни”. Т., “Шарқ”, 2001, 266-бет

The Uzbek people, with their rich cultural heritage, have been engaged in various crafts. Ancient written literature, a number of works by medieval authors, and historical sources contain information about the types of crafts and the fact that crafts were an integral part of social life. Craft production is one of the key factors in the development of society and artisans are seen as a social class with a special status. The devices created by them reflect the way of life of the people, and rare works of art adorn the palaces of the rulers and attract the attention of other nations. Over the centuries, national handicrafts have improved under the influence of various factors.

In Uzbekistan, during the Soviet era, the development of the national handicrafts, which had developed over the centuries, was dealt a severe blow. Neglect of the handicrafts, treating it only as an example of an exhibition, especially an artificial barrier to the development of handicrafts of the Uzbek people - marked the essence of the policy of the Soviet government in this area. This led to the decline of national crafts. It can be said that since 1991, national handicrafts, cultural heritage of the people, preservation of traditional national values, care for craftsmen have risen to the level of state policy in Uzbekistan. Preservation and development of national culture, restoration of tradition in the production of handicrafts has become a natural process.

The urgency of the topic is to study the problems in the field, the level of employment of young people and their effective work in national crafts, ways to develop domestic and foreign tourism, the international manifestation of folk crafts as Uzbek national heritage, the analysis of its tasks and objectives. show is now important both scientifically and practically. The main scientific novelty of the article is an objective assessment of the role of handicrafts in the social and economic life of our country and the role of national handicrafts in world culture.

2. Level of study and methods:

The article discusses the issue of raising the level of attention to the development of national handicrafts in Uzbekistan since 1991 to the level of state policy, the measures taken in this area, innovations and the revival of handicraft traditions based on the principles of comparative analysis. It is noteworthy that a group of politicians, economists, art historians and historians, based on the methodological principles of historiography, have tried to get rid of old beliefs in a comprehensive study of the subject. Scientific articles and literature published in periodicals are important for the essence of the issue. Economists and lawyers have published a number of articles on the development of national handicrafts and their prospects in popular scientific journals. Research has also been conducted in the fields of pedagogy and psychology. B. from foreign researchers. B. Mexyu, Klaus Pander, G. Blum, J. Nobl, D. Starnes It has also been mentioned in the research work of et al².

3. Research results:

² Pander K. Zentralasien. Ostfildern: DuMont Reiseverlag. 2005. B. 384; Judith Peltz. Usbekistan entdecken. Berlin. 2007. - B. 290

In Uzbekistan, national handicrafts, cultural heritage of the people, preservation of traditional national values, care for craftsmen have risen to the level of state policy. Preservation and development of national culture, restoration of tradition in the production of handicrafts has become a natural process. In order to fully support the national handicrafts, a number of funds and associations have been established in the country. The decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and government decisions are of great importance in the development of folk arts and crafts.

On March 24, 1997, the Decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov "On measures of state support for the further development of folk arts and crafts" was published³. According to the decree, one of the important tasks is to provide practical assistance to local craftsmen who produce high-quality handicrafts at home. In order to provide economic support to artisans, they were exempted from income tax for up to five years, and the duty on folk handicrafts exported from the republic was abolished. This decree raised the development of handicrafts to a higher level. At the same time, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 31, 1997 "On measures to support the further development of folk arts and crafts" through the state has become important⁴. Opportunities have been used to increase the role of folk arts and crafts in the development of national culture, to revive the centuries-old traditions and types of handicrafts and to provide state support to folk artisans. At the same time, to provide moral and material assistance to folk artisans who produce art at home in a market economy, providing them with local raw materials, tools and small mechanization, holding exhibitions and auctions, organizing a network of specialized shops for the sale of finished products practical work has been done for. In particular, the provision of practical assistance in creating the necessary conditions for the training of young people in the skills of masters of folk art is one of the most important tasks of local governments, ministries and departments. From April 1, 1997, the exemption from income tax for a period of 5 years for individuals engaged in individual labor in the production of national handicrafts and applied arts in the home environment, duly registered with authorities and tax authorities, has become extremely important for the handicraft industry⁵. In order to encourage the services of the best representatives of national crafts and applied arts and their contribution to the further development of national culture and the training of talented students, the honorary title of "People's Master of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was established on May 1, 1998⁶.

It should be noted that the attention to national crafts has increased significantly. Proof of this is the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 1, 2008 "On additional measures to stimulate the development of folk arts and crafts⁷."

³ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Олий Мажлисининг Ахборотномаси. Тошкент.: 1997 йил.март. №3. - Б.21-22.

⁴ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Олий Мажлисининг Ахборотномаси. Тошкент.: 1997 йил.март. №3. - Б.21-22.

⁵ Халқ сўзи. 1998 йил. 3 май.

⁶ Халқ сўзи. 2008 йил 4 апрел.

⁷ <https://lex.uz/docs/1334899>

Encouraging the further development of folk arts and crafts, creating favorable conditions for the involvement of the general population, especially young people, in the field of folk art is becoming increasingly important in public policy. Also, the exemption from fixed taxes until April 1, 2010 of individuals engaged in individual labor activity in the production of folk arts and crafts at home, created new opportunities for more rapid and effective development of the industry.

Thanks to the attention paid by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, a new era in the development of national crafts has begun. This process is especially evident in his policy on the development of handicrafts and tourism. It envisages comprehensive coverage of the ancient history and cultural life of our people, wide demonstration of the multifaceted Uzbek national handicrafts, which are our intangible cultural heritage, and promotion of its unique examples. In addition, in order to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between different peoples, strengthen cultural and humanitarian ties at the international level, preserve and revive the professional traditions and schools of handicrafts passed down from generation to generation, the President of Uzbekistan signed a decree on November 17, 2017. The Decree "On measures for the development and comprehensive support of artisans" serves as an important guide in this regard. The document identifies the following as the main directions of further development of national handicrafts, folk arts and crafts in the country: increase efficiency, and on this basis create new jobs; secondly, assistance to craft entities in state registration, allocation of land and buildings, connection to engineering and communication networks, uninterrupted supply of equipment, tools, raw materials and materials, implementation of effective measures to provide them with soft loans; third, the establishment of craft development centers in cities and districts with a wide range of folk crafts and creative traditions, the restoration and further development of unique types of crafts, the formation of market infrastructure for the supply of handicrafts to consumers; fourth, to encourage the export of handicrafts, to promote the presentation of national handicrafts at exhibitions and fairs abroad.

On November 1, 2018, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev adopted a resolution "On preparations for the II - International Crafts Festival⁸." It can be said that on November 1, 2018, every two years in Kokand to organize the International Crafts Festival, for the first time this festival and a scientific-practical conference on "Prospects for the development of crafts and folk arts" on September 10-15, 2019. The resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted. Also, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on August 23, 2021 adopted a resolution on holding the International Ceramics Forum and Exhibition and Trade of Ceramic Products. Today, about 2,000 artisans work in Fergana region. 304 projects aimed at developing handicrafts in 2018-2019 are being implemented in the region. The

⁸ <https://lex.uz/docs/4082255>

international festival “Atlas holiday”, which is traditionally held in Margilan, plays a special role in the promotion of national handicrafts around the world.

The traditional International Crafts Festival in Kokand, initiated by the head of our state, will serve to continue the work in this direction at a new stage.

The city of Kokand has long been known as a place of national handicrafts, and the values of handicrafts are passed down from generation to generation. Students are diligently learning ancient crafts such as wood carving, knife-making, carving, and blacksmithing. At present, significant work is being done to develop the industry and increase tourism. For example, a handicraft and tourism complex is being built in the city. The Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan and the Craftsmen's Association are implementing the project "Master-Apprentice: Kokand Experience". President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoev took part in the opening ceremony of the festival of handicrafts and delivered a speech. 111 prestigious organizations from 72 countries have registered to participate in this international festival. In particular, more than 200 artisans from 5 continents participated in 24 directions. It should be noted that the city of Kokand was recently awarded the title of "City of World Craftsmen." Only 30 cities in the world have been awarded the title of World Craftsman City since 2014. Kokand was the thirty-first city to be awarded the title and the first city in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

(World Craft Council) The World Craft Council was established in 1964. The international organization works to develop world crafts, exchange experiences between craftsmen, further expand cooperation between organizations working in the field of handicrafts and support artisans. In March 2019, the Association of Craftsmen of the Republic of Uzbekistan became a member of the World Council of Craftsmen.

The fact that in July 2021, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu visited Uzbekistan during his visit to Uzbekistan, especially in the Fergana Valley and Kokand, is a clear evidence of the fact that our country's handicrafts are in the spotlight of foreign countries⁹.

4. Conclusions:

The development of any nation is determined by the level of its culture and art. In turn, the attitude of the state to culture and art determines the level of development of society. During the years of independence, the social status of craftsmen has significantly increased. Preservation of national values of the Uzbek people, restoration and promotion of forgotten traditions in national crafts have risen to the level of state policy. In particular, the title of "People's Master" of Uzbekistan was established and a number of craftsmen were awarded the title of "academic".

In the context of the development of the tourism industry and the market economy in Uzbekistan, a market for the production of national handicrafts has been formed. National handicrafts formed the basis of the gift market, that is, the basis of the

⁹ <https://daryo.uz/2021/07/16/turkiya-tashqi-ishlar-vaziri-mevlut-chavushoglunging-fargonaga-tashrifi-suratlarda/>

handicraft trade. Organizations and associations such as “Usto”, “Ustozoda”, “Hunarmand”, “Musavvir” were opened in the republic, and their regional branches were established.

Due to Uzbekistan's economic, social and cultural ties in the international arena, it pays special attention to the promotion of folk handicrafts as a national heritage, thus gaining a place in the system of modern civilization and contributing to world culture.

There is also a growing focus on national crafts in countries around the world, which has aroused great interest, especially in Europe and America. The trade of national handicrafts in the markets of the world countries is growing and developing. As a result, the income of artisans and home-based workers is increasing and their economic situation is improving.

In conclusion, it can be observed that the development of national crafts has reached a new stage in public policy. Measures are being taken to support craftsmen and masters, to improve the activities of teacher-student schools, to promote vocational education, to improve domestic and foreign tourism, and to create new jobs.

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