

IDEOLOGICAL SECURITY AND IMPACT OF THE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT IN EDUCATION

ИДЕОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ И ВЛИЯНИЕ ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЙ СРЕДЫ В ОБРАЗОВАНИИ

TƏHSİLDƏ İDEOLOJİ TƏHLÜKƏSİZLİK VƏ İNFORMASIYA MÜHİTİNİN TƏSİRLƏRİ

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Abstract. In the modern era, the education system not only serves the function of transmitting knowledge and skills but also acts as a strategic platform for shaping the ideological resilience, national identity, and social responsibility of young people. Rapid globalization and digitalization expand the information environment, directly influencing youth worldviews, value systems, and behavioral models. Within this context, the concept of ideological security in education encompasses the protection of national and moral values, the neutralization of foreign destructive ideological influences, and the development of critical thinking skills.

Keywords: ideological security, information environment, education system, national identity, media literacy, civic education.

Аннотация. В ходе современной эпохи система образования выполняет не только функцию передачи знаний и навыков, но и выступает стратегической платформой формирования идеологической устойчивости, национальной идентичности и социальной ответственности молодежи. Быстрая глобализация и цифровизация расширяют информационную среду, оказывая прямое влияние на мировоззрение, систему ценностей и модели поведения молодежи. В этом контексте понятие идеологической безопасности в образовании включает защиту национально-нравственных ценностей, нейтрализацию внешних деструктивных идеологических влияний и развитие критического мышления.

Ключевые слова: идеологическая безопасность, информационная среда, система образования, национальная идентичность, медиаграмотность, гражданское воспитание

Xülasə. Müasir dövrdə təhsil sistemi yalnız bilik və bacarıqların ötürülməsi funksiyasını yerinə yetirmir, eyni zamanda gənclərin ideoloji dayanıqlığını, milli kimliyini və sosial məsuliyyətini formalaşdıran strateji platforma kimi çıxış edir. Qloballaşma və rəqəmsallaşmanın sürətli inkişafı informasiya mühitini genişləndirərək gənclərin dünyagörüşünə, dəyərlər sisteminə və davranış modellərinə birbaşa təsir göstərir. Bu kontekstdə təhsildə ideoloji təhlükəsizlik anlayışı, milli-mənəvi dəyərlərin qorunması, xarici destruktiv ideoloji təsirlərin neytrallaşdırılması və tənqidi düşüncə bacarıqlarının inkişafı kimi komponentləri əhatə edir.

Açar sözlər: ideoloji təhlükəsizlik, informasiya mühiti, təhsil sistemi, milli identiklik, media savadlılığı, vətəndaşlıq tərbiyəsi

In the modern era, concept of national security is not limited solely to the military and political dimensions but functions as a complex system encompassing ideological, informational, and cultural spheres. Globalization, digitalization, and rapid development of information technologies directly influence on the societies' worldviews, value systems, and social behavior patterns. In this regard, the education system acts not only as a mechanism

for knowledge transmission but also as a strategic environment where ideological stability, national identity, and social cohesion are shaped.

Ideological security in education refers to the preservation of national and moral values, constitutional principles, statehood ideals, and the historical memory of society, as well as the neutralization of foreign destructive ideological influences and the development of critical thinking and information filtration skills. The

expansion of the information environment both facilitates and complicates this process.

As an integral component of national security, ideological security constitutes a set of mechanisms aimed at protecting a society's value system, historical memory, and national identity. This concept is directly linked to social stability, as ideological vacuums create an environment susceptible to social radicalization, manipulation, and disinformation.

From the pedagogical perspective, ideological security is associated with the formation of an individual's civic stance, legal consciousness, sense of national identity, and social responsibility. This process is realized through the content of education, its educational components, and the socio-psychological climate of the learning environment.

The education system serves as a strategic component of the national security and plays a specific role in ensuring ideological security. Schools and higher educational institutions, as primary agents of socialization, constitute the environment in which the younger generation develops national identity, patriotism, social responsibility, and legal consciousness. Accordingly, the educational institution is evaluated not only as a platform for transmitting knowledge and skills but also as a social mechanism that protects and shapes ideological stability [1].

The ideological security function of the educational environment manifests in several directions. Primarily, curricula and textbooks serve as instruments for transmitting national and moral values and for shaping students' historical knowledge. Through subjects such as history, civic education, literature, and social sciences, young people are introduced to the principles of national identity and patriotism. Such educational elements strengthen students' ideological resilience and perform an immunizing function against foreign destructive influences.

In the contemporary information society, the education system simultaneously participates in shaping the information environment. Internet resources, social networks, and digital communication tools expand students' sources of information but also increase ideological risks. In this context, educational institutions perform both a knowledge-transmitting and a filtration

function. The pedagogical and ideological role of teachers is particularly significant; they not only impart subject knowledge but also cultivate students' skills in information analysis, critical thinking, and defence against manipulative content [4].

Another important aspect of ensuring ideological security within the educational environment is psychological safety. Schools and universities should create a socio-psychological climate that allows young people to freely express their opinions, engage openly in dialogue, and adopt a critical stance towards stereotypes. Thus, the educational environment functions as a platform where ideological influences are both transmitted and critically evaluated.

Moreover, teacher training and the alignment of curricula with national values are considered essential mechanisms for maintaining ideological security. Teachers' media literacy, their ability to recognize informational manipulations, and their capacity to foster critical thinking enhance students' ideological resilience. Likewise, curricula and textbooks must be structured in accordance with both national interests and scientific principles.

Overall, the education system functions as a complex structure fostering ideological security, shaping the younger generation's national identity, social responsibility, and patriotic values. The effectiveness of this system depends not only on curriculum design and teacher preparation but also on safeguarding students' psychological and ideological stability in the digital information environment. This issue is particularly relevant in the Azerbaijani context, as the country places special emphasis on developing a youth resilient to information-ideological influences and committed to national and moral values.

In the 21st-century information society, students increasingly rely on digital platforms rather than traditional sources of knowledge. Social networks, video platforms, and messaging applications play a leading role in shaping young people's world views. However, this environment is characterized by widespread disinformation, ideological manipulation, extremist content, and elements of global mass culture that weaken national identity [2]. In this context, the information environment

simultaneously forms an ideological educational space that competes with the official education system's sphere of influence.

Although the education system plays a crucial role in ensuring ideological security in the modern era, this process is accompanied by various risk factors. Ideological risks are primarily associated with factors that negatively affect young people's system of national and moral values and increase their susceptibility to foreign and domestic destructive ideologies. Identifying ideological risks in education, analyzing these factors, and preventing their impact is considered an essential component of national security strategy.

One of the main categories of ideological risks is information overload. Students are exposed to a vast flow of information through social networks, internet resources, and digital media. A large portion of this information is unfiltered, unverified, and sometimes manipulative [2]. Excessive information can weaken young people's critical thinking skills and complicate their ability to make decisions aligned with national and social values.

A second significant risk factor is the lack of critical thinking. Insufficient development of analytical skills and media literacy in educational institutions makes young people vulnerable to manipulation and disinformation. This situation creates an ideological vacuum and allows destructive foreign ideological influences to penetrate society.

The third risk is related to the weakening of historical memory. Superficial and formal approaches to teaching history, coupled with inadequate instruction on national values and cultural identity, undermine ideological resilience [3]. This factor particularly challenges the preservation of national identity under the influence of globalization and mass information flows.

A fourth risk category concerns the deformation of cultural identity. The dominance of global culture, the intensive influence of foreign value systems, and the commercialization of informational products can weaken young people's attachment to national values [6]. This process occurs especially rapidly on social networks and digital platforms, creating

mechanisms that aim to alter citizens' national and moral orientations.

Effective defence against ideological risks requires a comprehensive approach in education. This approach is implemented through teacher training, alignment of curricula with national values, development of media literacy, and instruction in digital ethics. Thus, identifying and mitigating ideological risks constitutes a vital component of the strategic function of the education system and plays a decisive role in ensuring national security.

In the contemporary era, ideological security must be ensured not only at the state and military levels but also within the education and information environment. In this context, media literacy serves as a primary tool for developing students' and pupils' abilities to analyze, evaluate, and ethically use information [5]. By extending the function of education beyond mere knowledge transmission, media literacy strengthens young people's resilience against information manipulation, disinformation, and destructive ideological influences. The development of such skills not only enhances critical thinking but also reinforces students' attachment to national and moral values and their sense of social responsibility.

With the rapid development of the digital environment, the impact of ideological risks and psychological threats is also increasing. Through social networks, forums, and other online platforms, cyberbullying, the activities of radical groups, and psychological influence techniques negatively affect young people's emotional and psychological stability [2]. Psychological resilience is a fundamental condition for ideological stability and ensures students' resistance to manipulative information. Therefore, the education system must go beyond the simple transmission of knowledge and implement strategies aimed at protecting youth from digital and psychological threats.

The issue of ideological security is particularly relevant in the Azerbaijani context. As a multicultural country located in a geopolitically sensitive region, Azerbaijan considers the formation of a youth resilient to informational and ideological influences as a strategic priority. National documents designate the preservation of moral and national values, the

promotion of patriotism, and information security as priority areas. Within this framework, the role of the education system is conceived as a complex mechanism that facilitates the development of national identity, social responsibility, and information ethics among the youth.

Media literacy, psychological resilience, and adherence to national and moral values constitute complementary components and serve as the main instruments of the education system in ensuring ideological security. In this regard, every modern educational institution must both teach the proper use of information and protect youth from digital and psychological risks. This approach is particularly important for Azerbaijan, as its young generation must develop along the principles of national identity and social responsibility, at the same time, remaining resilient against ideological manipulation in the global information environment.

The education system functions as a strategic institution in ensuring the ideological security of contemporary society. Analyses indicate that education does not only transmit knowledge and skills but also serves as a primary mechanism in shaping young people's national identity, patriotism, and social responsibility. The rapid development of the digital and information environment increases ideological risks, requiring the cultivation of media literacy,

critical thinking, and psychological resilience. These competencies enhance young people's resistance to disinformation, manipulative content, and foreign destructive influences, thereby strengthening the ideological security function of education.

In the Azerbaijani context, ideological security is particularly urgent, given the country's multicultural and geopolitically sensitive setting. State policy prioritizes the preservation of national and moral values, patriotism, and information security. Within this framework, the education system acts as a comprehensive mechanism to reinforce the national identity and social responsibility of youth, as well as to ensure their resilience against ideological manipulation in the global information environment.

Consequently, ideological security and the information environment are interdependent components within education. The modern educational institution must go beyond the transmission of academic knowledge and implement strategic approaches to develop youth's psychological, informational, and ideological resilience. Such an approach contributes both to social stability and to the strengthening of national security, positioning the education system as a key institution in the state's ideological and informational security.

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