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SOCIO-FUNCTIONAL FEATURES OF INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract:
The article examines the socio-functional characteristics of intergenerational relations. In the course of the research, the integrative and differentiating functions of relations in society are analyzed. Also, the threats that lead to the weakening of intergenerational ties in modern conditions and the existing opportunities for strengthening this process are studied from a scientific point of view.

Keywords:
intergenerational relations, social function, generational conflict, cultural transmission, social capital, integration, differentiation.

INTRODUCTION. The sustainable development of social life largely depends on how healthy and productive intergenerational relations are established. Throughout human history, the interaction between the elderly and the young, between the experienced and the younger generation has been one of the main social mechanisms of society. These relations retain their importance not only in the family circle, but also in educational institutions, labor communities , and in the wider social environment.

In recent decades, globalization, the digital revolution , and urbanization have had a significant impact on the structure of intergenerational relations. The weakening of social institutions that ensure the continuity of the traditional generational chain, the growing divergence in value systems, and the cultural differences emerging under the influence of information technologies are causing society to face new social problems. Therefore, scientific analysis of the socio-functional characteristics of intergenerational relations is of urgent importance today.

Modern in society intergenerational relationship of people social life, values and daily marriage process inseparable part as is seen. Every one generation to oneself typical historical experience, worldview and values shapes and next for generations transmits. This of the process regular and consistent done increase society stability providing main social from mechanisms is one. Intergenerational relationship wider in the sense social systems one - one another with their connection, continuity and stability guaranteeing universal social event as manifestation. It will be relationship different functions through to reality. First of all, they communicative function generations to come in the middle communication and information exchange provides. This with together , educational and values transmission function through cultural inheritance and social experiments future for generations delivered. Other from the side, intergenerational relationship social control done increasing discipline and responsibility principles They also emotional support and economic help mechanisms supplier important social system as activity shows.

Currently, a number of threats affect the socio-functional characteristics of intergenerational relations in society. One of them is the process of globalization and cultural standardization. This

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process can lead to the secondary importance of national values and traditions, which can increase the spiritual gap between generations. The second important threat is the change in communication patterns under the influence of digital technologies. The excessive attachment of the younger generation to the virtual space limits real intergenerational communication and weakens traditional mechanisms for the transmission of experience and values. At the same time, socio-economic factors, including migration, urbanization, and changes in family structure, can also cause a breakdown in intergenerational ties. In such conditions, there is a risk of a decrease in the educational potential of traditional institutions such as the family and the neighborhood.

Intergenerational relations are a system of continuous and ongoing communication between individuals of different ages (parents, children, relatives and the general public), which plays a central role in ensuring the social, cultural and psychological stability of society. However, it should be noted that intergenerational relations also have several threats.

- **Differences in values - Different generations** differ in their worldview, value systems , and life experiences. For example, while Generation Z and Alpha are quick to adapt to technology, Generation X and Y prefer a more traditional approach. This difference increases conflicts in family decision-making and the coordination of social and cultural values.
- **Digital divide -** The higher digital literacy of the younger generation compared to the older generation complicates the communication process. The different levels of acceptance of the Internet, social networks and mobile technologies can lead to family and intergenerational misunderstandings.
- **Geographic and social isolation - Migration, urbanization, and family living in different regions are causing a decrease in intergenerational communication. This process** leads to psychological isolation, decreased social support , and weakened intergenerational connections.
- **Economic conditions - When the economic opportunities** of the older generation and the younger generation differ, family and social conflicts increase. This in turn exacerbates social inequality between the younger and older generations.
- **Health and mental health threats -** Chronic illnesses or disabilities in the older generation put psychological and financial pressure on the family. At the same time, mental health problems (depression, low self-esteem) in the younger generation negatively affect the quality of communication.
- **Demographic changes -** Low birth rates, the loss of older generations, or changes in the intergenerational ratio due to urbanization limit communication and weaken the cultural cohesion of society.
- **Social isolation and loneliness -** The decline in intergenerational connections negatively affects mental and emotional stability. Older generations feel lonely, while younger generations are deprived of family and social support.

Theoretical approaches to the study of these relations are diverse , and in Western sociology it is widespread to interpret them on the basis of social systems and capital theories. In the Eastern and national scientific tradition, intergenerational relations are analyzed based on spiritual, educational and ethical criteria. Thus, intergenerational relations are simultaneously manifested as both a universal social phenomenon and a social system closely related to national and cultural values . From this point of view, a deeper study of the socio-functional characteristics of intergenerational relations, an analysis of their theoretical foundations and the disclosure of their practical manifestations through empirical research results is an important scientific task. This process makes it possible to determine how effectively intergenerational relations work in modern society, what problems they face, and ways to improve them.

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One of the most important manifestations of intergenerational relations is support, that is, the material and moral assistance of parents or grandparents in the life activities of the younger generation. Support is not only related to economic resources, but also includes emotional support, trust and love. From this perspective, the level of support directly affects the strength of family relationships and the stability of intergenerational ties.

Uzbekistan's traditional mahalla system is a unique institutional opportunity for the development of intergenerational relations. The mahalla is not only an administrative unit, but also a historically proven mechanism for ensuring social cooperation, mutual assistance and intergenerational dialogue. The special attention paid to strengthening the mahalla institution in the new articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted in 2017 and state programs has opened the door to new opportunities in this area. Digitalization of mahalla activities, organization of joint cultural and social events for young and old, as well as financing intergenerational projects through mahalla funds - all these are seen as practical ways to develop intergenerational relations.

State social policy plays an important role in strengthening intergenerational relations. According to foreign experience , successful social policy is effective when it is developed with a balanced consideration of the interests of different generations. For example, in Germany, as part of the "generational house" program, centers have been established where elderly people and young people can live and work together. In Uzbekistan, it is also appropriate for youth policy, social assistance programs for pensioners and the disabled, as well as reforms in the education system to take into account the goals of strengthening intergenerational interaction.

"Reverse mentoring" opens the way to a new way of organizing intergenerational relationships. In this approach, young people inform older people about modern technologies, new media spaces, and global trends. As a result, not only knowledge is transferred, but also mutual respect and understanding between generations is formed. This model has also become widely used in the corporate environment: organizations where older employees learn digital skills from younger specialists have seen an acceleration of innovation processes and a decrease in intergenerational conflicts. This experience can also be applied to neighborhood and family relationships.

CONCLUSION. Intergenerational relations are a multifaceted phenomenon that is crucial for the social stability and development of society. On the one hand, these relations perform vital functions such as cultural transmission, generational continuity , and emotional support. On the other hand, we can see that technological, demographic , and cultural changes pose new threats to these relations. Among the threats, digital divide, differences in value systems, transformation of the family structure , and mediatization processes deserve special attention. But there are also many opportunities: intergenerational education programs, the modern potential of the mahalla institute, reverse mentoring , and mechanisms of cultural integration - all of these can be effective tools in overcoming problems.

In the conditions of the modern world, affects the entire social organism preserving traditional forms of these relations and developing new formats are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary strategies. A model of intergenerational relations, built on the basis of national identity and cultural heritage, but adapted to modern requirements, can be a guarantee of social stability and development for Uzbekistan. A systematic approach aimed at jointly solving problems in this area by the scientific community, government bodies and representatives of civil society - through programs that stimulate intergenerational dialogue, policies and cultural institutions that balance the interests of generations - is the most important social task of our time.

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