

## **EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF TRADITIONS: HOW NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS SHAPE THE APPROACH TO LEARNING**

Education is one of the fundamental components of society, shaping not only the intellectual potential of citizens but also reflecting national traditions, worldviews, and value orientations. In every country, the education system develops within the context of historical events, philosophical trends, religious beliefs, and cultural peculiarities. In this sense, education cannot be universal and identical for all, as its structure and methods depend on deeply rooted societal perceptions of knowledge, authority, learning, and self-development.

National characteristics often influence the content of education and the teaching style. For instance, the educational process in East Asia is marked by a high level of hierarchy and discipline. This is due to the influence of the Confucian tradition, which emphasizes respect for the teacher, self-sacrifice for learning, and the importance of education as a social duty [1, p. 44]. In contrast, Anglo-American educational culture emphasizes the development of individuality, critical thinking, and the ability to make independent decisions. Here, the teacher serves not as an absolute source of knowledge but as a mentor or moderator of the learning process [2, p. 349].

Cultural contexts also define the organization of the educational environment. For example, in European countries, especially in the Scandinavian region, great attention is paid to creating an inclusive, comfortable, and democratic space where students can express their opinions, choose learning paths, and participate in decision-making [2, p. 351]. Meanwhile, in many post-Soviet countries, educational institutions retain elements of the authoritarian model, where the student is more an object of



learning than an active participant.

Among the key factors influencing educational practices, the following can be highlighted:

- Historical heritage: The traditions of classical gymnasium education in France, Germany, or Poland have shaped a strong academic orientation in modern schools;
- Linguistic and cultural context: In countries with multilingual populations or a colonial past (e.g., India, Nigeria), the formation of language policy in education has become a challenge that affects the unity of the learning space;
- Religious norms: In some countries, the content of educational programs directly depends on religious canon (Iran, Saudi Arabia), which limits the study of specific topics or introduces gender segregation [3, p. 58].

The role of the family also deserves special attention. Parents in China, South Korea, or Singapore are often actively involved in their children's education: they invest in extracurricular education, monitor academic performance, and shape ambitions. This approach contributes to high results in international educational rankings and carries the risk of psychological burnout among students. Conversely, in many European countries, it is commonly believed that the child should take personal responsibility for their learning, while the parent's role is to support them in this process.

Value orientations prevailing in society are also significant. In collectivist cultures, education often focuses on achieving the common good, while in individualist ones, it is about realizing personal potential. This is reflected in assessment methods, group interactions, and attitudes toward competition. In countries where a culture of intellectual achievement dominates (such as Israel or Finland), education is prestigious, and the status of teachers is high. In places where the education system has long been under the pressure of political ideologies, its reform process is slow and often sparks public controversy [4, p. 121].



Globalization processes are forcing education systems to adapt to new realities. International exchanges, distance learning, and multicultural environments require knowledge of foreign languages, intercultural communication skills, tolerance, and readiness for cooperation. However, the implementation of global standards should not lead to the erosion of national traditions, as it is within them that the uniqueness of each nation's educational identity is preserved [1, p. 46].

In conclusion, education is a mirror of national culture. Through the learning process, values, traditions, and worldviews are transmitted. Understanding the influence of national characteristics on the education system is essential for researchers and practitioners — teachers, administrators, and parents. Only by considering cultural context is it possible to create an adequate, humane, and inclusive educational space.

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