



PROSPECTS FOR THE POPULARIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ETHNOSPORTS IN INDEPENDENT UZBEKISTAN (ON THE EXAMPLE OF SURKHANDARYA REGION).

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Abstract: This article scientifically analyzes the current issues of developing and popularizing ethnosports in independent Uzbekistan using the example of Surkhandarya region. The study highlights the historical and cultural significance of national sports, their role in educating young people and shaping a healthy lifestyle. Also, the work being carried out to develop ethnosports in Surkhandarya region, existing opportunities and problems, and practical proposals and recommendations aimed at further improving this area are developed. The results of the study are significant in that they serve to popularize ethnosports, preserve national values, and develop sports tourism.

Keywords: ethnosports, national sports, kurash, uloq-ko'pkari, folk games, national values, Surkhandarya region, youth policy, sports tourism, cultural heritage.

Introduction

In today's era of accelerating globalization, preserving the national identity, historical memory and cultural heritage of each nation and passing it on to future generations is one of the important directions of state policy. Ethnosports, which are an integral part of national values, are not only a means of physical education, but also a unique cultural phenomenon that embodies the centuries-old customs, traditions, lifestyle and spiritual heritage of the people. Therefore, the issue of developing ethnosports and its widespread popularization is becoming one of the priority directions of modern sports policy. During the years of independence, large-scale reforms were carried out in Uzbekistan to develop national sports, bring them to the international arena and popularize them among young people. In particular, the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks have been created for the development of national wrestling, goat wrestling, horse racing, belt wrestling, tug-of-war, stone lifting and other traditional sports, a modern sports infrastructure has been formed, and the prestige of national sports in international competitions is increasing. Such reforms, along with preserving national values, also serve to raise a healthy and harmonious generation. Surkhandarya region, as one of the regions with ancient history, rich ethnocultural



heritage and unique folk traditions, has great potential for the development of ethnosports. National wrestling, goat wrestling, horse riding, dorbozlik and various folk games have been an integral part of people's lives in the region for centuries. In particular, the organization of ethnosports competitions during Navruz, Independence Day, harvest festivals and other mass events serves as an important factor in the transmission of national values from generation to generation. At the same time, the natural and geographical conditions of the region, the high level of respect for national traditions among the population, and the interest of young people in sports create favorable opportunities for the further development of ethnosports.

Research methods and methodology

In this study, the prospects for the popularization and development of ethnosports in the conditions of independent Uzbekistan were studied using the example of Surkhandarya region on the basis of a comprehensive approach. The research methodology was based on a combination of scientific-theoretical and practical methods aimed at assessing the historical development of national sports, their current state and prospects. The theoretical basis of the study was scientific works, monographs, scientific articles and regulatory and legal documents of local and foreign scientists on the development of ethnosports, physical education and sports, preservation of cultural heritage and youth policy. Also, the reforms being implemented in the field of sports in Uzbekistan, state programs and strategic documents aimed at the development of national sports were analyzed.

During the study, the stages of formation and development of ethnosports were studied using the historical-comparative method. The current state, level of popularization and development factors of national sports in Surkhandarya region were assessed using the analytical method. Based on a systematic approach, the social, cultural, economic and educational significance of ethnosport was analyzed in its interrelation. In addition, open statistical data on the number of sports competitions, mass events, sports clubs and ethnosport participants were summarized and dynamically analyzed based on the statistical analysis method. The scientific data obtained using the analytical-synthetic method were summarized, and the main factors influencing the development of ethnosport were identified. In the practical part of the study, observation and content analysis methods were used. The content of national sports competitions, folk festivals and mass cultural events held in the Surkhandarya region was studied, and the level of popularity of ethnosport among the population, especially young people, was analyzed. The results obtained were processed based on the methods of generalization, comparison and drawing scientific conclusions, and practical recommendations were developed for the further development of ethnosport. This methodological approach made it possible to ensure the scientific reliability of the research,



objectively assess the current state of ethnosports development, and identify the prospects for this direction in the case of the Surkhandarya region.

Research results

The research results showed that in the conditions of independent Uzbekistan, the development of ethnosports has become one of the important directions of state policy. In recent years, as a result of reforms aimed at supporting national sports, popularizing them and promoting them internationally, the social significance of ethnosports has significantly increased. This process is also clearly manifested in the Surkhandarya region, and the historical and cultural characteristics of the region create a favorable environment for the development of national sports. As a result of the analysis, it was determined that national wrestling, uloq-kopkari, horse riding, tug-of-war, stone lifting and various folk games are the most popular ethnosports in the Surkhandarya region. These sports are regularly organized within the framework of the Navruz national holiday, Independence Day, harvest festivals and other mass events, attracting all segments of the population, especially young people, to active participation. These competitions, along with promoting national values, serve to form a healthy lifestyle and strengthen patriotic feelings among the younger generation.

The study also identified the main factors influencing the development of ethnosports. In particular, the organizational and legal conditions created by the state, cooperation between local khokimiyats and sports organizations, the gradual improvement of sports infrastructure, and the population's interest in national values have a positive impact on the popularization of ethnosports. In particular, the regular holding of national sports competitions in secondary schools, sports schools, and higher education institutions serves as an important factor in increasing the interest of young people in ethnosports. At the same time, the results of the study also showed the existence of some problems. In particular, the lack of modern sports grounds and necessary equipment for ethnosports in some districts and remote areas, the limited number of qualified coaches, the lack of scientific and methodological manuals and educational and methodological materials hinder the large-scale development of ethnosports. In addition, the promotion of national sports through digital platforms, mass media and social networks has not been sufficiently developed compared to existing opportunities. The results obtained showed the need to use innovative approaches in the development of ethnosports. In particular, wide coverage of national sports competitions through digital media, regular organization of regional and international ethnosports festivals, development of special training programs for youth, and integration of ethnosports with domestic and international tourism destinations can significantly increase its popularity.



Conclusion

The results of the study showed that the development and popularization of ethnosports in independent Uzbekistan is consistently developing as one of the priority areas of the national sports policy. Ethnosports are not only a means of physical education and the formation of a healthy lifestyle, but also an important factor in preserving national values, passing on historical and cultural heritage from generation to generation, and educating young people in the spirit of patriotism. The analysis conducted on the example of Surkhandarya region confirmed that the region has rich historical traditions, national customs, and favorable natural conditions for the development of ethnosports. National wrestling, uloq-kopkari, equestrian sports, and other folk games occupy an important place in the daily life of the population and festive events, serving as a solid basis for their widespread popularization.

At the same time, it was determined that in the development of ethnosports, it is necessary to further improve the sports infrastructure, train qualified coaches and referees, strengthen scientific and methodological support, and effectively use digital information technologies. Combining ethnosports with the education system, sports tourism and international cultural cooperation will further expand its development prospects. In the future, the Surkhandarya region can be transformed into one of the ethnosports centers by regularly organizing ethnosports festivals and international competitions, expanding the scope of scientific research and widely involving young people in national sports. This will serve to widely promote the national sports traditions of Uzbekistan on an international scale, develop sports tourism and strengthen the positive international image of the country.

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