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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS AND VIRTUAL ETHICS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL SECURITY

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ANNOTATSIYA: Mazkur maqolada milliy xavfsizlik kontekstida diniy ong va virtual axloqning o'zaro bog'liqligi tahlil qilinadi. Raqamli texnologiyalar va internet makonining kengayishi sharoitida diniy qadriyatlar hamda axloqiy me'yorlarning shakllanish jarayonlari o'rganiladi. Shuningdek, virtual muhitning yoshlar ongiga ta'siri, axborot xavfsizligi, ma'naviy tahdidlar va ularning jamiyat barqarorligiga ta'siri yoritiladi. Tadqiqotda diniy ong va virtual axloqning milliy xavfsizlikni ta'minlashdagi o'rni hamda ularni mustahkamlashning dolzarb masalalari tahlil etilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: milliy xavfsizlik, diniy ong, virtual axloq, raqamli makon, axborot xavfsizligi, ma'naviy tahdidlar, internet, yoshlar, qadriyatlar, jamiyat barqarorligi.

ANNOTATION: This article analyzes the interrelationship between religious consciousness and virtual ethics in the context of national security. It examines the processes of forming religious values and moral norms under conditions of expanding digital technologies and the internet space. The study also highlights the impact of the virtual environment on youth consciousness, information security, spiritual threats, and their influence on societal stability. Furthermore, it explores the role of religious consciousness and virtual ethics in ensuring national security and addresses current issues related to strengthening them.

Keywords: national security, religious consciousness, virtual ethics, digital space, information security, spiritual threats, internet, youth, values, societal stability.

INTRODUCTION

As a result of globalization and the rapid development of digital technologies, significant changes are occurring in people's worldview, values, and social relations. In particular, the virtual space is becoming an increasingly important factor influencing the consciousness of young people. In such conditions, the study of the interrelationship between religious consciousness and virtual ethics is of particular relevance from the perspective of ensuring national security. The proper formation of religious values and adherence to ethical norms in the virtual environment contribute to strengthening societal stability. At the same time, extremist and destructive ideas spreading on the internet may negatively affect the moral and ethical outlook of young people. This situation necessitates studying religious consciousness and virtual ethics in close connection with national security. The research is aimed at analyzing the interaction of these two factors and their role in ensuring societal security.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

In the 21st century, national security has become a concept encompassing new dimensions and complex aspects. In addition to traditional military and geographical security notions, economic, environmental, informational, cultural, and spiritual security components have emerged. In this context, religious consciousness and virtual ethical values are gaining attention as important elements of national security. According to the new analytical framework proposed by B. Buzan, O. Waever, and J. de Wilde in *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*, security should be viewed not only at the level of the state apparatus but also at the levels of society, culture, and individuals.

Their theory of "securitization" views security not only as an objective threat but also as a social discourse and a process of perception. This approach allows us to analyze security as a socially constructed phenomenon and the process by which certain issues are designated as "security issues" [1].

The concept of national security includes several key components: political security-ensuring state sovereignty and the stability of the political system, and protecting against internal and external political threats; economic security-ensuring the stability and development of the national economy, economic independence, and sustainability; military security-protecting against external military threats and maintaining defense capability; social security-maintaining societal stability, national identity, and culture, ensuring social equality and justice; environmental security-protecting the environment and natural resources, maintaining ecological balance; information security-protecting the information space, ensuring data security, and countering cyber threats; and spiritual-cultural security-preserving national values, traditions, and spiritual foundations, and protecting cultural identity [2]. Modern scholars emphasize the expansion of the national security concept. As noted in A. Wolfers' classical work, security is a relative concept, and absolute security is an unattainable ideal. Therefore, national security strategies should aim not at eliminating threats completely but at reducing them to a manageable level. D. Baldwin defines security as the "low probability of damage to acquired values" and suggests analyzing security as a multidimensional phenomenon.

Religious consciousness, in the context of national security, has both constructive and destructive impacts. On the constructive side, it strengthens national identity, unites society around shared values, forms moral values such as honesty, justice, and compassion, ensures social stability, and enhances psychological resilience in times of crisis. In the context of Uzbekistan, Islamic values represent an integral part of national identity and contribute to social cohesion and moral development. According to P. Norris and R. Inglehart in *Sacred and Secular*, religious societies often demonstrate higher levels of social capital, stronger community bonds, and lower crime rates. In Uzbekistan, religious institutions and communities play an important role in supporting social stability, family values, and moral education [3].

On the destructive side, religious extremism and radicalization pose serious threats to national security. Misinterpretation of religious teachings, religiously motivated divisions, manipulation of religion for political purposes, intolerance, xenophobia, and transnational ideological influence may destabilize society. J. Stern and J. M. Berger in *ISIS: The State of Terror* provide a deep analysis of the threats posed by religious extremism, showing how extremist groups manipulate ideology, social networks, and violence strategies to destabilize societies and threaten national security [4]. Virtual ethical values also influence national security in both positive and negative ways. On the positive side, they promote digital citizenship, strengthen cybersecurity awareness, improve information literacy and critical thinking, support the fight against cybercrime and extremism, and enhance global cooperation and intercultural understanding. On the negative side, the weakening of virtual ethics leads to cyberbullying, the spread of fake news and disinformation, digital addiction and social isolation, violations of personal data security, and the growth of cyberterrorism and hybrid warfare [5].

The interrelationship between religious consciousness and virtual ethics includes several key aspects. One of them is the mechanism of online recruitment by religious extremist groups. Modern extremist organizations effectively use social media to recruit youth, spread radical ideologies, and coordinate terrorist activities. According to E. Sageman, modern jihadist movements are largely decentralized and operate through virtual networks, relying on online radicalization. The process of

virtual radicalization typically includes the following stages: the search stage-personal or social problems, identity crises, and search for religious knowledge; the exposure stage-encountering extremist content or individuals online; the influence stage-gradual acceptance of radical ideas and justification of violence; and the action stage-joining extremist groups or engaging in or supporting terrorist activities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in today's information society, religious consciousness and virtual ethics have become important components of national security. The expansion of virtual space directly influences people's worldview, beliefs, and moral attitudes. Therefore, the proper and scientifically grounded formation of religious knowledge and the development of a healthy moral environment in the internet space are of great importance. The study shows that there is a strong interconnection between religious consciousness and virtual ethics. Adherence to ethical norms in the virtual environment contributes to strengthening stability, tolerance, and social cohesion. Conversely, gaps in this sphere may create conditions for the spread of radical, extremist, and destructive ideas. Therefore, increasing media and information literacy among youth, developing critical thinking skills, and educating them on the basis of national and religious values are urgent tasks. Ensuring harmony between religious consciousness and virtual ethics can strengthen national security, establish effective mechanisms against spiritual threats, and contribute to the stable development of society. For this reason, further expansion of scientific research and improvement of practical mechanisms in this field are of great importance.

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