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TOLERANCE AS A GUARANTEE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS A VIOLENCE-FREE SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT: This article examines the concept of tolerance as a multifaceted phenomenon. The study analyzes the philosophical and legal foundations of tolerance, its relationship with peace and social development, and its role in building a non-violent society. The article also evaluates quantitative and qualitative data on tolerance policies implemented in different countries around the world, identifies existing challenges, and outlines future directions for promoting tolerance and social harmony.

Keywords: tolerance, peaceful coexistence, peace, non-violent society, social development, humanity, national and religious harmony.

ANNOTATSIYA : Ushbu maqolada bag‘rikenglik (tolerantlik) tushunchasi ko‘p qirrali hodisa sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi. Tadqiqot bag‘rikenglikning falsafiy va huquqiy asoslarini, uning tinchlik va ijtimoiy taraqqiyot bilan bog‘liqligini hamda zo‘ravonliksiz jamiyat shakllantirishidagi rolini tahlil qiladi. Maqolada dunyo davlatlarining bag‘rikenglik siyosatiga oid miqdoriy va sifatiy ma'lumotlar tahlil qilinib, bo‘sh qolgan muammolar va kelajak yo‘nalishlari belgilab beriladi.

Kalit so ‘zlar: bag‘rikenglik, tolerantlik, tinchlik, zo‘ravonliksiz jamiyat, ijtimoiy taraqqiyot, insoniylik, milliy va diniy uyg'unlik.

Quyida matningizning ilmiy uslubdagi adekvat inglizcha tarjimasi keltirilgan:

1. INTRODUCTION

In the era of contemporary globalization, interaction among different cultures, religions, and nations across the world is becoming increasingly intensive. At the same time, manifestations of intolerance, extremism, and social violence continue to emerge. This contradictory situation makes tolerance—the ability of individuals and societies to accept diverse opinions, traditions, and ways of life—one of the most important factors in addressing the challenges of the modern world.

Tolerance is not merely the endurance of others; rather, it is the recognition and respect of diversity and differences as valuable social assets. As emphasized in the **United Nations Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (1995)**, tolerance constitutes the foundation of a culture of peace and serves as one of the most effective means of preventing war and violence.

This study addresses the following research questions: What are the theoretical foundations of tolerance? What relationship exists between the level of tolerance and the prevalence of violence within society?

Furthermore, what practical measures can be implemented to build a violence-free society? By seeking answers to these questions, this research substantiates the necessity of strengthening tolerance as an integral component of social policy and educational systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodological framework of the study is based on comparative analysis, structural-functional analysis, and quantitative data analysis. The following sources and materials were utilized during the research process.

First, international documents issued by the United Nations, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe concerning tolerance and human rights were examined, including conventions, declarations, and policy documents. Particular attention was paid to UNESCO's **1995 Declaration of Principles on Tolerance**, relevant provisions of the **UN Charter**, and UNICEF's recommendations on fostering tolerance among children.

Second, quantitative data were analyzed using the **Global Peace Index (GPI, 2015–2024)**, the **World Values Survey (WVS)**, and annual reports published by **Freedom House**. Based on these datasets, correlations between indicators of tolerance, the structure of social relations, and levels of violence were examined across more than fifty countries.

Third, within the scope of the literature review, more than eighty international scholarly articles, monographs, and dissertations published over the past fifteen years were analyzed. For the qualitative component of the study, in-depth interviews with practitioners and theorists, as well as focus-group materials related to issues of tolerance, were also examined.

RESULTS

The findings of the study are presented in three main areas.

Relationship Between Tolerance and Social Stability

Analysis of the **Global Peace Index** data revealed that countries demonstrating high levels of tolerance—particularly the Scandinavian countries, New Zealand, and Canada—also exhibit the lowest levels of social violence. Data collected between 2015 and 2024 indicate that a one-unit increase in the tolerance index is associated with an average decrease of 18–23 percent in the likelihood of internal conflicts.

According to the latest wave of the **World Values Survey (2017–2022)**, countries in which more than 70 percent of respondents reported willingness to accept individuals of different religions or ethnic backgrounds as neighbors recorded three to four times fewer incidents of religiously or ethnically motivated violence.

Tolerance Education within the Educational System

Research in the field of education has demonstrated that the purposeful promotion of tolerance during preschool and general secondary education yields consistently positive outcomes. According to UNICEF data, schools that have implemented tolerance-oriented educational programs have reported a 35 percent reduction in incidents of peer violence and bullying within a period of two to three years.

Experimental studies conducted in Finland, Singapore, and Georgia indicate that incorporating modules aimed at developing intercultural communication, critical thinking, and empathy into the educational process significantly enhances students' levels of social resilience.

Legal-Institutional Mechanisms and Their Effectiveness

The study particularly emphasizes the importance of legal and institutional mechanisms in ensuring tolerance. Statistical evidence suggests that countries possessing a specialized legislative framework on tolerance and well-established institutions responsible for its implementation experience significantly fewer cases of hate speech and discrimination-based violence.

However, the existence of legal regulations alone is not sufficient. The findings reveal that legal mechanisms are less effective when tolerance norms are not actively supported by civil society and promoted through mass media. In this regard, media literacy and digital tolerance emerge as critical issues requiring further scholarly investigation.

DISCUSSION

The findings provide deeper insight into the socio-political significance of tolerance. Tolerance represents the quintessence of humanity's accumulated experience of solidarity and cooperation. It functions not as a one-sided phenomenon but as a reciprocal social relationship: peace and development can remain sustainable only when norms of tolerance are firmly established within society.

A comparison of the research findings with existing theoretical frameworks has revealed several important considerations. First, the "difference principle" emphasized in the theory of justice developed by John Rawls is closely linked to tolerance. A just society strives to ensure equality for all its members while simultaneously recognizing diversity as a social asset. Second, the capability approach proposed by Amartya Sen regards tolerance as a fundamental prerequisite for human freedom. This conceptual perspective provides strong theoretical support for the results obtained in the present study.

Nevertheless, the research also identified several limitations. In many societies, tolerance is superficially interpreted as unlimited relativism, leading to attempts to justify indifference toward both violence and restrictions on fundamental rights. The concept of the "paradox of tolerance," introduced by Karl Popper, clearly illustrates this problem: genuine tolerance cannot be tolerant of intolerance. Otherwise, it loses its essence and may become a mechanism that weakens society itself.

The digital age has introduced additional challenges. Information "echo chambers" and algorithmic polarization on social media platforms contribute to the erosion of tolerance norms. The findings suggest that education for tolerance in digital environments remains insufficiently developed and requires urgent scholarly attention as well as appropriate policy responses.

In the case of Uzbekistan, recent reforms—including broader access to religious pilgrimage sites, efforts to strengthen interethnic relations, and state-level support for cultural diversity—represent practical manifestations of a national tolerance agenda. These reforms serve as an important foundation not only for domestic social stability but also for regional and international cooperation.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that tolerance is not merely a moral value but also a political and economic necessity in contemporary society. Respect for and appreciation of diverse opinions, religions, cultures, and lifestyles constitute the foundation of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous society free from violence.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Tolerance-oriented educational modules should be integrated into all levels of the educational system.
2. Alongside legal mechanisms, mass media and civil society organizations should be actively involved in promoting the values of tolerance.
3. Media literacy programs should be expanded to strengthen tolerance norms within digital environments.
4. Regional and international cooperation on issues related to tolerance should be enhanced through the establishment of mechanisms for sharing best practices.
5. Efforts to combat intolerance should be framed not as contradictory to tolerance itself, but as its logical extension, supported by appropriate legal and social measures.

In conclusion, tolerance is not a sign of weakness but rather an expression of strength, openness, and cultural richness. The path toward a violence-free society is built precisely upon this

value. Every individual, family, educational institution, and state has a responsibility to contribute to the realization of this goal.

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