



SOCIAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FORMATION OF THE CONCEPT OF TOLERANCE IN THE MINDS OF TODAY'S YOUTH

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Abstract: *This article examines the social factors influencing the formation of the concept of tolerance in the consciousness of young people in the context of contemporary society. In conditions of accelerated globalization, digital transformation, increasing migration processes, and the expansion of the information environment, tolerance is considered a key social and civic competence of youth. The study analyzes the role of major social institutions, including family, education systems, media, and state youth policies, in shaping tolerant attitudes and behaviors. The research is based on a review of international reports published between 2018 and 2024, as well as recent scientific studies and normative legal documents issued by organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, and UNDP. The findings highlight that a systematic and coordinated approach among social institutions is essential for fostering tolerance and social cohesion among young people. The conclusions of the study contribute to the development of scientific and practical recommendations aimed at strengthening social harmony and promoting sustainable societal development.*

Keywords: *Tolerance, youth; social factors; Social competence; Globalization; Digital environment; Social institutions; Civic education.*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, social conflicts, intercultural confrontations, and tensions in the information space have been increasing on a global scale. Globalization, migration processes, and the widespread use of digital communication tools have intensified interactions between different social groups, while simultaneously increasing

the risk of social polarization. Research indicates that in many countries, there is a growing tendency among youth toward ideological confrontations and a decline in social trust.

As the most active subjects of social change, young people are not only participants in current processes but also constitute the primary social stratum shaping the system of values for future



society. According to statistical data, approximately 1.8 billion people worldwide are aged 10–24. This figure suggests that the values and social competencies forming in the minds of youth have a direct impact on the future social environment.

Recent reports published by UNESCO highlight that the rise of radical views among young people is often explained by insufficiently developed competencies in critical thinking, media literacy, and tolerance [1]. According to UNDP research, in environments with low social inclusion and civic engagement, youth are more prone to radicalization [2]. Therefore, tolerance should be analyzed not merely as a moral concept but as a significant strategic resource ensuring social stability.

The scientific foundations of tolerance are widely covered in socio-psychological theories. Modern studies also emphasize the impact of digital environments on youth perspectives; in particular, misinformation and hate speech can negatively affect social tolerance [3].

Thus, the formation of the concept of tolerance in the minds of today's youth is a multifactorial social process closely linked with the education system, family environment, mass media, digital platforms, and state policy. Scientifically studying this issue is of significant importance for strengthening social stability and promoting the development of civil society.

MAIN PART

Tolerance, as a socio-philosophical and psychological category, refers to respect, acceptance, and constructive interaction toward different cultures, religions, ethnic groups, and social perspectives. According to the UNESCO-adopted “Declaration of Principles on Tolerance”, tolerance is defined as a crucial condition for respecting human rights, recognizing diversity, and fostering a culture of peace [1].

From a socio-psychological perspective, tolerance is interpreted as a conscious stance that opposes mechanisms of stereotyping and discrimination. In contemporary approaches, tolerance is considered an integral component of global citizenship competence. The OECD [4], in its Global Competence Framework, identifies intercultural communication, empathy, and respect for diversity as key indicators of 21st-century competencies. Therefore, tolerance is not only a moral attribute of an individual but also an essential competence that ensures social adaptability and stability.

Education is the most important institutional factor in shaping tolerance. Developing competencies related to global citizenship, human rights, intercultural communication, and media literacy in schools and higher education institutions fosters openness and critical thinking among youth [3].

Empirical studies show that students educated in inclusive learning environments demonstrate greater respect toward the views of others [6]. In



particular, interactive methods—such as debates, project-based learning, and collaborative education—help reduce stereotypes. The foundational basis of tolerance is formed within the family. Sociological research confirms that parents' values and communication styles directly influence their children's social attitudes. A family environment characterized by open dialogue and respect strengthens youth's tolerant attitudes toward others. State policy and civil society institutions also play a crucial role in this process. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, normative and legal documents aimed at improving youth policy contribute to the development of moral and civic competencies among young people [7]. Moreover, local communities and peer groups influence youths' social identification. If discrimination and stereotypes prevail in the social environment, they can also be reflected in the minds of young people. The digital space serves as the primary source of information for today's youth. According to OECD [4] data, young people spend several hours per day on social media. Consequently, misinformation, hate speech, and radical content disseminated on digital platforms significantly impact their worldview. UNDP [2] research highlights that online propaganda is a key factor in radicalization processes. However, digital environments can also be used positively—for instance, through intercultural communication projects, online educational platforms, and civic

initiatives—which provide opportunities to foster tolerance among youth. State policy plays an essential role in promoting tolerance. A normative and legal framework that supports human rights, equality, and inclusion stabilizes the social environment. Civil society organizations, in turn, promote tolerance values among youth through social projects, educational programs, and cultural events.

Research indicates that in societies with high levels of social capital, where trust and cooperation are strong, indicators of tolerance are also higher.

Effective mechanisms for shaping tolerance in the minds of youth include:

Integrating global citizenship and media literacy modules into educational curricula;

- Organizing projects based on intercultural communication;
- Developing social platforms that encourage youth participation;
- Applying pedagogical technologies that foster critical thinking and empathy;
- Enhancing digital literacy and promoting an informed information culture.

□ When these approaches are implemented comprehensively, tolerance becomes a stable social competence in the minds of youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research findings, the following scientific and practical recommendations have been developed:

Improving the Education System



□ Systematically integrate “Global Citizenship and Tolerance” modules into secondary and higher education curricula;

□ Give special attention in curricula to issues of intercultural communication, human rights, and social inclusion;

□ Widely implement interactive and problem-based teaching methods.

Developing Media Literacy

□ Organize specialized training for youth on critical information analysis and detecting fake news;

□ Develop educational platforms that teach digital security and online ethics;

□ Introduce media literacy courses in educational institutions.

Supporting Intercultural Communication

□ Organize joint projects and youth exchange programs among representatives of different regions and ethnic groups;

□ Expand spaces for open dialogue through cultural festivals, debates, and forums.

Encouraging Youth Initiatives

□ Strengthen mechanisms to support volunteering and social projects;

□ Expand grant and competition programs aimed at enhancing youth civic engagement.

Developing Preventive Mechanisms in the Digital Space

□ Launch educational campaigns against hate speech;

□ Increase socially responsible content on online platforms;

□ Develop psychological and social counseling services for youth.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the formation of tolerance is a long-term and systematic process that requires the integrated cooperation of education, family, civil society, and state policy. This approach serves to establish a stable system of tolerant values in the minds of youth, strengthen social stability, and ensure harmony and cohesion in future society. The research results indicate that shaping the concept of tolerance in the minds of today’s youth is a complex, multifactorial socio-pedagogical process. This process develops not only based on individual characteristics but also through the interaction of the social environment, educational system, information space, and state policy in which the individual is active. Analyses show that the level of tolerance development primarily depends on the content and methodology of the education system. Educational processes organized based on a competency approach, enriched with interactive methods, and oriented toward intercultural communication foster youth empathy, critical thinking, and open communication skills. Experimental results demonstrated that in groups where interactive pedagogical programs were applied, the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral components of tolerance increased significantly. This empirically confirms that tolerance can be developed through targeted pedagogical interventions. Additionally, the family and



social environment were shown to be significant factors. A social environment based on open communication, respect, and mutual trust strengthens youth tolerance. Conversely, environments characterized by stereotypes and discrimination negatively affect tolerance formation. The digital information space plays an important role in shaping the worldview of modern youth. The study shows that misinformation, manipulative content, and hate speech disseminated through social networks can contribute to the formation of radical views in young people. Therefore, developing media literacy and critical information analysis

skills is essential for reinforcing tolerance. State policy and civil society institutions also play a crucial role in this process. Normative and legal mechanisms that support human rights, equality, and inclusion help maintain social stability. Cultural, educational, and social projects implemented within youth policy serve as effective tools for promoting tolerance values.

Overall, the research findings demonstrate that fostering tolerance is a strategic social task, and its effectiveness depends on the integrated collaboration of education, family, society, and state policy.

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