THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ACTIVITIES OF FOLKLORE-ETHNOGRAPHIC ENSEMBLES IN SURXONDARYO REGION

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Abstract: *This article examines the activities of women in folklore-ethnographic ensembles in the Surxondaryo region and their role in developing national culture. The study analyzes the artistic performances of women's ensembles in Jarqo'rg'on, Denov, Sherobod, Oltinsoy, and Qumqo'rg'on districts in the areas of "termas" (traditional songs), riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters. It also highlights their participation in national and international competitions and festivals, as well as their contribution to transmitting national values to younger generations. The article emphasizes the importance of continuity, creative innovation, and preservation of national heritage in women's folklore.*

Keywords: *folklore, ethnographic ensemble, women, termas, riddles, proverbs, tongue twisters, Surxondaryo region, national traditions, folk art*

Introduction

Folklore-ethnographic ensembles are considered key preservers of national culture and folk art. In particular, in Surxondaryo region, women have actively participated in folklore groups, playing a crucial role in passing down the rich oral heritage of the people through termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters.

Since the 1950s, folklore ensembles established in Jarqo'rg'on, Denov, Sherobod, Oltinsoy, and Qumqo'rg'on districts have expanded women's

creative opportunities and contributed to preserving national customs and traditions. The termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters performed in these ensembles were showcased not only locally but also in national and international competitions and festivals.

This article explores the creative activities of women in folklore-ethnographic ensembles, their role in preserving and developing national values, and the importance of engaging them in ensembles and artistic performances to transmit cultural heritage to younger generations.

Discussion

In Jarqo‘rg‘on district, the “Jarqo‘rg‘on” folklore ensemble, active from 1950 to 1978, featured women performing termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters such as “Bahor,” “O‘zbekiston,” “Mehr,” and “Paxtakor.” Similarly, in the district’s “Mehnat Rohat” collective farm folklore ensemble, women performed songs including “Toliyor,” “Chashma,” and “Paxtakor Qiz,” led by Saydlar Safarova, which were performed in the field shed on December 8, 1956, the year she was awarded the title “Hero of Socialist Labor.” The “Jarqo‘rg‘on” ensemble of the “Socialism” collective farm also first presented performances of termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters.

In Denov district, the women’s ensemble under the “Chag‘oniyon” cultural department was established in 1956 to perform termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters reflecting local folk art, provided with national costumes. In 1986, the “Ordinary Village Girls” folklore ensemble was formed.

In Sherobod district, to increase women’s participation and support local folklore-ethnographic ensembles materially and spiritually, in 1977 a special “People’s Ensemble” was established under the collective farms to work with termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters and engage creative women.

The “Sharshara” folklore-ethnographic ensemble in Oltinsoy district, established in 1990 at the “Vaxshivor” Cultural Center, initially focused on

women performing termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters. In 2014, it received the title of "People's Ensemble," consisting of 20 artists. The ensemble won first place in the 1999 Alpomish Millennium celebration in Termiz city and in the 2000 "Chashma" district competition.

The "Mahliyo" women's folklore ensemble in Qumqo'rg'on district, formed in 1997, actively participated in competitions of termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters at national and international levels. Its artistic director, Zulxumor Shernazarova, born July 14, 1971, in Qumqo'rg'on district, has significantly contributed to the art of bākhshi singing, performing epic songs such as "Alpomish" and "Go'ro'g'li." Additionally, the "O'tov" and "Bobotog'" women's folklore ensembles, formed in 2017, participated in regional and national broadcasting programs, with the latter receiving the "People's Ensemble" title in 2020.

On February 22, 2013, the "Boysun" Uzbek Women's Oral Art Ensemble of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan showcased termas, riddles, proverbs, tongue twisters, and melodies reflecting national customs and traditions in each performance, highlighting the ensemble's theatricalized program of termas. Its performances were broadcast nationwide, bringing joy to households across Uzbekistan.

In Jarqo'rg'on district, the "Momogul" folklore group was founded in 2016 by Sharafot Allamurotova at the "Qoraburo" Mahalla. Comprising 15 women, the ensemble, including artists such as Xolbibi Xudoyberdiyeva, Oysara Quronova, Zulayho Rasulova, Qizlarxon Boyqulova, and Oysuluv Ergasheva, reflected national values in their artistic performances of termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters. The ensemble actively participated in regional festivals such as "Hunarmandlar Festival," "Boysun Spring," and bākhshi festivals, joining UNESCO in 2017.

The "Jarqo'rg'on" folklore ensemble of Jarqo'rg'on district performed local and national termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters, including

Uzbek songs and dances, gaining recognition for performances like “Ko‘hinur” and “Himoiy Azimov.” Similarly, the “Momojon” women’s folklore group at the Oqqo‘rg‘on Cultural Center included children, girls, and middle-aged performers in adapted performances of termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters. In 2024-2025, the ensemble actively participated in regional and national events. The “Chegarachilar” folklore ensemble, formed in 2025, took part in international folklore competitions in European countries, performing songs such as “Ufor,” “Omon Yor,” “Ayriliq,” and “Alla.”

Conclusion

The study shows that women in Surxondaryo region actively participate in folklore-ethnographic ensembles, playing a crucial role in developing national culture and folk art. Ensembles in Jarqo‘rg‘on, Denov, Sherobod, Oltinsoy, and Qumqo‘rg‘on districts have contributed to preserving local and national customs and transmitting them to younger generations through termas, riddles, proverbs, and tongue twisters.

Their active participation in national and international competitions and festivals further enhances their role in promoting national values to a wider audience. The research confirms the importance of continuity, creative innovation, and preservation of artistic heritage in women’s folklore. This activity not only protects cultural heritage but also fosters national identity and educates younger generations in the spirit of national values.

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