



## THE IMPORTANCE OF SONGS IN GUIDING THE YOUNG GENERATION TOWARDS NATIONAL VALUES

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### ABSTRACT

*This article explores the role of songs in guiding the younger generation toward national values, with particular reference to Karakalpak culture. It argues that songs are more than artistic expressions; they are cultural archives that preserve language, history, and moral lessons. Through folk songs, lullabies (Besik yir), and epic songs, youth are introduced to themes of patriotism, respect, unity, and bravery. The article also examines the emotional and educational functions of songs, showing how they shape identity and character. A comparative table illustrates the functions of different song types in shaping youth values.*

**Introduction.** In every society, music plays a central role in shaping identity, transmitting values, and strengthening cultural ties. Songs are not only a form of artistic expression but also a medium through which traditions, morals, and historical experiences are passed down from one generation to the next [3]. In the context of Karakalpakstan, songs embody the wisdom of ancestors, reflect the cultural worldview of the people, and serve as an effective tool in guiding the younger generation toward national values.

To begin with, songs function as cultural archives that preserve language, folklore, and historical memory. Traditional Karakalpak song such as “*Bul jer ele zor boladi*” is not merely musical pieces; it reflects the struggles, hopes, and resilience of the people.

Usı jerde ósip-ónip,  
Qara shańıraq el bolǵanbız.  
Awır miynetine kónip.  
Islep qara ter bolǵanbız.  
Bunda tapqan ırǵaqların  
Qosıǵımız, ertegimiz.  
Bul jer ushın bir waqları  
Dirildegен telpegimiz.  
Jaǵalasıp jaw kelse-de,  
Bul jerdi hesh bermegenbiz.



Kim qay tilde sóylesede,  
Til jatırqap kórmegenbiz.

By singing these songs, young listeners are introduced to the stories of their homeland, which strengthens their sense of belonging.

Moreover, songs encapsulate ethical values such as respect for elders, love for one's homeland, and unity within the community [1, 125-134]. For example, in Karakalpak folk songs, metaphors about rivers, deserts, and the motherland are often used to emphasize loyalty and perseverance. Thus, songs act as an emotional bridge connecting the younger generation with ancestral traditions.

In addition, songs have an educational dimension that cannot be overlooked. When children and adolescents learn national songs, they do not only memorize melodies and lyrics, but also internalize lessons about morality, patriotism, and collective responsibility. Linking music to education makes values more memorable and emotionally impactful.

For instance, Karakalpak lullabies ("Besik jiri") instill tenderness and love.

Háyyiw-háyyiw, qàràgım-àw,  
Aydày bolgàn shıràgım-àw,  
Jurt súymese súymesin-àw,  
Ózimniń súygen àydàyım-àw.  
Háyyiw-háyyiw, hàydàsı-ày,  
Qàshàn tiyer pàydàsı-ày,  
Oqıp àdàm bolgàn soń-ày,  
Sondà tiyer pàydàsı-ày.

Such songs are integrated into daily life and rituals, ensuring that children absorb values in a natural and engaging way [4]. Moreover, music teachers in Karakalpak schools often use songs as part of lessons to improve not only cultural awareness but also language skills, since traditional songs enrich vocabulary with poetic and symbolic expressions.

**Table 1: Functions of Songs in Guiding National Values**

Type of Song	Content/Message	Impact on Youth	Example from Karakalpak Culture
Folk Songs	Historical events, unity, love of land	Develops patriotism and cultural pride	<i>Bul jer rle zor boladı</i> " – respect for homeland
Lullabies ( <i>Besik jiri</i> )	Love, care, emotional security	Fosters kindness and family values	Traditional cradle songs
Epic Songs	Heroism, bravery, loyalty	Encourages courage and responsibility	Songs about historical heroes



Type of Song	Content/Message	Impact on Youth	Example from Karakalpak Culture
Seasonal/Festive Songs	Celebration, gratitude, harmony	Promotes unity and joy within community	<i>Navruz</i> songs

Furthermore, songs play a major role in shaping the emotional world of young people. Unlike textbooks or lectures, music appeals directly to the heart. Through melody and rhythm, young listeners feel pride, sorrow, or joy that reinforces values at a deeper psychological level. For example, patriotic Karakalpak songs performed at national holidays such as *Kewil-kewilden suw isher* inspire not only admiration for the homeland but also a readiness to serve and protect it.

Da'ryar ten'izge ashig,  
Asig'ar ma'wjirip tasip,  
Jollar jollarg'a ulasip,  
Kewil kewilden suw isher.  
Dosliq, izzet - ulli da'wlet,  
Jan azig'i - jaqsi sa'wbet,  
Sho'lge - ba'ha'r, gu'lge na'wbet,  
Kewil kewilden suw isher.

In addition, participation in singing—whether in choirs, school concerts, or community celebrations—gives young people opportunities to practice teamwork, discipline, and mutual respect. These qualities are essential national values that extend beyond music into everyday social life.

Moreover, songs provide a sense of identity in a rapidly globalizing world. In times when youth are exposed to diverse cultures through technology, national songs help them remain rooted in their heritage. Listening to and performing traditional Karakalpak songs allows them to take pride in their unique culture while also respecting others.

For example, during cultural festivals, young people singing "*Qaraqalpağım*" experience collective pride, which reinforces their identity as part of the Karakalpak nation. At the same time, sharing these songs internationally introduces the richness of their traditions to the world.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, songs play a vital role in guiding the young generation toward national values. They are not only a source of entertainment but also a medium for preserving traditions, instilling morality, and strengthening cultural identity. By learning and performing Karakalpak songs, youth connect emotionally with their ancestors and carry forward timeless values such as patriotism, respect, and unity.

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