

## THE PROCESS OF INFORMATIONIZATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION CULTURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN SOCIETY

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### **Abstract**

Today, information has become one of the most valuable resources in the world. The rapid development of information technologies demands from every individual the ability to work with information, as well as the responsibility to accurately evaluate and disseminate it. This article highlights the essence of the process of informationization, its role in societal development, and the theoretical and practical aspects of shaping information culture. Issues related to the effective, safe, and purposeful use of information are analyzed in the context of the rapid advancement of modern information and communication technologies. The significance of information culture for personal development and the sustainable progress of society is substantiated.

### **Keywords**

informationization, information culture, information technologies, digital society, media education, information security

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today, humanity is entering a new stage of development – the formation of an information-based society. Information has become a key strategic resource for societal development, directly influencing economic, political, and social processes. The rapid growth of information flows and the widespread implementation of digital technologies are bringing profound changes to all spheres of social life. At the same time, the excessive abundance of information can negatively affect individual consciousness and increase the potential for manipulation through misinformation. In such conditions, fostering a culture of conscious, critical, and responsible use of information becomes crucial. Alongside the process of informationization, the development of information culture is an important factor in ensuring societal stability.

Informationization is the process of organizing the collection, storage, processing, and dissemination of information across all sectors of society based on modern information and communication technologies. This process is a significant factor in societal development, contributing to the acceleration of socio-economic progress. In an informationized environment, information emerges as a strategic resource closely linked to knowledge and intellectual potential. "It is well known that humanity is experiencing a period of truly revolutionary changes in the field of informationization. As a result, a global information society is taking shape. Therefore, the rapid development of information technologies is one of the key directions in the structural transformations and economic reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan. Currently, the outcomes of ongoing economic, organizational, and other reforms are closely connected with addressing challenges in the field of informationization in the country"[1, 3].

Informationization enhances the efficiency of governance, increases labor productivity, and lays the foundation for innovative development. The transition from traditional management methods to digital governance systems helps ensure transparency and openness in public administration. Consequently, decision-making processes become faster, human error is reduced, and resource utilization efficiency increases.

### **MAIN PART**

As a result of the informationization process, systems such as e-government, e-education, e-health, and the digital economy are being established. Through the e-government system, public services provided to citizens are simplified, saving both time and financial resources. This strengthens the relationship between the state and society and increases citizen participation in governance. "E-education systems are taking the educational process to a new level. Distance learning, online platforms, and digital learning resources expand access to knowledge and ensure the continuity of education. At the same time, informationization contributes to improving the quality of education, enhancing teaching methods, and developing students' critical thinking skills"[2, 67].

In the healthcare sector, informationization plays a crucial role in improving the quality of medical services. Electronic medical records, remote diagnostics, and telemedicine services provide convenience to the population and increase the efficiency of healthcare delivery. This, in turn, strengthens public health and enables the rational use of medical resources.



The digital economy is one of the most significant outcomes of informationization. New business models, e-commerce, and innovative services are developing based on information technologies. This process enhances economic competitiveness and leads to the creation of new job opportunities. At the same time, the digital economy increases the demand for the training of skilled professionals.

Informationization is intellectualizing human activity, leading to the emergence of new professions and specialties. Professions such as software developers, information security specialists, and data analysts now occupy an important place in society. This creates a need for the continuous updating of the education system and the training of specialists in accordance with modern requirements. At the same time, the process of informationization has a significant impact on social relations. The exchange of information through the Internet and social networks is accelerating, creating a new communicative environment in society. While this enhances civic engagement, it also highlights the importance of information security and the development of information culture.

In an information – based society, knowledge and information become the primary factors of production. In such a society, intellectual potential, information literacy, and technological proficiency take precedence over material resources. The quality of human capital becomes a decisive criterion for societal development, and the ability to create and effectively utilize information emerges as a crucial condition for both economic and social progress.

One of the main characteristics of an information – based society is the extensive use of information resources and the development of information infrastructure. Digital networks, internet platforms, databases, and information systems are becoming an integral part of social life. The development of information infrastructure contributes to increased efficiency in public administration, education, healthcare, and the economy. As a result, the principles of openness, speed, and transparency are strengthened in society. Furthermore, in

an information – based society, individuals' social activity and civic engagement are closely linked to their access to and use of information.

Through the Internet and mass media, individuals gain the ability to directly influence social processes, freely express their opinions, and shape public discourse. This positively impacts the development of civil society, enhancing social responsibility and civic engagement. However, in an information-based society, the abundance of information, its rapid dissemination, and the increasing complexity of control also create various challenges. Misinformation, information manipulation, and cybersecurity threats can negatively affect individual consciousness. Therefore, fostering information culture emerges as an important social responsibility in an information – based society.

Information culture refers to the set of knowledge, skills, and competencies an individual possesses in the process of working with information. It includes the ability to search for, select, analyze, and evaluate information, as well as to use it in accordance with ethical and legal norms. Information culture shapes an individual's intellectual development, critical thinking, and responsible behavior within the information environment.

"The main components of information culture include information literacy, critical thinking, information ethics, information security, and legal knowledge. Information literacy enables individuals to independently search for and effectively use information, while critical thinking plays a crucial role in analyzing and evaluating information. Information ethics ensures adherence to moral standards in the use of information" [3, 78]. Information security is an important component of information culture, serving to protect individuals from information threats. Protecting personal data, adhering to cybersecurity rules, and understanding information law are essential for safe activity in the digital environment. Therefore, fostering information culture in an information-based society is one of the key responsibilities of the education system, mass media, and social institutions. A well-developed information culture strengthens social stability and creates favorable conditions for innovative development in society.

Alongside the rapid development of information technologies, several challenges have emerged in fostering information culture. These include low levels of information literacy, the widespread dissemination of false information on social networks, and cybersecurity threats. Of particular concern is the insufficient development of critical evaluation skills among young people. This situation can negatively affect their consciousness and lead to undesirable consequences in social behavior.



The education system plays a leading role in fostering information culture. In the educational process, it is essential not only to use information technologies effectively but also to teach students to use information consciously and purposefully. By teaching media literacy, digital literacy, and the basics of information security, an individual's information culture can be developed. This process contributes to the formation of young people as independent thinkers, socially responsible individuals, and persons adapted to the digital environment. Information culture is one of the key factors in ensuring sustainable societal development. In a society with a high level of information culture, information resources are used effectively, social stability is strengthened, and innovative development accelerates.

"Conversely, in a society where information culture is insufficiently developed, information manipulation, social conflicts, and threats to information security intensify. Therefore, the development of information culture should be one of the key directions of state policy"[3, 45]. By fostering information culture, citizens' critical thinking skills can be strengthened, and their abilities to analyze and evaluate information sources can be developed. This elevates the culture of conscious information use in society and creates a stable immunity against information attacks and ideological threats. As a result, a healthy informational environment is established.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Within the scope of this study, the process of informationization and the role of information culture in the development of modern society were examined from both theoretical and practical perspectives. The results indicate that informationization serves as a crucial factor in all spheres of societal development, and its effectiveness is directly dependent on the level of development of information culture. Informationization technologies not only expand access to

information resources but also enhance efficiency in public administration, education, healthcare, and the economy.

The study demonstrates that as a result of informationization, transparency and efficiency in governance processes are being enhanced through e-government and digital services. Citizens gain the ability to access public services remotely, which contributes to strengthening trust within society. At the same time, the development of information infrastructure creates opportunities for the effective organization of social services, as well as improved information exchange and communication. The results indicate that information technologies and infrastructure serve as essential tools for enhancing efficiency across all sectors of society.

In the field of education, informationization has led to the widespread implementation of distance learning, electronic learning resources, and digital platforms. According to the research findings, this process expands students' opportunities for independent learning and ensures the continuity of education. At the same time, the need to develop information culture among both teachers and students has increased. In an environment where information culture is well-established, the positive outcomes of informationization are further enhanced. Individuals with a high level of information culture possess the ability to critically analyze information, identify reliable sources, and use information consciously. This plays a significant role in preventing the spread of false and harmful information within society.

The discussions indicate that in societies with low levels of information culture, the process of informationization may not yield the expected outcomes. In such conditions, information technologies may be misused, leading to information manipulation, social conflicts, and threats to information security. Therefore, the process of informationization should be assessed not only as a technological advancement but also as a socio-cultural phenomenon. The research findings demonstrate that developing information culture through the education system is the most effective approach.

By teaching information literacy, media education, and the fundamentals of information security, critical thinking and responsible information consumption are cultivated among the younger generation. "This, in the long term, contributes to ensuring social stability. Furthermore, the role of mass media and digital platforms in shaping information culture has been particularly emphasized. According to the research findings, creating high-quality and reliable information content, adhering to information ethics, and complying with legal norms help to establish a healthy

informational environment in society. In this process, cooperation between state and public institutions plays a crucial role”[2, 28].

The data obtained during the study indicate a clear interconnection between information culture and sustainable societal development. In societies with a well-developed information culture, social activity, civic responsibility, and innovative thinking are highly manifested. This creates favorable conditions for the formation of a digital economy and a knowledge-based society. The results demonstrate that the processes of informationization and the development of information culture are complementary and interrelated. While informationization expands technological capabilities, information culture ensures their rational, safe, and effective use. Therefore, within the framework of state policy, the development of information culture should be given equal priority alongside informationization.

Overall, the research findings indicate that informationization and information culture hold strategic significance in the modern development of society. The harmonious development of these processes contributes to strengthening social stability, ensuring information security, and enhancing human potential. The results also show that if state policy for the formation and development of information culture is effectively implemented, social, economic, and cultural processes within society are significantly improved.

### **Conclusion**

The research findings indicate that the processes of informationization and information culture hold strategic significance in the development of modern society. Informationization enhances efficiency across all sectors, enabling the digital transformation of public administration, education, healthcare, and the economy. At the same time, information culture develops an individual's ability to work with information, critical thinking skills, and responsible information consumption, thereby preventing information attacks, manipulation, and the spread of false information.

In societies with a well-developed information culture, citizens' social activity and civic engagement are strengthened, and social stability is reinforced through the conscious use of information resources. Therefore, the formation and development of information culture should be one of the priority directions of state policy. The research findings also indicate that when informationization technologies and information culture develop harmoniously, the society's adaptation to the digital economy, innovative development, and enhancement of human potential are significantly improved.

In conclusion, the processes of informationization and information culture serve as the foundation for societal modernization, social stability, and the rational

use of digital opportunities. Therefore, it is essential to develop them as complementary and interrelated processes, and to formulate systematic strategies at both the state and public levels. This approach not only ensures the effective functioning of modern society but also contributes to the full realization of human intellectual, ethical, and social potential.

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