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THE ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS IN THE BUKHARA REGION AND THE ROLE OF IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (DURING THE SOVIET PERIOD)

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Abstract
This study examines the activities of children's summer camps in the Bukhara region during the Soviet period and analyzes their role in the development of youth tourism as well as the ideological influence of Soviet policies on schoolchildren. Based on archival documents and contemporary periodicals, the research investigates the formation and development of children's camps in the region. The study demonstrates that the organization of summer recreation for children in the districts of Bukhara Province served not only recreational purposes but also functioned as an effective instrument for educating young people within the framework of Soviet ideology through tourism.

Keywords: Travel, children's summer camp, tourism, summer vacation, Pioneer camp, excursion, octobrists, pioneers, communist ideological education.

Introduction

Tourism broadens young people's worldview and expands their intellectual horizons. It contributes to the physical and spiritual development of children while enhancing their communication skills, critical thinking, imagination, and

curiosity. Educational travel has long played an important role in fostering the comprehensive development of young people by enriching their knowledge and social experience.

Literature Review

The research draws upon archival sources, periodical publications, and information obtained from official sources, enabling a multidimensional analysis of the topic. The literature reviewed for this study can be classified into three main categories:

1. Archival materials;
2. Periodical publications;
3. Scholarly studies conducted by local researchers.

Research Methodology

The study employs the principles of objectivity and historicism while applying comparative and critical analysis methods in examining the available historical sources.

Analysis and Results

Beginning in the 1970s, children's summer camps were established throughout the cities and districts of the Bukhara region. These camps were generally organized with financial and administrative support from trade unions, industrial enterprises, factories, and state institutions.

During the summer season of 1971, the "**Sputnik"** children's camp, under the leadership of **B. M. Mirzayeva**, was established with the capacity to accommodate **736 children** in **three sessions**. The first session hosted **250 children**, the second **326**, and the third **160** participants. In the same year, the



"Yosh mexanizator" camp, directed by **F. N. Almeyeva**, commenced its activities in June.

Likewise, the **"Yosh quruvchi"** camp, headed by **Y. A. Karimov**, began operating in 1971. Soviet ideological influence was clearly reflected in the educational and cultural activities organized within these camps. For instance, Pioneer camps regularly included patriotic songs glorifying the Soviet state, such as *"Rossiya qo'shig'i", "Mening qadrdon Rossiyam", "Lenin" and "Ona yurtning ovozi*". Theatrical performances including *"Ayajonlarim", "Qora atirgul", "Yosh gvardiya" and "Ishchi sinf"* were also staged for schoolchildren.

In Gijduvan District, the "**Kostyor" (Bonfire)** camp began operating in 1971, providing recreational services for 134 children aged 8–13 under the supervision of Soliyev. Approximately 90 percent of the participants were Uzbek children. Educational lectures and meetings were regularly organized on topics such as "Lenin biz bilan", "Yulduzlar sari yo'l", "Mening ona yurtim keng". Consequently, children's camps served not only as recreational institutions but also as important instruments of communist ideological education.

Children's recreation was organized not only within the Bukhara region itself but also in neighboring regions. Sanatorium-type camps accommodating children from Bukhara operated in the Yakhton and Omonqoton mountain areas of the Samarkand region. Furthermore, children from Bukhara regularly spent their summer holidays at the "**Zolotinka"** children's camp located in Urgut District.

In 1973, the "**Yoshlik"** children's camp was established in the city of Bukhara, providing accommodation for 160 children.

A significant milestone occurred in 1974, when the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union adopted the resolution *On Further Improving the Organization of Recreation for Pioneers and Schoolchildren*.

Following this policy, the "**Shofirkon"** Pioneer Camp was recognized in 1975 as one of the exemplary Pioneer camps in the Uzbek SSR.

The "**Sputnik"** Bureau, established in 1958, functioned as an organization supporting youth tourism by organizing travel through three principal directions: international tourism, domestic travel within Soviet cities, and recreation at international youth centers.

In Shofirkon District, the "**Kibalchish**" Camp, named after the courageous fictional hero of Soviet children's literature, was officially established on 9 October 1975 and accommodated 473 children between the ages of 7 and 15.

Another important institution operating in the district was the "**Mingchinor"** Inter-Collective Farm Children's Camp. The camp hosted *Octobrists (children aged 7–9) and Pioneers (children aged 9–14),* where participants learned outdoor games, collective discipline, obedience to Soviet regulations, and the principles of socialist collectivism. Group activities such as hiking expeditions and educational excursions constituted an integral part of camp life.

During the third session held on 31 July 1975, the "**Mingchinor**" camp served 280 children. Its activities were coordinated by the District Party Committee, the District Trade Union Committee, the District Department of Public Education, the Pioneer Palace, and the District Komsomol Committee. Teachers from local schools and students of the Bukhara Pedagogical Institute worked as counselors and camp instructors.

The camp infrastructure included a medical station, dining facilities, recreation rooms, a Pioneer House, a stadium, and assembly grounds. The camp director was T. Rajabov. Archival records further indicate that local authorities planned the construction of a new children's camp with a capacity of 1,000 places.

All camps maintained extracurricular clubs, including sports sections, amateur artistic groups, young writers' clubs, young technicians' circles, handicraft

workshops, and photography clubs. Educational excursions were regularly organized throughout the district. For example, children from Shofirkon camps visited the archaeological site of Vardonze and pottery workshops of the local ceramic industry. The activities conducted at Mingchinor Camp were extensively reported in issues 67, 70, and 78 of the newspaper *Shofirkon Haqiqati* under the slogan **"**Golden Summer – A Wonderful Time." Lectures devoted to Vladimir Lenin and Pavlik Morozov were also included in the educational program.

In 1975, the Bukhara Regional Consumers' Union allocated a small bus to the "**Sputnik"** Camp, enabling excursions to the historical monuments of Bukhara. During the same year, delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Hungarian People's Republic visited the camp. The regional Trade Union organization supervised the activities of these camps.

Additional camps established in **1975** included the "**Irrigator" Camp**, the **"Yosh paxtakor" Camp**, and the "**Yosh avtomobilist"Camp**, operated by the Regional Motor Transport Association. The "**Yoshlik"** sanatorium-type children's camp consisted of four residential buildings, each accommodating 40 children, with a total capacity of 160 participants. As part of the regional Trade Union system, the camp possessed well-developed recreational facilities.

Nevertheless, despite their recreational function, Soviet children's camps remained deeply embedded within the ideological framework of the Communist Party. The widespread slogan "Labour is Happiness" reflected attempts to prepare children as future members of the socialist workforce under the guise of tourism and recreation.

Political, educational, and cultural activities conducted in the camps aimed to cultivate patriotism and proletarian internationalism among children. Many events commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Uzbek SSR, and

preparations for the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Considerable attention was devoted to educating schoolchildren in revolutionary, military, and labour traditions through the life and activities of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, making ideological instruction an essential component of camp education.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that children's summer camps established under the sponsorship of trade unions, industrial enterprises, factories, and state institutions in the Bukhara region during the Soviet period played a significant role in organizing children's recreation and promoting youth tourism. At the same time, these institutions functioned as effective mechanisms for communist ideological education. Recreational activities, tourism, cultural programs, and educational events were systematically integrated into the broader objectives of Soviet political and ideological socialization, illustrating the dual recreational and ideological functions of children's camps during this historical period.

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