

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND PEOPLE TO CULTURE DURING THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract: The article shows how the Uzbekistan Society of the Blind (UzBS) preserved and gradually developed cultural life in the early years of independence. ¹. After the decline of 1985–1990, a revival began in 1991–1992 at the Tashkent House of Culture (Jamoliddin Karimov, Habibulla Umarov); "Zilola" became a laureate in 1987, "Xalq Dastasi" in 1991, and the works of Vali Gafurov and Qobil Mirzo were published. In 1993–1994, repair and equipment work was carried out, and in 1995–1996, staged competitions were held.

Keywords: Live dialogue, chess-checkers, Zilola folk instrument, Financial shortage, blind artists.

Introduction. In the first years of independence, cultural life began to slowly rise. Against the backdrop of the decline of 1985–1990, many halls and auditoriums remained empty. In such conditions, some institutions within the Uzbekistan Society for the Blind (UzBS) continued to operate. In particular, in the House of Culture at the Brush and Cardboard Products Educational and Production Combine in Tashkent, a cautious revival began in 1991–1992: the leadership — Jamoliddin Karimov and Habibulla Umarov — replaced the “radio monologue” with live meetings and interactive events, and the circles resumed their activities. In 1993–1994, the material base was strengthened, and in 1995–1996 competitions were gradually systematized.

The economic difficulties of the early 1990s led to a decrease in the number of visitors to many cultural institutions, and in some places, halls and auditoriums remained empty for months. Sometimes employees were forcibly brought to events, which further weakened the natural connection between the cultural environment and the community. Nevertheless, the House of Culture at the Tashkent Brush and Cardboard Educational and Production Plant of the UzBS (Uzbekistan Blind Society)

¹ O'zbekiston Respublikasi Ko'zi Ojizlar Jamiyati // <https://uzkoj.uz/about-us/>

showed a completely different picture. The circles were crowded with enthusiasts, and members of the community began to attend performances and meetings regularly and with internal need. This situation once again confirmed that culture is not a “fun”, but a vital necessity. Although this House of Culture was founded in 1985, its activities have slowed down over the years. In particular, amateur art and drama In addition to the circles, some areas were stopped, and live communication with the team was interrupted, as educational lectures were mainly broadcast on the company radio. The appointment of J. Karimov as deputy director of the combine for cultural and educational affairs in 1991 had a positive effect on the activation of cultural processes. In particular, he worked with the approach that “without developing culture, it is impossible to raise the level of employees to the level of modern requirements” and attracted experienced specialists to the field. For example, one of such personnel, H. Umarov, was appointed director of the House of Culture. H. Umarov, through face-to-face meetings with employees, identified the issues that were on their minds, and instead of radio monologues, he organized live meetings and interactive events. As a result, the club and library again became a place of cultural recreation: the activities of chess and checkers circles, folklore groups, and Uzbek folk instrument ensembles intensified. The national composition of the team Despite their diversity, mutual solidarity and harmony have been strengthened. It can be seen that the roots of the achievements lie precisely in this unity².

In the amateur direction of the UzBS , the folk instrument ensemble "Zilola" was established in 1986. When T. Hasanov began his work as artistic director, he noted that the ensemble's repertoire was narrow, and a number of problems were noted in its performance skills. After a year of serious preparation, "Zilola" acquired its own solid concert program, and the ranks were replenished with new talented young people. Creative trips were made to Kokand, Margilan, Karshi, Bukhara, and Shakhrisabz. Also, the activities carried out at the "All-Union Amateur Artistic Ensemble Competition" held in Tashkent in 1987 bore fruit. In particular, the "Zilola" ensemble was awarded a laureate and was awarded a 1st degree diploma. At the same competition, the drama club of the UzBS was also recognized as the winner by staging Izzat Sultan's "Istekhkom" and was considered worthy of the honorary certificate of the USSR Writers' Union. On October 4, 1991, by resolutions No. 10 and 11 of the

² Madaniy soha tashvishlari // Bir safda 1992-yil 1-son. – B.15.

Presidium of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, the title of "People's Hand" was awarded.

Along with this, certain problems are noticeable.

First, financial shortage. In the conditions of market relations, the probability of running out of funds is high. Based on internal capabilities, some clubs worked in the evenings. These rooms were empty all day. The current rules did not allow them to earn some income by renting them out during the day. Even one club - a sewing room - was rented out to the district utility company for 200 soums per month, but due to these rules, the contracts were terminated. Previously, two rooms of the culture house were allocated for men's and women's hairdressing salons, and another room was allocated for a dry cleaning service, and the blind also used such household services. However, although these service providers provided services in the culture house building and received a decent income, they refused to pay rent, saying, "We do not have any contracts."

Secondly, the transportation problem. The culture house did not have its own car, and renting it was expensive. As a result, it became difficult to organize paid concert programs by "Zilola" and similar ensembles. In particular, two concerts planned to be performed at the sanatorium for cardiovascular diseases in Yangi Yol were not held due to the lack of buses.

Thirdly, despite the fact that four drama clubs under the control of the society have been operating for several years, no special competitions were held for them at the republican level. This has limited the opportunity to introduce artists to the public, or at least to provide them with moral encouragement³.

Despite the existing problems, the UzBS cultural houses play an important role in the development of many blind writers. In particular, the Promotion Center under the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan published the first poetry collection of a young poet from Andijan in 10,000 copies. Vali Gafurov's novel "Vafodor", written with a needle - that is, prepared using a special pen (needle) used by blind writers, and the collection "Muhabbat Bahori" by poet Qobil Mirzo show that the heritage of blind writers has reached the general public⁴. Braille textbooks, works of art, magazines "Mash'al", "Bir

³ Madaniy soha tashvishlari // Bir safda 1992-yil 1-son. – B.18-19.

⁴ Adabiy sahifa // Bir safda 1992-yil 3-son. – B.23.

safda", "Yangi hayot", "talking books" published by the printing house constantly introduced blind people to news about the world and the republic.⁵

Documents from the early 1990s–2000s clearly show one thing: despite the pressure of economic deficit, the cultural life of the blind community did not stop, but continued with order and responsibility.

In the years after 2000, as a result of the solutions found to financial problems, the following events were held. This shows that the UZBS did not ignore the interest of its members in culture.

For example: On June 20, 2008, the “Cheerful and Clever” competition was held throughout the Fergana Valley under the leadership of Chairman Shokirjon Usmanov as part of the “Year of Youth”⁶, On March 2, 2010, the UzBS adopted a decision to hold the “Fast and Expressive Reading of Text in Louis Braille” competition throughout the republic in three stages. According to this, the qualifying round will be completed in all districts by March 10, stages will be held in regions and cities on March 29, and in May, the republican final will be organized and the winners will be determined.⁷, In 2016, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of Independence, a republican competition for blind amateur singers of groups 1–2 was established on the basis of a regulation signed by the Chairman of the UzBS, Abdugani Abdunabiyev: the Kamolot youth movement, the Women's Committee, and the Federation of Trade Unions became partners; the competition was held in May–June with regional qualifying and the republican final in July.⁸, On January 30, 2019, a Memorandum was signed between the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan (Bakhtiyor Sayfullayev) and the Chairman of the UzBS A. Mirhamidov. According to it, it is stipulated to develop joint plans with libraries and cultural centers, deliver Braille and audio literature, establish a door-to-door library service, hold seminars and competitions, open new departments where necessary, and consider blind specialists for leadership positions.⁹, Or, on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of Independence, the "Alla" republican competition for visually impaired

⁵ Tarix ko'zgusida: Monografiya / E. Norpo'latov – T.: “IJOD-PRESS” nashriyoti, 2024-yil. – B.13.

⁶ O'zbekiston KOJMBA. Andijon viloyat boshqaruv plenum va rayosat yig'ilish bayonnomalari 2008-2010-yillar papkasi. 50-varaq.

⁷ O'zbekiston KOJMBA. Toshkent shahar boshqaruv plenum va rayosat yig'ilish bayonnomalari 2008-2010-yillar papkasi. 2-varaq.

⁸ O'zbekiston KOJMBA. Chiqish xatlari 2016-yil papkasi. 69-varaq.

⁹ O'zbekiston KOJMBA. Ko'rish bo'yicha nogironligi bo'lgan xotin qizlar o'rtasida alla ko'rik tanlovi 2019-yil papkasi. 1-varaq.

women was announced: regional qualifiers were held in May-June, and the final was held in Tashkent in October. The competition was intended only for solo performances.¹⁰.

¹⁰ O'zbekiston KOJMBA. Ko'rish bo'yicha nogironligi bo'lgan xotin qizlar o'rtasida alla ko'rik tanlovi 2019-yil papkasi. 40-varaq.

Conclusion

In 1985–1996, the Uzbekistan Society of the Blind (UzBS) steadily strengthened in cultural life: after a decline in 1985–1990, a cautious revival began in 1991–1992, clubs and libraries were reopened, and new performers arrived. In 1993–1994, the material base was strengthened by repairing and equipping the stage and buildings, as well as strengthening cooperation; state funds were allocated for the Central Palace of Culture, and the range of products at the society's enterprises expanded. In 1995–1996, competitions were organized along the district-city-region-republican chain, and winners were obtained at the republican level - members rose from the level of "spectator" to the level of "creative and enterprising". In 2008–2010, cultural work continued at the expense of local revenues and sponsorship (competitions in Andijan, a three-stage competition in Braille reading in Tashkent), in 2016, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of Independence, a singing competition covering the entire sector was standardized with uniform rules and clear evaluation criteria. In 2019, a Memorandum was signed with the Ministry of Culture, and a joint plan with libraries and cultural centers, Braille and audio literature, door-to-door library service, seminars and competitions were established on a regulatory basis; in the same year, the “Alla” republican competition for women with visual impairments was held. The financing model was also unified: the regions themselves covered the costs of the regional stage, the Central Administration provided accommodation and meals at the republican final with partners, and travel expenses were covered by the departmental organization that sent the participant. The general picture is that despite economic difficulties, the UzBS , with its management based on internal resources, sponsorship, and cooperation, did not stop the cultural process, but, on the contrary, turned it into a regular, stable, and comprehensive system.

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