

## THE INFLUENCE OF THE OPEN SOCIETY THEORY ON THE SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS OF MODERN EDUCATION: SOME REFLECTIONS

Azamatova Gulrukh Islom qizi<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek

<sup>2</sup>Tashkent International University of Education

E-mail: [t420@tiue.uz](mailto:t420@tiue.uz)

**Abstract.** In this article, the author examines the influence of the open society theory on the socio-cultural aspects of modern education. By exploring the specifics of this influence, the author indicates how precisely the open society theory can transform contemporary education, while also highlighting critical points. The author concludes that despite some negative aspects of the open society theory, it plays a crucial role in the progressive development of educational systems.

**Keywords:** *open society, education, ethics, culture, social development.*

Development of modern education in the context of globalization and fundamental transformations of socio-cultural nature requires the development of new approaches that would address the new challenges of the present era. This is important from an ethical perspective as well, as the education system not only imparts knowledge but also shapes the human personality, nurturing various qualities and values in individuals that subsequently influence the socio-cultural environment as a whole, as education and culture are closely interconnected [1, 84]. In addition, education serves as the foundation for sustainable societal development, and thus periodic reforms in this area are crucial to prevent stagnation in education. Today, various pedagogical technologies and theories of learning emerge, synthesizing various interdisciplinary approaches. Thus, behavioralism, cognitivism, constructivism, and even existentialism have become theories of learning. Modern philosophy of education has acquired significant interdisciplinary status, as it incorporates not only pedagogy and psychology but also sociology, cross-cultural studies, literature, IT, and so on. Nonetheless, what are the main socio-cultural aspects that can be distinguished in modern education? In our opinion, these are the following aspects:

1. Multiculturalism of the educational environment, as modern educational institutions provide a platform for intercultural communication.

2. Inclusivity, which is associated with the fact that contemporary education seeks to encompass the widest possible range of social groups, and this applies not only to students with disabilities, as inclusivity is considered in terms of gender, cultural, and other differences.

3. Technological innovations and digitization, as education today is inconceivable without various information technologies that provide not only an interesting and engaging learning process but also save time and resources.

4. Globalization of education, as modern education becomes global, which means that students can study the culture, science, and values of different countries and regions. This also contributes to the development of their global thinking and intercultural understanding.

5. Moral and ethical values, as education plays an important role in developing the worldview of students, shaping their principles, and fostering responsibility.

The socio-cultural aspects outlined above should constantly evolve based on, as we believe, the principle of falsification introduced into scientific discourse by Karl Popper, who believed that scientific knowledge in its development strives for truth, yet does not formulate final constants, but with each new theory brings us closer to the truth [2, 18]. Popper is known as the developer of the Open Society Theory, based not only on falsificationism but also on

critical rationalism and pluralism. From this perspective, it is important to note that critical rationalism can also be applied as a theory of learning, as it places significant emphasis on developing critical thinking in students, empirical approach, as well as openness to errors and corrections. Moreover, critical rationalism focuses on dialogue and exchange of ideas, as well as self-directed learning. However, how is all of this applicable to the socio-cultural aspects of modern education?

First and foremost, it should be noted that the Open Society Theory places a strong emphasis on pluralism and tolerance, thereby demanding from education acceptance of the most diverse ideas, as well as tolerant attitudes towards them. Corresponding values should be instilled in students. Additionally, one of the key elements of the influence of the Open Society Theory is the emphasis on the development of critical thinking [3, 30]. It is necessary to say that modern education at all levels places great emphasis on the development of critical thinking, however, the rational factor remains overlooked, yet it is of crucial importance, as rational criticism is reasoned, argumentative criticism, based on scientific grounds [4, 284]. Popper's theory, being called "open society," invests this concept with great existential meaning, as here the open society is a free society, yet requiring responsibility from its members. From this perspective, this theory demands from education the upbringing of society members in the spirit of high civic consciousness, so that social-political processes occur within the framework of social engineering, which implies staged reforms [5, 18]. In the context of modern globalization, Popper's theory requires the development of students' global orientation, the development of intercultural competence in order to ensure mutual understanding between different cultures. Moreover, it can be said that the "open society" is "open" to innovations and, consequently, stimulates the development of flexible, adaptive, and open new methods of teaching, pedagogical technologies, and approaches.

Thus, we can see that Karl Popper's theory of the open society, in the context of the development of modern education, influences the socio-cultural aspects mentioned above. However, the theory is not without its critical points. For instance, pluralism and tolerance may impact the existence of clear criteria and standards in education. Global orientation may lead to excessive globalization of education, loss of cultural identity, acculturation, or transculturation. Despite these critical points, the theory of the open society nevertheless remains an important and useful framework for understanding the socio-cultural aspects of education. It reminds us of the importance of respecting diversity and tolerance, as well as the need to find a balance between universal values and the unique needs of each society. It is important to consider these critical aspects when applying the concepts of the open society theory in the context of education to ensure its effective and equitable development.

## References

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