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**WOMEN INTELLECTUALS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
LITERATURE IN THE UZBEK SSR (1920s–1930s)**

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Abstract. This article examines the role of women intellectuals in the development of literature in the Uzbek SSR during the 1920s-1930s. The study analyzes the socio-cultural and political conditions that facilitated the emergence of female authors and their participation in literary processes. Special attention is given to the Jadid reform movement, which laid the foundation for women's education and intellectual activity. The research is based on archival materials, periodical publications such as Yangi yo'l, and memoir sources. The article argues that women intellectuals not only contributed to literary development but also reflected broader transformations in society. In particular, the "Abroad" section played an important role in broadening the worldview of local women by presenting materials about the lives of women in countries such as China, India and Africa. In addition, the inclusion of popular science materials related to disciplines such as medicine, mathematics, and geometry not only contributed to improving women's literacy, but also aimed at forming them into educated and active members of society. Within the framework of this study, it is possible to trace in chronological order the women who actively collaborated with the Yangi Yol magazine, and the thematic areas of their work.

Keywords: women intellectuals, Uzbek SSR, literature, Jadidism, Soviet period, women's press

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**ӨЗБЕК КСР-ДА ӘДЕБИЕТТІҢ ДАМУЫНДАҒЫ
ӘЙЕЛ ЗИЯЛЫЛАРЫНЫҢ РӨЛІ (1920–1930 жж.)**

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Түйін: Мақалада 1920-1930 жылдары Өзбек КСР-де әдебиеттің дамуына әйел зиялыларының қосқан үлесі қарастырылады. Зерттеуде әйел авторлардың қалыптасуына және олардың әдеби үдерістерге қатысуына ықпал еткен әлеуметтік-мәдени және саяси жағдайлар талданады. Әйелдердің білім алуы мен зияткерлік белсенділігінің негізін қалаған жәдиттік реформалық қозғалысқа ерекше назар аударылады. Зерттеу архив материалдарына, мерзімді басылымдарға, соның ішінде «Yangi yo'l» журналына, сондай-ақ естелік деректерге негізделген. Мақалада әйел зиялылары әдебиеттің дамуына үлес қосып қана қоймай, қоғамдағы кең ауқымды өзгерістерді де бейнелегені дәлелденеді. Атап айтқанда, «Шетел» бөлімі Қытай, Үндістан және Африка сияқты елдердегі әйелдердің өмірі туралы материалдарды ұсына отырып, жергілікті әйелдердің дүниетанымын кеңейтуде маңызды рөл

атқарды. Сонымен қатар, медицина, математика және геометрия сияқты пәндермен байланысты ғылыми-танымал материалдарды қосу әйелдердің сауаттылығын арттыруға ықпал етіп қана қоймай, олардан қоғамның білімді және белсенді мүшелерін қалыптастыруға бағытталған. Осы зерттеу аясында "Янги йол" журналымен белсенді жұмыс істеген әйелдердің хронологиялық тәртібін және олардың жұмысының тақырыптық бағыттарын байқауға болады.

Кілт сөздер: әйел зиялылары, ӨзбекКСР, әдебиет, жәдидшілдік, кеңестік кезең, әйелдер баспасөзі

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ЖЕНЩИНЫ-ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЫ И ИХ РОЛЬ В РАЗВИТИИ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ В УЗБЕКСКОЙ ССР (1920–1930-е гг.)

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Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается роль женщин-интеллектуалов в развитии литературы в Узбекской ССР в 1920–1930-е годы. Анализируются социально-культурные и политические условия, способствовавшие формированию женского авторства и их участию в литературных процессах. Особое внимание уделяется джадидскому реформаторскому движению, заложившему основу для образования и интеллектуальной активности женщин. Исследование основано на архивных материалах, периодических изданиях, таких как «Янги йол», а также мемуарных источниках. В статье утверждается, что женщины-интеллектуалы не только внесли вклад в развитие литературы, но и отразили более широкие общественные трансформации. В частности, раздел «За рубежом» сыграл важную роль в расширении мировоззрения местных женщин, представив материалы о жизни женщин в таких странах, как Китай, Индия и Африка. Кроме того, включение научно-популярных материалов, связанных с такими дисциплинами, как медицина, математика и геометрия, не только способствовало повышению грамотности женщин, но и было направлено на формирование из них образованных и активных членов общества. В рамках этого исследования можно проследить в хронологическом порядке женщин, которые активно сотрудничали с журналом «Янги йол», и тематические направления их работ.

Ключевые слова: женщины-интеллектуалы, Узбекская ССР, литература, джадидизм, женская пресса

Introduction

In past centuries, the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, as part of Central Asia, was occupied by the khanates of Bukhara, Kokand, and Khiva. Despite being surrounded by political and economic challenges, this period witnessed a certain level of development in education, literature, and culture. In particular, a number of enlightened and prominent female poets emerged among women, including Uvaysiy, Nodirabegim (Mahloroyim), Dilshodi Barno, Anbar Otin, To‘tiqiz, Xayriniso, and Bahriniso [1, 15-18].

For instance, Dilshodi Barno composed ghazals in both Tajik and Uzbek languages. Initially working alongside her mother-in-law and, following her passing, independently for 51 years, she was actively engaged in teaching literacy to women. A total of 891 Uzbek girls studied at her school, among whom notable poets such as Anbar Otin, To‘tiqiz, Xayriniso, and Bahriniso were trained.

In this context, it is appropriate to briefly consider the activities of Anbar Otin. Anbar Otin

Farmonqul qizi (1870, Kokand – 1915) was an Uzbek poet who studied at Dilshod Otin's school. In addition to her literary work, she was actively involved in educating and mentoring young girls in her community, which earned her the title of "Otin". The works of Anbar Otin are predominantly social in nature, addressing issues such as injustice of the time, the difficult conditions of the working population, and the importance of enlightenment. In her work «Qarolar falsafasi» («Philosophy of the Oppressed»), she vividly portrays the harsh fate of women. Furthermore, she raises the issue of women's social status and advocates for their legitimate rights within society.

In evaluating the role of motherhood, Anbar Otin emphasizes its fundamental importance, stating: «A mother is such a wise creator that she brings into the world and nurtures figures like Plato and Aristotle, Avicenna and Ulugbek, Jami, Saadi, Ferdowsi and Khayyam, Nodira and Uvaysiy...» [2,89-96]. Thus, Anbar Otin can be regarded as one of the progressive intellectual women who, through her literary works, addressed social problems and actively advocated for women's rights.

Materials and methods

Theoretical analysis

In the 1920s, the entry of women into the literary process in the territory of the Uzbek SSR was primarily realized through the pages of periodical press. Publications intended for women served as the first creative platform for female authors[3].

According to the memoirs of Saodat Shamsiyeva, «whenever Soviet Press Day was celebrated, I would recall those Uzbek girls and young women of the 1920s who had just gained freedom, learned literacy, and began to take up the pen to write poems and epics about women's emancipation».

Women gradually began to appear in various periodicals. At the same time, the monthly socio-political, literary, and illustrated women's journal *Yangi yo'l*, published by the Women's Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, became an important platform. The journal evolved into a space where numerous women expressed their experiences, emotions, and social realities through literary creativity, thereby reflecting the spirit of the era[4, 156-158].

In another account, Saodat Shamsiyeva notes: «We attended a literary circle organized by our literature teacher, the scholar Abdurahmon Sa'diy, at the Women's Educational Institution. Our early writings were discussed there. Many of the participants of this circle later became the first writers of the Soviet period - poets, authors, and journalists. Sobira Xoldorova was sent to Moscow to study journalism and became a highly qualified journalist. Oydin Sobirova became a writer. Xosiyat Tillaxon qizi not only became a poet but also served for many years as the editor of the women's journal «Yangi yo'l». Other members, such as Karima Bobojonova and Saodat Rahmonova, worked in regional newspapers and journals» [5].

The memoirs of Saodat Shamsiyeva thus provide valuable insight into the formation of an intellectual and literary environment among Uzbek women in the early 1920s. This literary milieu and the activities of such circles later found a more structured expression in the women's journal «Yangi yo'l».

The first issue of «Yangi yo'l» was published in Samarkand on December 1, 1925. From the 4th issue in 1926, it was published in Tashkent, and from June 1, 1927, it was again relocated to Samarkand. The following table presents the editorial leadership of the journal during different periods. Source: compiled by the author.

Table - 1. Compiled by the author

Period	Editor-in-Chief//Editorial Board	Notes
December 1925 - November 1927	Editorial Board: Alimov, Nazirova, Korieva, Nosirova, Karimova, Saifullina	Initial organizational stage of the journal

December 1927 - August 1929	Tojixon Shodieva	Period of single editorial leadership
From September 1929	Editorial Board: Tojixon Shodieva, Sobira Xoldor qizi, Tojixon Rustambek qizi, Xosiyat Tillaxon qizi, Mahbuba Rahim qizi	Stage characterized by the leadership of women intellectuals.

If we focus on the activities of the journal, it can be observed that in its early years it was managed by a collective editorial board. From December 1925 to November 1927, the editorial board included Alimov, Nazirova, Korieva, Nosirova, Karimova, and Saifullina. This period represents the formative stage of the journal, during which the editorial structure was mixed, and the publication functioned primarily as a platform for general educational and socio-political dissemination.

From December 1927 to August 1929, the position of editor-in-chief was held by Tojixon Shodieva, marking a transition to individual editorial leadership. From September 1929 onward, the journal returned to a collective editorial board structure.

The journal «Yangi yo‘l» played a significant role as a cultural platform in the formation of women intellectuals and female poets. It served as a space where women could develop their literary voice and participate in broader socio-cultural discourse.

Throughout the 1930s, the journal was published regularly and consisted of a wide range of thematic sections, including: «Politics», «Education», «Upbringing», «Cooperation», «Production», «Law», «Literature», «Medical Assistance», «Household», «Economic Activities», «Mailbox», «Our Life», «Abroad», «Youth», «Public Health», «Science and Technology», «Bibliography», «Knowledge and Wisdom», «Court and Everyday Life», «What Do They Write to Us About?», «From All Sides», «Miscellany», «Questions to the Editorial Office of Yangi yo‘l», «Responses and Advice from the Editorial Board», «From Received Letters», «Various Notes», «Odds and Ends» «Announcements»[7].

As can be seen, the journal operated across numerous sections that reflected the social, political, cultural, and educational life of women, thereby functioning as a comprehensive platform for representing women’s experiences and participation in public life.

On the pages of the journal, issues that were highly relevant to women - such as education, family, labor, freedom, and women’s position in society - were consistently addressed. These themes were expressed in both literary and journalistic forms. A close examination of the journal reveals that each section contained distinct and diverse types of information.

In particular, the section «Abroad» played an important role in broadening the worldview of local women by presenting materials about the lives of women in countries such as China, India, and Africa. In addition, the inclusion of popular scientific materials related to disciplines such as medicine, mathematics, and geometry not only contributed to increasing women’s literacy but also aimed at shaping them into educated and active members of society.

Although the poems published in the journal covered a variety of topics, they were united by common themes such as freedom, emancipation, the pursuit of enlightenment, women’s lives, and social awakening. As part of this study, it is possible to trace, in chronological order, the women who actively contributed to the journal «Yangi yo‘l» and the thematic directions of their works.

Results and discussion

The composition of authors actively participating in the «Literature» section of «Yangi yo‘l» clearly reflects the scale and social orientation of the literary environment formed around this publication. The section prominently featured female authors such as Xosiyat Tillaxon qizi, Oydin (Manzura Sobirova), Sobira Xoldorova, Saodat Shamsiyeva, Muzayinna Alaviya, Hojar G‘ulom qizi, Saodat Shamsiddin, S.Burnoshova, Erk Chirchiqboeva, Zarifa, Halima Shoumar qizi, Xosiyat

Musino, Nurtoý, Mahbuba Rahim qizi, Sayyora, Muazzama, M. Diloar qizi, and Kavkab, whose works were regularly published.

At the same time, the participation of male authors such as Mirtemir, G‘ayratiy, M.Tojizoda, and Ibrohim Usmoniy can also be observed. This indicates that the journal was not merely a narrowly defined women’s publication but rather a platform closely connected with the broader literary process.

Table - 2. Women’s Participation in the Journal «Yangi yo‘l» (1926)

	Author	Title / Topic	Journal	Year	Issue
1	Sharofat	May Day before the Revolution	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 4
2	Karimova	New Forces	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 4
3	Uzbek Girl	Essential Advice on Child Upbringing	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 5
4	Nafisa	New Forces in the Elimination of Illiteracy	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 5
5	Sharapat	How Soviet Laws Saved Little Nazira	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 6
6	Xosiyat Tillaxon qizi	The Voice of My Comrade	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 6
7	Bashorat Jalolova	Another Step Forward	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 6
8	Oydin	The Negative Impact of Poor Upbringing on Schooling	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 6
9	Zuhra Safarova	Physical Education Activities	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 6
10	Saodat	My Wish	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 7–8
11	Dilbar Qoriyeva	The Purpose of Preschool Education	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 7–8
12	Zarifa O‘rmonova	What Is Being Written from the Mahallas?	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 7–8
13	Saodat Mirzo Aziz qiz	Our Wishes	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 7–8
14	Uzbek Girl	Essential Advice on Child Upbringing	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 7–8
15	Risolat M.	Scientific Journey	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 9
16	Oysha Rahmon qizi	Child Upbringing	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 9
17	Madrahimova R.	Women’s Club of the Old City of Samarkand	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 9
18	Saodat Mahmadjon	The Need to Combat Superstition	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
19	Oliya Hismat qizi	The October Revolution and Women of the East	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
20	Rahima	Women of the Zarafshan Region	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
21	Oydin	True Life	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
22	Saodat Rahmonova	I Wish	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
23	Oydin	Suffering Due to the Inability to Live in Freedom	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
24	Hamida Muhammadjon	The Ranks of Youth Are Expanding	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 10
25	Uzbek Girl	New Alphabet	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 11–12
26	Zarifa	To My Comrade	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 11–12
27	Amina Ibrohim qizi	New Alphabet	Yangi yo‘l	1926	No. 11–12

The analysis of materials published in the journal *Yangi yo'l* in 1926 demonstrates that female authors participated actively and systematically in this publication. According to the data presented in the table, at least 27 articles were written by women during the year. This indicates that, by the mid-1920s, women had begun to occupy an increasingly stable and significant position in the press, as well as in broader socio-cultural and educational processes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of the journal «Yangi yo'l» demonstrates that it played a crucial role in the formation of women's intellectual and literary activity in the Uzbek SSR during the 1920s–1930s. The journal functioned not only as a platform for publishing literary works but also as an important socio-cultural space where women articulated their voices, expressed their experiences, and engaged with contemporary issues. The findings of this study show that women's participation in the literary process was not sporadic but systematic and increasingly institutionalized. The growing number of female authors and the thematic diversity of their writings - covering education, family, emancipation, and social transformation - indicate that women were becoming active contributors to public discourse.

At the same time, the journal reflects the complex interaction between traditional cultural norms and Soviet modernization policies. While it provided new opportunities for women's education and self-expression, it also functioned as an ideological instrument that shaped and directed women's roles in accordance with state priorities. Thus, «Yangi yo'l» can be regarded as a key medium through which the early generation of women intellectuals emerged and developed. The legacy of these women represents an important stage in the history of Uzbek literature and contributes to a deeper understanding of gender, culture, and intellectual transformation in early Soviet Central Asia.

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