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ACTIVITIES OF MOSQUES OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE FIELD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The mosques are also making a big influence on the religious stability throughout the territory of our Republic. This article refines the direct functions of the mosques on the religious sphere of education and analyses the current work being conducted on this course. The authors highlighted the historical stages of the mosque development as a religious educational center and defines their contribution on a spiritual and moral value of society and their support of cultural heritage. A special attention was paid into modern state of religious education in Kazakhstan, including evaluation of the quality of educational programs, methods of teaching by using informational technology on abovementioned process. Also this investigational article presents an actual problems which face the mosques especially in the context of Islam, such as destructive religious movements, radicalism, extremism, xenophobia and separatism. The authors could analyze the role of the mosques on preventing such phenomenon, mostly in Islam, proposes the ways of enhancement of work being done on this sphere. The research article views the effectiveness of work executed by Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan – a major Islamic religious organization, which operates a significant number of the mosques and prayer halls. The authors identify the strongest points of this organization on religious educational sphere and propose the improvement measures by taking into consideration the modern social demand.

Key words: Mosques of Kazakhstan, the role of mosques, the work of religious education, Islam, Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan.

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Қазақстан мешіттерінің діни ағарту саласындағы қызмет бағыттары

Қазақстанда Республикасында діни ахуалдың орнықтылығына мешіттер де үлес қосып келеді. Мақалада Қазақстандағы мешіттердің діни ағарту саласындағы қызмет бағыттары нақтыланып, сол бағытта жасалып жатқан жұмыстарға талдау жасалады. Авторлар мешіттердің діни білім ошағы ретінде дамуының тарихи кезеңдерін талдап, олардың қоғамның рухани-адамгершілік құндылықтарын қалыптастыруға және мәдени мұраны қолдауға қосқан үлесін айқындайды. Қазақстан мешіттеріндегі діни білім берудің қазіргі жағдайына, оның ішінде оқу бағдарламаларының сапасын бағалауға, оқыту әдістемесіне және оқу үдерісінде ақпараттық технологияларды пайдалануға ерекше назар аударылады. Зерттеуде әсіресе ислам контекстінде деструктивті діни ағымдар, радикализм, экстремизм, ксенофобия және сепаратизммен күрес сияқты мешіттердің алдында тұрған өзекті мәселелер көрсетілген. Авторлар аталған құбылыстардың алдын алудағы мешіттердің рөлін талдап, осы бағыттағы жұмыстарды жақсарту бойынша ұсыныстарын ұсынады. Сондай-ақ мақалада еліміздегі мешіттер мен намазханалардың едәуір бөлігін басқаратын ірі исламдық діни ұйым болып табылатын Қазақстан мұсылмандары діни басқармасының жұмысының тиімділігі де қарастырылған. Авторлар аталған ұйымның діни білім беру саласындағы жұмысының күшті жақтарын анықтап, қоғамның заманауи сын-қатерлері мен сұраныстарын ескере отырып, бұл қызметті жетілдіру және жетілдіру шараларын ұсынады.

Түйін сөздер: Қазақстан мешіттері, мешіттердің рөлі, діни ағарту жұмысы, ислам, ҚМДБ.

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Деятельность мечетей Казахстана в сфере религиозного образования

В статье конкретизируется деятельность мечетей Казахстана в сфере религиозного образования, анализируется работа, проводимая в этом направлении. В статье рассмотрены основные этапы развития мечетей как центров религиозного образования, их вклад в формирование духовно-нравственных ценностей общества и поддержку культурного наследия. Сегодня Духовное управление мусульман Казахстана входит в состав крупного религиозного объединения, управляющего всеми мечетями страны. В нашей стране, особенно в сфере ислама, существуют проблемы деструктивных религиозных течений, радикализма, экстремизма, ксенофобии, сепаратизма, экстремизма, поэтому представляет интерес работа мечетей в стране с народом в целях предотвращения подобных проблем. Духовное управление мусульман Казахстана – крупная исламская религиозная организация, владеющая 2854 мечетями и 357 молитвенными залами в стране, а численность сотрудников во всех мечетях составляет 4728 человек. Какую работу он ведет в направлении религиозного образования, требует специального изучения. Потому что устранить пороки в сфере религии можно только путем повышения религиозной грамотности народа и с каждым годом совершенствуя направленность религиозного образования. Авторы анализируют сферы услуг мечетей республики по направлению религиозного образования и вносят собственные предложения по совершенствованию этих услуг.

Ключевые слова: мечети Казахстана, роль мечетей, работа религиозного образования, ислам, ДУМК.

Introduction

From the first years of independence, Muslims of Kazakhstan turned to Islam as their ancestral religion. The people who renounced atheism felt the freedom of religious beliefs and began to show special sympathy for their traditional religion. The rate of construction of new mosques and religious schools increased year by year. The topic of mosques in Kazakhstan, which is based on scientific research, mainly refers to the post-Soviet period, although it is known that the construction of mosques and religious schools in the Kazakh steppe began with the arrival of Islam. It is natural to ask what kind of religious education the mosques of the republic are providing, and whether the results of such education are visible. For this reason, there is a need to analyze the religious educational activities of mosques in the country.

Justification of the choice of articles and goals and objectives

Even though Kazakhstan is accepted as a civil state, it is known that vast majority of the population confess Islamic faith. In this regard Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan thoroughly monitors this huge audience and corresponds religious clarification in several ways. As religious extremism, radicalism and terrorism in the territory

of the country has been occurred mainly since the Islamic factor, it is really important to analyze the work done by Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan, identify the areas of activity of the mosques and review their particular indicators. Up to now, it has been established that no works has been executed on systematic and integrated study of the mosque activities in Kazakhstan. For this reason, the main idea of the article is to held investigational works on religious and educational activity of the mosques in the territory of Kazakhstan, which is a part of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan. The main aim the study was to focus on each area of activity, identified by Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan, sum the work done, weigh its effectiveness and work out their own ways on how to improve in the future.

Scientific research methodology

The article the method of historical analysis is used for a deeper investigation of the mosques, and the content analyses method for differentiation of collected materials. The method of analysis and sorting of received data was also used. In addition, the theoretical concepts of native investigations have been studied, which consider problems that the mosques faced in the period of getting its independence, the annual report of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan from

different regions, annual reports of head of Muftiates, the concept of religious education development of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan till 2020, the innovative article done by the Supreme Mufti H. Taganuly, reports of Local informative and propaganda group and information posted on the official sites of the Muftiates.

Main part

A number of scientific articles and works published in this field show that researchers are interested in the subject of mosques in Kazakhstan from various angles. In particular, Sadykova S.Sh. We consider the architectural models of the first mosques that were built with the arrival of Islam in the Kazakh steppe. For example, S. Shklyayeva, in her study, "Retrospective innovation in the interior of the mosques of Kazakhstan (1991-2015)", and the artist G. Eshkenov's creative experience. According to G. The visual analysis of Eshkenov allows us to determine the stylistic features of the artist's compositional choice. In beautifying the architecture of mosques with sacral elements, Islamic and Kazakh ornaments were used in calligraphy. The decor models in the prayer rooms are a clear example of the artistic approach of "Retrospective Innovation" in modern regionalism. In addition, the outline of the distribution of dome ornament patterns in historical and religious buildings is being reworked and includes the style of the artist and the syntax of Kazakh ornament (Shklyayeva, 2016: 37). Sadykova S.Sh. In the question of the main types of modern mosques in Kazakhstan, it is argued that in the post-independence period, many new religious buildings were built in Kazakhstan, and the study and analysis of their architecture allows to determine the main typological characteristics of these objects. They are: assignment, capacity, functional planning, architectural-spatial structure, constructive decision, location of the object in the city structure. The author says that one of the main signs of classification of buildings and constructions is their purpose, and according to this feature, modern mosques in Kazakhstan are divided into 6 main types: 1. Main city mosques (juma or cathedral); 2. Quarter mosques (masjid-juma); 3. Jamaat mosques (mosques of national Muslim communities); 4. Rural mosques; 5. On the outskirts of the city (musalla); 6. Mosques of Islamic cultural centers (Sadykova, 2024). Beisenova A.M., Camoylov paid close attention to the regional characteristics of Almaty mosques in the XIX – XX centuries. In their study, they found that the most productive period of mosque construction in

Kazakhstan was the second half of the XIX century, marked by the permanent annexation of Kazakhstan to Russia, during which the economy developed, trade and industry developed, and contributed to the revival of construction activities, in addition, the diversity of natural and climatic conditions of the vast territory of Kazakhstan and regional it is thought that the features of construction influenced the emergence of mosques with different architectural composition solutions (Beisenova, Samoilov, 2022: 60).

In his scientific article "Mosques of Astana: Strategies and Practices of Designing New Public Spaces", Kikimbaev M. draws attention to the use of an infrastructural approach that allows to determine the important aspects of the topography of mosques in the metropolis, the features of relations between state authorities, patrons, Muslim clergy and other interested parties. This contributes to their strengthening. directly affecting and developing mosques as an important public space. It is also predicted that the practice of opening museums of Islamic culture next to mosques in the last decade will contribute to changing the usual image of mosques and increasing their value as an important object of the infrastructure of cultural memory in the public mind (Kikimbaev, 2023: 63). K. A. Medeuova, M. J. Kikimbaev, in his study "Museumization of the mosque: Kazakh discourse of public spaces", based on statistical data from 1990-2021, as well as field data collected between December 2021 and March 2022, revised the role of the mosque in Kazakh society and its place in discourses in public space. He observed how the cultural memory goes beyond museums, how the museumization of Kazakh mosques and wider public space is progressing. The authors document the new trend of openness of the religious space in Kazakhstan, where mosques not only perform the usual religious rituals, but also become a new public space, a meeting place of the state, religious and cultural institutions. Expanding the functions of mosques, including cooperation aimed at using various local community representatives for broad social communication, spreading the narrative of religious values and cultural memory, was analyzed as individual cases (Medeuova, Kikimbaev, 2022: 149). "Compositional changes in the architecture of mosques of Kazakhstan in the 9th – 19th centuries." in the study, Kasymbekova M.B., Glaudinov B.A. determined the main changes in the compositional structures of the architecture of mosques in Kazakhstan during these centuries, and tried to identify certain features in some compositional priorities, using the example of individual monuments of re-

ligious architecture in the country (Kasymbekova, 2012: 50). T.J. Shahuov, M.M. Almenbaev, J.K. In his article “Methods of evacuation from mosques with standard fire safety requirements”, Makishev considered the conditions of worship that complicate the evacuation process. Research on religious objects, determined the time of evacuation, studied the demographic composition of the mosque community. Field monitoring of the flow of people in the mosque was conducted and defined safe evacuation criteria for various functional areas of the mosque. He established a connection between the area and the size of the functional contingent and proposed to standardize the width of emergency exits (Shahuov, Almenbaev, Makishev, 2019: 82). M.K. Bektenova, L.N. Toktarbekova, in the article “The role of modern women in the mosque space: the influence of Islamic feminism”, considered the role and place of women in the mosque space, gender segregation (separation), the situations in which Muslim women face various problems in mosques, and the formation of the Islamic identity of Muslim women. analyzed the influence of Islamic feminism (Bektenova, 2023: 163). “The rapid growth of the number of mosques in the last thirty years is not a phenomenon unique to Kazakhstan. This phenomenon fits well into the wider context of the global Islamic renaissance, the post-Soviet resuscitation of cultural, historical and religious memory and the practice of investment in prestigious capital” (Kikimbaev, Medeuova, 2021: 127). M. Zhuzey, N. Seytakhmetova, M. Bektenova, Sh. Zhandosova “Mosque in Post-Soviet Central Asia: sacred and spiritual contexts” In this case, you will need to know where the mixer is located and where you will find the role of the control system. Baylanysty maselelerdi karastyrgan (Zhuzey, Seytakhmetova, Bektenova, Zhandosova, 2020). If in 1990 the number of mosques in Kazakhstan was 46, it increased sharply in the years after independence. In 2020, the number of mosques was 2,689, and growing at this rate, their total number increased fifty-eight times over the last thirty years (table 1).

The number of mosques is not uniform in the regions. It can be seen that the most are in the Turkestan region, and the least are in Astana. (see Table 2).

The authors, who considered the construction of mosques in Kazakhstan in the years after independence, formulate and present the following typology of the main subjects in the construction of mosques: 1) projects within the framework of «mosque diplomacy»; 2) projects ordered by state bodies; 3) projects commissioned by oligarchs and political elites; 4) projects commissioned by na-

tional diasporas; 5) projects commissioned by rural settlements and interested communities. At present, those mentioned can be considered the main subjects of the construction of mosques in Kazakhstan, they are implementing various participation scenarios that contribute to further strengthening the status of mosques as important forms of public space (Kikimbaev, Medeuova, 2021: 138).

Table 1 – Growth dynamics of Islamic associations in Kazakhstan (1990-2020) (Kikimbaev, Medeuova, 2021: 127)

Year	Number of Islamic associations	Year	Number of Islamic associations
1990	46	2007	2 334
1991	68	2008	2 337
1993	296	2009	2 634
1995	483	2010	2697
1996	679	2011	2756
1997	826	2012	2228
1999	1003	2015	2458
2001	1282	2016	2516
2003	1652	2017	2592
2005	1766	2018	2598
2006	1853	2020	2691

Table 2 – Regional index of mosques of Kazakhstan (Kikimbaev, Medeuova, 2021: 127)

No	Regions and cities	Number of Islamic associations
Total		2691
1	Turkestan region	750
2	Almaty region	474
3	Zhambyl region	313
4	East Kazakhstan region	208
5	Kyzylorda region	174
6	Karaganda region	145
7	Shymkent city	106
8	Pavlodar region	94
9	Akmola region	90
10	Aktobe region	68
11	North Kazakhstan region	63
12	Almaty city	52
13	West Kazakhstan region	47
14	Mangistau region	33
15	Atyrau region	31
16	Kostanay region	30
17	Astana city	13

Now let's come to the work of mosques in Kazakhstan in the direction of religious education. It is known from the history of Islam that the main function of mosques is to provide religious education to the people. Today, the Religious Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan operates as a large religious association with 2,854 mosques, 357 prayer halls and its own system of religious education in the country. In 2022, the number of employees in all mosques was 4728. In 2021, supreme muft N. Taganuly approved seven directions of the mosque's work within the scope of his orientation report at the extended Toralka meeting of the Religious Board. They are information and public relations, propaganda, charity, education and personnel potential, ihsan teaching, religion and tradition, work with foreign religious trends. The chief imams of the mosques are obliged to report on these seven areas every month. However, in 2023, these seven directions were reorganized as five directions: "Religion and tradition", "Good society", "Charity and propaganda", "Religious education and education" and "Insurance against foreign religious movements". Begalinova K., Ashilova M., Begalinov A. In his study, he gave extensive information about the spread of religious extremism and the prevention of them (Begalinova, 2020: 125).

In 2014, Supreme Mufti Ye. Malgazhiuly declared that year as the year of "Religion and Tradition". In addition to the publication of a special book entitled "Religion and Tradition", the Mufti explained in his address the importance of preserving the harmony of religion and tradition, and stated that with the help of mosques, he would carry out the following activities in this direction: expanding the use of the mother tongue in society, religious revival, promotion of rites in harmony with Islam, teaching young people inculcating national values and traditional education, promoting the legacy of important people who praised faith in our history, teaching mosque visitors the place of customs in Islamic sharia, respecting traditions, educating the younger generation in patriotism. In line with the same direction, as part of the educational work of mosques, the mosque staff traditionally organizes the following events: "Ak Bata" blessing contest, Zharapazan chanting relay race, republican song mushaira on the theme "Religion and Tradition", intellectual competition among young women, national and national conducting sports tournaments in accordance with the Sunnah, etc.

In 2023, a special Department of Religion and Tradition was opened at the Muftiyat, and the Pub-

lic Relations, Youth Affairs and Women's Sectors are working together. In this project, the following measures were taken: a republican and regional forum of elders in each region, the first-ever blessing contest among the elderly, 3 meetings of the Council of Experts established by the Muftiyat, the conference "Doszhan Ishan – an outstanding religious figure and spiritual educator of Kazakhstan", "Traditional Islam in Kazakh spirituality" place" republican scientific and educational conference, more than 11,000 events were held throughout the year. In addition, 15,941 events in the direction of propaganda and literacy, public works and sports across the Republic, "DINTELLECT" educational contest on the topic of religion among young Algyrians occurred for the first time in all mosques. In addition, there were 10,986 events with the participation of 408,828 people including the women, "The status of women in the Kazakh steppe" on the theme of the republican women's forum, the opening of the women's club "Shugyla" (Territory of Turkestan), the 3rd republican competition among girls in reciting and reciting the Koran. Finally, the "Tradition Fest" exhibition was held for the first time in Almaty. Assoc. Professor Bagasharov K. in the article "The place of ritual in the Quran and hadiths", analyzing the place and types of ritual in Islamic sources, he expresses the following opinion: "Customs have a specific place in the Quran and Sunnah. However, the main requirement at this point is that when the verdicts are set according to the Islamic legal system, ritual practices that do not contradict the Shariah evidence and practices are taken into account. This is because, when giving a verdict in Islamic law, not taking into account the customs of the local people and the cases approved by the intellectuals creates difficulties for people, and it is contrary to the purpose of Islamic law" (Bagasharov, 2024). In 2019, within the framework of the "Religion and Tradition" project, the author of the books "Pearls of Kazakh Traditions", "Travel to the World of Traditions", cultural researcher, ethnographer-scientist, B. Ospan gave a lecture to the congregation on the topic of Kazakh national traditions.

One of function of mosques is to create a good society. The demands of any religion is consistent with peace and stability. In the Middle Ages, al-Farabi, a native of the Kazakh steppe, wrote about the benevolent city and expressed his dream about such a good city. Every national intellectual wanted his country to be happy and worked in that direction. For this reason, mosques should encourage the country to do good deeds, initiate good deeds, and

participate in the humanization of society with their activities. On this occasion, it is planned to organize a republican conference on the topic “Islam and good society”. Religious Department of Muslims of Kazakhstan has announced 2023 as the “Year of Islam and Good Society” for mosques in the country. Several volumes are being prepared in this period under the scientific project “Encyclopedia of Islam” including the work, “Muslim school in the Kazakh steppes in the footsteps of the ancestors”, and “Religion and Tradition.” The republican women’s forum on the topic, “Women’s status in the Kazakh steppe” was also organized this month. In 2023, sixty-two seminars were organized at the district and regional levels under the theme “A good society begins with changing yourself.”

According to N.Taganuly, the word “Ihsan” means sincerity. “Ihsan” means worshipping God with fear, sincerity and responsibility as you see him. The teaching of “Ihsan” educates a Muslim child to be sincere in every act and every act of worship. In fact, Allah Almighty knows every deed, word, intention, and even the thoughts of every person. There is no blessing in action without sincerity. Supreme Mufti N. Taganuly says that Khoja Akhmet Yasawi and his murids worked hard to form the doctrine of «Ikhshan». Yasawi combined Turkic traditions and Islam, thus foreseeing religious and cultural conflicts. Muftiyat’s book «Ihsan – the basis of spiritual education» contains such large chapters as «Ihsan to the Creator», «Personality», «Ihsan and society», and the concept of Ihsan is widely explained by Muslim scholars. 2021 is called the year of Ihsan, and mosques of the country are tasked with promoting this concept more widely. The following works have been done on this topic this year. Published books include: «Enemy No. 1» (about acquiring a language), «Hakim Abay and ihsan ilimi». 201 articles related to ihsan in different levels of mass media of the country, 317 infographics on social networks, 383 video sermons recorded and posted on networks, and 94 events (round table, seminar) were held in online and offline formats.

Since charity work is one of the priorities for mosques, a number of measures have been taken in this direction. Supreme Mufti N. Taganuly, in his speech entitled, «The teaching of kindness breeds virtue», mentioned the following among the charity works done by mosques in 2020: opening 30 bridges and 40 wells in 30 settlements with the help of sponsors, giving muftia grants to 30 graduates from disadvantaged families, planting 30 thousand

saplings, in general planting of 1,170,712 saplings of different types, mobilizing 301,566 people for these measures, and handing over the keys to 329 shelters to homeless people within the framework of the republican project «Country’s share in housing», etc. During the COVID pandemic, 18 ventilators, 891 oxygen devices, 20 anti-plague clothing, 255 monometers, 528 pulsometers, 60 thermometers, 136,701 face masks and medicines worth 32 million tenge were delivered to the appropriate places as part of the campaign «Give Hope to Life» during the pandemic. With the www.qurban2020.kz project, 81,301 socially disadvantaged families distributed sacrificial meat. In the annual report of 2022, payment of the annual tuition fees of 48 students studying at Nur-Mubarak University with the «Religious Department of Muslims of Kazakhstan grant» campaign, 2,200 tons of food aid for 115,997 families with the «Taikazan» campaign, donations for 12,951 families with the «Hand to hand» project assisted. 6,490 orphans were helped by the project «If you see an orphan, don’t eat», and school supplies were distributed to 17,870 school children from poor families with the «Road to School» campaign. With the project «Together in Trouble» blankets were provided to the villages affected by the flood in the amount of more than 500,000 tenge, with the project «Urgent help to Kostanay» 54,006,111 tenge of funds and necessary items were given to the Kostanay region, which suffered from a catastrophic fire, with the project «Give Heat» to Ekibastuz thermal power station 29,148,400 tenge were spent on the accident at the heat transfer station, and the necessary tools for additional repair work were sent. In addition to the weekly Friday sermon, preaching activities in mosques are required to be conducted twice a day (after the Friday and Friday prayers) and special topics are set for it. It is the responsibility of the imam on duty that day to explain a verse from the Quran after the morning prayer, and to preach to the congregation on a topic determined by the Muftiyat for about fifteen minutes after the evening prayer. In addition, these sermons are videotaped and uploaded to social networks. In a three-volume book published under the name «Friday pulpit», domestic Islamic scholars and theologians have developed ready-made examples of sermons to be delivered in the mosque on Friday. Mosques are assigned topics from this book as annual Friday sermons (see Table 3). Holy days and nights in the calendar are also taken into account in the table.

Table 3 – Topics of sermons delivered during Friday prayers in mosques of the Republic (fixed for 2020) (QMDB resmi saity, 2020)

Friday topics and dates for 2020

No	Topics	Friday days	Religious holidays
1.	Repentance is God's blessing	03.01.2020	
2.	Really willingness	10.01.2020	
3.	Extravagance damage	17.01.2020	
4.	Politeness is morality the beginning (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	24.01.2020	
5.	A man with merit (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	31.01.2020	
6.	Harmful from habits away let's be	07.02.2020	
7.	Mosque is faith nest	14.02.2020	
8.	Prayer is great worship	21.02.2020	
9.	To another gratitude say If you don't get it , tell God can't	28.02.2020	
10.	in Islam of a woman place	06.03.2020	
11.	To God said submission (Taslimiyat)	13.03.2020	
12.	Various nation and nation to be creation wisdom	20.03.2020	Migraj night (March 21/22)
13.	Wrong faith is from the road will stop	27.03.2020	
14.	Honest food	04/03/2020	Night of Baraat (April 8/9)
15.	Believer's the ideal is artistic character	10.04.2020	
16.	Islam is purity religion	17.04.2020	
17.	Ramadan is God's gift	24.04.2020	Fasting start (April 25)
18.	Pende for the fee to be careful	01.05.2020	
19.	Zakat in society place	08.05.2020	
20.	Dignity of the night property	15.05.2020	Dignity night (May 20/21)
21.	Muslim to Muslim liver	22.05.2020	Fasting say (May 24)
22.	To the dead respect for the living duty (to the deceased reward touching actions)	29.05.2020	
23.	Honorable preservation – from faith (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	05.06.2020	
24.	Let's see of non-acceptance the end	12.06.2020	
25.	To the hereafter faith	19.06.2020	
26.	human body of the heart place	26.06.2020	
27.	Answer unbroken donations	03.07.2020	
28.	Five duties one is Hajj	10.07.2020	
29.	Child education from the cradle	17.07.2020	
30.	Eid Al-Adha (sacrifice day) it is great holiday	24.07.2020	Arab Day (July 30)
31.	A relative fee	31.07.2020	Sacrifice say day 1
32.	Youth time is deposit	07.08.2020	
33.	Lust from temptation beware	14.08.2020	
34.	Honest profession	21.08.2020	
35.	Education is two of the world candles (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	28.08.2020	Day of Ashura (August 29)
36.	Heaven belongs to God gift	04.09.2020	
37.	Teacher increases	11.09.2020	
38.	Of the country strength in unity (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	18.09.2020	
39.	To the elder respect to the younger izet	25.09.2020	
40.	Charity and his types	02.10.2020	
41.	Worship and life Ihsan's place	09.10.2020	
42.	Interfaith peace	16.10.2020	

Table continuation

No	Topics	Friday days	Religious holidays
43.	Our Prophet's (peace be upon him) kindness	23.10.2020	Maulit (October 28/29)
44.	To the Prophet said love and healthy don't say reward	30.10.2020	
45.	Napil your worship advantage	06.11.2020	
46.	To religion firmness (istikama)	13.11.2020	
47.	With the congregation worship of doing reward	20.11.2020	
48.	To creation kindness show	27.11.2020	
49.	Quran study advantage	04.12.2020	
50.	Homeland love is from faith (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	11.12.2020	
51.	Fair the end of the work is good (<i>"Seven spiritual "Pile" platform by</i>)	18.12.2020	
52.	An orphan if you see without eating go	25.12.2020	

Until 2020, the Friday sermons, which were given in each mosque on a free topic, have been systematized from this year to be given on the same topic in all mosques. In 2023, 680,751 sermons were delivered in the country's mosques, and 17,516,605 people listened to them. The main topics included in the sermon in 2021 are: Islamic worship, family science, the history of prophets, the merits of holy prayers, hadith teachings, Ihsan teachings, creed, etc. In 2023, the Head of the Propaganda Department B. Berdenuly presented information about preaching and propaganda activities carried out in mosques throughout the republic, according to which, in 2023, 128,236 Friday sermons were delivered in mosques on 52 topics approved, and a total of 723,916 people were included in the sermon. 274,593 besin sermons, 277,922 money sermons were preached. In order to guide the mullahs who preach in the mosques, the Mufti has organized events of various formats at the republican level on the topics of «Artistic Preaching Etiquette», «Republican Field Seminar», «Illnesses of Society» and other topics. In 2022, 704 people were rehabilitated within the framework of religious rehabilitation in the direction of «Insurance from foreign religious movements». As part of the rehabilitation of adepts who have gone to destructive trends, and within the framework of informational activities, members of RANT (Republican information and interpretation group) held 645 meetings with the community, attended by 301,800 people, and 21,219 meetings were held with members of ZHANT (Local Information and Interpretation Team), involving 9,251,362 people. In addition, 60 video sermons were prepared with the participation of Muftiyat teachers and published on the Tik-Tok social network. Today, its total views have reached 2,540,844. The Republican information and inter-

pretation group was established in 2013. ZHANT is a Local Information and Interpretation Team. The goal is to provide them with correct religious information and to answer their questions during meetings with the people, to help find solutions in areas where religious problems are complicated, to involve qualified specialists in rehabilitation work, to contribute to the prevention of foreign religious movements, to glorify the Hanafi school, and to prevent various mistakes. In 2017, RANT members held 1,190 meetings in different regions of the country, attended by 258,416 people. In 2023, the «RANT and ZHANT platform» was adopted, which includes issues that should be taken into account during the outreach work to republican advocacy groups. The «Religious Information Center» is working in some mosques in the country. People can contact this center and get answers to their concerns. In contrast to to Call Centers (33-30-30) opened in 2020, people can come directly to these centers and meet mosque specialists. In 2023, 24 Kazakh-speaking preachers and 12 russian-speaking preachers worked in RANT. In order to be admitted to the RANT, it is mandatory to pass a special certification at the Central Office of the Religious Department of Muslims of Kazakhstan. In the first stage of the test, answering electronic exam questions, jurisprudence, sira, laws and legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, history, etc. passing an exam on subjects, and an oral exam is required in the second stage.

As one of the directions set for mosques is education, mosques are doing a number of works in this direction. In 2020-2021, 11,137 online lectures were given to mosque congregations at the level of republican and regional mosques. 15,678,238 people listened to these lectures. Lipina T.A., Shapoval Y.V. In the article entitled «Religious

education in Kazakhstan: the challenge of the pandemic of COVID-19”, he extensively analyzed the transition of religious education to the online format during the quarantine (Lipina, 2021: 352). The work of the direction of religious education and human resources can be said to be close to this direction.

The Head of the Department of Religious Education and Personnel Training S. Seytbekov gave the following report for 2022: “In the academic year 2021-2022, the total number of graduates who graduated from educational institutions of the Religious Board is 603. 220 of them graduated from the Nur-Mubarak Egyptian University of Islamic Culture, and 120 graduates who graduated from the said university this year entered madrasa-colleges. 217 graduates are employed. Among the rest, there are those who continued their education and went to work in other fields. In 2023, the total number of imams who graduated from the Institute of Islam is 158. The number of religiously literate mosque congregations is 18,035. Religious literacy courses related to mosques include “Memorizing the Koran” and “Learning to pray”. This year, the Koran memorization course was organized in 905 mosques and 16,721 people participated, while the prayer course included 17,267 people. The structure of the Islamic religious education system of Muftiyat is described in the Concept of Development of Religious Education of Muftiyat until 2020:

1. Courses of religious literacy and memorization of Quranic surahs;
2. Preparatory courses developed by entrants to religious educational institutions;
3. Charitable institutions conducting religious education;
4. Elders who teach professional recitation of Quranic surahs by heart training centers;
5. Madrasa-colleges providing technical and professional education;
6. A higher educational institution and post-higher educational institution providing religious education educational institutions;
7. Institute for improvement of education and qualification of imams.

Since 2010, the Muftiyat has opened seven centers for the purpose of training elderly people who can read the Qur’an competently. They are: “Qawamaddin al-Itqani al-Farabi al-Turkistani”, “Ikhlas”, “Mashhur Yusuf”, “Maral Ishan”, “as-Salam”, “Balabi Qari”, “Kordai” etc. serving with a horse. In addition, there is Khadisha, an all-girls nursing home. To train literate elderly people and bring them to the level where they can compete at the international level, to participate in national and international

level competitions, to teach prayers from the Qur’an to the congregation in mosques during Ramadan, to perform the function of a beautiful melodious call to prayer, to raise the dignity of the elderly people of Kazakhstan, to pass the elderly people through certain expertise. The main goals are to send them to mosques throughout the republic, improve their knowledge in the direction of complete memorization of the Holy Quran.

Competitions for memorizing and reciting the Koran have been held since 2000 under the organization of Religious Department of Muslims of Kazakhstan. These competitions, which have grown to the district, region, republic, and even international level, are traditionally organized. It is inter-madrasah and conducted separately among girls. In 2008, 82 elderly people selected from all regions took part in the contest held in the Central Mosque of Almaty for the third time. The competition was held at 4 levels: 5 paragraphs, 10 paragraphs, 30 paragraphs from the Quran. Supreme mufti the winners of the competition, which was started by A. Derbisaly and judged by special religious experts, had to recite 30 bribes. Ersin; 10 para M. S. Herd; 5 pairs of S. Akhmetov. E. Baigabylov on figurative reading. In 2020, the 1st Inter-Madrasah Republican Quran Competition was organized. 18 candidates from 9 madrasahs took part in the competition organized by “Astana” madrasa and competed in the categories “para 29-30” and “para 30”. According to the rules of the competition, the ability to memorize verses, reading style and the melodious voice of students who answered three additional questions were taken into account. Pupils who became the winners: “Para 29-30”: Grand prize – “Abu Hanifa Madrasah College”, A. Relic; 1st place – “Astana Madrasah College”, N. Nurdaulet; 2nd place – “Saryagash madrasa college”, M. Aydin; 3rd place – Hibatulla At-Tarazi madrasa college, Konyratbayev B. According to the title “para 30”: 1st place – “Astana madrasa college”, Kh. Nurbergen; 2nd place – “Abu Hanifa Madrasah College”, S. Joy; 3rd place – “Shymkent madrasa college”, A. Anartaev. The grand prize winner won a trip to the Umrah pilgrimage. The competition of reciting and reciting the Koran among girls was organized online on the Zoom platform in 2021 due to the pandemic, organized by the Nazik girls’ club. The teacher of “Iryskeldi Haji” mosque Z.A. Shamidullakovyna and teacher of “Aq meshit” mosque. Duisebekovna supervised and as a result A. Karsybayovna 1st place, B. Aitbaeva 2nd place, A. Bekmuratova and A. Zhunisovas won the 3rd place. All were presented with a “Letter of Appreciation” and given financial gifts. In 2016, for the first time,

the republican Koran competition among girls was organized, and the grand prize winner was Grand Mufti Yerzhan Haji Malgazhiuly A. Anarkul was presented with a certificate worth 450 thousand tenge. By the decision of the jury A. Ilespek was awarded the second place. The prize for the 2nd place is 370 thousand tenge. G. who deserved the 3rd place. Turganzhan received a certificate of 300 thousand tenge. In addition, all seniors who participated in the competition were given a financial prize. In 2023, on the eve of the Republic Day, the Religious Department of Muslims of Kazakhstan organized the Quran competition at the international level for the first time. Two old people from Kazakhstan took part in the competition: A.A., winner of the first prize of the 10th republican competition for memorizing and reciting the Holy Quran in Turkestan in the nomination “30 paras”. Zhaliev (Shymkent city) and the winner of the 11th national contest held in Kyzylorda in 2022 I. Myrzageldy. At the international event, a panel of judges was formed from experienced foreign seniors. The results of the competition are as follows: 1st place (\$20,000) – Ilyas Hajri (Kingdom of Morocco); 2nd place (\$ 15,000) – Turpal-Ali Sadykov (Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation); 3rd place (\$7,000) – Malek Abdullah Albadin (Libya); 3rd place (\$7,000) – Saghd Salim (People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria); IV place (\$ 5,000) – Abdurahman Faraj Hafiz Baragi (Arab Republic of Egypt); 5th place (\$3,000) – Muhammad Adib bin Ahmed Razani (Malaysia); A reward of 500 US dollars was also given to encourage other participants who took part in the competition. In 2021, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the republican contests for memorizing and reciting the Holy Quran, the works “History of Republican Quran Contests”, “I want to be old” (author M. Aitzhanovna) were published. The 12th competition of reciting the Qur’an at the republican level in Kazakhstan was organized in Aktau in 2023. In order to encourage young people to memorize and recite the Quran, Religious Department of Muslims of Kazakhstan is giving them a huge prize fund with the help of sponsors. In 2023, the total prize fund allocated for memorizing and recitation of the 12th Republican Quran amounted to 23,150,000.

According to Khoja, nowadays Muslim peoples in Central Asia read the Koran with Asim’s reading. Especially, the narration of Hafs, one of the two famous narrators narrated by Asimyn, is widely spread. Most of the books of the Quran that are being published by publishers are printed with this effort (Kurmanaliyeva, 2023: 129). The

first 32 students graduated from the “Ijaza” department of the “Husamuddin al-Syganaki” Islamic Institute in Almaty, which was opened as a national center that provides Ijizat (certification or permission) for the elderly. 14 of them from the capital received an ijaza certificate from Dr. M.H. Mahmud Muhammad according to the Hafs narration of Asym’s Qiraqat through Shatibiya, while 18 from Almaty received I. Sh. Al-Mursidi al-Azharidan received the Ijaza certificate through Shatibiya according to Hafs and Shugba narrations of Asim Qiragat.

Reading and explaining religious scientific books is one of the aims of spiritual education of mosques working in the republic. The aim is to increase the religious literacy of the visitors to the mosque by giving the popular books of well-known scientists as lectures to the congregation. “Akmeshit” mosque teacher A. In his article “Method and system of religious teaching in the mosque”, Kuanysht mentions the following conditions: literacy courses are held in all mosques, from secondary school students to the elderly. Religious lectures in the mosque are held in the direction of “Quran – Shariat” (Islamic law). According to a specially approved lesson schedule, lessons on the history of Islam, five duties, Arabic grammar, creed, sira, hadith, and commentary are held regularly. Lecturers on well-known books at the central mosque of Almaty city: E. Amir “Tahawi Creed” and “Ihiyaw Ulumuddin”, E. Shokai “Quran commentary”, B. Life of Prophet Aliuly “Sira”, S. Akhmetov “Hanafi jurisprudence”, E. Kokirekbaev based on the book “Riyadus-Salihin”. During the quarantine, these lectures were broadcast live online on the Azan.kz YouTube channel and Instagram page. In Aktobe, the lecturers at the “Nur Otash” mosque: N. Smagulov “Fiqh”, Sh. Umbetov “Aqida” (beliefs of Islam), chief imam S. According to the book “Safuatu al-tafasir” by Enshibayuly (author Sabuni). In addition, there are also types of lectures that are given to the congregation only in the month of Ramadan. For example, in 2022, online and offline lectures were held in the mosques of the city of Shymkent under the name “Ramadan Lectures” following the five and two-day prayers. Al-Azhar graduate N. Teachers led by Mamedaliyev B. Zarnuzhi’s “Teacher’s training”, A. He held lectures with Iskandari’s book “Tajul Arus”. In 2020, one-month lectures entitled “Let’s learn to pray” were organized in the mosques of Atyrau during Ramadan. These lectures, organized in response to the congregation’s questions about prayer, were held after the five-day prayer. According to S. Imangaliyev, the teacher of the central “Imangali” mosque

in Atyrau, these lectures cover all the mosques of the region, city, district and village. In 2020, during the quarantine, the mosques of the West Kazakhstan region conducted online lectures on the topics of “Ramadan values”, “Family education”, “Learning the Quran”. 100 viewers a day participated in online lectures on the topics “Issues of dispute”, “Religious organizations banned in our country”, “Teaching of Hadith” on @parasat_k.b.bko and @aqsaidin Instagram social pages. Shymkent central mosque B. Shotabekov gave 30 jurisprudence lectures with the book “Nurul idoh wa najatul aruah”. “S. Lectures and teachers held every day of the week between

the months of September and December 2022 at the Gilmani mosque: Kh. Amankulov “The Creed of the People of the Sunnah”, R. Nakypbekuly “Etiquette is one third of Islam”, S. Kurbanuly “Teaching of Kindness and Piety”, S. Khamanuly “Mukhtasar al-Quduri” (Author Abulhasan Ahmed ibn Muhammad al-Quduri), A. Akbayev “Mirqat al-Mafatih” (Author Mulla al-Qari). In 2018, a number of lectures were held at the Nur Astana Mosque in Astana. The schedule of lectures is published in the form of a schedule on the website of the mosque and is also posted on the bulletin board of the mosque (see: table 4)

Table 4 – Lecture schedule at Nur Astana Mosque (2018)

Date	Time	Lectures	Teachers	Contacts
Monday	16.00-17.00	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Yerbol Mambetov	+7 (778)1207788
	16.00-17.00		Maksat Baizak	+7(702)9587979
	second prayer – third prayer	Aqida (Belief in Allah)	Ruslan Baizakov	+7(702)5299909
	19.00-21.00	Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)	Ilyas Otarov	+7(775)7207510
	third prayer -fourth prayer		Salman Khadirshayev	+7(776)5055554
Tuesday	19.00-21.00	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Dauren Muslimov	+7(707)1211591
	time between fourth and fifths prayer	Aqida (Belief in Allah) Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)	Nariman Isenov	+7(775)5622044
Wednesday	third prayer – fourth prayer	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Salman Khadirshayev	+7(776)5055554
	19.00-21.00	Aqida (Belief in Allah)	Ilyas Otarov	+7(775)7207510
	time between fourth and fifths prayer	Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)	Adilkhan Serikbay	+7(778)2121161
Thursday	16.00-17.00	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Maksat Baizak	+7(702)9587979
	19.00-21.00	Aqida (Belief in Allah)	Dauren Muslimov	+7(707)1211591
	time between fourth and fifths prayer	Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)	Nariman Isenov	+7(775)5622044
Friday	16.00-17.00	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Yerbol Mambetov	+7 (778)1207788
	third prayer – fourth prayer	Aqida (Belief in Allah)	Salman Khadirshayev	+7(776)5055554
	time between fourth and fifths prayer	Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)	Adilkhan Serikbay	+7(778)2121161
Saturday	time between fourth and fifths prayer	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Ruslan Baizakov	+7(702)5299909
		Aqida (Belief in Allah)	Nursultan Mamedaliyev	+7(700)4880408
		Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)		
Sunday	time between fourth and fifths prayer	Alphabets of the Holy Quran	Nursultan Mamedaliyev	+7(700)4880408
		Aqida (Belief in Allah)		
		Ilm Al-Hal (A concise manual of basic Islamic teachings)		

It was announced that in 2023, centers for providing special religious courses will be opened near all regional mosques. Books such as «Ghibadat Islamiya» and «Sopy Aldiyar», which were read by Kazakh intellectuals earlier, are planned to be taught in those centers.

Research results and discussion

As for the results, it can be said that the religious education provided by mosques across the republic have been clarified only in recent years. After N. Taganuly became the Supreme Mufti, the directions of operation of mosques were determined. There is still room for improvement in the issue of propaganda. This is because some preachers made serious mistakes while preaching to the congregation in the mosque, which caused the anger of the people. Such situations undermine people's faith in preachers. For this reason, we think that mosques should have documented norms regarding preaching. It is better for the council of scholars to jointly discuss the problem of preachers who have made more than one mistake in preaching and consider ways of reprimanding them. It would not have been an advantage even if the Council of Ethics had been opened in the Muftiyat. Famous authors and their books that are held in mosques also need to be organized and listed. At present, each mosque decides this on its own and conducts it within the limits of its capabilities. We are of the opinion that it would be better to organize the lists of books that can be used as

lectures in the mosque in the direction of Hanafi-Maturidi and distribute them to the mosques. Since the teaching of ihsan is a deep level in faith, we believe that it is still necessary to propagate the simple truths of faith to the people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we notice that the directions of activity of the mosques of Kazakhstan in the field of religious education were set at seven years, and then they were reduced to five. The mosques of the Republic are working extensively within five areas: “Religion and Tradition”, “Good Society”, “Charity and Propaganda”, “Religious Education and Education” and “Insurance from Foreign Religious Movements». These were established and approved in 2023, and are reported every month. It is clear that these directions are determined by the religious situation in Kazakhstan and the internal conditions of the country's Muslims. However, in the future, we would like to suggest that these directions should be supplemented with a dialogue that will unite Muslim communities in the country and increase mutual understanding with other faiths in accordance with state policy. In addition, it is necessary to promote more materials in mosque sermons in accordance with the original religious knowledge of the Kazakh people. Ways to increase the activity of mosques in social networks and provide religious education to the community that does not go to the mosque should also be considered.

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Registered: March 18, 2024.

Accepted: June 11, 2024.