



International Conference on Medical Science, Medicine and Public Health

Hosted online from Jakarta, Indonesia

Website: econfseries.com

30th October, 2025

ULOQ (KOPKARI) – NATIONAL HERITAGE OF THE UZBEKISTAN PEOPLE

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Abstract:

The article discusses the historical roots of the game of kopkari (uloz), its role in the life of the peoples of Central Asia and its significance as an ethnosport. Based on information from Mahmud Kashgari, Abulkasim Firdavsi and other sources, the rules of the game, social and educational tasks are analyzed. The role of the folk game of kopkari in the formation of such values as courage, perseverance, dexterity and honesty is shown.

Keywords: kopkari, uloz, folk games, ethnosport, horsemanship, Mahmud Kashgari, Firdavsi, Kashkadarya, ritual culture, national values.

Аннотация:

В статье рассматриваются исторические корни игры копкари (улоз), ее роль в жизни народов Средней Азии и ее значение как этноспорта. На основе сведений Махмуда Кашгари, Абулкасима Фирдавси и других источников анализируются правила игры, социальные и воспитательные задачи. Показана роль народной игры копкари в формировании таких ценностей, как мужество, стойкость, ловкость и честность.

Ключевые слова: копкари, улоз, народные игры, этноспорт, наездничество, Махмуд Кашгари, Фирдавси, Кашкадарья, обрядовая культура, национальные ценности.

Introduction

Folk games are an integral part of the ancient culture, lifestyle and physical education system of each nation. In the history of the peoples of Central Asia, ethnosports – horse-related games such as chavgon, uloz (kopkari), horse racing,



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camel racing – played an important role in the formation of dexterity, courage, endurance and quick thinking in the younger generation. One of the centuries-old folk games of the Uzbek people – kopkari (ulok) is still recognized today as an integral part of our national culture, a value that unites the people and educates young people in the spirit of courage and pride. It is not only a sports competition, but also the main symbol of folk ceremonies – weddings, festivals, harvest festivals, a symbol of freedom, teamwork and the desire for victory.

Methods

Historical-ethnographic, source-based and comparative methods were used during the study. The main sources of information were Abulkasim Firdavsi's "Shahnama", Mahmud Kashgari's "Devonu lug'otit turk", as well as folk oral literature - songs, rhymes, proverbs, descriptions of rituals. Modern ethnological observations were also studied, including evidence of uloz games preserved in the oases of Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya and Bukhara. The study also paid attention to the issues of physical, moral and spiritual education of young people through folk games.

Results

According to the results of the study, the uloz (köpkari) game is one of the most ancient ethnosport forms of the peoples of Central Asia. In medieval sources, this game was mentioned under such names as "ulok", "chavgon", "poyga". Mahmud Kashgari in his work "Devonu lug'otit turk" mentioned dozens of terms related to horsemanship — "otliq", "poyga", "yugan", "zabdūq", "yorga ot" — and expressed the importance of games in society.

Kopkari was mainly held during harvest festivals, weddings, and pilgrimages. According to research, this game was especially widespread in the oases of Kashkadarya, Surkhan and Khorezm, and was popular among various tribes — Kung'iro, Barlos, Kipchak, Kenagas, Qovchin, Saray, Mang'it.

The game of Kopkari consists of two main stages: koqma (preparation) and poyga (the main competition). The goat usually consists of a goat or calf carcass with its internal organs removed. The strongest, most agile and brave rider who honestly



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brought the goat to the finish line is declared the winner. The winners are awarded horses, rams, carpets or cash prizes.

In addition, the uloz games were not only a competition for men, but also a means of improving the horse breed, breeding hardy breeds, uniting the people and teaching young people to be brave.

Discussion

As an ethnosport, the kopkari game occupies an important place in the physical culture and spiritual life of the Uzbek people. This game promotes the values of bravery, honesty, teamwork and courage. At the same time, the kopkari held during folk ceremonies has strengthened social solidarity and strengthened ties between clans and tribes.

Historically, uloz games have also been a political and cultural expression of social life. Some sources note that rulers and wealthy people held uloz competitions, prepared prizes, and widely popularized them among the people.

Today, consistent scientific foundations are being created for the inclusion of the uloz game in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. This will serve to internationally recognize the ancient roots and socio-educational significance of this folk game.

Conclusion

Kopkari (ulok) is not only a game, but also an embodied expression of the social life, moral values, and physical culture of the people. It teaches young people courage, determination, and teamwork. The study shows that this game has been formed over the centuries and has not lost its significance in folk culture today. Kopkari should be recognized as an important ethnosport that expresses the national identity, cultural heritage, and historical traditions of the Uzbek people.

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