ISSN: 2181-3337 | SCIENTISTS.UZ VOLUME 5 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2026

THE CONTRIBUTION OF ICHERISHEHER TO THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY OF YOUTH

Nazarova Gulnar
Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University, PhD Student, Social Management, Social Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan University, Lecturer, Humanities and Social Sciences, Political and Social Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan

DOI: 10.67620/sai.58b0019

ABSTRACT
The article examines the role of the Icherisheher State Historical and Architectural Reserve in the development of the national-cultural identity of young people and the importance of cultural and educational projects implemented here. In addition to the protection of cultural heritage, the study analyzes its role in the development of the historical memory, commitment to national values, and cultural awareness of the younger generation. The main purpose of the study is to determine the impact of excursions, exhibitions, master classes, creative projects, and other educational events organized in Icherisheher on the national-cultural identity of young people. Document analysis, description, and content analysis were used during the study. The results show that Icherisheher is not only a place where historical and architectural monuments are preserved, but also acts as an informal educational environment. Expanding cooperation between museums and educational institutions and organizing interactive projects have a significant impact on increasing young people's knowledge about cultural heritage and strengthening their attitude to national values.

ACCEPTED

08.09.26

Keywords: *Azerbaijan, Icherisheher, Cultural heritage, Youth, national-cultural identity.*

CC BY

Introduction

Icherisheher is one of the oldest cultural heritage sites in Azerbaijan and serves as one of the country's most important centres for learning about its history and cultural heritage, while also contributing to the development of the tourism sector. At this point in time, one of the cultural policy priorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan promotes our heritage, educating young people about this heritage, and strengthening our national identity among the youth. It should be emphasized that museums and heritage places are not only historical and cultural symbols, but they are also our historical memory and national values. Icherisheher has several historical and architectural monuments, such as mosques, baths, tombs, carvanserais and palaces. Youth generations should study ancient places because of that if they learn about these places, they will also understand our history and culture deeply. Due to the fact that Icherisheher organizes numerous events, such as excursions, exhibitions, master classes and similar programs.

In that case, the research paper is significant for studying the cultural knowledge of the younger generation. The object of the research is the cultural activities of Icherisheher, while the subject is these educational programs affect the development of the national-cultural identity of the younger generation.

The aim of the study is to determine the role that cultural and educational projects carried out in Icherisheher play in the cultivation of young people's national and cultural identity. To achieve this purpose, the following tasks are carried out:

- to analyze the role of cultural heritage in the formation of national-cultural identity;
- to examine the educational opportunities provided by museums and historical monuments;
- to determine the main features of the heritage-based initiatives in Icherisheher;
- to identify the role of activities such as exhibitions, master classes in the shaping of the national values of young people.

Method

The methodology of research is based on explaining the cultural initiatives of Icherisheher contribute to the development of the younger generation's cultural and historical awareness. Therefore, a qualitative approach is adopted in this study. The research methods include document analysis, descriptive analysis, content analysis.

- Document analysis is used to examine scientific literature, and the official website and social media platform of the Icherisheher State Historical and Architectural Reserve. The main works of the study consist of S.Əmirxanov's "Azərbaycanda muzeyşünaslığın aktual problemləri", "Məktəblilərin muzey və muzey tipli müəssisələrə cəlb olunması, muzeylərin təbliği işinin əsasları: Metodiki tövsiyə", M.Məmmədzadə's "Muzeylərin ali məktəb müəssisələri ilə qarşılıqlı əlaqəsi" among sources. These sources helped to study the role of museums in developing young people's cultural knowledge of national values. One of the primarily source base is the official website and instagram of the Icherisheher State Historical and Architectural Reserve, which the cultural events by Icherisheher are systematically investigated;
- Descriptive analysis is used to describe the cultural programs carried out in Icherisheher;
- Content analysis is applied to examine the information presented in cultural events, exhibitions, and educational activities organized in Icherisheher.

Figure 1

The Festival of "Nağıllar Aləmi İçərişəhər"



Note. Source: İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi (2026e).

Results or Findings

Collaboration Between Museums and Educational Institutions

Museums are not only places where historical and cultural examples are preserved, but also important social institutions that affect the enlightenment of society, the spiritual, intellectual and aesthetic development of people. They play a significant role in preserving the historical memory of the people, national customs and traditions and spiritual wealth and passing them on to future generations. Through the scientific research, exposition, exhibition, propaganda and educational activities of museums, interest in historical events, respect for cultural heritage and commitment to national values are formed in visitors. The use of exhibits, exhibitions, archival materials, digital presentations and other modern tools in museum activities creates conditions for people to assimilate information more fully and visually. In this process,

ISSN: 2181-3337 | SCIENTISTS.UZ

the professionalism of museum employees, the correct presentation of exhibits and effective communication with visitors are of particular importance. In particular, cooperation between museums and schools has a significant impact on the expansion of the worldview of the younger generation, the formation of their national and cultural identity and the enhancement of their spiritual values. Thus, museums are not only institutions where material heritage is preserved, but also act as significant educational and nurturing centers that serve to form knowledge, cultural thinking, and spiritual qualities in people (Əmirxanov, 2011, pp. 386–390, 395–400).

Museums are considered one of the crucial educational and upbringing centers serving the enlightenment of society, the spiritual, intellectual and aesthetic development of man. The directions of research, protection, restoration, demonstration and propaganda of museum initiatives create conditions for the strengthening of the worldview of visitors, the enhancement of a sense of respect for national and cultural values and the preservation of historical memory.

Cooperation with schools and other educational institutions is of particular importance in the realization of the educational opportunities of museums. The correct establishment of museum-school relations, the organization of activities appropriate to age characteristics and the use of interactive methods increase the interest of schoolchildren in museum activities. The museum environment allows the development of observation, research, independent thinking and creative approach skills in children. At the same time, patriotism, national identity, social responsibility and moral values are formed in young people through exhibits, exhibitions and educational events.

The educational function of museums is carried out on the basis of the interaction of various means. Expositions, exhibits, museum lessons, excursions, associations, clubs, lectures, meetings and thematic events serve to expand the knowledge of visitors. In particular, exhibits, as living examples of historical events and cultural processes, contribute to a deeper assimilation of theoretical information. The correct organization of exhibitions and the selection of presentation methods allow for the creation of an educational environment that is appropriate for the interests and perceptions of different age groups.

Club and association initiatives organized in museums, as well as various projects, create conditions for the development of research and creative skills of participants. School museums also strengthen the knowledge of students through practical observation, making the educational process more interesting and effective. In addition, the professionalism of museum employees, the use of modern technologies and the implementation of various educational programs further increase the educational potential of museums.

Thus, more effective results are achieved when the educational and educational opportunities of museums are implemented in close connection with each other. Museums act as crucial socio-educational institutions that serve to increase people's knowledge level, form aesthetic taste, develop moral values, and strengthen their attachment to cultural heritage.

In modern times, in order to increase the role of museums in the educational and upbringing process, the application of interactive and practical forms of activity, along with traditional excursion methods, is of great importance. Establishing cooperation between museums and educational institutions allows schoolchildren and students to connect their theoretical knowledge with practical activities and to more deeply assimilate museum materials. In particular, the internship of students studying in museums, participation in various exhibitions, thematic excursions, open lessons, seminars and other events significantly contributes to the development of their professional training (Əmirxanov, 2011, pp. 337–342, 342–350).

Lessons held in a museum environment, the use of exhibits, archival documents and other material sources create conditions for students to understand historical events more clearly and form research skills. At the same time, associations, creative groups and educational programs organized in museums increase the interest of young people in cultural heritage, affect the development of their national-cultural identity and civic position.

ISSN: 2181-3337 | SCIENTISTS.UZ

In order to increase the efficiency of museum projects, it is significant for teachers and educational institutions to use museum resources purposefully, organize events in accordance with age characteristics and educational programs. In addition, exhibitions, publications, digital platforms, virtual presentations and other promotional tools allow museums to reach a wider audience.

Thus, the establishment of continuous cooperation between museums and educational institutions serves not only to strengthen knowledge, but also to form the historical memory, moral values and attachment to cultural heritage of the younger generation. From this perspective, museums are not just protective institutions, but also important educational centers that teach, encourage research, and creativity (Məktəblilərin muzey və muzey tipli müəssisələrə cəlb olunması, muzeylərin təbliği işinin əsasları, 2015; Məmmədzadə, 2013, pp. 191–192).

The Educational and Cultural Functions of Museums Through the Example of Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve Projects

In modern times, the areas of activity of museums have expanded significantly. Previously characterized mainly by the preservation of exhibits and their presentation to visitors, museum projects are today enriched with more educational, social and educational projects. Museums are no longer just a place where historical examples are displayed, but also act as an informal educational environment where different age groups acquire knowledge, develop creative skills and assimilate cultural values. In this regard, the projects implemented by the Icherisheher State Historical and Architectural Reserve Department are examples of the breadth of interaction between museums and society and educational opportunities.

Projects implemented to develop children's creative abilities reveal the educational and aesthetic importance of museums. The exhibitions "İçərişəhərin balaca rəssamları" and "Qışın rəngləri" organized at the Baku House of Photography are noteworthy in terms of increasing children's interest in art. Through these projects, children not only developed their drawing skills, but also gained the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings in an artistic form, influenced by the historical and cultural environment. Drawing classes, master classes and exhibition activities had a positive impact on revealing the creative potential of children and forming their aesthetic worldview.

Socially oriented projects also occupy an important place in the projects of museums. Excursions organized in Icherisheher for children involved in various social programs allowed them to get acquainted with historical sites and expand their initial ideas about cultural heritage. Such events create conditions for both children to spend their free time effectively and for them to participate in the cultural life of society. At the same time, creative events held within the framework of the Nağıllar Aləmi İçərişəhər festivalı helped to develop the imagination of schoolchildren, increase their interest in the ancient urban environment and form a different view of historical sites.

The cooperation of museums with higher education institutions is one of the significant indicators of their scientific and educational function. Excursions on the topic of restoration and conservation organized for students studying architecture at ADA University gave students the opportunity to observe the process of preserving historical monuments in a practical way. Such initiatives are of particular importance in terms of consolidating theoretical knowledge on real examples. In addition, meetings with the participation of students of Baku Slavic University within the framework of the “İzimizi itirməyək” project served to increase the interest of young people in archaeological heritage, local history and scientific research.

The “Heritage Walk in Icherisheher” educational tour organized in Icherisheher is also one of the examples reflecting the educational function of museums. Through this event, which was attended by representatives of various fields, including architects, teachers and students, practical information was obtained about the architectural features of Icherisheher, stages of historical development and issues of

ISSN: 2181-3337 | SCIENTISTS.UZ

cultural heritage protection. Such projects create conditions for the perception of the historical environment not only as an object to be protected, but also as a living cultural space that is essential to study and research.

Thus, the educational projects implemented in Icherisheher show that modern museums, in addition to being a source of knowledge and experience for different segments of society, are also significant cultural institutions that perform educational and social functions. The enhancement of museum-school and museum-university cooperation has a significant impact on the shaping of the historical memory of the younger generation, strengthening their attitude towards cultural heritage, and increasing society's awareness of national and cultural values (İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi, 2025a, 2025b, 2026a–2026f).

Discussion

The conducted analyses show that Icherisheher is a significant cultural and educational environment that influences the cultivation of the national and cultural identity of young people. Excursions, exhibitions, master classes and other educational projects carried out here not only increase the participants' knowledge about the historical heritage, but also have a positive impact on the development of such qualities as respect for national values, a sense of patriotism and responsibility for the protection of cultural heritage.

The analyzed materials show that the events held in Icherisheher cover different age groups and are organized in accordance with their interests. Art circles, exhibitions and festival programs for schoolchildren create conditions for the development of creative abilities, while excursions on the topic of restoration and conservation organized for students provide practical application of professional knowledge. Excursions for children involved in the social rehabilitation program demonstrate that cultural heritage can be used as a means of inclusive education and social integration.

The research results also show that the integration of cultural heritage objects into the educational process is a crucial tool that complements formal education. Direct observation of historical monuments, communication with experts, and interactive activities allow theoretical knowledge to be reinforced with practical experience. This in turn forms a more lasting interest in historical heritage in young people and serves to strengthen national and cultural identity.

Conclusion and Implications

As a result of the research, it was determined that Icherisheher is not only an area where the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan is preserved, but also an essential educational and enlightenment center serving to form the national and cultural identity of young people. Excursions, exhibitions, master classes, creative projects and other cultural programs held here make a significant contribution to enriching the knowledge of young people about historical heritage, strengthening their commitment to national values and developing civic consciousness.

The research shows that the systematic integration of cultural heritage objects into the educational and upbringing process is an effective approach in terms of protecting the national and cultural identity of young people. In this regard, it can be considered advisable to further expand the educational projects implemented in Icherisheher, strengthen cooperation with higher and secondary educational institutions, and increase the use of digital and interactive educational technologies. Steps taken in this direction will make a significant contribution to the transfer of cultural heritage to future generations and the sustainable development of national identity values.

Declarations

Acknowledgments: Not applicable.

Authors' contributions: G.N.

Competing interests: The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

ISSN: 2181-3337 | SCIENTISTS.UZ

Funding: This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Ethics approval and consent to participate: Not applicable.

Note: Not applicable.

Publisher's note: Science and innovation journal remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

REFERENCES

1. Əmirxanov, S. A. (2011). *Azərbaycanda muzeyşünaslığın aktual problemləri*. Bakı Biznes Universiteti.
2. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2025a, December 15). *"Heritage Walk in Icherisheher" turu keçirilib* [Instagram post]. Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/p/DSSPPkADErI/
3. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2025b). *"İçərişəhərin balaca rəssamları" adlı sərgi keçirilib*. https://icherisheher.gov.az/media/news/iceriseherin-balaca-ressamlari-adli-sergi-kecirilib
4. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2026a, January 2). *Bakı Fotoqrafiya Evində "Qışın rəngləri" sərgisinin açılışı keçirilib*. https://www.icherisheher.gov.az/media/news/baki-fotoqrafiya-evinde-qisin-rengleri-sergisinin-acilisi-kecirilib
5. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2026b, January 12). *Heritage Walk in Icherisheher*. https://www.icherisheher.gov.az/media/news/heritage-walk-in-icherisheher
6. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2026c, May 9). *İçərişəhərdə ADA Universiteti tələbələri üçün bərpa və konservasiyaya həsr olunmuş maarifləndirici ekskursiya təşkil olunub*. https://www.icherisheher.gov.az/media/news/iceriseherde-ada-universiteti-telebeleri-uecuen-berpa-ve-konservasiyaya-hesr-olunmus-maariflendirici-ekskursiya-teskil-olunub
7. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2026d, April 24). *"İzimizi itirməyək" layihəsi çərçivəsində baş tutan budəfəki görüş Gədəbəyin zəngin tarixinə həsr olunub* [Instagram post]. Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/p/DXe4xcnDAjm/
8. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2026e, June 1). *Nağıllar Aləmi İçərişəhər festivalı*. https://www.icherisheher.gov.az/media/news/nagillar-alemi-iceriseher-festivali
9. İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsi. (2026f, June 6). *Sosial reabilitasiya proqramına cəlb olunan uşaqlar üçün İçərişəhərdə ekskursiya təşkil olunub*. https://icherisheher.gov.az/media/news/sosial-reabilitasiya-proqramina-celb-olunan-usaqlar-uecuen-iceriseherde-ekskursiya-teskil-olunub
10. Məktəblilərin muzey və muzey tipli müəssisələrə cəlb olunması, muzeylərin təbliği işinin əsasları: Metodiki tövsiyə. (2015). Bakı.
11. Məmmədzadə, M. (2013). Muzeylərin ali məktəb müəssisələri ilə qarşılıqlı əlaqəsi. In *Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyevin anadan olmasının 90 illiyinə həsr olunmuş "Azərbaycan tarixinin öyrənilməsində muzeylərin rolu" III Respublika elmi konfransının materialları* (pp. 191–194). Ziya.

ISSN: 2181-3337 | SCIENTISTS.UZ