

# Scientific And Educational Views Of Mahmudkhoja Behbudi: Issues Of Study

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## Abstract

This article examines the scientific and educational views of Mahmudkhoja Behbudi and their historical as well as contemporary significance. It explores Behbudi's ideas on education, national awakening, enlightenment, and social reforms, emphasizing their relevance for educating today's youth. The study also highlights the impact of Behbudi's pedagogical and educational concepts on the modern educational process.

**Keywords:** Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, Jadidism, enlightenment, national awakening, pedagogical views, social reforms, education, upbringing, historical heritage, contemporary relevance

## Introduction

Mahmudkhoja Behbudi occupies a special place in the spiritual and educational history of the Uzbek people. As one of the prominent representatives of the Jadid movement, he dedicated his entire activity to awakening the nation, spreading knowledge and enlightenment, and leading society toward progress. In his time, Behbudi served not only as an educator but also as an enlightened writer, publicist, journalist, and socio-political figure, contributing significantly to the intellectual development of the people.

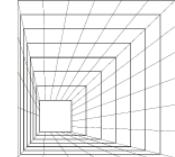
At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, Turkestan society was trapped in backwardness, ignorance, and illiteracy, and remained far from the modern system of science and education. Under such circumstances, Behbudi regarded enlightenment as the only path to national development. To this end, he carried out wide-ranging activities such as establishing new-method schools, creating textbooks, and promoting educational ideas through the press. His drama *Padarkush*, journalistic articles, and other works advanced the ideas of national awakening, patriotism, and enlightenment, which remain relevant even today.

The study of Behbudi's scientific and educational views is of great importance in the current process of teaching and upbringing. His pedagogical concepts serve as an effective source for fostering independent thinking, national identity, critical reasoning, and a pursuit of modern knowledge among students. Therefore, analyzing Behbudi's views and determining their role and significance in contemporary pedagogical practice constitute one of the main objectives of this research.

Mahmudkhoja Behbudi is a distinguished figure in the history of the Uzbek enlightenment movement. He is remembered not only as a leading representative of Jadidism but also as an enlightened intellectual who devoted his entire life to awakening the nation and guiding it toward progress. The primary goal of Behbudi's activity was to liberate the people from ignorance, to enlighten them with the light of knowledge, to instill secular sciences, and thereby to raise the nation to the ranks of developed peoples. His scientific-educational views, pedagogical ideas, journalistic activity, and literary works have not lost their relevance even today. In particular, the use of Behbudi's intellectual legacy in the education of the younger generation as well-rounded individuals remains an urgent matter.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, the Turkestan region was engulfed in social, political, and cultural stagnation. The majority of the population was illiterate, while schools and madrasas were dominated by purely religious education. The achievements of modern science and technology, as well as advanced pedagogical ideas spreading through Europe and Russia, were absorbed weakly in the Muslim East, making social renewal a difficult process.

Under such conditions, Behbudi envisioned enlightenment as the main path for national progress. He advocated for the establishment of new-method schools, the inclusion of secular subjects such as arithmetic, geography, and history in the curriculum, and the necessity of arousing young



people's interest in modern knowledge. Behbudi carried out his educational and enlightenment activities in several directions.

First, he placed great emphasis on the establishment of **new-method schools**. At that time, the traditional schools were limited mainly to reading the Qur'an and teaching religious sciences. Behbudi, however, stressed the necessity of introducing secular subjects such as mathematics, geography, history, and natural sciences into the curriculum. In doing so, he aimed to educate students not only as individuals with religious knowledge but also as literate and well-informed members of society.

Second, Behbudi attached special importance to the creation of **textbooks and manuals**. His works, such as *Kitobat-ul-atfol*, were designed specifically for new-method schools and stood out for their accessibility and clarity, making the learning process easier for students.

The role of the **press** in Behbudi's scientific and educational outlook was also invaluable. During his time, he wrote numerous journalistic articles in newspapers and journals, calling on the people to acquire knowledge and become familiar with modern sciences. His writings advanced ideas that urged the awakening of the nation, the development of national self-consciousness, and the cultivation of independent thinking. Behbudi made a significant contribution to the development of the press in Turkestan, widely addressing issues such as education, national awakening, social justice, and the future of the nation. For this reason, he can rightly be regarded as one of the founders of the Uzbek national press.

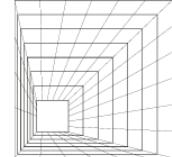
Behbudi also pursued consistent activity in the field of **literature**. His drama *Padarkush (The Parricide)* is considered one of the earliest examples of Uzbek dramaturgy. In this work, ignorance, backwardness, and outdated views are criticized, while the ideas of knowledge, renewal, and progress are promoted. Through the image of a father who sacrifices his son to ignorance, the play reflects the general backwardness of society. In this way, Behbudi called upon the people to embrace enlightenment and urged the nation toward a new way of thinking. Even today, *Padarkush* has not lost its relevance and continues to be used in the educational process.

In his worldview, the idea of **national awakening** held a special place. Behbudi emphasized that for the progress of the nation, it was essential for young people to grow up as educated, modern-minded, and patriotic individuals. He called upon the people to national unity, self-awareness, and pride in their history. Throughout his activities, Behbudi adhered to the principle of "*awakening the people – saving the nation.*" He regarded enlightenment as the key factor of national development and devoted all his energy to educating the people and eradicating illiteracy.

Today, the study of Behbudi's scientific and educational views remains highly important. His progressive ideas continue to resonate in the modern process of education and upbringing. For instance, his concept of **new-method schools** finds its continuation in the current education system through innovative approaches, interactive methods, and the use of modern information technologies. Just as Behbudi stressed the importance of raising young people as broad-minded, independent thinkers, and patriots, this principle remains one of the core directions of today's state education policy.

The use of **modern pedagogical methods** in studying Behbudi's activities yields highly effective results. For example, interactive lessons can be organized based on his works: students may be divided into groups to discuss excerpts from the drama *Padarkush* or his journalistic articles, or to stage historical events, thereby increasing their engagement in the classroom. By applying the **problem-based learning** method, students can be encouraged to think independently through questions such as: "*Why did Behbudi strive to establish new schools?*" or "*To what extent are his ideas relevant today?*" Similarly, the **project-based learning** method allows students to creatively demonstrate their knowledge by preparing presentations, wall newspapers, or digital resources dedicated to Behbudi's life and work.

Information technologies can also be effectively employed in studying Behbudi's legacy. For instance, exploring his works and articles through digital libraries, preparing multimedia presentations, and developing online tests contribute to strengthening students' knowledge. An **integrated teaching approach** across disciplines such as history, literature, and pedagogy provides a deeper understanding



of Behbudi's activities. For example, his journalistic articles may be studied in history, *Padarkush* in literature, and his views on education in pedagogy, thereby fostering a comprehensive grasp of his intellectual contributions.

Behbudi's legacy holds not only **historical** but also **spiritual significance** for today's youth. The ideas of enlightenment, national awakening, and patriotism advanced in his works serve as an invaluable source for raising well-rounded individuals. Behbudi's life and activities provide a moral lesson for young people, awakening in them a sense of national pride, spiritual maturity, and a thirst for knowledge.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the scientific and educational views of Mahmudkhoja Behbudi remain relevant not only in his own time but also today. His enlightenment ideas, initiatives in opening new schools, activities in the press, and literary heritage should be widely studied within the current education system. Integrating Behbudi's views with modern pedagogical methods plays an important role in fostering independent thinking, patriotism, knowledge, and spiritual maturity among young people. Therefore, the study of Behbudi's legacy and its application in today's educational process constitute one of the key directions of pedagogical practice.

**Table 1. The Main Directions of Mahmudkhoja Behbudi's Activities**

Direction	Content	Outcome
<b>Educational Reforms</b>	Establishment of new-method schools; creation of textbooks and manuals	Literacy increased; interest in secular sciences grew
<b>Press Activity</b>	Writing journalistic articles in newspapers and journals	National consciousness awakened; social and political issues were raised
<b>Literary Creativity</b>	<i>Padarkush</i> drama and other educational works	Ignorance was criticized; enlightenment and knowledge were promoted
<b>Enlightenment Work</b>	Promotion of national awakening, patriotism, and unity	Contributed to guiding the people toward renewal and progress

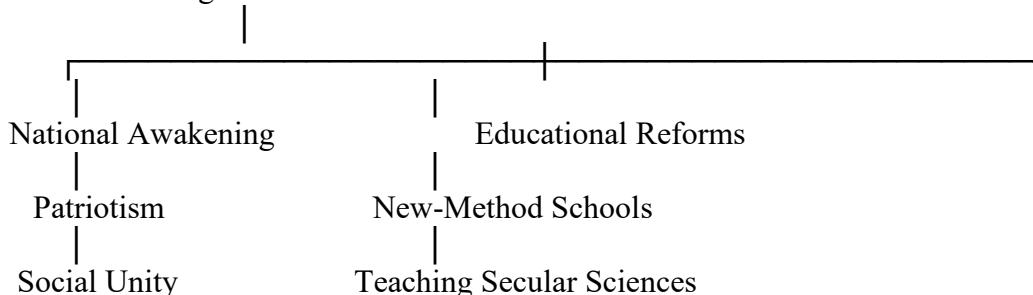
#### Analysis:

As the table shows, Behbudi's activity was multifaceted. He was not only an educational reformer but also a publicist, writer, and spiritual leader who served the progress of the nation. Each direction was organically interconnected and aimed at a common goal — awakening the nation through enlightenment.

**Figure 2.**

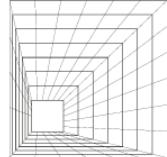
#### *The Core Principles of Behbudi's Scientific and Educational Views*

##### Enlightenment



#### Analysis:

This scheme clearly demonstrates that enlightenment stands at the core of Behbudi's views. All of his ideas — national awakening, educational reforms, patriotism, and social unity — were shaped on the basis of enlightenment. This highlights the primacy of knowledge and education in his intellectual outlook.



### The Influence of Behbudi's Ideas on Contemporary Education

Behbudi's Ideas	Their Expression in Today's Education
<b>Concept of new-method schools</b>	Innovative educational institutions, STEM approaches
<b>Emphasis on textbooks and manuals</b>	Electronic resources, multimedia textbooks
<b>Engagement with secular knowledge</b>	Integration of science and technology, creative education
<b>Independent thinking and critical mind</b>	Interactive methods, project-based learning
<b>Patriotism and national awakening</b>	Teaching historical heritage, education based on national values

#### Analysis:

As seen in the table, the ideas put forward by Behbudi continue to find expression in modern forms within today's education system. For instance, while he created textbooks in his time, today electronic resources and multimedia textbooks serve this purpose. Similarly, modern interactive methods are employed to foster independent thinking. This process confirms the enduring relevance of Behbudi's intellectual legacy.

#### Conclusion

Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, as a great enlightener and one of the leading representatives of the Jadid movement, occupies an invaluable place in the spiritual and intellectual development of the Uzbek people, leaving a deep mark on the nation's history. His scientific and educational views, pedagogical activity, and literary and journalistic heritage were directed toward awakening the nation, shaping a modern educational system, and raising the younger generation as knowledgeable and independent-minded individuals. By establishing new-method schools, creating textbooks and manuals, promoting enlightenment through the press, and advancing national awakening ideas through literature, Behbudi contributed profoundly to the intellectual upliftment of society.

Today, Behbudi's ideas harmonize with modern pedagogy, serving as an important source in the process of encouraging youth to engage with science, fostering respect for national values, and cultivating loyalty to the homeland. Studying Behbudi's views not only enriches the content of the educational system but also motivates teachers to adopt innovative approaches. Moreover, his enlightenment legacy plays an invaluable role in raising young people as conscious, responsible, knowledgeable, and morally mature individuals.

Therefore, the study of Mahmudkhoja Behbudi's scientific and educational views is not only of historical significance but also of contemporary relevance. The application of his ideas in the modern educational process remains a key factor in nurturing future generations who are intellectually, spiritually, and nationally accomplished.

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