

MAHMUDKHOJA BEHBUDI HOUSE-MUSEUM: A LIVING CENTER OF JADID HERITAGE

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18845736>

***Annotation.** The Mahmudkhoja Behbudi House-Museum preserves the legacy of the influential Jadid figure. It showcases his life, educational, literary, and social contributions, as well as the cultural and historical context of late 19th–early 20th century Turkestan. The museum’s exhibits—manuscripts, books, personal items, and archival materials—highlight both the era and Behbudi’s intellectual spirit. It plays a key role in educating youth, fostering national awareness, and promoting Jadid ideals today.*

***Keywords:** Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, House-Museum, Jadid movement, cultural heritage, education, historical memory, Turkestan.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the most significant developments in the socio-cultural life of Turkestan during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was the Jadid movement, which aimed to awaken the nation, promote knowledge and enlightenment, and guide society toward progress.

Among the most prominent figures of this movement was Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, who held a distinguished place in history not only as a writer and playwright but also as an educator, publisher, publicist, and social leader. Behbudi dedicated his entire life to the advancement of his nation, the eradication of ignorance, and the dissemination of modern knowledge, establishing himself as a committed proponent of enlightenment.

Today, historical sites, and especially museums, play an irreplaceable role in studying and disseminating the legacy of great thinkers. In this context, the Mahmudkhoja Behbudi House-Museum stands out not only as a historical monument but also as a key scientific and educational center reflecting the ideas of the Jadid movement.

Through this museum, visitors can gain insight not only into Behbudi’s life and activities but also into the socio-cultural environment of his era, the intellectual struggle of the Jadids, and the process of national awakening.

The establishment of the Behbudi House-Museum represents an important component of ongoing efforts in Uzbekistan to preserve historical memory, protect the heritage of great ancestors, and cultivate the younger generation in the spirit of national values. The museum functions not only as a repository of historical exhibits but also as a center for scientific research, educational events, and the promotion of Jadid heritage.

According to documented sources, the museum preserves numerous rare materials related to Behbudi’s life and work, including manuscripts, books, personal belongings, archival documents, and photographs.

These exhibits provide a comprehensive understanding of the writer's personal life, his contributions to enlightenment, pedagogical views, and services toward national development. In this respect, the museum holds significant scholarly value as a historical source.

In today's era of increasing globalization, understanding national identity, preserving historical memory, and transmitting cultural heritage to future generations have become more pressing. The Behbudi House-Museum serves as a vital cultural and educational site, fostering historical thinking, promoting the principles of the Jadid movement, and strengthening national consciousness among young people.

Furthermore, the museum's activities demonstrate the continued relevance of Behbudi's legacy for contemporary society. His advocacy for knowledge, educational reforms, and national progress remain highly pertinent today. Studying the museum thus provides not only insight into the life of a historical figure but also a deeper understanding of the essence and significance of the Jadid movement. The primary aim of this article is to analyze the establishment of the Mahmudkhoja Behbudi House-Museum, its collections, scientific and educational significance, and current activities, thereby highlighting the museum's role in preserving and promoting the legacy of Jadidism.



Mahmudkhodja Behbudiy House-Museum Building (Samarkand)

DISCUSSION

The analysis of the activities of the Mahmudkhoja Behbudi House-Museum demonstrates that this institution is not merely a historical building, but a significant spiritual space embodying the ideas of Jadidism and the spirit of national revival. The materials presented in the museum's exhibition systematically illuminate not only Behbudi's personal life but also his extensive social and educational activities. This approach allows visitors to experience history not merely as a series of facts, but as a reflection of the cultural and intellectual climate of the era.

The manuscripts, early publications, and archival documents preserved in the museum provide deep insight into Behbudi's educational and enlightening efforts. Notably, his work in creating textbooks, establishing schools, and developing the press is documented through these exhibits, offering tangible evidence of his contributions. These materials are of considerable scholarly value, serving as primary sources for researchers studying the history of Jadidism.

Moreover, the thematic organization of the museum's exhibition enables visitors to follow Behbudi's life chronologically. His childhood, intellectual formation, pedagogical work, and achievements in drama and journalism are presented in an interconnected manner. This comprehensive approach helps to understand the historical figure as a whole and enhances the didactic significance of the exhibition.

Another important aspect of the museum's activity is its role as an educational and cultural center. Scientific meetings, commemorative events, moral-educational evenings, and guided tours ensure that the legacy of Behbudi is not only preserved but actively promoted. Through these activities, the museum functions as a living institution that communicates historical heritage dynamically.

Analyses indicate that the museum also serves as a valuable pedagogical tool for young people. Observing the historical environment and interacting with authentic materials provides a more powerful impact than book-based learning alone, fostering interest in national history and respect for cultural heritage.

Additionally, the museum's collection offers a broad understanding of the cultural life of the period, the development of the press, and educational reforms, making it not only a memorial space but also a center for studying socio-cultural history.

Overall, the activities of the Mahmudkhoja Behbudi House-Museum harmoniously combine the preservation of historical memory, the promotion of scholarly research, and the dissemination of moral and cultural values. In this regard, the museum can be regarded as one of the most important contemporary promoters of the Jadid heritage

CONCLUSIO

In conclusion, the Mahmudkhoja Behbudi House-Museum serves not only as a historical site but also as a vital center for preserving national memory and spiritual heritage. Through the exhibited materials, visitors gain a clearer understanding of the scholar's life, activities, and his pivotal role in the Jadid movement. Experiencing the museum allows individuals to feel the atmosphere of the era and deeply comprehend the significant objectives Behbudi pursued throughout his life.

Furthermore, the museum holds considerable educational value for young people. Learning history not only through books but also via authentic artifacts and the historical environment leaves a stronger impression, fostering respect for national values and inspiring care for the legacy of ancestors.

In my view, the Behbudi House-Museum continues to play an important role in sustaining the ideas of Jadidism today. It not only reminds us of the past but also encourages the present generation to pursue knowledge, think critically, and contribute positively to society.

Overall, the museum acts as a living bridge between history and the present, playing a crucial role in transmitting the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of our nation to future generations.

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