

The role of cultural and educational bodies, institutions and organizations in preserving heritage and asserting artistic identity

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Abstract:

Our identity reflects our present and our future. This is what makes us proud and proud of it in any international forum. It is nothing but the product of our heritage and our rich cultural heritage, including the illumination of intellectual, popular and material wealth.

Allah the almighty has blessed us with rich civilization that its roots are reaching the depth of history, which hasn't only influenced our future but also affected the whole humanity future. UAE has turned into one of the most important countries of the world and most influential regarding economy and tourism, also in spreading culture of love, peace and humanity. It has become one of the minarets of spreading culture and science around earth.

The question in this research lies in how to devise the concept of cultural unity to protect society from the tourism community through education and heritage culture, its identity so that it can benefit the community.

Research topic:

Renewal of joint work between civil society institutions Joint community joint civil society participating in joint work on civil society.

Research axes:

It contains three axes, namely:

The first axis: the importance of working on creating a system of cultural unity.

The second axis: renewing the joint work to build a structure to protect the heritage.

The third axis: the UAE's strategy to highlight and evoke its past and protect its cultural heritage.

The research importance:

The position of the UAE in preserving the tangible heritage and the state of the United Arab Emirates and the participation in this strategy, and instilling the values of authenticity in social life, and the race of children in this heritage and culture.

Keywords:

heritage- Emiratis Heritage-Cultural heritage. Emirates and its heritage.

Introduction:

Whoever looks and meditate in Allah's creations can see wonders. There are consequent delightful four seasons, day and night, time difference, sunrise and sunset, sea waves, rain drops, birds' twitters, water murmur, and roar of rivers. We should kneel to the almighty and thank him for his blessings and be grateful for him.

Then we should look deep into humans' creations in construction and architecture, poetry and literature with the beauty of meanings and vocabularies.

Humane civilization is rich with great inheritance of fantastic arts, from humane architecture such as the pyramids and great wall of China, sculpted symbolic pieces, illustrations and poems that contemporary human beings can't even imitate.

That artistic inheritance is enough to unify the world around the art table and gather it around humanitarian culture, yet there is no deterrent against drawing the heritage identity for each country, and its parade about its ancient cultural and artistic civilization. Art, culture and emotions are the most sophisticated things that humanity has achieved during its road towards humanistic perfection. As humanity can't survive while being dry of any feelings and emotions, can't differentiate between the beauty and the ugly, can't taste verses of poem, can't aspire a beautiful view or enjoy a melody and feels nostalgic about the beautiful past.

One of the highest goals that god created humans for is to reconstruct earth and show the beauty hidden in its characteristics, earth construction isn't completed unless with aesthetic, perfection, and gratification.

Jobs have to be divided in order to reach goals that lead to continuity of common work among all associations to serve civil heritage and its artistic identity by exerting effort with professionals, each in his/her specialty of science and art.

The first axis: the importance of working on creation of system for cultural unity:

Protection of cultural and material inheritance through associations concerned with culture, heritage, education, tourism, etc. and confirmation of the artistic identity so it can benefit the entire society with all its categories, as through it, the inherited values stand out and the environment that those who had built the renaissance have lived, that's how we can appreciate them and their status, and work with their values afterwards.

Heritage is that solid bridge that connects our past with our present that extends steady and clear to lead us to become who we are in the future, to be our artistic and cultural identity, to present it to the world to link with it on basis of love and humanity that Allah has planted in our hearts to feed our existence, and grant us the ability to build a civilization which communities and countries are being constructed on.

There is no doubt that creating an artistic identity of a country starts with its cultural foundations and systems in highlighting the aesthetics of both intellectual and urban his **The second axis: renovation of joint work among governmental institutions and civil society institutions:**

There is no argue that planting heritage inside children minds and behavior of community, the intellect of pioneers, and everyone's responsibility according to their positions. Heritage exists in our schools' curriculums, contents of our books and we care about highlighting it in our festivals, presenting awards for its creations and those who work with it are highly appreciated.

There is no doubt that the composition of cultural identity for a country starts with its cultural institutions and systems in highlighting the aesthetic of both urban and intellectual history.

The country didn't hold back any effort for reviving heritage and introduction of a unique artistic identity to the whole world that show the humanity of Emiratis people and the wisdom of its leaders and their pursuit to spread peace, culture and the genuine Emiratis heritage.

UAE has succeeded in achieving its heritage goals by maintaining the Emiratis heritage and linking it to the national identity, enhancing the meanings of belonging to religion with integration with education curricula that are aiming to plant value of heritage and Emirates history inside the core of the new generations to keep the folk inheritance and at the same time hold on to ancestors' inheritance, and how they lived, their crafts and women crafts, popular folk cuisine and how our ancestors could deal skillfully with the simple components surrounding them. We can't forget about the big role of women in the old society as she used to practice many essential crafts and produce tools that everyone uses in their daily life, she could create a balance between that and her domestic chores as a housewife responsible for each and everything related to her home especially in time with little resources and with the absence of housewares that help housewives with their tasks like nowadays, which shows everyone how the Emiratis women back in the days used to excel their roles perfectly and had major role in the journey of the Emiratis society.

Woman is always after to spread the holding on to all forms of the Emiratis identity from costume, local dialect that we cherish with its beautiful vocabularies, also plants values, costumes and habits that ancestors were raised by and carried all meanings of respect, appreciation for others and introducing the good for everyone whether with by word or action as we used to from our parents who inherited such qualities from the ancestors.

The third axis: UAE strategy in displaying its heritage and introducing its past and protecting its cultural inheritance:

Emirates strategy in displaying its heritage and introducing its past and protecting its material and cultural inheritance and showing its artistic identity through its institutions and its individuals from the top to the bottom, due to country richness with heritage that is deep in history and worthy of being manifested and its values and arts should be inserted inside the country walk towards the future.

Cultural activities and festivals:

The country holds up many cultural activities organized by many associations: such as Emirates heritage club which organizes sailing boats race, rowing race and camel competitions, which are all represent the care about the Emirates heritage and its culture that has been inherited from one generation to the other.

Qasr al-Hosn festival in Abu Dhabi:

It celebrates the genuine, immaterial, cultural heritage of UAE. Through the participation of heritage, handcrafted collectibles of weavings, food, perfumes, ornaments, sea crafts, and pottery.



Abu Dhabi international exhibition for hunting and horsemanship:

It is the only sport exhibition specialized with hunting, horsemanship and other outdoor sports in the region, that shows the best of what commerce can offer and is enhanced by the pioneer role for Abu Dhabi in preserving the heritage.



Festivals such as Qasr al-Hosn festival in Abu Dhabi, liwa festival for dates, the national festival for crafts and traditional industries in Ain, Abu Dhabi international exhibition for

hunting and horsemanship are working on keeping the traditional culture to cherish the life lived by our parents and ancestors till we have reached the progressed, current life style.

Since 1993 Sharjah emirate has been hosting the Sharjah Biennial that Sharjah foundation for arts organizes once each two years, it is a ceremony that works on extending bridges of cultural exchange among artists, institutes and organizations concerned with art on all local, regional and international levels.

Heritage villages:

They are aiming towards displaying traditional life in Emirates with a vibrant image, introduction of traditions and habits, professions, local crafts and life styles. Of the most famous ones are the heritage village in Abu Dhabi, the cultural heritage village in Ain.



Maintenance of national museums:

the country has many museums that project its history and archeological collectables, Abu Dhabi owns a series of museums with an international level on Saadiyat island. Such as **Louvre Abu Dhabi** which displays artistic pieces with cultural significances that extend from prehistory till nowadays.



Dubai museum in Al Fahidi Fort has some exhibits of weapons, costumes and musical instruments, its yard contains models of Areesh huts, and wooden boats that are popular in the Emiratis heritage. There is an underground section that contains semi realistic models of an old market, school for teaching Quran, traditional Arabic house and an oasis, in addition to embodied model for a desert at night that shows the local wild life, a separate roam for vibrant shows that manifest diving to extract pearls and hunting.

The Islamic Sharjah museum is rich with thousands of pieces of the Islamic civilization, a visitor gets to be introduced to vital details of the Islamic history, science, discoveries and culture, and enjoy the beauty of the arts.

Zayed National Museum will work on revival of Emirates history and will immortalize the memory of its founder sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahian (may he rests in peace).

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi is considered one of the witnesses of the country care about hanging on to its Islamic heritage through constructing that new, civil edifice, that reflects the most skillful arts of the Islamic architectural engineering, sheikh Zayed made sure to watch over the Emiratis heritage since the dawn of the union by protecting and maintaining the inheritance of ancestors. He ordered to maintain and restore the historical forts and castles in Abu Dhabi, he also opened Ain city museum, he made sure to follow all the folk, heritage activities from folk poems, arts, sport and horsemanship to keep the components of the Emiratis life and care about heritage all around the country.

A committee was formed in the beginning of the seventies, that was assigned to collect heritage, write it down and print it. Folk poems were printed in fancy printed books of poetry collections. Folk dancing groups were formed and had the support of sheikh Zayed. Financial facilities were assigned to keep the inheritance to protect the artistic Emiratis identity, Ajman witnessed many visits by sheikh Zayed, at each visit there was a ceremony of launching and opening a development project, such as opening of the scientific institute, the headquarter of private Ajman studios, Ajman museum and many other projects that will remain in the hearts of Ajman people.

Folk music and dance represent a part of the folk heritage of Emirates, the stick dance or Ayala is form of folk dance, it is the dance performed after war and at each social or patriot occasion and is accompanied by drums, performed by two lines of dancers who stand in front of each other in close lines which symbolize the unity and cooperation among sons of tribes.

One of the art is the art of Wahhabism or Ramsah which was spread a long time ago in Ras al Khaimah, also in the countryside and coastal villages specifically at areas where palm trees are grown. It is a singing and dancing similar to Ayala with performance of courage and manhood as participants are lined up in two parallel lines, each line has more than 20 participants, the lines are separated with an area where drummers, percussionists, weapon holders and fencers move across, both lines exchange singing (Shala) which is two verses of poetry which they keep repeating till the end. That art contains three types of moves, the participants' moves, percussionists, fencers and weapons show.

The Nabati Poetry or the Bedouin poetry is considered one of the richest images of folk literature and is one of life features in the Arabian Peninsula since the 16th century may be earlier. At certain age that type of poetry represented the only record for historical and contemporary events in the Arab region before its development in the modern age. It deals with various subjects such as horsemanship, pride, tribute, advise and wisdom, etc.



Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashed Al Maktom, governor of Dubai, vice president of the country is considered **one of the finest Nabati poets with multiple poems**, his poetry collection entitled (poems from the desert) in English was best seller for two successive years, one of his poems was called “treasures”.

Crafts and traditional industries:

Pottery, sewing, embroidery are examples of crafts and traditional industries in Emirates, “Sedo” is the traditional Emiratis mean of sewing which is classified in the united nation list of international, immaterial, cultural heritage threatened to be extinct.

**The council:**

Moving into traditions and habits, the council stands out as it is a vital part of the Emiratis social life which is more like a forum that gathers individuals of the society to discuss variable causes and daily affairs.

The Emiratis heritage has been listed among the international cultural heritage:

it is a list of places, habits, shows and handicrafts that are being aboriginal in the cultural heritage of Abu Dhabi and its people and are acknowledged internationally.



Emirates has introduced an inspiring model in caring for its immaterial heritage and highlight it internationally, as rich humane inheritance that is worthy of being preserved for the coming generations. Emirates through the past years succeeded in recording 8 elements in the list

representing the immaterial heritage for humanity that is (UNESCO) approves, they include Sakara, Ayala, Razfa, Taghroda, The Arabian coffee, the council, and Azy.

Folk art: one of the most prominent Emiratis arts, traditions and heritage sport that converted into global heritage acknowledged by UNESCO, Ayala art which is considered one of the most spread folk performance arts in the country, Ayala shows are being hold in weddings, patriot occasions and other ceremonies.

Razfa art is one of the folk art that gather both poetry and dancing using long and slim bamboo stick, while people back in the days used to use swords and daggers instead of sticks in performing that art. Taghroda art is characterized by being brief and simple as it doesn't contain hard rhymes, the most traditional role of that art is documenting social and cultural history of the region, poets use Taghroda to comment on social causes.

Azy is one of the Emiratis folk arts that joined the list representing the immaterial heritage for humanity, the origin of the art returns to celebration of victory as it was told in the battlefield then it was inherited among generations across hundreds of years.

Hunting: within the frame of heritage sport, Emirates was able to cooperate with 18 countries to include hunting with hawks in the list representing the immaterial heritage for humanity.

The Arabian coffee: Emirates succeeded with cooperation of some Arab countries in 2015 to include the Arabian coffee in the list representing the immaterial heritage for humanity, due to

the cultural and heritage significance that Arabian coffee has on a wide range that includes many Arabic countries and population.

Hemdan ben Mohamed center for heritage revival:

Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashed Al Maktom has announced decision no. “1” in 6th April, 2013, to build Hemdan ben Mohamed center for heritage revival, this history is considered a radical conversion point not just to continue the walk of the Emiratis heritage but to the whole humane inheritance as well, from the name of the center it is clear that it passes the traditional concept of collecting and recording heritage to resurrecting it to be a present being in the life of sons of a country who cherish nothing more than their Emiratis identity. Since the moment of its birth, the center launched within the frame of a studied strategy to increase the level of awareness towards the original Emiratis inheritance locally, regionally, and internationally, with all its humanitarian, cultural, social, linguistic, professional and sportive branches, all in a subjective frame away from mistakes and from documented and trusted resources that have been investigated according to the international criteria.

Awards and initiatives:

Emirates wasn't satisfied with just activities and scientific aspects but it has passed that for the sake of preserving the Emiratis and global heritage and the national identity, and holding on to the values of Islam. Many awards were assigned for that, the most important one is the international award for Quran and the international Sharjah for cultural heritage, sheikh Zayed award for book and others of national and international awards.

Recommendations:

Strategies of UAE in keeping material and immaterial heritage acquire:

- Unify the Arabic and Gulf efforts to keep our heritage which is deep in history and rich in its forms.
- Build professional institutions and media means and invest means of social media to work on revival and spread of heritage in particularly the immaterial one for what it has of social values and sophisticated costumes and habits inspired from our religion.
- Occupy large spaces in education and cultural institutions to connect the coming generations to their heritage to be proud of in front of all nations.

The closure:

Cultural, material and social heritage is people history which Allah the almighty has ordered us to recognize, honor it and benefit from it. Conferences, seminars and initiatives are all part of the country and governments efforts in this field.

Our nation is in a desperate need to revive its heritage among its children and youth and all groups of society and its foundations.

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