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YOUTH AS A LEADING POWER OF UZBEKISTAN

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**YOUTH AS A LEADING POWER OF
UZBEKISTAN**

**МОЛОДЕЖЬ КАК ВЕДУЩАЯ СИЛА
УЗБЕКИСТАНА**

**ЁШЛАР ЎЗБЕКИСТОННИНГ ЕТАКЧИ
КУЧИ СИФАТИДА**

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Abstract: The article examines the features of effective interaction between government agencies, NGOs, and other civil institutions on youth issues. State youth policy in Uzbekistan considers revealing the potential of young people and promoting their effective socialization. The article shows the importance of modern education and upbringing, social support of young people in Uzbekistan.

The political activity of youth is an indicator of the processes taking place in modern society. The article considers youth policy, the UN international legal documents regulating the youth sphere. The urgency of the youth issue is growing in connection with the deepening of globalization. The solutions to the problems and challenges are impossible without the active participation of young people. Therefore, this issue was always one of the priority tasks of the international community and the UN. Since the middle of the 20th century, the youth issue has been the object of the policy of more than 130 countries in the world.

The article examines the policy in the youth sphere of foreign countries and Uzbekistan. And the article notes general aspects and features.

In the way the state organizes youth policy, two models stand out – the European and Anglo-Saxon. The European model implies the leading role of the state in the field of youth policy. The Anglo-Saxon model characterizes an approach to exclusive support volunteer activities and youth organizations. But government agencies have not to take systematic participation in the implementation of youth policy.

The article comprehensively surveys the new course of Uzbekistan to increase the role of youth in socio-political life. In this regard, it emphasizes comprehensive support of youth initiatives, both from the state and youth organizations. Open dialogue with youth has become a strategic direction at a new stage of development of Uzbekistan. This strategy gives a key place to increasing the public activity of young people. The process of forming a modern, democratic country involved youth.

Keywords: *youth, state youth policy, UN Youth 2030 Strategy, self-realization, Youth Union of Uzbekistan, Agency*

for Youth Affairs, the implementation of youth policy, human capital, five important initiatives, Convention on the Rights of Youth.

Аннотация: Мақолада давлат органлари, нодавлат нотижорат ташкилотлари ва бошқа фуқаролик институтлари ўртасидаги самарали ўзаро алоқалар хусусияти таҳлил қилинган. Ёшларнинг салоҳиятини юзага чиқариш ва уларга самарали ижтимоийлашувида ёрдам бериш Ўзбекистонда ёшларга оид давлат сиёсатининг устувор йўналиши сифатида кўриб чиқилган. Мақолада ёшларга замонавий таълим ва тарбия бериш ҳамда уларни мамлакатни ривожлантиришда ижтимоий қўллаб-қувватлашнинг аҳамияти кўрсатилган.

Ёшларнинг ижтимоий-сиёсий фаоллиги – замонавий жамиятнинг асосий кўрсаткичларидан бири эканлиги таъкидланган. Мазкур мақола ёшлар сиёсати, бу борадаги БМТ томонидан қабул қилинган халқаро ҳуқуқий ҳужжатларни ёритади. Масаланинг долзарблиги шундаки, дунёни қамраб олаётган глобаллашув жараёнларининг чуқурлашуви ва ундан келиб чиқаётган муаммо ва қаҳриқларни ёшлар иштирокисиз ҳал этиб бўлмайди. Шу боис мазкур масала жаҳон ҳамжамиятининг, хусусан БМТнинг ҳам устувор йўналишларидан ҳисобланади. Зеро, XX асрнинг ўрталаридан бу масала 130 дан ортиқ давлатлар сиёсатининг объектига айланган.

Мақолада ёшларга оид сиёсат борасида ривожланган мамлакатлар ва Ўзбекистон тажрибалари, ёшлар муаммоларининг умумий ва ўзига хос жиҳатлари таҳлил қилинган.

У ёки бу мамлакатнинг ёшларга оид давлат сиёсатини олиб боришида икки, яъни Европа ва англосаксон моделларини ажратилади. Европа модели ёшларга оид давлат сиёсатини амалга оширишда давлатнинг етакчи ролига асосланиб, ушбу сиёсатнинг устувор йўналишлари, мақсад, вазифа ва қутилажак натижалари аниқ белгилаб олинади. Англосаксон моделга кўра, ёшлар сиёсатини амалга оширишда давлат органларининг тизимли иштироки кузатишмайди, унга ёшлар ташкилотларининг қўнғилли ва эркин иштироки хос бўлиб, уларнинг фаолияти давлат томонидан қўллаб-қувватланади.

Мақолада жамият ижтимоий-сиёсий ҳаётида ёшларнинг ролини оширишга қаратилган Ўзбекистон янги сиёсатининг асосий йўналишлари кенг ёритилган. Бунда ёшлар ташаббусларини давлат ва ёшлар ташкилотлари томонидан тенг қўллаб-қувватланишига урғу берилган. Шундан келиб чиқиб, қайд этиш мумкинки, ёшлар билан очик мулоқот Ўзбекистон тараққиётининг янги босқичида стратегик йўналишга айланди. Бу стратегияда ёшларнинг ижтимоий фаоллиги, уларнинг замонавий, демократик давлатни шаклланиши жараёнарига дахлдорлигини ошириш ҳал этувчи ўринга эга бўлмоқда.

Калит сўзлар: ёшлар, ёшларга оид давлат сиёсати, ёшлар салоҳиятини рўёбга чиқариш, БМТнинг “Ёшлар - 2030” стратегияси, Ўзбекистон ёшлар иттифоқи, Ёшлар ишлари агентлиги, ёшлар сиёсатининг амалга оширилиши, инсон капитали, беш муҳим ташаббус, Ёшлар ҳуқуқлари бўйича конвенция.

Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются особенности эффективного взаимодействия государственных

органов, НПО и других гражданских институтов. Выявление потенциала молодых людей и содействие их эффективной социализации рассмотрено как приоритет государственной молодежной политики в Узбекистане. В статье показано значение современного образования и воспитания молодежи и их социальной поддержки в развитии страны.

Подчеркивается, что политическая активность молодежи является индикатором процессов, происходящих в современном обществе. В статье рассматривается молодежная политика, международно-правовые документы ООН, регулирующие молодежную сферу. Актуальность молодежной проблемы возрастает в связи с углублением глобализации. Решение проблем и задач невозможно без активного участия молодежи. Поэтому этот вопрос всегда был одной из приоритетных задач международного сообщества и ООН. С середины XX века молодежная проблема является объектом политики более 130 стран мира.

В статье анализируется опыт молодежной политики в развитых странах и в Узбекистане, отмечаются сходства и особенности подходов в решении проблем молодежи.

В том, каким образом государство организует свою молодежную политику, выделяются две модели – европейская и англосаксонская. Европейская модель основана на ведущей роли государства в сфере молодежной политики. В этой модели четко определены приоритеты, цели, задачи и ожидаемые результаты. Для англосаксонской модели присущ подход поддержки исключительно добровольческой деятельности и молодежных организаций без системного участия государственных органов в реализации молодежной политики.

В статье всесторонне рассматривается новый курс Узбекистана в области молодежной политики, направленный на повышение роли молодежи в общественно-политической жизни общества. В этом плане делается акцент на всестороннюю поддержку молодежных инициатив, как со стороны государства, так и со стороны молодежных организаций. Исходя из этого, можно утверждать, что открытый диалог с молодежью стало стратегическим направлением на новом этапе развития Узбекистана. В этой стратегии ключевое место отведено повышению общественной активности молодежи, ее сопричастности к процессам формирования современного, демократического государства.

Ключевые слова: молодежь, государственная молодежная политика, самореализация молодежи, стратегия ООН «Молодежь-2030», Союз молодежи Узбекистана, Агентство по делам молодежи, реализация молодежной политики, человеческий капитал, пять важных инициатив, Конвенция о правах молодежи.

INTRODUCTION

The end of the 20th – the beginning of the 21st-century marked the deepening of globalization, the growing interconnectedness of the countries in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields.

Youth is one of the most important priorities of the socio-economic policy in every country of the world.

Youth policy considers the interests of young citizens in the social structure of society. Youth policy aims to disclose the skills of the young generation in the interests of the whole society. It is necessary to support youth movements, associations, initiatives.

Uzbekistan is on an important demographic frontier. Currently, more than 60 percent of the population of the country is young. Uzbekistan is home to a whole generation of people who have not reached 30 years of age. Current children and young people will become the largest force of Uzbekistan in the coming decades. Youth can bring Uzbekistan to a new level of development with the right investment in them.

Young people have always been an active part of society. Care for them in Uzbekistan has always been the priority of state policy. In the first years of independence, the country gave this issue the highest priority despite many social and economic problems. The Law *on the Foundations of state youth policy* of November 20, 1991, was the first legal document in Uzbekistan. The law raised the issue of the younger generation in the country at the level of state policy. For a long time, this law has been a legal basis for the upbringing of a healthy, harmoniously developed generation in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan has been implemented special state programs that proclaimed the social orientation of the years. In particular, 2008 was *the Year of Youth*, 2010 – *The Year of Harmoniously Developed Generation*, 2014 – *The Year of a Healthy Child*, and 2016 – *The Year of a Healthy Mother and Child*. This fact testifies to the special attention in the country to creating appropriate conditions for the younger generation.

It is highly symbolic that the first legislative act Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was the Law *on State Youth Policy* of September 14, 2016. This suggests that the country is consistently implementing the state youth policy. Very important for Uzbekistan to bring up young people patriotic and dedicated, with a strong life stance. Because youth is the creators of the future of the country. In this meaning, the youth can help Uzbekistan take a decent place in the world. It is worth mentioning that the Strategy of Action on Five Priority Development Areas of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 reflects this objective. (strategy.uz, 2019)

METHODS

Developed countries have lately advanced an approach in the field of youth policy. Youth policy implies a clear understanding of new social changes and the way young people live. (Woodman, 2013: 265)

Nowadays, the youth policy in developed countries has acquired definite forms. The most developed nations of the world are implementing several rather different models of youth policy. Their common features are as

follows: a departure from paternalism; the attitude of the state towards youth as a partner of social processes; implementation of the principle of subsidiarity, etc.

RESULTS

International organizations have formed a general approach to the implementation of youth policy at the global level. This approach aimed at actively socializing and uniting youth efforts from different countries and regions in solving global problems of the time.

Thus, developed countries recognize youth as an independent resource. Youth policy has become a separate direction of state activity. Countries are aware of the role of the youth factor in solving socio-economic and political problems. For example, global challenges - population aging, demographic problems, migration, preservation of cultural identity, terrorism, environmental safety, energy security, etc. (rgub.ru, 2018)

DISCUSSION

Youth is the special socio-demographic group of the population. Young people allocate based on a combination of age characteristics, social status, and socio-psychological properties. These factors determine the social system, culture, and socialization of young people.

At present, there are no exact age limits for the youth category. In different countries, not only age limits are important but a set of individual or group characteristics. According to the UN, youth are people aged 10-24. (un.org, 2019)

Many countries do not allocate youth to a separate group but unite them with people from 0 to 25 years (UK, Netherlands). Youth (or young citizens) in Uzbekistan are people between the ages of 14 to 30 years.

In general, modern age boundaries of the concept of *youth* in most European countries, the USA and Japan, determines in the range from 13-14 (the age at which physical maturity sets in) to 29-30 (the age of economically independent life). Although the upper limit sometimes may push back (for example, for *young scientists* in Uzbekistan and some European countries – to 33-35 years old, or *young farmers* in Spain – up to 39-40 years old). (rgub.ru, 2018)

International approach for youth issue

Today it is impossible to solve modern challenges and threats without the active participation of the younger generation. They need to have modern skills, get encouragement for their initiatives from society. This issue has always been one of the UN priorities.

The UN has adopted several conceptual and normative documents on the youth issue in different years. They are as follows:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (*Proclaimed by the General Assembly, resolution 2037 (XX), A/RES/20/2037, 7 December 1965*)

- Channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations (*General Assembly Resolution 36/17, A/RES/36/17, 13 Nov. 1981*);

- UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (*The Riyadh Guidelines, 1990*);

- UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (*The Beijing Rules, 1985*);

- The Braga Youth Action Plan (1999). (Tarsan, 2010: 325-326)

In 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the *World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth*. 12 August be declared *International Youth Day*.

Since 2004 the UN Secretary-General annually has been addressing the youth of the world on August 12. In particular, the Address of 2018 devotes itself to the UN Youth 2030 Strategy (Secretary-General, 2018). In 2019, the UN Secretary-General raised questions about the education system to increase its inclusiveness, accessibility, and relevance in modern conditions. (Secretary-General, 2019)

In the context of dynamic economic growth and the development of information technology, in 2018, the UN launched a new Youth 2030 Strategy entitled ***Working with and for young people***. The Strategy aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded global, regional, and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks. (UN Strategy, 2018)

Due to its global position, the United Nations is a platform for discussing and solving pressing problems of youth and strengthening its potential for the benefit of the whole world. As the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted: *Ensuring peace, active economic growth, social justice, tolerance – all this and much more depends on the use of opportunities of youth*. (unicef.org, 2018)

The world today is home to an unprecedented number of young people (1.8 billion). They are still facing many obstacles. About 90 percent of them live in developing countries. More than 70 million of them are unemployed. Unemployment and the difficult life in many countries have led to the rise of

violent extremism and radicalism among the younger generation. Moreover, this phenomenon requires joint efforts of the international community.

As President Sh. Mirziyoyev noted in his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017, ensuring conditions for the youth self-realization will create a barrier to the spread of the *virus* of the ideology of violence. The Uzbek leader put forward the initiative on the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Youth, which aimed to develop multilateral cooperation for social support of the younger generation, protection of their rights and interests. (Mirziyoyev, 2017)

This initiative aims at forming bases for the effective implementation of a large-scale international mechanism to combat the propaganda of terrorism in the context of globalization.

International organizations have formed a general approach to the implementation of youth policy at the global level. This approach aimed at actively socializing and uniting youth efforts from different countries and regions in solving global problems of the time. (Saydaliyeva, Nazirov, 2020: 104-105)

Many developed countries from the late 50s – early 60s of the last centuries began to pursue a consistent and focused policy on youth. Now youth policy is one of the objective rules of world development. It associates with the constant strengthening of the youth factor in socio-economic and political processes. More than 130 countries have adopted special legislative acts on the development and social protection of young people. About 90 of them have top-level state structures for youth affairs that directly develop and coordinate youth policies.

Speaking about youth policy in developed countries, there are different approaches to its development and implementation. Some countries limit the state control in youth socialization and delegate these functions to the non-state and commercial sectors. Other countries strictly regulate the state responsibility for youth, integration into the socio-political and economic life of society. (Tarsan, 2010: 325-326)

In the way the state organizes youth policy, two models stand out – the European and Anglo-Saxon. The European model implies the leading role of the state in the field of youth policy. This model clearly defines priorities, goals, objectives, and expected results. The Anglo-Saxon model characterizes an approach to exclusive support volunteer activities and youth organizations. But government agencies have not to take systematic participation in the implementation of youth policy. (Saydaliyeva, Nazirov, 2019: 136-137)

In this regard, the development experience of Asian countries on youth policy is also of particular interest.

As the creator of modern Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew noted: *Over the past few years, the technological revolution has swept the whole world and has significantly accelerated the process of globalization. With quantum leaps in telecommunications and information technology, the Internet has made the world much closer. The free movement of information has erased physical distance, time differences, and national boundaries. People must keep up with modern technology but never lose their core values. Science and technology play a crucial role in determining future progress. But we should not allow them to destroy families that should raise children with a strong sense of responsibility towards society.* (Lee Kuan, 2010: 157-158)

In 2000, the best minds in Japan prepared a document entitled *Japanese Vision of the 21st Century*. The authors noted *economic and social globalization, the information and technological revolution, the accelerating progress of science, declining birth rates, and aging populations in industrialized countries – all this changing the world fast*. They concluded: the changed conditions require Japan to turn from a *kingdom of groups* into a *kingdom of individuals*. Traditions and customs should not suppress new ideas and extraordinary acts. (Ovchinnikov, 2008: 173)

China has adopted the Law on Youth in 1997. The document contains the basic principles of supporting youth, identifies the priority measures for solving their crucial problems. The law formulates the following principles of youth support:

- approaches to the employment of graduates by the chosen profession and diploma qualifications (China has a distribution system);
- providing young professionals with official housing or a place in a hostel;
- multilateral comprehensive support for young families;
- guaranteed payment of *lifting* and social (reusable) benefits;
- health care activities;
- general approaches to organizing the activities of youth public organizations;
- work with young people at the place of residence, etc.

Generally, the most developed nations of the world are implementing several rather different models of youth policy. Their common features are as follows: a departure from paternalism; the attitude of the state towards youth as a partner of social processes; implementation of the principle of subsidiarity, etc.

Features of youth policy in Uzbekistan

Young people are a strategic resource in Uzbekistan. The country is developing and implementing a special policy concerning young citizens. The Constitution of

the Republic of Uzbekistan has created a solid legal basis in this field. The Constitution has created legal and legislative bases for the youth to receive a modern education, acquire a profession, and have their place in society.

For the first time in the history of Uzbek legislation, the Constitution engaged the right of the youth in entrepreneurial activities, social guarantees, including the right to work, free general education, and qualified medical care. (Constitution, 2017)

Over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has formed a well-developed legal framework on ensuring the interests of young people, demonstrating their talent and ability. There is a strong foundation in Uzbekistan to create enabling conditions and opportunities for youth in the country. This system streamlines under the requirements of the time. To date, the Parliament has adopted over 40 youth-related laws and ratified over 30 international legal documents. (strategy.uz, 2019)

Especially, the *Law on State Youth Policy* of September 14, 2016, has created a solid legal basis for the upbringing of a developed, self-motivated, initiative, and energetic young people. Young people can take responsibility for the future of the county, realize their intellectual and creative potential.

Thus, the state youth policy in Uzbekistan is a system of measures. The government provides the conditions for the social formation and development of the potential of young people. (lex.uz, 2016)

The main directions of the state youth policy of Uzbekistan are:

- ensuring the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of young people;
- protection of life and health of young people;
- assistance to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral development of youth;
- providing young people with affordable and quality education;
- creation of conditions for youth employment;
- education of the youth in the spirit of patriotism, civic-mindedness, tolerance, respect for laws, national and universal values, capable of resisting harmful influences and currents, with firm convictions and outlooks on life;
- protection of young people from actions that lead to the erosion of moral principles, the ideas of terrorism and extremism, separatism, fundamentalism, the cult of violence and cruelty;
- raising the level of legal awareness and legal culture of youth;
- support and stimulation of gifted and talented young people;
- creation of conditions for the development of youth entrepreneurship;
- formation of desire for a healthy lifestyle among young people;

- creation of conditions for organizing meaningful leisure for young people and the mass development of youth sports;

- implementation of an integrated system of measures for moral and material support of young families, creating decent housing and social conditions for them;

- development of cooperation with international organizations that carry out activities on realizing the rights and freedoms of young people.

Representatives of all branches of government take an active part in the implementation of youth policy in Uzbekistan. In particular, the Youth Commission operates under the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. There is the post of deputy heads of regions, cities, and districts on youth policy, social development, and spiritual enlightenment in the executive branch system. The deputy head of the department of internal affairs for youth issues operates in the law enforcement systems.

The Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Court have formed councils of youth leaders. They are protecting the rights and interests of the young generation. Besides, each mahalla has the posts of deputy chairmen of rallies of citizens on youth issues.

The state youth policy finds embodiment in the full support, vocational guidance, and employment of unorganized youth. The country actively prevents crime and offenses among the younger generation, and former members of various extremist movements return to a healthy life.

As we know, the Strategy of Action on five priority areas is an important document for the medium-term development of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Strategy has a separate section on the improvement of state youth policy. The Strategy identifies several important tasks for increasing the social activity of young people during deepening democratic reforms. (Xalq soʻzi, 2017)

The strategy places the accent on employment and attraction in the private business of graduates of educational institutions. This includes the practice of targeted training of specialists, the formation of admission quotas based on the forecast indicators of the development of economic sectors, the conclusion of quadripartite agreements with college graduates for their further employment. The government agencies have improved their job on social protection of youth. State programs imply the creation of decent housing and social conditions for young families.

Open dialogue with the youth

Open dialogue of central and local authorities, leaders of the judicial and legal sphere with the youth is becoming a good tradition in Uzbekistan. The main

instrument for the participation of young people in this policy is civil organizations. On 30 June 2017, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev offered to establish a completely new organization – *the Youth Union of Uzbekistan* based on the previously functioning youth social movement *Kamolot*. Also, June 30 declared the Day of Youth in Uzbekistan.

The Youth Union of Uzbekistan, uniting in its ranks 7 million 680 thousand boys and girls, is a structure that ensures effective interaction with state bodies, NGOs, and other civil society institutions in the implementation of the state youth policy. (yoshlaritifoqi.uz, 2019)

The development of civil society institutions significantly reduces the role of the state to regulate youth policy. Public organizations such as the Youth Union of Uzbekistan are actively participating in the formation and implementation of youth policy. The efforts of state and non-government structures do not limit to solving the problems of certain youth groups. They help those categories of youth who focus on active work, study, and professional growth.

At present, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan plays a key role in appointments of the deputies of hokims and deputy chiefs of the regional department of internal affairs on youth. The Youth Union has been conducting systematic work on providing support to children whose parents have come under the influence of extremist movements. In particular, the Youth Union helped to employ about ten thousand young people from such families in 2017. (Norov, 2018)

As President Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized: *The Youth Union of Uzbekistan should become a unique center for training leading personnel for the state and society if we speak in modern language, a social elevator for young people. Reforms need creating a reserve of competent, enterprising, and organizational, dedicated young leaders.* (Mirziyoyev, 2017: 520).

In this regard, a legal basis was the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan *on measures to improve the effectiveness of the state youth policy and support the activities of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan* of July 5, 2017. For this purpose, in 2017, the government established the Institute for the Study of Youth Problems and the Training of Prospective Personnel at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (Xalq soʻzi, 2017)

Today, young and promising personnel have modern knowledge and skills, leadership qualities thanks to the school of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan. The government appoints them to senior positions in ministries and departments, large companies and banks, business associations. In just one year, banks have allocated 216 billion sums of concessional loans to almost 4 thousand 300 young boys and girls. This

helped to employ more than 184 thousand 300 young people. (uza.uz, 2018)

To stimulate active and energetic youth serving as an example with their work, initiative, and moral qualities, the government established state award *Mard o'g'lon* (*Valiant Son of the Motherland*) and *Kelajak bunyodkori* (*Creator of the Future*) medal.

The State Program *Yoshlar – kelajagimiz* (*Youth – our future*) has become the big support in implementing youth policy. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved this program by a separate decree of June 27, 2018. The state program aims at youth employment through assistance and support in implementing youth business initiatives, start-ups, ideas, and projects. The program helps training unemployed young people in demand in the labor market for specialties and business skills. Thus, the program helps to increase the social and economic activity of youth. (lex.uz, 2018)

As part of the program, the state began to build co-working centers *Yosh Tadbirkorlar* (*Young Entrepreneurs*) on a public-private partnership. These centers will provide young entrepreneurs with the concessional lease of premises, office equipment, and consumables. The co-working centers will assist business initiatives, start-ups, ideas, and projects. Moreover, the government builds throughout the country *Yoshlar mehnat guzari* (*Youth Labor Centers*) complexes in the labor-surplus areas for the trade-household and small production sites.

To date, the government has allocated loans in the amount of more than 1 trillion 635 billion sums for 7775 business projects of young entrepreneurs. That helped to create about 40 thousand new jobs. 27 *Young Entrepreneurs co-working centers* and 157 *Youth Labor Centers* have started their activities locally. It is noteworthy that more than 2,200 young men and women have already started their business activities in these complexes.

At the same time, the Project *Each young man – one hectare of the land* and the State Program *Every family is an entrepreneur* find their application. The government has allocated more than 54,232 hectares of land to 65 thousand young farmers in all regions. As a result, these measures have helped to provide about 560,200 young citizens with jobs in the past three years. (president.uz, 2020)

Youth intellectual development – the requirement of time

History tells that in every age, enlightenment has given impetus to the welfare and development of society. The vitality of every nation in the conditions of dynamic development of science and technology, increasing competition in the world will depend on the

intellectual ability of youth. In the dynamic development of science and technology, the country depends on the intellectual ability of youth. Thus, Uzbekistan pays particular attention to the full realization of the talent and abilities of young people.

The economic growth rates in the country have directly impacted the development of the social sphere. The issue of modern education of young people is of particular importance and relevance in the social sphere. Uzbekistan pays much attention to the practical implementation of the principle of lifelong education.

The social value of higher education among the country's youth is constantly growing. If in 2010 and 2011 only a third of young people would like to get a higher education, in 2016 – 56.8 percent, then in 2017 – already 62.7 percent, in 2018 – 65.6 percent. The youth called science and pedagogy, business, services and production, and medicine the preferred areas of higher education. (uza.uz, 2018)

In recent years, the country has undertaken large-scale measures to modernize the education system. That further enhances the role of youth as a driving force of development. The government paid special attention to the system of pre-school education. This is the first stage of the upbringing of a harmoniously developed generation. In 2017, the Ministry of Preschool Education began its activities. The main tasks of the state policy in the coming years will be the following:

- creating new kindergartens throughout the country;
- raising the quality and level of education;
- covering 100% of children with kindergartens.

The government paid special attention to general education. The construction and renovation of educational institutions, restoration of 11-year secondary education in the country confirm this. Besides, newly established *Muhammad Khorazmi* and *Mirzo Ulugbek Innovative Schools, President Schools* began its activities.

Further improvement of the system of higher education has become an important area of social sector reforms. The government has adopted the Program of comprehensive development of the higher education system in 2017-2021. The program promotes the introduction of transparent enrollment mechanisms in higher education institutions and increasing quotas significantly. The state program also implies establishing new, advanced educational institutions, including the branches of reputable foreign universities.

In the past three years, the number of higher educational institutions in the republic has increased by 60 percent and now stands at 116. It is noteworthy that there are branches of leading foreign universities among them. The country is consistently growing quotas for admission to universities. Higher educational

institutions have opened correspondence and evening branches.

As President Sh. Mirziyoyev noted: *Of all these, we pursue a common goal. In other words, Uzbekistan must be competitive in the world in the field of science, intellectual potential, modern human resources, and high technologies.* (Mirziyoyev, 2018: 16)

Human capital – investment for the future

Education and upbringing of the main period of maturity (from 3 to 22 years) are the priority of various state programs in Uzbekistan. After all, spending on a person, his potential, knowledge, and health is not spending. It is a prospective investment.

The contemporary interpretation of human capital refers to the reserve of knowledge, skills, abilities, and incentives of a person whose capital is of economic value. This capital will serve as a future source of income and benefits not only for the individual but also for the society.

Experience of developed countries shows that young people, who have reached the age of 22, with full knowledge and potential, will return this investment to society 15-17 times as much as their contribution. In Uzbekistan, this figure is only 4 times.

Practical steps towards the further development of the education sector in Uzbekistan are the following:

- increasing the coverage of children with kindergarten by 34% to 55%;
- establishing a modern system of general secondary education;
- establishing private schools and kindergartens based on public-private partnerships.

At the same time, the country focus on further enhancing efforts to create equal opportunities for higher education. In particular, over the past years, coverage with higher education has raised from 9-10% to 15% among graduates of schools and secondary specialized educational institutions. In developed countries, this figure is 60-70%.

In 2019, Uzbekistan managed to achieve the level of coverage of graduates with higher education to 20 percent. The country will gradually increase this indicator in the coming years. For this purpose, the state takes the following measures:

- strengthening the competitive environment for the training of highly qualified personnel among universities and non-state educational institutions;
- providing young people with the opportunity to apply to several universities at the same time;
- introduction of the system of independent selection of admission quotas based on real opportunities for higher education institutions;

- expanding opportunities for undergraduate students to continue their education abroad. (Mirziyoyev, 2018: 12)

These measures will give a powerful impetus to the further expansion of educational opportunities for young people and the formation of competitive personnel with high potential, modern knowledge, and skills.

Five important initiatives – a mechanism of the state youth policy

The new direction of the state youth policy in Uzbekistan bases on the ***Five Important Initiatives*** of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The Five Important Initiatives has marked the beginning of new system-based policies on youth in social, spiritual, and educational areas.

The first initiative envisages extensive involvement of young people in music, drawing, literature, theater, and other kinds of arts. The first initiative assumes to enhance the interests to culture and art of 2 million young people in 2019-2020. The organization of additional classes in music and art schools, support of amateur theater groups and ensembles is good examples. The government also will promote building, reconstructing, and equipping cultural centers. (pv.uz, 2019)

The second initiative envisages attracting young people to physical culture and sports, increasing the capacity of objects of sports. The government will construct small sports halls using lightweight structures and sandwich panels in the next years. Active involvement of young people in the sports sections and holding mass sports events is a requirement of the state.

The third initiative provides the effective use of computer technologies and the Internet among the population and young people. Currently, Uzbekistan takes practical measures to improve the computer literacy of the population. That aims to organize training centers for digital technologies with free education and provide about 19 thousand social facilities with high-speed Internet.

The fourth initiative assumes to raise the spirituality of young people and promote the reading of books widely. The government plans to deliver 1 million copies of art, historical, scientific, and cognitive books to each region, reconstruct and overhaul libraries, opening public libraries.

The fifth initiative envisages ensuring the employment of women, the organization of garment, and knitwear production. In current pandemic conditions, the government plans to organize such enterprises on the basis of accurate calculations, the search for markets, and specific buyers of products.

Ensuring the rights of young people – a reliable guarantee for sustainable development

Currently, the world is undergoing unprecedented changes. At a time of deepening globalization, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has become a serious test for countries around the world, large and small. The challenges of the new period require the world community to expand cooperation to sustainable development.

In his speech at the 75th-anniversary session of the UN General Assembly, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward approaches and initiatives of Uzbekistan on several acute and topical issues of regional and global significance to the world community. In particular, the Uzbek leader addressed the youth issue and called again to adopt the UN Convention on Youth Rights. Protecting youth rights, creating the necessary conditions and foundations to realize their existing potential is very important.

On September 19, 2017, at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, the President of Uzbekistan raised the youth issue and initiated the development and adoption of an International Convention on Youth Rights. The international community well-received this initiative. The reason is that international law has no specific universal document on the rights of young people yet.

On August 12-13, the International Human Rights Forum *Youth 2020: Global Solidarity, Sustainable Development and Human Rights* the UN auspices held in Samarkand. At the forum, foreign and local experts widely discussed the draft UN Convention on Youth Rights. The purpose of the Convention is to strengthen efforts at the international, regional, and national levels on meeting the needs of young people, guaranteeing all their best interests, freedoms, and rights, and increasing their capacity.

In the rapidly changing world persist factors negatively affect the upbringing of young people. Therefore, recognizing the rights of the younger generation is becoming increasingly important. This requires states to develop a new general approach to youth.

In particular, the relevance of this international initiative for Uzbekistan explains in several reasons:

First, Uzbekistan is a country with huge youth potential. In the country, people under the age of 30 make up 60% of the population.

Second, young people are a layer that transmits national values to future generations, continuing the succession tradition.

Third, youth is a force that ensures the continuity of democratic reforms in the country.

Fourth, young people are, by nature, a specific demographic group, prone to imitation, to bring new ideas to society, and their consciousness is not fully formed.

In the modernizing Uzbekistan, the implementation of state youth policy has reached a completely new level. Its main goal is the principle *Not to leave a single young person unattended*. Therefore, Uzbekistan has established a unique system of working with young people.

The Decree of the President of Uzbekistan of 30 June 2020 *on measures for radical reform and raising to a new level of state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan* established the **Agency for Youth Affairs**. The Agency develops and implements a unified state policy, strategic directions, and state programs in the field and areas related to youth. The Agency carries out state control over compliance with the legislation in the youth policy. (lex.uz, 2020)

The Youth Parliament operates under the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Youth Parliament consists of 100 citizens aged 18-30 with initiative, high spirituality, independent thinking, strong outlook, broad outlook, and deep knowledge and leadership potential in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and Tashkent city.

The Youth Parliament reflects the views of young people in the development of government policy parameters on science, culture and tourism, sports, healthy living, ecology, computer technology, innovative ideas, start-ups and agro-cluster issues, promotion of book reading, legislation, employment, and entrepreneurship, gender equality.

The world community has recognized renewal taking place in Uzbekistan in recent years. As a result, the international prestige of Uzbekistan is growing. The initiative on the International Convention on Youth Rights may unite the world community efforts on this issue. Not only young people, but all social strata will benefit from this. After all, youth is a leading mechanism of sustainable development and a reliable guarantee of a prosperous future.

CONCLUSIONS

Uzbekistan has taken a course to increase the role of youth in the socio-political life of society. The state bodies and non-government organizations are supporting youth initiatives in Uzbekistan. The Agency for Youth Affairs and the Youth Union of Uzbekistan are engaging in supporting the younger generation. These organizations fundamentally reforming the system of protecting the rights and legal interests of young people.

The state youth policy in Uzbekistan aims to educate physically healthy, spiritual, and intellectual-developed

youth. An open dialogue with young people is becoming an important mechanism for social activity and involving young people in the renewal process. Young people as active forces of contemporary Uzbekistan can take responsibility for the further development of the country.

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