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Current State of the National Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan

By Madina Tursunova

University of the World Economy and Diplomacy

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Keywords: national education system; quality of education; efficiency of education system; higher education; institutions of higher education; education sector; credit-module system; educational programs; national education; attestation and state accreditation of educational organizations.

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Current State of the National Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Madina Tursunova

Abstract- **The paper states that in recent years Uzbekistan has been making systematic efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of the system of education and upbringing, the formation of modern knowledge and skills in kindergartens, pupils and students, ensuring mutual close cooperation and integration of the systems of education and science, the continuity and continuity of education. It is pointed out that the result of wide public discussion by the Presidential Decree was the adoption of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 and the State Program for its implementation, a separate section of which includes a number of goals directly related to education, which is the subject of the article.**

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Introduction

Along with this, the current state of the national system of education and upbringing requires the implementation of consistent measures to modernize it based on modern requirements, educate young people as spiritually rich and physically developed individuals with high knowledge and spirituality, increase the authority of leaders and teachers of educational institutions, create conditions necessary for their effective operation [1].

In Uzbekistan, graduate enrollment in higher education increased from 9% in 2016 to 28% in 2021.

Over the past 5 years, 64 new higher educational institutions have been opened. At present, the total number of higher education institutions in the country has reached 141.

Young people have the opportunity to get higher education without leaving the industry. To this end, 75 institutions of higher education have opened correspondence courses, and 21 institutions of higher education offer evening education.

Based on new technologies, based on the needs of constantly changing sectors and branches of the economy, over the past 5 years, 134 bachelor's and 147 master's specialties have been reorganized.

The quota for undergraduate admission was approved in 2016 at the level of 58,012 people, and in 2021 this figure reached 170,655 people (an increase of 3 times). Student enrollment in 2016 from 279,674 in 2020 to 692,611 (increased by 2.1 times).

Admission rates for master's programs with the aim of forming a scientific and pedagogical reserve of universities from 5,000 in 2016 to 12,900 in 2021, and the share of state grants increased from 30% in 2016 to 60% in 2021.

Over the past 5 years, branches of 19 foreign universities (including USA, UK, Japan, Russia, Turkey, Belarus, Latvia, India, etc.) and 26 branches of foreign universities have been established.

Joint educational programs with foreign universities have been introduced, providing for the issuance of double diplomas. In 2018, on the basis of joint programs, 15, and in 2021, 58 universities will be engaged in personnel training.

The credit-module system has been introduced in 49 universities.

The proportion of teachers with advanced degrees in higher education increased from 31.9% in 2016 to 38% in 2021.

For the first time, 4 universities of Uzbekistan, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, National University of Uzbekistan, Samarkand State University, Tashkent State Technical University entered the QS company rating for 2021 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

For the first time, the National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent Medical Academy and Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers were mentioned in the industry ranking of the rating company Times Higher Education (THE).

10 universities have been transferred into self-financing.

A system of continuous professional development of managers and teachers has been introduced based on the principles of variability and complementarity of direct and indirect forms of professional development related to professional activities.

The system of continuous professional development of managers and teachers:

- independent advanced training in the specialty;
- alternative advanced training;
- forms of direct training in specialized institutions for retraining and advanced training based on educational programs.

The transition to higher education began with the introduction of the Digital University model.

Author: Ph.D Student, University of the World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan.
e-mail: author.uzb@mail.ru

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Distance learning methods based on information and communication technologies have been introduced into the educational process.

If in 2016 there were 274 thousand places in educational buildings, 49 thousand places in student dormitories, then by 2021 this figure will reach 334 thousand (121%) in educational buildings and 61 thousand (124%) in student hostels.

A system of vocational educational institutions has been established, consisting of 339 vocational schools, 199 colleges and 187 technical schools.

In recent years, in order to support young people in need of social protection, additional fees have been allocated for admission to higher educational institutions of the republic on the basis of a separate state scholarship. In particular, this year, on the basis of state grants, 3,155 additional places were allocated for young people with disabilities, 1,580 for orphans, graduates of the Houses of Mercy and the Children's Town, and 2,000 for women.

At the same time, the number of students enrolled in state-funded higher education institutions increased by at least 25 percent.

In order to create conditions for young people to master foreign languages at a high level in accordance with international staffing requirements, in the 2021/2022 academic year, the admission parameters to higher educational institutions specializing in teaching foreign languages have been doubled, and the number of applicants on state grants has tripled.

In 2021, the base salary of university professors and teachers increased by an average of 3.3 times compared to 2016. The difference between the base salary of a professor with a PhD and a teaching assistant has been increased by 2.1 times (previously this figure was 1.5 times).

Compared to 2020, in 2021 the current salary of teachers working in academic lyceums at higher educational institutions increased from 16% depending on the category to 33%.

Starting from the 2019/2020 academic year, scholarships will be paid from the state budget, and scholarship contracts will be paid to disabled students of the 1st and 2nd groups studying on a paid basis, as well as orphans and children from disadvantaged families. about parental care.

The Student Incentive Fund was created at the expense of 10% and 2% of the planned revenue under the contract.

From the 2020/2021 academic year, students studying at higher educational institutions have received the right to pay the contract amount in equal installments four times during the academic year.

From the 2021/2022 academic year, the "President's Scholarship" and "Special Scholarships for Girls" are introduced. Scholarship "Presidential Grant" is applied in the amount of the Presidential Scholarship (1,992,310 soums) to 200 students who scored the highest scores in entrance exams for full-time bachelor's programs (tests, professional (creative) exams, written exams). and the republican budget funded by funds.

The "Special Scholarship for Girls" is set at the rate of the basic stipend in addition to the monthly stipend, regardless of whether they study "excellent" and need social protection, receive education on the basis of a state scholarship or an agreement.

The holders of these scholarships are determined on the basis of criteria set by the scholarship committee of higher education institutions.

Starting from the 2021/2022 academic year, all higher educational institutions in the country were provided with educational loans for undergraduate and graduate students of full-time education on a paid basis.

Since the formation of the Republic of Uzbekistan as an independent state, the Government of Uzbekistan has developed and implemented plans to reform and develop the education sector. As a result of the study in the educational sphere, we have identified 5 stages of reforming:

The first stage was carried out from 1992 to 1997: At this stage, the Law "On Education" of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 1992 was developed, which states that education and training is based on the principles of democracy and humanism, which subsequently involves its reform.

The second stage from 1997 to 2001: At this stage, according to the new Law on Education, the content of the education system has been updated.

The third stage was carried out from 2001 to 2005: At this stage, in accordance with the monitoring of the implementation of the 1st period, the national programs, compulsory education is introduced.

The fourth stage from 2005 to 2016: In this period, according to the socio-economic development of the country, further improvement of the system of personnel training is being carried out [2].

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the direction regarding education has been declared as a priority, and in addition to making changes to the procedure for adopting the norms prescribed in international agreements, the item indicating the independence of educational institutions has been excluded [3]. The new law on education defines the criteria for the quality and content of education, and its implementation of generally accepted educational standards according to the types of education.

The fifth stage of transformations is carried out from 2017 to the present: During this period, the Action Strategy was approved in 5 areas from 2017 to 2021, which are priorities for the effective development of the Republic of

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Uzbekistan [4]. One of these areas is the development of national education, namely:

- in order to meet the needs of the labor market, training personnel, increasing the quality and accessibility of educational services, maintaining continuous education;
- creating conditions and equipping educational institutions with modern material and technical equipment and the latest educational literature;
- development of the preschool educational institution system and advanced training of the pedagogical staff of the preschool educational institution;
- creation of educational institutions with in-depth study of individual subjects;
- development of sports infrastructure;
- creation of conditions for further employment of students in the received specialties;
- development of the quality of teaching in accordance with the teaching standards approved at the international level;
- creation and development of research centers at universities [5].

If we consider the changes in the legislation that have occurred, then there have been updates in the Law on Education. In accordance with Article.6. the updated Regulations on the State Testing Center under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan were approved, the Ministry of Preschool Education was established [6].

The departments of the methodological service were abolished and instead of the abolished institutions, inter-district centers for methodological support of educational institutions under the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as Regional Department of Public Education and Main Department of Public Education Tashkent city, the sector of methodological support of the educational process of the District Department of Public Education without the status of a legal faces [7].

Within the structure of the Ministry, the Control and Legal Service of the Minister has been established, which is endowed with the following powers:

- implementation of internal control in the Department of Public Education;
- implementation of legislative measures in terms of unreasonable interference of state bodies and other organizations in the activities of the Department of Public Education.

Also, under the Ministry, the State Unitary Enterprise "Engineering Company for the development of technical specifications for project documentation and monitoring the quality of construction projects in the field of public education" was formed, which is a single supplier of works and services.

In the system of secondary general education, they returned to eleven-year education.

In 2019 according to the Concept for the development of the public education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, the main areas of development are defined:

"Entry of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2030 into the ranks of the first 30 leading countries in the world according to the PISA International Student Assessment Program;

- qualitative updating of the content of the system of continuous education, training, retraining and advanced training of professional personnel;
- improvement of teaching methods, phased introduction of the principles of individualization of the educational process;
- strengthening the material and technical base and increasing the efficiency of providing budgetary funds;
- introduction of modern methods and directions of out-of-school education in the education of young people and ensuring their employment;
- expanding the competitive environment in the system of public education through the development of public-private partnerships;
- introduction into practice of five initiatives, including a set of measures aimed at creating additional conditions for the education and upbringing of young people;
- a gradual increase in wages and material incentives, social protection of employees of the rural educational institutions [8].

Work has begun on the creation of private universities in the republic. The following preferential conditions are defined for their creation:

- exemption from taxes, customs payments for a period of 10 years;
- provision of buildings with a functionality of up to 30 years as a university.

On September 24, 2020, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyev signed the law "On Education" [9]. The main differences of the new law:

Firstly, the classification of forms of education has been expanded:

- with a break (daytime) and on-the-job (correspondence, evening, remote);
- dual, combining theory - in an educational organization and practice - at the student's workplace;
- education in the family and self-education;
- adult learning and education;
- inclusive education for children (persons) with physical, mental, sensory or mental disabilities;

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- external study - self-study of training programs with subsequent final and state certification in state educational institutions;
- training of personnel in the field of defense, security and law enforcement;

Secondly, the powers of the Cabinet of Ministers, the State Inspectorate for Supervision of the Quality of Education (Education Inspectorate), the Agency for the Development of Presidential, Creative and Specialized Schools, as well as relevant ministries and local authorities are detailed.

Thirdly, more attention is paid to the legal status of all participants in the educational process:

- Educational organizations - the procedure for their creation, reorganization and liquidation, the requirements for the charter;
- Teaching staff, students, their parents and other legal representatives - rights, obligations and guarantees. Measures of social protection of participants in the educational process are determined.

Fourthly, issues related to state educational standards and requirements, the introduction of curricula and programs into the educational process, experimental and innovative activities in the field of education have been resolved. The mechanism of admission to study, including targeted admission, is described.

Fifthly, the instruments of state regulation and control are regulated:

a) *The first are:*

- licensing of non-state educational organizations - licenses are issued by the Education Inspectorate for an unlimited period, separately for each type of education;
- attestation and state accreditation of educational organizations - carried out by the Education Inspectorate for a period of 5 years. At the same time, non-state educational organizations are considered accredited for 5 years from the date of obtaining a license, after which they undergo attestation and accreditation. Organizations that have passed state accreditation are included in a special register, information about this is posted on the website of the Education Inspectorate;
- recognition of documents on education received abroad after January 1, 1992, as well as affixing an apostille on official documents on education in our country. Recognition and apostille are also within the competence of the Education Inspectorate;

b) *The Education Inspectorate has the right to:*

- control and monitor the quality of education in non-state educational organizations - with the notification of the business ombudsman;
- identify non-compliance with the legislation of the content and quality of education provided by educational organizations - make an order to eliminate it. For failure to comply with the order - to cancel the certificate of state accreditation of the educational organization.

As we know, within the framework of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, about 300 laws have been adopted over the past period, more than 4 thousand decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at fundamentally reforming all spheres of life of the state and society, including in the field of education.

It should be noted that section IV "Conducting a fair social policy, developing human capital" provides for a number of the following goals directly related to education:

- *Complete revision based on advanced foreign experience and implementation in practice until 2026 of curricula and textbooks, on the basis of which, in* accordance with the National Curriculum, it is planned to create 699 new textbooks, workbooks, teaching aids for teachers and mobile applications by 2026, including 2022 with 296 items.

In order to train teachers in new methods, the creation of 769 video lessons for the Electronic Platform for Advanced Studies by 2026.

Implementation of a system of pilot testing and examination with the participation of foreign specialists of textbooks and educational and methodological complexes in general education schools;

- *Improving the quality of education in schools and raising the knowledge and qualifications of teaching staff to the international level.* Determination of domestic or international certification requirements for each subject for conducting activities in the school;
- Bringing the level of enrollment in higher education to 50% and improving the quality of education;
- Targeted preparation of 10 potential higher educational institutions for inclusion in the international rankings QS and THE until 2026;
- Construction of student hostels for 100 thousand places;
- Bringing the number of non-state higher educational institutions to at least 50 by 2026;
- Doubling the scale of sending freely and creatively thinking youth to prestigious foreign universities through "El-Yurt Umidi" Foundation, while sending 50% of young people to technical, exact sciences and IT.

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