

# IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIONS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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**Key words:** education priorities, reforms, development, innovation, types of education, preschool education, schools, presidential schools, creative schools, higher education, quality of education, “teacher-student” analysis.

**Abstract:** In this article is presents a comparative analysis of important reforms in the education system of Uzbekistan. are given is the names and forms of the introduced innovations, which are adapted for the Republic of Uzbekistan. Also, problems in the education system are indicated and solutions are proposed to eliminate them.

**Introduction.** Today, in the world community, education has a high degree of intrinsic value. The future socio-economic well-being of the country, the moral and spiritual development of citizens, the level of legal culture of the population, and a positive solution to gender problems largely depend on the development of education.

The education development strategy was accepted by the state helps the country to improve education at all levels, to carry out reforms of educational systems in the national and universal interests.

In the post-independence period of Uzbekistan were adopted (1991), in the process of reforms aimed at modernizing the education system, the Law on Education three times (1992, 1997, 2020) and more than 400 by-laws and resolutions on the system of continuing education. As a result of measures aimed at optimizing the management of the education system of Uzbekistan have been established, in recent years the Ministry of Preschool Education and the State Inspectorate for Quality Control in Education.

Over the past three years, Uzbekistan has made great strides in radically improving the education system, developing the spiritual and moral development of young people, creating all the conditions for them to receive the most modern education. Because: “In developed countries, a lot of attention is paid to investing in the full cycle of education, that is, investing in the upbringing of a child from 3 to 22 years. Because this investment will bring 15-17 times more benefits to society. In our case, this figure is only 4 times. Therefore, we must pay more attention to human capital and mobilize all resources for this” [1]. International experience shows that countries that successfully transitioned from low to high income economies invested strongly in education and determinedly raised the human capital and skills levels of their population. Enhancing students’ educational achievement has the potential to produce economic growth rates estimated at 1 to 2 percentage points. Accelerating the design and implementation of the Government’s strategic interventions on education can set the bases for the full transition of Uzbekistan to a globally competitive economy.

**Main part.** To this end, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has identified the reform of the education system as an urgent task. In particular, in a short period of time, the pre-school education system began to develop on the basis of a completely new system, general secondary education and teachers' activities were fully supported, admission quotas in higher education were increased, appropriate material and moral measures were taken to improve the quality of education. The activities of institutions to enter the international rankings were reviewed. The primary stage in the development of young people in all respects is the first stage of family and continuing education - pre-school education.

In his Address to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2018, President Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized the following: “There is a wise saying among our people that “education and upbringing begins in the cradle”. Only enlightenment leads man to perfection and society to progress. Therefore, public policy in the field of education should be based on the principle of a system of continuing education, that is, education should begin in kindergarten and last a lifetime. ... As an important practical step in this direction, we will increase the coverage of children with preschool education from today's 34% to 44% in 2019, 48% in 2020.

On May 8, 2019 was adopted the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the Concept of development of the preschool education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030". This decision approved the concept of development of the preschool education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan

until 2030. It identified complex tasks related to the development of preschool education in Uzbekistan, the coverage of preschool children in public and private kindergartens[2].

The system of the Ministry of Preschool Education covers 2.5 million children aged 3 to 7 years. The number of pre-school educational organizations in the country is 6154. 5586 of them are state-owned and 568 are non-governmental educational organizations. To date, 859,141 children have been covered by pre-school education, representing 34 per cent of the total. In total, more than 1,600 children are not covered by pre-school education. As of September 2017, the number of preschool organizations in the country was 4891. In 2018, it reached 5,586. By 2030, 85% of children are expected to be enrolled in preschool education in the country[3].

The legal framework of the preschool education system in Uzbekistan has been improved through the adoption of 27 normative legal acts. The material and technical base of preschool education institutions is being strengthened and the network is being expanded. In 2018, the number of preschools under renovation increased by almost 3 times compared to 2017 (298 compared to 105), and the number of new construction sites increased from 2 to 40. The network of non-governmental pre-school educational institutions is expanding, reaching 568. The number of pre-school educational organizations established on the basis of public-private partnership is growing rapidly - to date, 741 public-private partnership agreements have been signed.

Work is underway to improve the skills of teachers and educators. In 2018, more than 9,000 employees were retrained. An interactive service "Queuing a child for preschool education" has been launched. Basic tariff rates for preschool teachers have been doubled. The volume of reports has been significantly reduced.

Preschool Education Management Information System (EMIS) has been introduced [4].

All this is significant in that it is aimed at improving the system of pre-school education in the country, strengthening education at the grassroots level.

Changes in the education system in Uzbekistan related to the general secondary education system are also noteworthy. We know that after 1997, 9-year school education and 3-year secondary special vocational education were introduced. Students went to school for 9 years and then continued for the remaining 3 years in academic lyceums or vocational colleges. But this system did not give the expected effect. Due to the remoteness of the buildings where vocational colleges are located from some settlements, the lack of connection of the educational process with real production, there were problems with students' attendance, which negatively affected the quality of education. Precisely due to the fact that some girls studying in vocational colleges do not attend classes regularly, there have been cases of early marriage or lack of supervision in boys.

In recent years, great work has been done in our country to effectively address these problems, to radically improve the system of training. The President has adopted 6 decrees and resolutions on the public education system, 21 resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, and strengthened the legal and regulatory framework for reforms in this area[5].

Parents have moved to 11-year schooling from 2017, taking into account the wishes of the public. Now students can continue their education in academic lyceums or vocational schools in the fields of their interest on a voluntary basis. It is planned to co-operate with vocational schools. In the last three years, 157 secondary schools have been built in the country. The Government of Uzbekistan understands the critical importance of investing in the skills and education of its young population. Since 2016 education measures have focused on the modernization of the sector to keep pace with the rapid changes in knowledge and skills needs that characterize innovative, dynamic, and forward-looking free-market economies. Uzbekistan sets very ambitious goals to achieve in the education sector. Namely, the Concept for the Development of Public Education, provides that the country aims to perform among the top 30 in the OECD Program of International Students Assessments (PISA) by 2030.

Talented children's schools named after our great scientifics – Mirzo Ulugbek and Muhammad Khorezmi, Hamid Olimjon and Zulfiya, ErkinVahidov, Abdulla Aripov, IbrayimYusupov, IshakhonIbrat, Muhammad Yusuf, Halima Khudoiberdieva, Abdulla Qodiri creative schools, "The School of Temurbeks'", President The establishment of new and modern educational institutions, such as schools and private schools, opens up new opportunities for education for the children of our country. In recent years, schools specializing in science and natural sciences are being formed at universities. Particular attention is paid to the establishment of private schools.

Taking into account the special role and influence of male teachers in the effective conduct of educational work, as a result of specific measures taken, by September 2019, 12,871 male teachers returned to the public education system. Great work is being done to encourage the work of teachers. In the last 3 years, teachers' salaries have increased by an average of 2.5 times. Specific criteria have been set to encourage the work of teachers working in remote areas. They are paid up to 50 percent extra monthly bonuses. This has made it possible to attract more than a thousand teachers who are in short supply in remote areas.

Teachers who continue to work at retirement age receive a full pension [6]. When talking about the relationship between education and industry in Uzbekistan, it is worth noting the changes that have taken place in the higher education system in recent years. Systematic work is being carried out to modernize the higher education system, to introduce modern forms and technologies of teaching, based on the real needs of the economy and social life.

Because, as the President said: "One of the most important issues is to further increase the scientific potential of higher education institutions, expand the scope of training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel. It is desirable to have network research institutions, design bureaus, experimental-production and innovation centers in each industry. We need to attract investments in our country not only in the economy, but also in the field of scientific know-how"[7].

Today, there are 113 higher education institutions in Uzbekistan, of which 93 are local and 20 are foreign higher education institutions and their branches. In particular, 6 new higher education institutions, 17 branches and 13 branches of foreign higher education institutions have been established in the last 3 years. In the 2019/2020 academic year, part-time education was introduced in 59 higher education institutions, and evening education was introduced in 10 higher education institutions. The number of students studying in higher educational institutions of the country amounted to 410,000 in the bachelor's degree and 13,000 in the master's degree, which has increased 1.7 times over the past 3 years. 54.8% of students are in the humanities and pedagogy, 25.2% in production and technology, 5.2% in the social sphere, economics and law, 5.9% in agriculture and water management, 4.4% in health and social care, 4, 5% are studying in the field of education and specialties in the field of service education. 40.8% of master's students are in the humanities and pedagogy, 23.3% in production and technology, 13.3% in the social sphere, economics and law, 5.9% in agriculture and water management, 13.5% in health and social care, 3, 2% are studying in the field of service education.

Admission parameters for the 2020/2021 academic year amounted to 121 thousand and increased by 18% compared to the previous year and by 92% compared to 2016.

Starting from the 2018/2019 academic year, 16 higher education institutions of the country have launched training activities on the basis of joint educational programs in cooperation with foreign higher education institutions. Today, the number of academic councils awarding degrees in higher education institutions is 84. As a result of the defense of doctoral dissertations by 1,693 professors and teachers in the last 3 years, the number of pedagogical staff with academic degrees in higher education institutions has reached 9,636 (including 2,130 doctors of sciences (DSc), 7,506 candidates of sciences (PhD) and higher education. The scientific potential of educational institutions increased by 5.1%.

In the last 3 years, 1,611 professors and teachers of higher education institutions have been provided with internships and advanced training in foreign higher education institutions. Within the framework of international cooperation, 112 young people have been admitted to master's and 51 doctoral programs in foreign higher education and research institutions. "The El-Yurt Umidi" Foundation provided internships for 46 professors and teachers in Canada, the United Kingdom and Italy. In 2017-2019, 1,154 highly qualified foreign teachers and scientists were involved in the educational process (94 people from the United States, 445 people from European countries, 299 people from Asian countries, 316 people from the CIS countries).

Compared to 2016, the basic salaries of professors with the degree of Doctor of Science in higher education institutions increased by 3.2 times.

The essence of these processes is reflected in the Concept of Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoev in September 2019, problems related to supply areas and strategic goals, priorities for the development of the higher education system and tasks aimed at entering the global educational space. This concept is an objective requirement and necessity. Because "as a result of a strong imbalance in the system, the system loses its stability. The parameters that characterize such a state are called critical, and are passed from this critical state by jumping to one of the possible new stable states" [8]. This is one side of the issue. On the other hand, it is the instability, the chaos, that erodes the old system, creating the conditions for the new system to self-organize. This is a fundamental feature of development.

In addition, only systems that have the functions of adapting to the external environment and internal integration will be able to develop. It also requires consideration of the spontaneous, gradual, deterministic processes of development, which are not limited to the fact that the developing object is realized only through cause and effect. The strategic objectives set out in the concept are, for example, inclusion of higher education institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the list of the top 1,000 higher education institutions in the ranking of

internationally recognized organizations, their official websites in the international ranking of 1,000 Webometrics, training of highly qualified personnel. Ensuring competitiveness on the scale of such substantial elements create the conditions for a new stage of development of higher education and the formation of productive activity, and lead to changes of a tendency in all spheres of social life. This decision was taken in order to radically improve the system of higher education, to radically reconsider the meaning and content of training in accordance with the priorities of socio-economic development of the country, to create the necessary conditions for training highly qualified specialists at international standards.

This is due to the low level of scientific and pedagogical potential in a number of higher education institutions, the inconsistency of teaching and information support of the educational process, the need for systematic updating of the material and technical base, the widespread introduction of international best practices in the higher education system. It was noted that the work on improving the skills of teachers and researchers through the establishment of close cooperation with scientific and educational institutions has not been carried out at the required level [8].

As a result, a number of changes have been made to improve the higher education system. Prominent cooperation of each higher education institution with leading research and educational institutions abroad, the widespread introduction of the latest pedagogical technologies, educational programs and teaching materials based on international educational standards in the educational process, highly qualified foreign scientific and pedagogical activities attention began to be drawn to the involvement of local teachers and scholars.

Effective cooperation has been established with universities in the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Japan, South Korea, China and other countries. The system of continuous qualitative improvement of professional qualifications and skills of pedagogical staff, the organization of internships for teachers and researchers, the system of training graduates of higher education institutions on the basis of PhD programs and foreign master's programs has been improved. The El-Yurt Umidi Foundation has been established for professors and teachers of higher education institutions in Uzbekistan to conduct advanced training, internships and research activities abroad [9].

In order to improve and radically improve the quality of higher education, strengthen and modernize the material and technical base of higher education institutions, equip them with modern teaching and research laboratories, information and communication technologies, a comprehensive development program of higher education for 2017-2021 was approved.

According to the program, in 2017-2021, a total of 180 educational institutions in 48 higher education institutions, construction, reconstruction and overhaul of scientific-laboratory buildings, sports facilities and socio-engineering infrastructure, as well as 400 educational institutions in 53 higher education institutions. It is planned to gradually equip the laboratory with the most modern teaching and laboratory equipment, to establish scientific laboratories in 7 higher education institutions, which will be used jointly by all higher education institutions.

This program is being implemented on time. One of the goals of the development of higher education is significant in that general secondary schools are aimed at increasing the coverage of graduates with higher education institutions. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev said: "We need to intensify efforts to create equal opportunities for higher education.

In the past, the coverage of graduates of higher and secondary special education institutions in Uzbekistan with higher education was at the level of 9-10%. Thanks to the measures taken in the last two years, we have managed to increase this figure by more than 15 percent. But that is still not enough. Because if we look at the experience of developed countries in the world, this figure is 60-70 percent.

It is necessary to increase the prestige of higher education institutions, increase the number of non-governmental educational institutions, attract highly qualified personnel to the field and increase competition. Giving our young people the opportunity to apply to several universities at the same time, I think, will serve to expand their right to education. Higher education institutions need to introduce a system of independent admission quotas based on real opportunities. Opportunities for undergraduate students to continue their studies abroad will be further expanded [10].

Because in our society, the more highly educated, highly qualified specialists, the faster and more effective the development".

Indeed, the rapid and effective development of Uzbekistan also depends on the quality of personnel trained in the higher education system. With this in mind, systemic reforms in the field of higher education development are being carried out on the basis of short-term and long-term measures.

For example, on June 5, 2018, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to improve the quality of education in higher education institutions and ensure their active participation in comprehensive reforms in the country" was adopted. On the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the concept of development of the higher education system until 2030" approved the concept of development of the higher education system until 2030. These two documents have legally strengthened the focus on higher education.

In particular, systemic reforms have been implemented in the field of higher education on the basis of short-term and long-term measures. These documents have allowed a number of changes in the application of the latest international experience in the admission of applicants to higher education, improving the quality of education, new assessment of final control, work with young people, increasing the responsibility and prestige of teachers.

The changes made by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to improve the quality of education in higher education institutions and ensure their active participation in the ongoing comprehensive reforms in the country" support the above opinion [11].

Thus, with this Resolution: Bachelor's degree in preschool education - 3 years, master's degree - 1 year, the system of electronic admission of applicants was gradually created, the methods of preparing test questions for entrance exams were revised on the basis of advanced foreign experience, advanced international exam Systems (TOEFL, IELTS, CEFR, SAT General, SAT Subject, etc.), the practice of organizing the teaching of students and awarding diplomas on the basis of mutual agreement and joint educational programs of Uzbek and foreign universities was introduced, a new system of admission of foreign citizens to the bachelor's degree without tests, control and assessment of students' knowledge was introduced. A system was created that excludes the participation of a teacher of a particular subject in the final control process, the number of subjects that a student with an academic debt can retake at the end of the semester is determined and the deadline is changed, separate groups were formed in each university for the most talented students selected during the first year, it was forbidden to involve professors and teachers in meetings and other events not related to their duties and activities, instead of the vice-rector for spiritual and educational work introduced and so on. Such changes are aimed at meeting the real needs of the country, the need to provide the country's growing economy with highly qualified personnel, expanding the participation of the higher education system in addressing the issues of strategically integrated development of all regions and industries.

Postgraduate education is also aimed at the application of scientific research in production, the introduction of new content in social development. Together with researchers, professors and teachers of higher education institutions, conditions were created for students to do research work, they were actively involved in innovative programs, startups and research projects.

Thirty percent of Uzbekistan's population is between 14 and 30 years old. Modern conditions and opportunities have been created for them to get an education and acquire a profession. At the same time, the organization of meaningful leisure of young people is a topical issue. The more spiritually mature young people are, the stronger their immunity against various evils will be. held a meeting on the issues of implementation.

This meeting is of historical significance as it sets relevant tasks related to the education of young people and opens the door to new opportunities for young people across the country. The first initiative serves to increase the interest of young people in music, painting, literature, theater and other types of art, to reveal their talents. The second initiative is aimed at creating the necessary conditions for physical training of young people, to demonstrate their abilities in sports. The third initiative is aimed at organizing the effective use of computer technology and the Internet among the population and youth.

The fourth initiative is aimed at raising the morale of young people, the organization of systematic work to promote reading among them. In this regard, the task is to deliver 1,000,000 books to young people in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and each of the regions. The fifth initiative addresses the issue of women's employment [12]. According to the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in 2019, at the initiative of the regional Women's Committees, 499 small enterprises (shops) in sewing, confectionery and other areas were established, which provided employment to 3,712 women.

In the regions, on the basis of the "Teacher-Apprentice" system, 1,461 women were involved in handicrafts and 1,360 in home-based work. The women's committees assisted in the establishment of 280 family kindergartens. Another positive result was that they created jobs for 821 women. That is why the fifth initiative of the President is focused on women's employment.

In this regard, in 2020-2021 it is planned to establish 195 sewing and knitting enterprises from sandwich panels in all districts. They are built in densely populated, labor-intensive areas. As a result, more than 24,000 permanent jobs will be created for women. The head of our state paid special attention to another aspect of the issue. According to her, due to the large number of women willing to work, it is necessary to organize work in enterprises in 2 shifts, to produce consumer goods [13]. These initiatives, which have more than a billion goals and important tasks, are not just for millions of young people. It concerns the fate of our country and all our people. Because it is clear that the younger generation is the power of today, the owner of tomorrow, the creator of the future. So, millionsthe importance and value of the five initiatives aimed at young people is more than billions.

**Conclusion.** In general, during the years of independence, a number of reforms have been carried out to reform the education system, to bring up a harmoniously developed generation, to train young people in modern knowledge and skills. Over the years, the pace of change in education has accelerated in recent years: pre-school education has changed dramatically, public-private partnerships have been established to effectively reform the system, five-day primary education has been introduced as a change in the general secondary education system, and the network of specialized schools has expanded, teachers' salaries have been increased, schooling has been set at 11 years, vocational education has been completely renewed, and in higher education, applicants have been able to apply to up to three higher education institutions at the same time. part-time, evening education was introduced, there were significant changes in international cooperation, the monthly salaries of professors and teachers were tripled in the 2019-2020 academic year alone. Intelligence, the power of the intellect, the ability of a particular person to know, is reflected in the ability to understand the nature of inter-civilizational influence in the process of globalization.

*First*, ensuring peace, tranquility and political stability in Uzbekistan, first of all, allows us to actively and consistently carry out the radical economic reforms that need to be carried out, to make great strides in spiritual growth and building a democratic state based on the rule of law. Every citizen living in Uzbekistan, especially young people, must understand this, understand that he will strive for peace, development, bright future of this country, care for it, and, if necessary, sacrifice his life, and act accordingly;

*Second*, while building a civil society based on the further democratization of society and the modernization of the country, it should always be in the focus of the nation's spirituality, progressive views, national values, national traditions that unite people in these processes and industrial relations.

People, especially young people, must understand that in the context of democratization we must not give up our religious, secular, national values, but make high virtues such as nobility, kindness, tolerance, faith, honesty, duty, responsibility, justice, honesty, which are the basis of spirituality.

*Third*, it is necessary to use as much as possible the methods and means of raising legal awareness, legal knowledge and culture at different levels of society, to gradually improve the functional compatibility of spiritual and legal relations;

*Fourth*, healthy and free enterprise serves to realize the best qualities in a person. Therefore, it is expedient to organize in educational institutions courses "Word about entrepreneurship", which provide in-depth, practical training in economic relations, such as property relations - production, exchange, distribution and consumption.

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