

## DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN

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«Youth serves as a powerful force in the nationwide movement to build a New Uzbekistan. In order for the enthusiasm, courage, and noble aspirations inherent in young people to turn into practical actions, it is necessary to set clear and specific goals.»

*Sh.Mirziyoev***Abstract**

This article examines the historical development of youth policy in relation to legislative developments in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It identifies areas of youth policy that are particularly impacted by legislative changes for the development of the republic's youth policy.

**Keywords**

youth, law, politics, "demographic dividend", "Mard uglon", "Kelajak bunyodkori", education, formation, development.

**Аннотация**

В статье изучено особенности исторического развития молодежной политики в связи с совершенствованием законодательства Республики Узбекистан. Указаны направления молодежной политики, влияние изменений законодательства на которые особенно значительно как для развития молодежной политики республики.

**Ключевые слова**

молодежь, закон, политика, «демографический дивиденд», «Мард ўғлон», «Келажак бунёдкори», образование, формирование, развитие.

Today, Uzbekistan is a country with a young and dynamically developing society. Young people under the age of 30 make up 60% of the population. This represents a valuable “demographic dividend” for the country. Over the next two decades, today’s children and young people will become the largest workforce in the history of Uzbekistan. With proper investment in youth development today, they can become the generation that will elevate Uzbekistan to a new level of socio-economic development.

The youth of New Uzbekistan are an active subject of social transformation and an important resource for modernization, as well as a most valuable human resource for economic growth and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

In the country, safeguarding the legal rights and interests of young people is a priority of state policy. It consistently remains at the center of attention — only in the past two years, three laws, dozens of presidential decrees and resolutions, as well as government decisions related to this sphere have been adopted. The state award “Mard o‘g‘lon” and the medal “Kelajak bunyodkori” have been established. The Concept for the Development of State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan until 2025 and the “Road Map” for its implementation have been adopted. On this basis, extensive work has been carried out. In particular, the Youth Affairs Agency and interdepartmental councils on youth issues chaired by the Prime Minister have begun operating; a Youth Commission has been established in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis; and Youth Parliaments have been formed under the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. Youth Day has been instituted, and youth forums and festivals are being held, which in a short period of time have taken a firm place in the life of our society.

The National Human Rights Strategy and the State Program for the Implementation of the Action Strategy on the Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021 [1] are being implemented within the framework of the “Year of Supporting Youth and Strengthening Public Health.” Five important initiatives are being carried out, aimed at broadly engaging young people in culture, art, physical education and sports, enhancing their literacy in information technologies, promoting reading among youth, and ensuring women’s employment.

At the same time, special attention is given, in particular, to addressing the most important task — ensuring youth employment and creating conditions for young people to earn a достойный income. The President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, believes that “entrepreneurship, especially small and medium-sized business, is the greatest opportunity and resource in this direction.” In this regard, the country has begun developing and implementing the so-called “youth notebooks,” which currently include more than 650,000 unemployed individuals.

Initiatives of the head of state aimed at expanding support measures for youth entrepreneurship and introducing new mechanisms to ensure employment are being implemented. These initiatives provide new benefits both for students, job seekers, and start-up entrepreneurs, as well as for employer organizations.

Civil society institutions, particularly youth organizations, actively participate in the implementation of programs and activities in the field of youth policy. For example, based on the Concept of Youth Policy, structures for working with youth have been established within trade union organizations under the Federation of Trade Unions.

With the adoption of the new Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on State Youth Policy in 2016 [2], attitudes toward youth began to improve, especially toward young people aged 14 to 30. The key concepts formulated in this law have enabled better engagement with various categories of youth, such as young families, young specialists, and young entrepreneurs. The implementation of youth policy in Uzbekistan also shows a regional dimension. For example, there is a notably growing interest among young people in entrepreneurial activities in the Zarafshan Oasis (Bukhara, Navoi, Samarkand). Comparing Samarkand, Navoi, and Bukhara, it is clear that entrepreneurial development is particularly promising in the Navoi region. Considering the opportunities offered by the transport and logistics system, infrastructure, and industrial development in the region, there is enormous potential for youth development.

Since 2017, new opportunities have begun to open up for the youth of Uzbekistan. This has been especially noticeable in the mahallas of the country, where for a long time unemployed young people

could not find ways to develop and improve themselves. At the beginning of 2017, a Coordinating Council for the Activities of Local Self-Government Bodies was established in the country, with special attention given to the interests of young people. In particular, the position of Deputy Hokim — head of regions, cities, and districts for youth affairs — was approved [3]. Initially, the task of the Coordinating Council was to identify the actual number of unemployed youth in the country, which was carried out in every mahalla. Subsequently, comprehensive measures were adopted by the government of the republic to ensure the effective employment and engagement of young people.

In 2018, Uzbekistan adopted the state program “Yoshlar — kelajagimiz” (“Youth — Our Future”) [4]. The program aimed at broadly engaging young people in starting their own businesses and entrepreneurial activities. In the same year, a dedicated headquarters was established in the regions, cities, and districts of the republic to coordinate the allocation of preferential loans for unemployed youth in the country. Additionally, advisory centers and co-working centers were created to facilitate the informed involvement of young people in entrepreneurial activities [5].

The efforts to stimulate young people in the field of entrepreneurship in the New Uzbekistan have ultimately yielded productive results. In particular, today there is a growing interest in entrepreneurial activities among the younger generation of Uzbekistan, which will help reduce the number of unemployed youth in the republic and increase the share of private business in the country. One of the key concepts of state youth policy is the notion of the “young specialist,” which receives comprehensive attention from the government of Uzbekistan. Each year, the youth of Uzbekistan demonstrate increasing activity in obtaining a quality education. This, in turn, allows the country to prepare highly qualified young specialists who meet international standards. The role of general secondary, specialized secondary, and higher education required fundamental changes, which have been implemented in the country over the past five years [6].

In any developed country, education determines its future. In Uzbekistan, major changes in the prospective development of the education system have been underway since 2018, when compulsory twelve-year education was reduced to eleven years [7]. The establishment of specialized funds for training youth at foreign universities further stimulates the professional activity of young people [8].

Moreover, the study of foreign languages over the past five years has had particular historical significance for the future development of Uzbekistan’s youth. Exposure to international experience allows young people to contribute to the country’s economic growth and enhances its scientific potential. An effective and timely approach to lawmaking in relation to the implementation of state youth policy gives new momentum to addressing youth issues related to employment and job creation. It can be confidently stated that the youth policy being implemented in Uzbekistan positively contributes to the development of youth entrepreneurship, increases the importance and value of education among young people, and will help strengthen the country’s security and economy.

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