

*Azizbek Egamberdiev**professor of Andijan State Pedagogical Institute, doctor of philosophy.*

THE PLACE AND ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF UZBEKISTAN

Abstract: For the comprehensive development of Uzbekistan, higher education must also change accordingly. From this point of view, studying the transformation of higher education is one of the most important issues.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, higher education, transformation, development, economic and social factors.

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Uzbekistan declared its independence on August 31, 1991. This historic date marked the beginning of a new stage in the history of our national statehood. Independence created a holistic paradigm for studying the life of society, its institutions and values, and its culture. It became possible to study existing social processes on the basis of scientific and objective principles and draw appropriate conclusions, as well as to make appropriate proposals and recommendations to decision-making bodies. Accepting the study of society in the pre-independence colonial and Soviet ideological framework as a single unit would not have allowed for scientific conclusions.

METHODS

In recent years, the problem of the modernization paradigm has become the object of scientific research by some philosophers. In particular, in T. Khojiev's dissertation on this topic, concepts of the modernization phenomenon were analyzed in detail and certain scientific conclusions were developed regarding the modernization process in Uzbekistan. According to the researcher: "In the application of the knowledge-based economy and the innovation model, the organization of centers that perform many functions, such as coordinating the participation of state and non-state organizations in the modernization process, searching for financial resources, preparing and improving strategic development programs, developing projects aimed at implementing the tasks set out in such programs in a specific territory, sector and time frame, and submitting them to the government for implementation, are important mechanisms for increasing the effectiveness of reforms ¹." The researcher suggests that the organization of centers that promote knowledge, enlightenment, and its implementation are important mechanisms for ensuring the success of modernization. Think tanks and "big data" are increasingly playing a role in solving the problems facing governments and big business around the world. Today, knowledge is understood not only as reading, writing, and memorizing information, but also as modern competencies such as mastering information and communication technologies that have emerged from the integration of complex disciplines and their application in all areas of science and social life. Any changes must be based on scientifically sound conclusions, and all other options can lead to a setback in social development. The implementation of modernization processes and reforms in society poses great challenges for the education system. Nowadays, there is a need for the education system to not only educate and educate young people, but also to fulfill the task of professional training and social orientation. Integration of education, production and other social spheres is required. The training and education of modern specialists based on the requirements of the

¹Khojiev T. Philosophical-conceptual analysis of the evolution of modernization theories: Fals. science. b. fake doc... diss. autoref. - Tashkent, 2019. - B. 19. (44)

* The field of systematization and use of very large databases.

employer has become a social task, that is, a requirement set by society for education. To fulfill such tasks and requirements, it would be appropriate to choose ways and forms of transformation of the education system in Uzbekistan that are consistent with the national mentality and values, and do not lead to a sharp violation of moral boundaries. Nature and society have their own laws of development. Attempts to circumvent or change them will only lead to inefficient use of state and social resources. "The modernization being carried out in the economy of Uzbekistan corresponds to the "catch-up" model. The successful implementation of the "catch-up" modernization model of the economy creates the opportunity to make structural changes and transition the national economy to the path of innovative development ²," writes economist G. Mahmudova. Only a society based on innovations, that is, science and education, instead of traditional development models, is capable of developing at a high pace. Traditional sectors of the economy - agriculture and industry - have already established global dominance in the world market. Now, it is possible to gain an edge in competition through sectors that are aimed at using intellectual resources without wasting natural resources - digital technologies, tourism and service provision. These sectors, in turn, develop in close connection with the development of higher education institutions and non-traditional educational institutions. B. Berdiev, who dealt with modernization issues, drew attention to an important aspect of the issue: "The concept of political modernization implies the substantiation of general models of civilizational global processes that indicate the nature and directions of the transition from a traditional society to a rational society as a result of scientific and technical progress, socio-structural reforms, normative and value changes," ³the scientist writes in the conclusion of his scientific research. Like all spheres of social life, changes in the political sphere also occur in connection with the consciousness and worldview of the general public, as well as the level of enlightenment. The successful functioning of various models of political development and the achievement of the intended goal also depend on the level of political consciousness and culture of society. Higher educational institutions also play a very important role in this process. Firstly, education ensures the transmission of existing cultural wealth and values from generation to generation, and secondly, as a result of scientific research and the research of scientists, rational solutions to problems arising in various spheres of social life are found precisely in higher education. "... Modernization, primarily when it recognizes human rights and freedoms as the highest value, reveals that all legal creativity is directed towards the establishment of this principle. When modernization is based on spiritual and moral imperatives, when it is based on humanism, it becomes a social value, is respected by society," ⁴writes the philosopher M. Atavullaev. The fact that "modernizations" built on human rights, freedoms and immoral aspirations quickly collapsed in history, and the activities of their founders were given due recognition is clearly demonstrated by the example of the activities of the National Socialists in Germany. That is, the process of developing enlightenment, knowledge and innovations must continue organically and continuously.

RESULTS

The rise of knowledge to the level of an important value in the life of society depends on the mentality of a particular nation. "...Mentality is the level of thinking, spiritual, intellectual potential, the ability to cope with life problems, the ability to think in certain social conditions, formed under the influence of the historical path of a people, nation, community, group, individual, bio-physiological development, economic, political, spiritual, religious, ecological, and harmonious life, which is a decisive factor in

²Mahmudova G. Improving the theoretical foundations of economic modernization models: Doctor of Economic Sciences... dissertation. author's ref. – Tashkent, 2018. – P. 31. (72)

³Berdiev B. Distinctive features of political modernization processes in Uzbekistan: Political science. b. fals. doc... diss. author's ref. – Tashkent, 2019. – P. 25. (55)

⁴Atavullaev M. The role of legal values in the modernization of society: Philosophical science. Ph.D. Ph.D. doc... diss. author's ref. – Tashkent, 2019. – P. 14. (39)

the development, economic and political level, and spiritual maturity of society ⁵." It is impossible to change or "rewrite" this complex phenomenon in a certain short period of time. However, it is natural that the desire of society and the state to transform knowledge into a value will bear fruit. Today, there is a process of reducing the importance of social sciences, in particular, philosophy, and treating them as "secondary" and "non-specialized" subjects. At any stage of history, crisis and depression, helplessness before the enemy were precisely the result of ignorance. The historical truth is that it was precisely by creating a culture of book translation that Arab translators translated the works of Greek philosophers and returned them to Europe, which was immersed in darkness. During the Meiji era, it was precisely by mass translating the most necessary books on social and natural sciences that the Japanese escaped colonial slavery ⁶.

Even today, one of the urgent tasks facing philosophers is to thoroughly analyze the system of values, identify the root causes of the negative factors that hinder the development of our nation, and make well-founded proposals for their elimination. In particular, at first glance, it can be concluded that a strong desire for higher education indicates the aspiration of members of society for enlightenment. In some cases, it is observed that having a higher education also becomes a means of showing off and standing out from others in society. This is especially clearly manifested in the lack of desire to study directly in higher educational institutions.

Speaking about this issue, the German specialist noted the following: "Also, in education, it is not necessary to change only the form or structure of management. First of all, you need to change the mentality, the approach to education ⁷." If we pay attention to the essence of today's changes, we can see that they are mainly a blind transfer of Western models, an attempt to harmonize incompatible forms of education from different universities around the world in Uzbekistan. No matter how much the rules and institutions change, it is difficult to achieve great success without reforming the axiological orientation of society members. Here it is necessary to make the right axiological choice. Otherwise, we may acquire values that will negatively affect our development for many years. In fact, the transformation of higher education should be carried out on the basis of a change in the attitude towards knowledge, appreciation of enlightenment, and the formation of respect for teachers. This is a difficult axiological choice in the current conditions. Society does not always preserve positive or negative values and pass them on to future generations. At a certain historical stage, under certain conditions, values may undergo deformation or transformation, or new ones may emerge.

DISCUSSION

There are no comprehensive studies on when the modern system of higher education institutions was formed in Uzbekistan and the stages of their development. A group of scientists - scientists from Samarkand State University, in particular M.K. Kadyrov, proposed: "...to officially accept the year of the Ulugbek Madrasah's operation on a state scale (1420), and the year of the completion of the construction of a higher educational institution - a university and an observatory in Samarkand (1429) - as the date of the foundation of the academy ⁸."

In order for education, especially higher education, to take a strong place in the system of national values in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to determine and correctly assess the true value of knowledge - its

⁵Madaeva Sh. Features of the formation of democratic thinking in the Uzbek mentality: philosoph. science. doc... diss. – Tashkent, 2009. – P. 33.

⁶Where to start to make a "big leap" in higher education? // URL : <https://>

⁷"Students should not be forced to sit through boring lectures" – German expert on higher education in Uzbekistan // URL : <https://kun.uz/news/2020/03/18/talabani-zerikarli-leksiyada-otirishga-majburlash-kerak-emas-nemis-eksperti-ozbekistondagi-oliy-talim-haqida>

⁸Kadyrov M. The role of Mirzo Ulugbek Madrasah in the formation of higher education and science in Uzbekistan // SamSU. Scientific Bulletin, 2017. Special issue 4. – P. 8.

place in the development of the country. There is a lot of experience in this regard in the world, and through such studies, one can easily draw conclusions about the well-being and security of the country, and, if necessary, predict the pace of development for the coming years.

One of such complex studies is the Global Innovation Index. The methodology of the French INSEAD International Business School is used in the development of this rating. The index consists of 82 different indicators that describe in detail the innovative development of countries at different levels of economic development. Innovation is the process of commercialization of intellectual products produced by society, materializing and having a positive impact on the economic and cultural well-being of the country. Innovation indicators make it possible to see how well the triad of “knowledge-science-commerce” works. Therefore, the index is the sum of the values of the two groups of indicators.

The first group includes the resources and conditions available for innovation (Innovation Input): institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, domestic market development, business development. The set of institutions in the first group of the Innovation Development Index assesses the impact of higher education on socio-economic development. That is, the previously known methodology includes the development of the higher education sector, employment of graduates and other indicators. Researchers calculate the scores by entering the ready-made numbers into a special formula. The second part of the rating, dedicated to education issues, assesses the funds allocated to the education sector from Uzbekistan's gross domestic product. In the 2021 rating, Uzbekistan ranked 86th, and 42nd among the countries of the world in terms of education spending⁹. This indicator is twice as good as the general rating, and may be the result of the attention paid to the education system at the level of state policy in recent years. Another important aspect of the rating is the attention paid to teaching mathematics and natural sciences, the points awarded for the presence of separate schools in this area. Unfortunately, the organizing committee found that there is no data on this area in Uzbekistan and did not award the corresponding points. Current global changes require a thorough mastery of mathematics and natural sciences. The creators of the ongoing digital transformation are programmers, leading specialists in natural sciences and the humanities. Most of the various platforms being created today are the result of the creative work of a large team of specialists. Platform projects proposed by people of various professions are ultimately implemented in practice by coders, digital designers and other specialists in a narrow field who create programs based on mathematical algorithms. Digitization has had a revolutionary impact on the process of generalizing and analyzing scientific achievements in chemistry, biology and medicine. The number and quality of discoveries and inventions have increased several times. Therefore, in order to ensure social and economic development and solve existing problems, it is necessary to change the attitude towards teaching the above subjects, establish separate schools, and transform the system of training future teachers in the field in the higher education system.

Section 2.2 of the Global Innovation Index is designed to assess the work being done on higher education as a whole. One such indicator is the issue of higher education coverage. As a result of the large-scale work being carried out in this regard, it is expected to increase the coverage of higher education institutions to fifty percent in the future. One of the important indicators in the index is the number of students studying in technical and natural sciences. The role of technical disciplines such as architecture, biotechnology, computer science, astronautics and mechanics is extremely important in economic development, and the indexing takes into account the fact that such specialists work in real sectors of the economy.

⁹Global Innovation Index 2021 // URL: https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_gii_2021.pdf (Access date: 01.02.2022).

The importance of higher education as a barometer of a country's economic and social life is also reflected in its place in global rankings of higher education institutions. The ranking of higher education institutions, which has been conducted by the British company Quacquarelli Symonds since 2004, is the most prestigious and objective indicator in the world, announcing the results. The main indicators of this ranking are as follows: The first indicator is the quality of teaching, which is given a score of 40 percent. The level of quality of education is determined through surveys. The second indicator is the ratio of students to professors and teachers, which is used to determine the level of staff allocated to provide students with quality education. The third indicator is the level of citations of researchers working in higher education institutions. That is, citations to works on relevant topics are evidence of how valuable scientific research a scientist has created. The fact that most scientific research in Uzbekistan has been published in Russian for many years, and later in Uzbek, is one of the factors that prevents our scientists from taking a strong place in the world scientific community. At the same time, the costs associated with the formalization and publication of articles are also one of the problems that concern representatives of the scientific field. For this reason, there are currently cases of publishing articles in non-indexed publications, which are called "predatory journals"¹⁰. One of the issues that makes it difficult to get points in both the Innovation Index and the QS ranking is the problem of increasing this citation rate. Artificially - demanding citations from scientists who do not have a laboratory, do not know English, and have no material basis - gives rise to such cruel methods.

CONCLUSION

Another indicator determined in this rating is the assessment of graduates by employers. One of the most difficult issues of the higher education system is keeping pace with innovations and business. As is known, the higher education system trains highly qualified specialists necessary for certain areas of social life. Specialists should be trained by professors and teachers. In practice, however, innovations are developing rapidly, and it is becoming very difficult for the public to understand them, introduce them into the education system as a specific discipline, and for applicants to become interested in this subject and have a desire to acquire this profession. This is becoming clear that the current paradigm of higher education has outlived its usefulness, and the creation of mechanisms that are consistent with the intensity of socio-economic changes should be the main content of the transformation underway today.

¹⁰Journals recognized as scientific "gibberish" // URL : <https://oak.uz/pages/6395>