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## ACTIVITY OF ORPHANAGES IN UZBEKISTAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A FUNDAMENTALLY UPDATED SYSTEM

**Abstract:** In this article, the author discusses the establishment of children's homes in Uzbekistan, the organization of their activities, and their further improvement. It also addresses the enhancement of the activities of Orphanages, their legal protection, the strengthening of their material and technical base, the creation of necessary conditions for them, and issues related to social security. Additionally, the causes of existing social problems are analyzed from a scientific point of view. The article also presents reflections on the opportunities being created for children who are orphaned or deprived of parental care.

**Keywords:** Uzbekistan, Orphanages, orphaned children, "Social Orphanhood", charity, "ECOSAN", "For a Healthy Generation", "Navruz", "Mahalla", social protection.

### Introduction

Today, millions of children around the world live without the care of their parents or a family environment. In Uzbekistan, thousands of children each year are in need of a family environment. The government of Uzbekistan has been implementing systematic and effective measures to ensure their future. The significant work carried out in recent years proves this. In particular, the new system introduced by the state has qualitatively renewed this process and brought it to a new stage.

Orphanages in Uzbekistan, which were established starting in 1918, existed as a system for the upbringing of orphaned and parentless children. Unfortunately, this system did not offer many solutions. While these institutions were considered the best solution for their time, over time, they revealed negative consequences.

"Numerous scientific studies conducted by scientists around the world have shown that children who grow up without parents (with other people) have very different developmental indicators compared to children living with their parents. The lack of parental love negatively affects their physical, psychophysiological, emotional, psychological, and social development. Furthermore, according to scientific research, children raised in orphanages lack a sufficient understanding of family, struggle to emotionally adapt to difficult situations, and face challenges in finding their place in society. These situations not only lead to conflicts between the child and their close relatives but also with other members of society, negatively impacting the child's psychological state."

Today, fundamentally new approaches are being introduced in this field. In the New Uzbekistan, in recent years, a new and improved legal and regulatory framework for material and moral support for orphaned and parentless children in Orphanages has been created. First and foremost, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, while focusing on the social protection of orphaned and parentless children, emphasized the necessity of raising children in Orphanages in an environment close to that of a family, fostering them into knowledgeable and morally upright individuals.

### Literature Review

The activity of Orphanages in Uzbekistan, the social protection of orphaned and parentless children under state care, and the charity and sponsorship work carried out by non-governmental non-profit organizations have not been studied as a separate research topic. However, a number of research

works in the fields of pedagogy, psychology, sociology, and history have been conducted, which will help draw conclusions related to the topic of this study. In particular, scientific research by D. Abdullayev[3], E. Zoitov[5], and B. Tolibov[6] in the fields of history and sociology can be referenced.

### **Materials and Methods**

In recent years, a significant portion of the children raised in Orphanages are socially orphaned. 17% of the children in Orphanages are true orphans, while the remaining 83% are children whose parents or close relatives have abandoned them. To address such situations, reduce social orphanhood, and ensure that orphaned and parentless children are raised in institutions that provide an environment closer to a family, systematic work has been carried out across the country. By providing material and moral support to families in need of social protection, it is possible to reduce social orphanhood in society.

### **Results and Discussion**

The government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has implemented various measures to improve the social protection of orphaned children and those without parental care. In 2019 alone, two key documents were introduced by the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan: the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 11, 2019, titled "Additional measures for strengthening social protection of orphaned children and children without parental care" (PC-4185), and the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 30, 2019, titled "Measures for the selection of alternative forms of placement for orphaned children and children without parental care, strengthening the family institution, and improving the system for preventing social orphanhood" (824). The words of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, underscore the importance of this matter: Currently, our country has 150,000 children under the age of 18 who need special attention. It is our duty to help them receive education, acquire specific professions, treat those suffering from serious illnesses, assist true orphans in finding their place in life, and provide them with housing this is not only our responsibility, but our humane duty [6].

During the years of independence, state institutions such as the "Orphanages," "SOS Children's Villages," Children's Towns, and Family Children's Homes have been operating in Uzbekistan. The approach to the social protection of "Orphanages" has undergone a fundamental change over the years. In addition to the state's growing role in social protection, non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs, and businesspeople have also become more involved. As a result, the role of non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs in the social protection of children in Orphanages has expanded alongside the state's efforts.

Today, although the majority of Orphanages have ceased operations and have been replaced by family-style children's homes, the Orphanages were of significant importance during their time, meeting the needs and demands of that period. Each era had its own methods for social support of orphaned children, and the Orphanages were active based on those methods. Therefore, it can be said that the social protection of Orphanages during the years of Uzbekistan's independence has been distinctive, renewed, and improved.

The education, upbringing, and welfare of children in Orphanages are fully supported by the government. For example, in 2002, a total of 3,884 children and adolescents were rehabilitated in Orphanages, 1,610 of whom were girls. Among the total number of students in these institutions, 303 (7.8%) were under the age of 6, 3,258 (83.8%) were aged 7-15, and 323 (8.4%) were 16 or older. Children from 34 different nationalities were raised in Orphanages. Among them, 1,376 children had no father, 784 had no mother, and 580 were true orphans. In the 2001-2002 academic year, 322 graduates left the Orphanages 11 entered academic lyceums, 307 joined vocational colleges, one entered higher education, and three found employment. In 2003, 367 graduates left the Orphanages, of whom 360 had completed grade 9, and 11 had completed grade 11. Throughout 2002, guardianship

was established for 9 children from Orphanages, 23 were adopted, and 211 were returned to their families[7].

During the years of independence, social support for Orphanages has been provided not only by the state but also by non-governmental organizations, as can be seen in documents stored in the National Archive of Uzbekistan. Charitable activities by local non-governmental organizations such as "ECOSAN," "For a Healthy Generation," "Navruz," "Mahalla," and "Children" have been significant. These organizations have provided extensive assistance to "Orphanages," people with disabilities, families in need of social protection, and women, aiming to improve their legal and economic literacy[8].

The "For a Healthy Generation" international charity foundation and its branches have carried out systematic and targeted charity activities. For instance, between 1996 and the present, the foundation has received over \$2 million in donations from companies such as "Sanavita," "Pfizer," "Meyra," "Pribori Oy," "Bristol-Myers Squibb," "Rehab and Medical," "Medek," and "Yan International," which provided medicines, sanitation and hygiene products, contraceptive devices, special dietary products, baby food, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and medical equipment. The foundation, through its regional departments and supporting points, actively assisted specialized children's institutions, disability centers, children's homes, and other institutions with needs[9].

Orphanhood is a natural process in any country. Orphanhood is a social phenomenon that arises either involuntarily or due to various circumstances. When orphanhood exceeds certain limits, the government should implement social programs to reduce it. When studying the causes of orphanhood, solutions to existing problems should also be found. For instance, if a child loses their parents due to unforeseen events and is placed in a Orphanages, the state cannot return their parents, but it will ensure that all necessary conditions are provided. However, the child can potentially be adopted by a suitable family that will raise them with care. It is essential to thoroughly examine families wishing to adopt, ensuring that the child will not feel alienated or exploited in the new family. State policy is focused on reducing the number of orphaned children in Uzbekistan and worldwide, ensuring that every parent instills love for their children, and fostering a sense that the family is the sacred cornerstone of society.

Furthermore, it is important to increase the number of psychologists, qualified educators, and skilled legal professionals working in Orphanages. The state must work on dissuading parents who may want to abandon their children, helping them understand the value of their children, and preventing them from making decisions that could harm the child's future. It is necessary to explain to them that if their child is adopted, they will not be able to reclaim them without permission and help them recognize the emotional bond they share with their child.

### **Conclusion**

Orphaned children and those without parental care who require social protection have the same rights as other children to participate in societal life.

The government initiates the development of regulatory documents to ensure that children in Orphanages do not suffer from any social injustice, and they are given the conditions to become active members of society while maintaining their dignity.

Every child born into the world has the right to grow up in a family. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, some children may lose their family environment. Uzbekistan has been working on eliminating the conditions that prevent children from living in a family setting and implementing necessary measures to return children who have been separated from their families to a nurturing family environment as quickly as possible.

For orphaned children or children without parental care, preferential rights are given to relatives who are capable of taking responsibility for their care. If placing the child in the family is not

possible, the last resort is to place them in institutions such as Orphanages. Every child in need of social protection has the right to be placed in an alternative form that ensures adequate care and support.

Since the early years of independence, Uzbekistan has adopted several laws and regulations aimed at supporting children in need of social protection and ensuring their rights and freedoms. All of these efforts are a testament to the creation of a favorable living environment for children in Orphanages in Uzbekistan.

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