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PRIORITY DIRECTIONS FOR REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Annotation. *The civilization of the third millennium has grown to such an extent that the problem of raising the level of education has become of paramount importance, and understanding this phenomenon presupposes a change in the attitude of the state, society and citizens to the education system.*

Key words: *education reforms, higher education, upbringing, youth factor*

At present, in developed countries, education is becoming, on the one hand, the main productive force of human society, and on the other, a source of worldview, a large network that determines the level of civilization of society. It is recognized that the power of a country is determined, first of all, by the education system, the education system increases the importance of any country in the world, for it gives an idea of the level of enlightenment of society. It becomes clear that a country that was unable to change the education system in accordance with the requirements of the time, does not want to change, and may lag behind in development as a marginal in the modern world. "It is these tendencies that take the educational process to a new level" [1, p. 357].

In this regard, ensuring continuous education in the new Uzbekistan, in particular, improving the higher education system, meeting the needs of society for highly qualified specialists and teachers, expanding the range of personal professional interests, is developing as one of the priority areas of state policy. Since "the greatest asset is the enormous intellectual and spiritual potential of our people" [2], it is necessary to ensure open access to education within the framework of state educational standards, harmony of state and public administration in the education system. It is important that "the national education system adapts to the changes and development processes taking place in the world and takes a worthy place in the global educational space. In this regard, the world community recognizes that gradual reforms in the field of education in Uzbekistan are aimed at protecting national interests [3]. "To the question in what processes are these reforms reflected, one can give the following answer: we all know that more than 100 years have passed since the beginning of the process of higher education in Uzbekistan, and if a century ago the first higher educational institution was created only in Tashkent, now in all regions have branches of higher educational institutions and 7 foreign educational institutions, and their total number has reached 132, special attention is paid to the training of qualified personnel in educational institutions. However, in the years of independence, on the one hand, the population doubled, on the other hand, a decrease from year to year, quotas for admission to higher educational institutions, optimization of some specialties of bachelor's and master's degrees, and most importantly, the abolition of special evening and correspondence higher education in 2004 limited human rights. This, in turn, led to an increase in unemployment and a shortage of highly qualified personnel in industrial enterprises, state and public organizations, and most importantly, the development of corruption in the education system.

Consequently, the "Concept for the development of higher education in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" is aimed at increasing the responsibility of all higher educational institutions. Realizing that education is the most important guarantee of sustainable development, it has become an important step towards the creation of a new educational space. And therefore, the country is carrying out targeted reforms in the field of higher education, for example, out of 132 universities in the republic, more than 50 universities have been created in the last 4 years, and according to the decree, 5 higher educational institutions were created in 2017, and 15 higher educational institutions were allocated quotas for applicants for correspondence department and benefits for college students,

conditions have been created for young people to study inseparably from production. The allocation of quotas for 114 new bachelor's degrees in 36 higher educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and 104 master's degrees in 42 higher educational institutions since 2017 and the systematic continuation of this process indicates a growing demand for new specialties. The target quota for university admission is the employability of young people in the future.

It should be noted that since 2017, the allocation of a quota of state grants for admission to a university for orphans and first-degree blind people, girls from low-income families is the conditions created for the youth of Uzbekistan. The introduction of academic mobility in the higher education system with foreign educational institutions, student exchange, and the creation of the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation can be considered as conditions created for the talented youth of our country to express their identity, value their knowledge and work. Most importantly, for the first time, a quota has been allocated for higher education in correspondence form for young people serving sentences for crimes – one of the priorities of the reforms being carried out in our country, high humanity, tolerance of the head of state, the desire to feel and solve problems and the manifestation of concern for the future of youth.

The concept for the development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2019 to 2030 is aimed at bringing national education in line with international standards and increasing its international prestige. Thus, the National University of Uzbekistan and Samarkand State University have been declared flagships of higher educational institutions and conditions have been created in order to bring them into the top 500 of the international rating system (Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Times Higher Education or Academic Ranking of World Universities) and other ten Universities in the top 1000 of the international rating system [4].

Today, the transition of the educational process in 5 universities to a credit-modular system is the beginning of compliance with international educational standards in Uzbekistan, which in turn is an attempt to ensure in the future the recognition of educational documents of graduates of the national university. The establishment of academic independence in the higher education system is aimed at attracting foreign investment, expanding the scope of paid services, ensuring the participation of young scientists in start-up projects, shaping a modern image of higher education.

Today, any modernization requires the introduction of high technologies, which are developed only on the basis of the latest scientific data. One of the important tasks in the field of education is the creation of regional standards, the introduction of research and development results, the electronic exchange of information, the development of Internet technologies. After all, the development of science has always been inextricably linked with the education system, so it is necessary to improve the education system in order to raise the development of science, especially in the field of fundamental sciences, to a new level. Of course, education does not directly determine the number of scientific discoveries. But the education system creates an intellectual environment in society that allows setting and solving scientific problems, and applying the results obtained in practice. Therefore, it is inappropriate to treat the education system as a system that consumes the national income, since it lays the foundation for scientific, technical and social development in this area. Therefore, today our state encourages the continuation of postgraduate education in the implementation of this task and allocates sufficient financial resources to carry out practical, innovative, fundamental research.

It should be noted that in order to improve the quality of education, the Republic of Uzbekistan develops multilateral cooperation with various countries and international organizations. An international legal framework for cooperation in the field of education is being created, joint educational programs are being developed, and the practice of exchanging teachers is gaining momentum. The creation of branches of foreign educational institutions means that education is one of the important factors in strengthening interaction and cooperation between countries. Indeed, education has become a transnational concept and serves as a universal tool for acquiring the knowledge necessary to develop professional skills in a changing world in different countries and on different continents.

An important task of modern higher education is not only to train highly qualified personnel, but also to teach people to live in accordance with the realities of the modern world, where humanitarian education is an important factor in shaping the worldview of a new generation, and humanization plays an especially important role. Thus, the humanization of education is not just an increase in the number of social sciences or teaching hours, but the introduction of the norms and values of human knowledge into the system of natural science and technical activity, that is, directing natural science and technical knowledge to serve human interests. Therefore, the introduction of "humanities" into the higher education system and the formation of a negative attitude of students towards the social sciences in the humanities with the repetition of their content is not a requirement of the time for the inclusion of classical humanities in the world. "Humanization is not only discoveries in science, but also ensuring its economic stability, using it to protect human interests, but also taking into account that a person is the highest value in this process" [5]. Humanization of education also involves the creation of ideas about the current content of the principles of humanity. In this context, higher education should be ahead of today's needs and be oriented towards the future, in which it is important to use not only knowledge, but also its application. This presupposes equalizing the essence of education and upbringing, increasing the importance of narrow vocational education and introducing it into the worldview context, the field of cultural and historical responsibility. The rapid growth of knowledge, changes in the scientific landscape of the world require strengthening the predictive elements of knowledge. Thus, it is necessary to further strengthen the connection between professional activity and values, to include global cultural, ethical and other similar criteria in the education system. Thus, the education system should always be future-oriented, taking into account all the achievements of scientific thinking and the needs of social practice. The more fully the education system meets the needs of life, the stronger its influence on the development of other spheres of society. Therefore, bridging the gap between science and the education system is one of the important tasks of modern higher education. This means that education implies the creative development of thinking, because this is the only way to solve non-standard problems that life is constantly moving forward.

Consequently, an important task of higher education is to foster a desire for constant renewal of knowledge, which, in turn, presupposes the formation of a global outlook. The positive traditions that have developed in national higher educational institutions, the accumulated experience, require the preservation of established scientific schools. Continuous improvement of the education system, further universalization of higher education standards within the framework of various regional intergovernmental associations is an important factor in the continuation of democratic reforms in most countries, including the new Uzbekistan.

So, in the higher education system in Uzbekistan, a policy aimed at training modern personnel is gradually being implemented, because in the global world it is important to educate a person who knows how to understand other people, communicate with them, and overcome their selfishness.

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