

## **Youth Policy in Uzbekistan (For the Example of 2016-2022)**

**By**

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### **Abstract**

This article discusses youth policy in Uzbekistan (for the example of 2016-2022). Youth, as a category of the population in the current socio-economic situation, is the most unprotected. Due to social and economic problems, the difficulty of adapting to market conditions, it is among young people that the highest percentage is unemployment, and, as a result, in recent years, the level of deviant manifestations among the youth has been constantly growing. It is worth noting that young people have their own special functions in society, which are not replaced or implemented by any other socio-demographic group

**Keywords:** youth policy, Uzbekistan, category of population, socio-economic situation, economic problems, unemployment, deviant manifestations, special functions, society.

### **Introduction**

In today's world, where the world is changing rapidly and various new threats and dangers threaten the stability and sustainable development of nations, it is more important than ever to focus on spirituality and enlightenment, moral education, education and improvement of youth.

The changes taking place today in Uzbek society contribute to the formation of new priority values in all spheres of life and activity, including education.

The above views of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev were not in vain. The future of any society, its development and prosperity depends on the youth. Because young people are the future of society. Today we all know that more than 30% of the population of more than 33 million people in our country are young people aged 14 to 30. It is this layer that is the decisive force in the social, political, economic and spiritual spheres of society. And training them is more important than ever.

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## **The main findings and results**

We can see the relevance of this issue in the fact that it has always been in the center of attention of the leaders of our country. For example, one of the first laws signed by the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, was the Law “On the Fundamentals of the State Youth Policy” dated November 20, 1991 of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This issue was raised by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev not only in our country, but also in the international arena. In his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed the development of an international convention on the rights of youth. The need for this convention has been recognized by the international community and work on its draft is now well underway.

The social group of youth manifests itself as a social class and layer with a complex manifestation in the social life of modern society. In sociology, youth is usually divided into the following socio-psychological groups:

- a) High school graduates who have begun to join the ranks of workers;
- b) Young people aged 16 to 19 working in various sectors of the economy;
- c) Between the ages of 20 and 24;
- d) From 25 to 30 years old - young intelligentsia, that is, groups of intellectuals.

Young people are the most active part of the population and actively influence the dynamics of the social structure of society. The economic thinking of the youth of Uzbekistan is entrepreneurship, active participation in the socio-political philosophy of society and the state, a sense of citizenship and responsibility.

In fact, everyone must first understand himself so that he can correctly formulate his goal, determine the ways to achieve it and begin to understand the meaning of life. In this regard, a harmoniously developed generation is of particular importance. If we take into account that the fierce struggle for the human heart and consciousness in the world is intensifying in various forms and scales, it is not difficult to understand that raising a harmoniously developed generation builds the foundation of our future, improving successors. Therefore, the formation of consciousness and worldview of young people in accordance with the principles of protecting our national interests will provide a logical continuation of the ongoing work to protect our national development.

New relations in society led to democratic changes in the system of education. In particular, from the first days of independence, one of the most important tasks of the state was the education of young people, as well as all-round people capable of bearing the burden of time. All conditions have been created for young people to receive a comprehensive education, acquire a profession and find a worthy place in society in accordance with modern requirements.

The education of young people is one of the strategically important issues, and a good example of this is the definition of years in our country in accordance with this process and the adoption of appropriate state programs. For example, 2008 is the year of youth, 2010 is the year of harmoniously developed generation. It can be seen that the idea of educating a harmoniously developed generation is concentrated in the power that ensures the implementation of state policy.

During the years of independence, a number of measures have been taken in our country to implement the state youth policy. In 1997 - the “Umid” Foundation, in 2001 - the “Kamolot” Youth Public Movement, in 2017 - the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, and in 2018 - the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation. These organizations and foundations play an important role in realizing the dreams and aspirations of young people, in implementing the state youth policy.

In today’s rapidly changing world, the problem of modern education is becoming more important than ever. On September 25, 2018, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev established close cooperation with our compatriots living abroad and carrying out professional activities, especially with scientists, specialists and talented youth with great scientific potential, as well as for training specialists under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad and communicating with compatriots in order to provide personnel for the comprehensive and rapid development of Uzbekistan, competitive and highly qualified specialists in the world labor market in the leading foreign educational institutions and in Uzbekistan. Decree PF-5545 “On the organization of the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation” was adopted.

According to the decree, the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established to train specialists abroad and communicate with compatriots, and its main tasks and priorities are:

- a) establish contacts with our compatriots who have valuable scientific and practical experience in prestigious scientific, educational and medical institutions abroad, in promising sectors of the economy, especially in the production and application of the latest materials and innovative technologies;
- b) creation and maintenance of an electronic register (database) of citizens with valuable scientific and practical experience, cataloged by countries of the world and specialties, which can be used by personnel services of state bodies and searched on the Internet;
- c) the formation of a positive image of Uzbekistan among citizens working in the field of education, healthcare and the economy, the collection, generalization and dissemination of their ideas and opinions on the development of the economic and social spheres in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and also the creation of an effective system for the preparation and dissemination, etc.

In short, firstly, the education of young people is always at the center of public policy, and research on this issue will never lose its relevance, and secondly, the development of practical proposals and recommendations for orientation of young people to scientific activities; thirdly, further improvement of social services focused on youth.

At present, the problems of forming the spiritual, moral and physical health of the younger generation, educating a new type of citizens, true patriots, independently thinking, actively acting, possessing intellectual potential and moral principles, are acquiring a special role. Therefore, the most important goal of modern education, especially higher education, is education, social and pedagogical support for the formation and development of a highly moral, responsible, creative, initiative, competent citizen, a future specialist.

Youth is the most important labor and economic potential of society, on which its progressive development depends. Therefore, the policy of any state should be built in such a way as to ensure the most effective upbringing, full-fledged education, and successful specialization. State youth policy is an important component of the social policy of any state,

its content and implementation reflect public values and priorities. In the Decree of the head of state dated February 6, 2014 “On additional measures aimed at the implementation of the State youth policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, ideas were put forward to create all conditions for the full use of all opportunities by young people. To bring up a physically hardy, vigorous, intellectually developed generation, a system of cooperation between the family, the mahalla and the educational institution has been created, to which the general public and NGOs are involved.

In September 2016, the then interim president of Uzbekistan, Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the law “On State Youth Policy”, which stipulates that a social youth service is being created in Uzbekistan for the social protection of youth and young families. The law spells out guarantees of rights and freedoms, as well as social protection of young people, issues of state support for gifted and talented young people, and youth entrepreneurship. The basis for the implementation of youth policy are such factors as: increasing the participation of young people in the life of society; representation of young citizens at all levels of social, socio-political and economic spheres of life of the republic; support in information provision, openness and transparency in youth policy issues.

Youth is responsible for the future of Uzbekistan, for the continuity of historical and cultural heritage, for the revival of their Fatherland, therefore, all possible support and attracting young people to creative, active participation in society and of the state is the primary task of authorities at all levels.

In our country, the youth policy ensures the preservation and development of the national culture, the education of young people of respect for the historical and cultural heritage, the education of patriots of their country, citizens who respect the rights and freedoms of the individual, the traditions and culture of other peoples, the versatile and timely development of young people, their creative abilities, the formation of positive labor motivation and high business activity among young citizens; responsibility of young people for the well-being of society.

In the conditions of university education, especially when teaching and studying the social sciences, there are ample opportunities to show and develop one's creative and intellectual abilities, since today one of the leading goals of education is the formation and development of a spiritually rich, comprehensively developed, creative a person who is ready to take an active part in all socio-political processes taking place in society and the state, as well as capable of productive highly professional activities.

Youth is a special socio-demographic part of the population of our country, in connection with which it would be correct to say that the development prospects of both Uzbekistan and any other country in the world are related to the situation and development of young people. Young people have significant potential, namely mobility, initiative, susceptibility to innovative changes and new technologies, the development of scientific and technological progress, the ability to counteract negative challenges, however, this potential is not always fully used.

The need for a special policy towards youth is determined by the specifics of its position in society. It must be assessed as an organic part of modern society, which has a special function, irreplaceable by other social groups, of responsibility for the preservation and development of our country, for the continuity of its history and culture, the life of the elders

and the reproduction of subsequent generations, and ultimately for the survival of peoples as cultural and historical communities.

Today, there are more than 2 billion young men and women among the inhabitants of the planet, which is a record figure for the number of young people in the history of mankind. At the same time, almost 90 per cent of all young people live in developing countries, where they make up a significant proportion of population. Central Asia is the youngest region in the world with an average age of 27.6 years. About 50 percent of the region's population lives in Uzbekistan.

Youth is a really active socio-political, driving force of change, the main resource for ensuring the progress of society. It brings new trends and technologies to life. Young people are entrusted with the task of unlocking their potential, building a world for a better life for future generations.

At the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, the President Uzbekistan put forward an initiative to adopt the Convention on the Rights of Youth. The President of Uzbekistan rightly noted that young people are “a powerful force of the nationwide movement to build a New Uzbekistan. In order to turn the enthusiasm, courage and noble aspirations inherent in youth into practical actions, you need to set specific goals for yourself”.

In the context of rapid changes in recent years, a completely new state policy is being pursued in our country, aimed at supporting youth, its formation as a new force. Thanks to the attention and care of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, today's youth of our country has formed as a special powerful force and at the same time, young people demonstrate themselves as real creators, a source of inspiration, important participants and creators of the economic, social, cultural, political and spiritual life of Uzbekistan.

At the heart of the attention given to young people, this rational policy aimed at realizing their dreams, honor and dignity, a worthy future, ensuring all the opportunities created for them to be the masters of our future, lies the factor of confidence in youth. The President, who considers youth to be the main driving force that gives new meaning and content to large-scale reforms at the national level, recommended a large number of young people to important government positions, appointing them to key positions. Among the most important events, it should be noted the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On State Youth Policy” dated September 14, 2016, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 30, 2020 “On measures to radically reform and raise the state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan to a new level”, which the tasks arising from this law are defined, as well as the announcement of June 30 as “Youth Day”.

The Concept for the Development of the State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan until 2025 and the Road Map for its implementation were adopted. In the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, a Commission on Youth Issues has been established, Youth Parliaments have been formed under the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. To encourage young people who have achieved high results and achievements in various fields, the state award “Mard ugloni” and the medal “Kelajak bunyodkori” have been established.

On June 27, 2018, the President signed the Decree “On the State Program “Youth is our future”, which became an important document aimed at improving the efficiency of work in this area, on the basis of which the foundation “Youth is our future” was created. Its main funds were intended to implement cutting-edge ideas, business and entrepreneurship initiatives,



new start-ups and projects through the provision of soft loans and leasing. President Sh. Mirziyoyev put forward 5 initiatives for the systematic implementation of actions in the social and spiritual and educational fields, which marked the beginning of a new stage in the upbringing and education of young people.

These are:

- 1) Increasing the interest of young people in music, drawing, literature, theater and other forms of art;
- 2) Physical training of youth, creation of the necessary conditions for the manifestation of their abilities;
- 3) Organization of effective use of computer technologies and the Internet by the population and youth;
- 4) Organization of systematic work to improve the spirituality of young people, the wide promotion of reading books; 5) ensuring the employment of women.

At the same time, there are still a number of problems in the field of youth employment through the formation of modern entrepreneurial skills and the creation of new jobs, the effective organization of the prevention of delinquency and juvenile delinquency, prevention family divorces, education among young people of feelings of patriotism and a strong civic position.

Over the past short time, providing employment for young people, taking care of the meaningful organization of their leisure, employment of unemployed youth has become one of the main and strategic directions of the country's economic and social policy.

Social policy as a part of culture is aimed at forming a cultural cluster of modern youth, educating their spiritual and moral principles. Health care in youth policy is based on maintaining and promoting a healthy lifestyle for young people; physical culture and sports, guide young people to sports, active recreation and lifestyle. Social protection as an element of youth policy is aimed at ensuring the observance of the rights of young people, their reduction of social inequality, assistance in difficult socio-economic situations. Science and education help young people to develop their personality, professional qualities, and form a social image.

From the historical path of development of any state, it is known that the accelerated development of a particular country, the achievement of certain successes by it, the well-being of the people are closely related to the degree of attention paid in this country to education and education of youth, its future.

In the field of protecting the rights and interests of young people, creating the necessary conditions and opportunities, a solid legal base has been created in our country, and this system is currently being improved in tune with the requirements of the time. In particular, to date, the Parliament has adopted over 40 legislative acts regarding youth, ratified over 30 international legal documents.

Youth, as a category of the population in the current socio-economic situation, is the most unprotected. Due to social and economic problems, the difficulty of adapting to market conditions, it is among young people that the highest percentage is unemployment, and, as a result, in recent years, the level of deviant manifestations among the youth has been constantly growing. It is worth noting that young people have their own special functions in society, which are not replaced or implemented by any other socio-demographic group.

The main indicator of the effectiveness of the ongoing youth policy is the increase in the number of young people motivated to affirmative action; sharing universal and national spiritual values; in good physical health; engaged in physical culture and sports; not having bad habits; working on their personal and professional development; who love their Fatherland and are ready to defend its interests; making efforts for the dynamic development of the country.

In order to comprehensively support youth entrepreneurship, create conditions for actively attracting young people to do business, create new jobs and ensure youth employment, in accordance with the objectives of the Action Strategy for five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, from the end of June 2018, the implementation of the State program “Youth is our future” was launched, aimed at ensuring youth employment through assistance and support in the implementation of youth business initiatives, start-ups, ideas and projects, training unemployed youth in specialties and business skills that are in demand on the labor market, as well as increasing their socio-economic activity in general. It is important to know the degree to which young people have developed a new, democratic worldview, whether they have faith in the future, and the social and political activity of this category of the population. One of the sources of this kind of information is various sociological studies that will help increase the knowledge of researchers on youth issues. For example, in the study by A. Seitov, the questionnaire for a quantitative survey included questions divided into eight thematic blocks: free time and lifestyle, trust and identity, family and friends, interests and aspirations, education and employment, democracy and politics, public administration and development of the country, the nation and the world.

The sociological survey took place with a sample of 1,000 respondents aged 14 to 29 throughout Uzbekistan. Interviewed urban and rural population. The method of interview at the place of residence was used. The selection of respondents was carried out using a random route method and quota selection. The survey revealed the priority of interpersonal relationships (in the family and at work), followed by health, career growth and, least of all, participation in social and political life. Most likely, this circumstance indicates the importance of further increasing the effectiveness of stimulating the interest of the youth of Uzbekistan in innovative thinking through the association of innovation as the key to success in life and ensuring the well-being of the family.

Sociological data confirm the continuation of the traditional dominance of the Islamic religion among the youth of Uzbekistan (92.1%). This is followed by the Orthodox (4.9%). Other religions account for 0.9%, which confirms the thesis about the ethnic choice of religion (the influence of parents) and the absence of the spread of proselytism.

The Republican Center for the Study of Public Opinion “Ijtimoiy Fikr” conducted a comprehensive study: “The youth of new Uzbekistan: life positions and value priorities”, during which the content of the life positions of young people was studied by identifying various social, economic, political, and cultural factors that influence the formation of their needs, attitudes and guidelines. The survey involved young people aged 14 to 35 years in all regions of the republic, boys and girls, urban and rural residents, representatives of various nationalities and social groups, schoolchildren, students and those working in various fields and industries.

The conducted studies confirm the high efficiency and effectiveness of the measures carried out under the leadership of the President of the country Sh.M. Mirziyoyev in the framework of the implementation of the state youth policy, the creation of favorable conditions

in Uzbekistan for the successful self-realization of boys and girls, the development of the potential of young people and its use in the interests of the innovative development of our country.

According to the data received, the political, economic and social reforms carried out in Uzbekistan have a positive impact on the living standards of young people and increase their personal well-being and well-being of their families: the majority of young Uzbeks - 91.4% are satisfied with their own lives and how their family lives, of which 56.7% of young people answered that they are "completely satisfied", according to 34.7% of young people, they "rather satisfied" with the way their lives and the lives of their relatives are developing.

In many ways, the results obtained testify to the effectiveness of the youth policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, aimed at creating conditions for the social and spiritual development of the country's youth, the disclosure of its creative potential, support for youth initiatives and guarantees of freedom for young people to choose ways to realize their interests.

A modern young person is involved in a global process of change, in which opposing values and orientations constantly collide, challenging and requiring an adequate choice of necessary solutions. In a period when there is a reassessment of values and norms, it is difficult for young people to navigate issues that relate to their life prospects, goals and meaning of life. An important place in the hierarchy of life values of young people is occupied by education.

At the same time, education ceases to be an independent value, it becomes primarily a means to achieve higher positions in society associated with material well-being, social status, and standard of living. Young people are sure that the potential of a person can be realized, first of all, by raising their educational level. According to the survey participants, higher education guarantees a high level of wages, career growth, material well-being and financial stability. 43.2% of young people consider a career, professional growth or successful entrepreneurial activity to be one of their main life aspirations. The majority of young people strive to achieve their goals mainly in constructive ways - by obtaining knowledge and by their own work - 76.4%.

The most pressing problems in the opinion of young people are the problem of unemployment, as well as the problem of corruption, bribery and extortion, which is largely determined by active measures on the part of the country's leadership aimed at combating corruption in Uzbekistan.

In general, a comprehensive study of public opinion showed that the youth of Uzbekistan is an active and interested participant in the transformations taking place in the country, it is a strategic resource for changes in Uzbek society, its innovative force.

## **Conclusion**

The youth policy of any state reflects the level of its socio-economic, demographic, political, spiritual and cultural development, is the state's contribution to the future of youth. In this regard, the ways of solving the existing problems of the youth of any state are of particular relevance. In this connection, the ongoing directions of the state youth policy should fully meet the needs and interests of young people.

Modern work with youth requires new approaches and must meet the challenges that society now faces. Currently, there are many forms of support for youth initiatives in



Uzbekistan. And now the task of involving young people in projects that will help them realize themselves is coming to the fore. As President Sh. Mirziyoyev said: “We are mobilizing all the forces and capabilities of our state and society so that our youth have independent thinking, high intellectual and spiritual potential, in no area are inferior to their peers from other countries, be happy and confident in your future”. And when this happens, the youth policy in terms of its implementation becomes as effective as possible, because it really answers the needs of the youth themselves.

Given that the goal of the state youth policy is to create conditions for the successful socialization and effective self-realization of young people, the development of the potential of young people and its use in the interests of the country’s innovative development, it is now necessary to pay attention to the following trends:

- Adoption of various approaches and methods for the protection and protection of young people at different levels without restricting the rights and freedoms of minors;
- Recognition of young people as a certain social group with a special status and specific interests and needs;
- ensuring a guaranteed minimum number of social services for young citizens, including education, vocational training, physical and mental development, health care, professional employment, the scale, quality and quantity of which should provide the necessary preparation for their independent life;
- recognition and support of not only state, but also public, private and amateur forms of education, vocational education, work, social protection, recreation and youth leisure.

Thus, on the way to education for young people and becoming full-fledged people, to create modern, advanced innovative conditions, Uzbekistan is making every effort and opportunity. For from how much attention will be increased to the comprehensive support of youth, to the upbringing of a spiritually developed and physically healthy young generation in the spirit of patriotism and dedication, to the protection of its rights and interests, depends on how high the return from it will be. It is for this reason that Uzbekistan considers the youth layer, which is recognized as an active layer of society, not as a “problem”, but as a huge force capable of ensuring the country’s prosperity, as a strategic resource of the state.

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