

PROBLEMS OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *In recent years, fundamental changes have been taking place in the education system of Uzbekistan, aimed at the formation of highly qualified personnel in demand on the labor market. The article highlights the key changes in the education system of Uzbekistan and the main challenges facing the country in the coming years.*

Key words : *education, innovative development, higher education, scientific and technological progress, reforming, university.*

From the first days of Independence of our Republic, the leadership of the country, the scientific and educational community paid very serious attention to this issue. In this regard, painstaking work was carried out to prepare the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" and "National Program for Personnel Training".

The relevance of the education-science-production relationship is obvious and there is no doubt that there are many tasks and problems in this direction, the solution of which is urgent.

It was not by chance that the term “knowledge economy” appeared in the economic vocabulary a decade ago. This testifies to the cardinal importance for the development of the modern economy of high competence of workers, which cannot be achieved without high-quality education. In the modern world, the quality of education has already become one of the most important factors in the competitiveness of the economy.

That is why, adopted at the beginning of a new stage of reforms in

Uzbekistan in February 2017, "Action Strategy for the Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021", one of the priorities is "to continue the course of further improving the system of lifelong education, increasing the availability of quality educational services, training highly qualified personnel in accordance with the modern needs of the labor market ". The development of improving the competitiveness of education in the country on the national and international labor markets was also included in the Concept of Integrated Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030.

In the course of reforms in secondary education, schools have restored instruction in grades 10-11. The share of teachers with higher education in general education schools exceeded 80%, which can be considered as an indicator of the quality of education. The education reform was accompanied by an increase in the salaries of secondary school teachers, which were increased in three stages and, as a result, increased by an average of 50%. At the same time, new innovative technologies of scientific and technical education are being introduced more and more in the world. In Uzbekistan, preconditions and conditions are being created for the transition to such teaching technologies, which is reflected in the Concept for the development of the public education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030. Of great importance in this direction is the creation of a system of presidential schools, where gifted children who graduated from the fourth grade according to test results are selected. Presidential schools are already operating in Tashkent, Namangan, Nukus and Khiva, this year schools are opening in Bukhara, Jizzak, Samarkand and Fergana.

Reforms in vocational education are carried out on the basis of the Presidential Decree "On additional measures to improve the vocational education system", adopted on September 6, 2019. According to this decree, a new system of continuous vocational education is being introduced: primary, secondary and secondary specialized vocational education. Vocational training centers are being organized for adults and unemployed citizens.

Currently, in the field of vocational education, a network of educational

institutions has been created, consisting of 340 vocational schools, 147 colleges and 143 technical schools, the training of personnel in which should be carried out on the basis of educational programs corresponding to 3, 4 and 5 levels of the International Standard Classification of Education 2011.

On April 20, 2017, by the Decree of the President, the Program for the Comprehensive Development of the Higher Education System for the period 2017-2021 was approved, which includes measures to radically improve and qualitatively improve the level of higher education.

The procedure for admission to universities was changed, exams began to be held from August 1 to 15, and their results began to be published the next day. Testing for admission to universities in creative areas has been canceled. Since September 2017, the teaching load for the teaching staff has decreased in favor of conducting research work. The correspondence form of education has been restored. The salaries of university professors have doubled.

As part of the reform of the education sector, teacher training curricula have been revised and brought in line with international standards, the national student assessment system has been modernized in cooperation with international systems such as PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS.

At the same time, problems persist in the educational sphere of Uzbekistan that need to be addressed.

There are still schools in which children study in two shifts. This indicates that the existing capacities of educational institutions are less than their needs. With the dynamic pace of construction of new housing estates in cities and regions, it is necessary to ensure the equally large-scale construction of new schools, as well as to provide them with computer labs, modern equipment, including laboratories, and high-speed Internet access.

Despite the growing interest in higher education and the increase in admission quotas, the coverage of the student-age population by the higher education system remains low, only 15%. The curricula of universities do not always meet modern requirements, however, as well as the quality of training of

applicants.

It should be emphasized that at present the problem of rejuvenating scientific personnel is very urgent. Currently, the average age of doctors of sciences who have defended their dissertations over the past five years is 52 years, among them up to forty years is just over 10%. And among candidates of sciences, this indicator has been showing a tendency to improve lately.

There is a great understanding in Uzbekistan that constant investments in the so-called "human capital" and education are the key to the formation of a developed democratic state, a constant engine of progress and an indispensable condition for the modernization orientation of national development. As the President justly noted on this occasion, "... the achievement of noble goals facing the people of Uzbekistan, the country's future, its prosperity and prosperity, what place it will take in the world community in the 21st century - all this depends, first of all, on the new generation, from how our children grow up." This postulate has always received due support and recognition at the state level, and moreover, it is getting stronger in the minds of people every day, which creates a solid layer and basis for a bright and great future of Uzbekistan.

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