

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

The present level of scientific, technical and socio-economic development based on knowledge, determines the leading role of education in the renewal of all aspects of society. Education, among the factors influencing the functioning of the human potential, occupies a leading position. Radical reforms initiated in Uzbekistan, called for the creation of the education system that was adequate for socio-economic transformation of society and the perspectives of its development. The concept of reforming education, developed in Uzbekistan, envisages the followings as the most important goals: the reorientation of the education system onto market economy and open society; creation of equal opportunities for education as a condition for raising the standard of living; improving the system of financing education in order to provide a stable and qualified educational services and increase efficiency of resources utilization; improving the management of the education sector. The concept of public policy and the reform of education in Uzbekistan were embodied in the new Law "On Education" and the National Professional Training Program, adopted on August 29, 1997 by the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: education, development, uzbekistan

Sources of science of Uzbekistan date back to ancient centuries have deep and strong roots. Through concentration, it can serve the whole humanity in achieving the secrets of the nature. Such great scientists as Ahmad Al-Farghoni, Abu Raikhon Beruni, Abu Ali Ibn Sino, Mukhammad Al-Khorazmi, Mirzo-Ulughbek, Alisher Navai who originated from Central Asia, in medieval ages made great contribution in development of such sciences as astronomy, geography, geology, geophysics, mineralogy, pharmacology, botanic, anatomy, human physiology, medicine, chemistry, physics, metaphysics. Uzbekistan flourished as the medieval center and intellectual center of the Muslim world due in part to scholars, philosophers and cultural leaders. Their contributions to world culture in the humanities and sciences were numerous.

Briefly about History of Development of Education System:

Uzbekistan was one the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The standards of education prior to 1991 were quite different in Uzbekistan than those used nowadays. The structure of the education system was represented by: Preschool education - 7 years, ages 1-7; Secondary school education - 10 years, ages 7 - 17; Higher education - 5 years, ages 17 - 22; Post graduate education and scientific research - 3 to 6 years, ages 23 - 34

Apart from this, there were technical schools that provided vocational training, however, their quality and prestige for attendance was not that high. The grading system in all educational institutions was on the scale of "5 to 1", "5" being the highest and "1" the lowest mark. Entrance examinations as well as end of term examinations were either in oral or written form, there was no testing system.

As an independent state, Uzbekistan had to face various issues connected with economic, social and cultural development. One of the burning issues of a new born country in 1991 was training of highly qualified specialists in various fields.

The changes that followed the declaration of independence, the transition to the market economy and the introduction of the concept of democracy into the society could not leave the existing Uzbek education system unchanged. Moreover, the new challenges faced by the country at the initial stage of its independence raised a strong demand for dynamic, open-minded and proactive generation of specialists, who could contribute to the country's speedy evolvement as a valuable member of the international community. In connection with this, a number of educational reforms were implemented, that covered all areas of the education system on all levels which included the change of curriculum in educational institutions, introduction of a new grading system in schools

and universities, creation of new higher educational institutions and introduction of new departments in existing ones to train for the specialties that did not exist before, such as management, marketing, etc.

Development of Modern Education System as One of the Priorities:

In Uzbekistan education is given prior importance in the nation equally for every child irrespective of gender. Education at any age is encouraged in Uzbekistan. New methods and technologies are created based on the national needs. The basic principles of Education in Uzbekistan are democratization and humanization. Education of Uzbekistan helps the Government to solve many economic and social problems.

Education in Uzbekistan is supervised by two Ministries, namely the Ministry of Public Education who looks after the primary, secondary, and vocational education; and the Ministry of Higher Education, supervising the post-secondary education.

In accordance with the new structure of the education system, it covers such grades: Preschool education - ages 0 - 6; Primary education - 4 years, ages 6 - 10; Secondary (general) education - 5 years, ages 10 - 15; Secondary specialized education - 3 years, ages 15 - 18; Higher education (Bachelor's degree) - 4 years, ages 18 - 22 approx.; Graduate education (Master's degree) - 2 years; Post-graduate education (Ph. D.) - 3 years

Higher education also became two stages baccalaureate and magistracy, which open way to university institutions - post-graduate or doctoral studies. Besides, the system of continuing retraining and raising the level of skills is being formed.

In due course, quality content of the process of education and curricula were significantly modified with the aim at:

Maximum approximation to the needs of the market economy
Restoration of historical values, abandoned cultural and spiritual traditions of the people, populating Uzbekistan
New style of education must consider the best teaching techniques, which ensure high level of requirements to knowledge of pupils/students and educating of diploma holders on maximum high professional level for participation in quiet saturated labor market.

The Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education together with the Ministry of Public Education under the supervision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and according to the Presidential decrees addressing the issues of education, introduced the following changes into the system of education of Uzbekistan during the past 23 years: Uzbek language was accepted as a state language. As a result, the number of subjects taught in Uzbek in schools increased.

Cyrillic alphabet used in Uzbekistan for the past 70 years was

replaced with Latin alphabet for two reasons: Latin was the alphabet long before Uzbekistan became a part of the former USSR.; Latin alphabet is used in many countries at present, and the government saw this measure as helping the process of integration of Uzbekistan into the world community.

Special trainings for adults to learn the new alphabet were carried out at their working places. For the pupils of secondary schools and students of universities the change was easier, since they all knew Latin alphabet from their foreign language classes. As for elementary school students, all their books were re-written with the new alphabet, which meant for them Latin would be the only alphabet of Uzbek language they know, it would be a totally different generation of children born and educated in independent Uzbekistan.

The 8-year compulsory education was extended to 9 years.; 10-year secondary schools were divided into 9-year general education and 3 years of secondary specialized education. The positive side of this reform was that the pupils of secondary schools were given an opportunity to choose between pursuing an academic study and a vocational training after 9-year compulsory education. For this purpose, Academic Lyceums and Professional Colleges were set up, the former providing a deeper study of science, economics or law, preparing the students for the university study; and the latter enabling them to continue studying the subjects of general education, at the same time obtaining a profession, should they choose to work rather than study at university after they have completed their secondary specialized education.

Acceptance of children to elementary schools from the age of 6, using a special entrance examination to determine the level of knowledge the child received in preschool kindergarten. The examination requires a thorough preparation as it has questions about the history of the country, basic knowledge of mathematics, the ability of the child to memorize short poems and retell stories.; Total revision of school curriculum, introduction of new subjects of study: economics, ethics and enlightenment (study of national culture), environmental studies, AIDS/HIV study.; Abandoning written and oral examination for end of term testing and accepting the new testing methods such as multiple-choice questions.; Changing from "5 to 1" grading system to gaining a certain number of units system, taken as a model of developed countries similar to "A to E" system, "A" being the highest, and "E" being the lowest mark.; Abandoning 5-year university education and separation of higher education to 4 years of Bachelor's and 2 years of Master's studies. 3 years PhD study was introduced. Girls and boys are legally considered equal and study in the same classes and schools. Schools are open to all ethnic groups, and minorities in schools are rarely an issue. The academic year begins on the 2nd September (the first of September is the Independence Day) or the first working day of September. The academic year ends in June for secondary schools and in July for higher educational institutions.

Uzbekistan pays great attention to education of population. The government policies of Uzbekistan have built up 50,000 new educational institutes annually for the past few years. More schools are yet required to fulfill the public demand. All the educational institutes of Uzbekistan aim at educational development. They follow certain principles as:

Modifying and further improving the educational and socializing content; Developing new schools, curriculum and textbooks; Stress on individual capability and talent; Vocational and Professional training, keeping in mind the changing economical needs; Raising Uzbekistan's educational system to match the international standards.

Population of Uzbekistan speaks in two languages (Uzbek and Russian); most speak in three or more languages. The

study of English language has become very popular ever since independence. Many students speak it well, others, including adults, are vigorously learning it. The switch from a planned to market economy after independence has triggered wide-spread interest in the fields of economics, business, management, international relations, medicine, law, agriculture, education, engineering, the physical sciences, language and literature.

Uzbekistan's independence has created a fundamentally new education system that successfully reveals talents and prepares professional personnel. In our country, for young people with bright thoughts and aspirations - all roads are open. And it is no coincidence, because those who are now sitting at their desks will support the country tomorrow.

All this change is to be based at the root of the 1997 National Program for Personnel Training. The principal difference from the current system of many of the world is that the twelve-year compulsory free education scheme nine years of schooling and three - in college or high school, enables every child to learn a profession and specialty. Government pays a great attention to the implementation of this rule.

On the country's social sector about 60 percent of the state budget is allocated. Almost half of these funds are spent on the development of educational institutions. Only this year 756 educational institutions, children's music and art schools, children's sports facilities were built, renovated and repaired. The state continues to invest in education, because these investments will necessarily be justified. After development of the country there is nothing more effective when every citizen engaged in the business for the benefit of the people. Today about 10% of graduates of secondary specialized educational institutions continue their studies in colleges and universities across the country. Efficiency increases at times when people come to work, having strong theoretical and practical skills. Annually, about 53% of state budget is appropriated for further improvement of education system in the country. Educational institutions are supported by banks. They, in turn, give microloans to graduates wishing to engage in business activities, concessional to buy equipment to start a business. A priority is integration of higher education and science. Over the past two years under the jurisdiction of the leading universities and institutes received ten research centers and institutes of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. There are financial incentives for young scientists. Annually the Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology conducts among scientists under 35 a contest of scientific projects. Most topical studies receive state grants.

Conclusion

Uzbek national education model includes all stages of education and upbringing of personality, preschool education, primary and secondary education, vocational education, higher education, raising skills/training and further education. The country carries targeted activity for basic and professional education of talented children and youth overseas. Since the very day of Independence of Uzbekistan, thousands of young people have undergone courses on different prestigious programs or have been educated in solid universities abroad.

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