

LEGAL FOUNDATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF YOUTH POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN

Amangul Sarsenbayeva

Teacher at the History Faculty of Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh

Abstract

Each society views youth as a "future deposit" aimed at advancing the state. The increasing number of young people in global demographics, rapidly adapting to the modern era, has led to their balanced presence on the world stage, preserving ideological concerns, and progressive movements recognized through international forums. However, the acceptance of evidence also implies the division of spiritual voids among youth in recent years, under the influence of psychological pressures, creating challenges to personal development. Naturally, demographic changes contribute to fluctuations in youth numbers across continents, whether increasing significantly or declining, due to various reasons.

In the published scientific article, the distinctive features of the country's historical policy aimed at fostering a Third Renaissance with the youth, connecting them to the values of global civilization, were comprehensively studied and analyzed. This was done to elucidate the true essence and significance of the state's policy that contributes to the extensive international engagement in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Youth policy, Renaissance, legal guarantees, prevention.

Introduction

In recent decades, global civilization has been advancing rapidly in all corners of the world, with each nation striving for success, whether in politics, economics, or social development. In this progressive movement towards the future, youth play a crucial role, as their scientific and intellectual potential is being increasingly recognized. Statistical data indicates that over 2 billion young people make up the world's population. This demographic reality underscores the critical importance and relevance of youth policy in societal development at a global scale. In recent years, the issue of youth has been addressed extensively by the United Nations through various initiatives and resolutions. This includes the United Nations General Assembly's World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY), the Declaration on Youth Policies and programs in the "Lisbon +21" document, and the UN's "Youth 2020" strategy. Additionally, resolutions have been adopted by the UN Security Council on youth, peace, and security, as well as decisions made by the UN Commission on Population and Development on youth, reproductive health, and rights. These efforts demonstrate the international community's recognition of the importance of youth issues and the need for coordinated strategies and policies to address them effectively. [4, 12]



The clear perspective that emerges from our historical development shows that the potential of educated youth, who form the solid foundation of society's advancement, becomes a driving force when properly nurtured and empowered within a conducive environment.

When discussing the Second Renaissance in history, the great ruler and statesman of our ancestors, Amir Timur, emphasized the importance of policy aimed at elevating the nation. The recognition of the world's scientific and intellectual community towards the nurturing and support of talented youth within our society played a significant role. For example, in the "Tamerlane Institutes," there are timeless pieces of advice that reflect the respect accorded to youth, emphasizing the enduring role of etiquette and hospitality norms in shaping society. For instance, the wisdom conveyed by the saying, "In my experience, a person who is knowledgeable, brave, skilled, wise, and courageous is superior to an ignorant, reckless individual," remains relevant even today. [6, 33]

Our President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has emphasized the importance of understanding and learning from our rich history as a way to guide our future development. Under his leadership, a new Third Renaissance has been initiated in Uzbekistan, focusing on empowering youth with legal and moral foundations and integrating them into national policies. This approach aims to instill positive intentions and aspirations in our youth, fostering their active participation in our society's social, economic, and spiritual development. Ultimately, enhancing ideological immunity against various influences and distortions that pose challenges to our youth remains critically important in our present-day context. [3, 6]

The utilization and support of various initiatives in fields such as science, technology, information technology, culture, art, sports, entrepreneurship, and education are crucial for harnessing the potential of our youth. By promoting and empowering these efforts, Uzbekistan aims to foster the active participation and development of young people. Ultimately, the effective implementation of youth policies is essential for enhancing national and societal structures in Uzbekistan, promoting partnership and development across all levels.

The international documents mentioned above highlight the objective of meeting the needs and aspirations of young people, including support for their abilities and development in various areas. These documents emphasize the importance of "investing in youth as a strategic and significant asset" and underscore the perspective that "all investments made in youth yield long-term benefits." [2, 5-10]

In line with these principles, a series of measures and reforms are being implemented to ensure the rights and freedoms of youth, promote modernization, support intellectual endeavors, and facilitate progress alongside the times. In recent years, specific laws, presidential decrees, and government resolutions have been adopted to advance these goals.

"Today, in a rapidly developing world community, new and vast opportunities are opening up before our youth. Alongside this, they are also exposed to various unprecedented risks and threats.... It is essential for us to nurture our children ourselves, without handing them over to others. To achieve this, we need to engage more with our youth, listen to their hearts, understand their pain, and provide practical support to solve their problems," said President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan. [3, 18]



During the years of independence, a strong legal foundation was established to ensure comprehensive and mature development opportunities for youth. Specifically, over 40 laws related to youth have been adopted by the parliament so far, and more than 30 international legal instruments have been ratified. This demonstrates a concerted effort to create a robust legal framework that supports the rights and development of young people in Uzbekistan. During the early years of independence, specifically on November 20, 1991, with the adoption of the law "On the Foundations of State Youth Policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan," attention to youth issues in our country was elevated to the level of state policy. This law, being the cornerstone, created opportunities for the implementation of activities in the main strategic directions related to youth in a phased and systematic manner. It not only outlined the objectives and principles of state policy regarding youth but also addressed critical issues that are relevant in today's context. [5, 2]

For the first time, the law emphasized the need to develop policies and programs directly related to youth life and highlighted the active participation of youth as a key task in formulating and implementing these policies and programs.

Over time, a comprehensive system was created to support youth in all spheres, protect their rights and legal interests, nurture intellectually capable individuals who are aligned with the times and have a clear direction. The Republic of Uzbekistan established special agencies such as the Youth Affairs Agency, Youth Parliaments under the chambers of the Supreme Assembly (Oliy Majlis), and the Youth Academy under the Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the period of development, special attention has been given to addressing youth issues, finding effective solutions, and organizing youth forums, including the highly significant Youth Forum held in December 2020. Furthermore, in his Address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan on December 29, 2020, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan outlined specific measures aimed at advancing the state policy on youth to a new level. As a result, on January 18, 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved a Resolution "On Approving the Concept of Developing the State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan Until 2025," which outlines clear objectives and tasks for the development of youth policy in the country. [2, 19]

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized during the Uzbekistan Youth Forum that "we do not pay enough attention to what reforms are being implemented in our country, first and foremost, we rely on young people like you, on your strength and enthusiasm. You all know well that today we are achieving great successes. We are embarking on the creation of the Third Renaissance in our Motherland. We consider family, primary education, secondary and higher education, and the development of scientific and cultural centers as the most important components of the Renaissance. Therefore, we are implementing comprehensive reforms in these areas. We believe that our young people, loyal and patriotic like you, actively participate and contribute to creating a new milestone in the development of our country." [3, 2-4]

The main tasks outlined in the aforementioned concept include:

- Enhancing the legal framework aimed at protecting the legal rights and interests of youth;
- Ensuring quality education for youth at all levels and creating conditions for inclusive education development in regions;



- Establishing appropriate labor conditions for youth and expanding their economic rights and opportunities through the protection of their labor-related legal rights.

In addition, ensuring youth have access to education, social and medical protection, housing, and employment under suitable conditions has been identified as a constitutional obligation of the state. The state recognizes these responsibilities as critically important and assumes them as its own duties.

The "Law on State Youth Policy" adopted in 2016 encompasses various important provisions that are systematically implemented. This law consists of 4 chapters and 33 articles. [1]

In this law, the state youth policy covers aspects related to youth (adolescents), youth organizations, youth engagement, and youth entrepreneurship, among other indicators.

For example, when referring to state youth policy, the law focuses on creating conditions for the active participation of youth in the country's development and shaping their social status. It also emphasizes the development of their intellectual abilities, creativity, and other skills necessary for scientific achievements, considering the social, economic, educational, and legal solutions system.

In addition to the provisions mentioned earlier, the law includes the definition of youth categories. According to the law, individuals aged between 14 and under 30 years old are considered youth.

One of the key aspects of the law is that it specifies the representation of agencies and institutions involved in the implementation of state youth policy and their roles and responsibilities. However, it does not explicitly specify the representation of these agencies and institutions in the system of state governance.

Furthermore, according to Article 9 of the law, the following organizations are included in the structure of agencies and institutions involved in the implementation of state youth policy: educational and upbringing institutions under state bodies, bodies responsible for ensuring the rule of law, cultural and sports institutions, healthcare institutions, prosecutor's offices, labor agencies, justice agencies, and security agencies. Additionally, other organizations and institutions involved in the implementation of state youth policy can be designated according to the provisions of the law.

Among the provisions outlined in Article 14 of the law, the inclusion of representation of Prosecutor's Office bodies in the implementation of state youth policy is a significant change. Specifically, Prosecutor's Office bodies:

- Ensure compliance with specific and comprehensive provisions related to state youth policy.
- Participate in the development of state youth policy.
- Engage in the prevention of offenses among youth, identifying and clarifying the causes and conditions conducive to offenses.
- Contribute to the legal awareness and legal culture among youth.
- Collaborate with other relevant bodies and institutions in the implementation of state youth policy, with the possibility of assuming other responsibilities according to the provisions of the law.

In other words, the adoption of the "On State Policy towards Youth" by the Republic of Uzbekistan in a new editorial reflects the need to cultivate youth who are deeply rooted in the



rich cultural heritage, democratic state-building, and civil society development processes, possessing advanced moral values, broad worldview, and equipped with modern knowledge, instilling in them various ideological immunity, ensuring social protection for youth, establishing conditions for continuous personal and professional development, supporting talented and intellectual youth, creating opportunities for them to contribute to physical education and sports, providing healthy lifestyle recommendations among youth, and addressing issues related to crime prevention and punishment among youth. The systematic implementation of such measures aims to raise a generation that is immune to negative influences, capable of contributing to the prosperity of the country, and restoring those who have strayed from the path as true patriots of the Republic of Uzbekistan, reflecting the clear commitment to the well-being of the younger generation. [3, 3-4]

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