

TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES OF THE MAHALLA INSTITUTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Masharipov Ikramjon Batirovich

Associate Professor, Tashkent State University of Economics

Doctor of Political Sciences

ikrommasharipov1967@gmail.com

Abstract

This article examines the significance and transformation of the mahalla institution in Uzbekistan's civil society development. Historically rooted in cultural traditions, the mahalla serves as a national form of self-governance, actively participating in social, moral, and economic processes. The study analyzes the mahalla's roles in youth education, public oversight, social cohesion, and citizen participation in governance. Additionally, it explores practical aspects of Anglo-Saxon and European models to enhance the mahalla system's effectiveness. ([Uzbek Embassy][1], [LinkedIn][2])

Keywords: Civil society, mahalla institution, self-governance bodies, public oversight, social solidarity, youth education, democratic governance, local governance models. ([uzdaily.uz][3])

Introduction

Following Uzbekistan's independence, the mahalla institution has assumed a pivotal role in state policy as a fundamental component of civil society development. Functioning as a local mechanism for addressing various social issues, the mahalla also facilitates effective communication between the state and citizens. Recent legislative measures, including presidential decrees and government resolutions, have aimed to strengthen the mahalla system institutionally, enhancing its legal status, financial capabilities, and societal participation. Notably, Presidential Decree No. PF-5938 (2020) and Decree No. PF-26 (2023) focus on empowering the mahalla institution and enhancing its role and efficiency within society. This article analyzes the transformation processes of the mahalla institution, its role in social governance, and considerations for improving the local governance system by incorporating international experiences. ([OOH][4])

LITERATURE REVIEW

Both domestic and international studies have extensively analyzed the mahalla institution's role and functions within civil society. Classical thinkers like John Locke (1689) and James Madison (1787) emphasized local governance as a means for citizens to exercise their natural rights—participation, protection, and oversight. In Anglo-Saxon models, particularly in the USA and the UK, local governance is characterized by direct citizen involvement and public oversight to ensure efficiency. These models prioritize elected local councils, open meetings, debates, and budget transparency. Uzbek researchers such as M. Kirgizboev (2020) and I. Masharipov (2021) have highlighted the mahalla institution's social services, public oversight, community



engagement, and youth education roles. They argue that the mahalla is crucial not only from a governance perspective but also as a mechanism ensuring social justice and cohesion.

METHODOLOGY

In Uzbekistan, the mahalla institution plays a decisive role in social governance, public oversight, and poverty reduction. Historically, it has been a primary mechanism for protecting community interests, strengthening solidarity, and ensuring social unity. As a social environment, the mahalla significantly contributes to reinforcing family relationships, educating the younger generation, and integrating them into society. Through various ceremonies and traditional events, national values are transmitted across generations. Additionally, the mahalla's economic function is vital, focusing on improving residents' living conditions by promoting entrepreneurship and expanding the service sector. ([uzdaily.uz][3]) As the closest governance unit, the mahalla plays a crucial role in implementing public oversight. In times of natural disasters or social issues, the mahalla's organizational capacity has facilitated effective management. Currently, while the mahalla's role in the local self-governance system remains significant, several challenges hinder its efficiency:([ijsr.net][5])

Financial Constraints: Local bodies lack effective mechanisms for utilizing funds.

Complex Legislation: The existing legal framework increases bureaucratic burdens.

Limited Authority: Restricted autonomy in managing land and financial resources.

Lack of Information Technology: Insufficient modern ICT infrastructure affects operational efficiency.

Skill Gaps: Personnel often lack the necessary skills for contemporary governance demands.

Low Entrepreneurship Support: Limited initiatives to promote job creation.

Weak Moral-Ethical Education: Inadequate efforts in instilling national values among youth.

Environmental Issues: Insufficient measures for sanitation, cleanliness, and ecological stability.

Proposed Solutions:

- Develop and implement targeted regional programs.
- Formulate and execute clear master plans for mahallas.
- Improve infrastructure and systematically address sanitation issues.
- Enhance staff qualifications through retraining and educational programs.
- Strengthen public oversight and ensure ecological sustainability. These measures aim to enhance the efficiency of local governance and reinforce the mahalla institution's role in civil society. ([uzdaily.uz][3])

RESULTS

Analyzing the mahalla institution's activities reveals its primary societal functions:

Implementing public oversight among citizens. Educating the younger generation and preserving national values and cultural heritage. Providing targeted support to low-income populations. Preventing crime and ensuring societal stability.

Serving as a bridge between the population and government authorities.([OOH][4], [LinkedIn][2])



Identified Challenges:

- Lack of financial independence.
- Low adoption of information technologies.
- Insufficient knowledge and skills among personnel.
- Weak mechanisms for public oversight.

Author's Recommendations:

- Develop targeted development programs for mahalla bodies.
- Enhance operational efficiency through the integration of information technologies.
- Organize retraining courses for mahalla leaders.
- Implement legal reforms to ensure financial independence.
- Prioritize citizen participation in decision-making processes.

DISCUSSION

In recent years, the mahalla institution in Uzbekistan has emerged as a strategic direction in state policy. Mahallas actively participate in addressing local issues, providing targeted social assistance, educating youth, increasing public engagement, and strengthening democratic values. Programs like "Iron Notebook," "Women's Notebook," "Youth Notebook," as well as "Prosperous Village" and "Prosperous Mahalla," aim to enhance the mahalla's social potential. The Anglo-Saxon experience of "neighborhood communities" offers a model for addressing local issues collectively, serving common interests, and strengthening social oversight, which aligns closely with Uzbekistan's mahalla system. Furthermore, principles outlined in the European Charter (1985), such as independent local governance, financial autonomy, and citizen participation, provide a foundation for further improving the Uzbek mahalla system. ([ijsr.net][5])

CONCLUSION

The mahalla institution in Uzbekistan stands as a vital social mechanism in forming and developing civil society. It fulfills roles in ensuring social justice, preserving national values, educating the younger generation, supporting low-income populations, and implementing public oversight. The experiences of Anglo-Saxon and European countries in local governance, particularly in ensuring financial independence and citizen participation, serve as valuable examples for Uzbekistan's mahalla system. Adapting these advanced approaches to national conditions can further enhance the effectiveness of the mahalla institution.

REFERENCES

1. Presidential Decree No. PF-5938. (2020). On Measures to Develop and Improve the Activities of the Mahalla Institution. Tashkent.
2. Presidential Decree No. PF-26. (2023). On Expanding the Financial Capabilities of Mahalla Bodies in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent.
3. Locke, J. (1689). Two Treatises of Government. London.
4. Madison, J. (1787). The Federalist Papers. Washington, USA.



5. Kirgizboev, M. (2020). The Role of the Mahalla Institution in Social Governance in Uzbekistan. Tashkent: Institute of Economic Development Publishing.
6. Masharipov, I. (2021). Mahalla Institution: Directions for Increasing Youth Social Activity. Tashkent: Youth Publishing.
7. Huntington, S. (1968). Political Order in Changing Societies. New York: Yale University Press.
8. Daniel, E. (1988). Local Governance in the USA: Models and Experiences. Princeton University Press.
9. European Charter. (1985). On Local Self-Government in Europe. Brussels.
10. Jefferson, T. (1801). Foundations of Municipal Governance. Washington, USA.
11. Masharipov, I. B. (2018). Transforming Civil Society in Transition Period and Its Certain Issues. Eastern European Scientific Journal, (6).
12. Masharipov, M. B. (2021). Non-governmental non-profit organizations are the main institution of civil society. In Наука сегодня: проблемы и пути решения (pp. 100-101).
13. Batirovich, M. I. (2024). FACTORS OF DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES OF SOCIO-POLITICAL BASES OF NGOS IN NEW UZBEKISTAN. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE & INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ISSN: 2277-3630 Impact factor: 7.429, 13(01), 16-21.

