

Socio-Theoretical Foundations of Educational Reforms in the New Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article explains that improving the education system, providing high-quality educational literature, educating young people in the spirit of patriotism is one of the most important issues in the development of society. Reforms in the field of education today are no less relevant than reforms in other areas, in terms of their relevance and practical significance. In the article, the main goal of the reforms carried out in New Uzbekistan is focused on a person, his values, needs and interests, turning them into real values, the fundamental nature of the updates are analyzed socially and philosophically.

Keywords: development, reform, New Uzbekistan, education, upbringing, education system, educational reform, scientific activity, social policy, social reforms, higher education institutions, action strategy, development strategy.

From the first years of independence, the development of the education system in our country has been raised to the level of state policy, which ensures that our children acquire modern knowledge and skills in conditions that meet international standards, grow up physically and spiritually mature people, realize their abilities and talents, the intellectual potential of our youth a lot of work is being done to instill a sense of loyalty and devotion to the motherland.

Modern life today cannot be imagined without the progress of science and education; humanity, as it were, revolves around the axis of science. Not without reason the development of education in the leading countries of the world is defined as a priority. After all, the future development of the country is closely connected with its achievements in this area. According to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, "It is clear to all of us that the basis of development and what makes a country powerful and a great nation is science, education and training. Our tomorrow, the bright future of our country, first of all, is closely connected with the education system and the education that we give to our children"[1].

Today, the educational activities of universities are improving even more, and the quality of our people's desire for knowledge, which has been formed over the centuries, is again demonstrated. Our young people are trying to live a healthy and beautiful life, have a permanent job in their profession, take responsibility, do not diminish their human dignity, in a word, strive for excellence, and in this process they see education as the most important condition.

In October 2019, the Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 was adopted in our country. This document was based on such tasks as the development of the integration of science, education and production in order to accelerate intellectual development, train competitive personnel, effectively organize scientific and innovative activities, and strengthen international cooperation. The content of the concept reflects the priorities of reforming the system of higher education in our country. It expands the coverage and improves the quality of education in higher education institutions, the introduction of digital technologies and educational platforms, the involvement of

young people in scientific activities, the formation of innovative structures, the commercialization of scientific research results, international recognition, and many other specific areas. All this serves to raise the educational process to a new qualitative level.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 “On the Action Strategy for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan” defines a number of tasks for the development of the social sphere, in particular the sphere of education and science.

In particular, the document provides for strengthening the material and technical base of educational institutions, equipping them with modern educational and laboratory equipment, computers and teaching aids along with the construction, repair and overhaul of new educational institutions.

In 2017-2021, the independence of higher education institutions will gradually develop by developing a program for radical improvement of the higher education system, further improving educational programs, providing paid services, and finding additional sources of funding.

The following year, about seventy resolutions, decrees and orders of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Cabinet of Ministers were adopted. This literally launched the process of changes and updates in the education system.

This year, for the first time, 10th grade students were admitted to the system of secondary specialized education. This was carried out simultaneously with admission to academic lyceums and professional colleges. The wishes and desires of parents and students were taken into account.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at a meeting on reforming the education sector, further developing the vocational education system, improving tests for admission to the bachelor's degree in higher education, took into account the views of parents and students on further improving the work carried out in the field and together with them emphasizes the need to organize events such as open days and meetings.

Today, the call of the times has become a radical improvement in the field of education. Based on this requirement, laws are adopted that regulate relations in the field of education. In particular, on September 23, 2020, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Education” was adopted, the purpose of which is to regulate relations in the field of education. Based on this Law, the basic principles, the education system, types and forms of education, the rules of distance learning established in it, the necessary knowledge, qualifications and skills of students using information and communication technologies and the global information network Internet were clearly defined.

“Reform processes are connected with the technical achievements of mankind, natural and climatic changes, economic, political, ideological, educational and other types of human activity. Accordingly, reforms can be local, regional or global in nature, they can affect the interests and destinies of individuals, social groups, nations, races or humanity as a whole”[2].

Reforms on a planetary, global scale have not yet taken place, but “some outlines of possible reforms at this level are presented today. They are related to the environment, the possibilities of a single information space, weapons of mass destruction, etc”[3].

Evolutionary reforms, revolutionary reforms and modernization reforms are distinguished depending on the use of the reform mechanism when changing the structural elements of a particular social system[4].

“Modernization is based on the formation of a society capable of adequately responding to the demands of the time on the basis of modern economic, socio-political, legal institutions, relations and practices. All types of

modern modernization are carried out on the basis of reforms. Unlike the above types of evolutionary reforms, which have the internal needs of society as a source of change (the source of reform ideas lies in the cultural and historical practice of the people, it is internal), the source of modernization ideas is external, because an ideal to be followed in a foreign cultural and historical environment. The mechanisms of reforms in the process of modernization are similar to the implementation of evolutionary and revolutionary reforms"[5].

“Responding to economic, political, cultural and social challenges, society develops responses that return it to the stage of stability. In critical periods of instability, evolutionary reforms are used as an adequate neutralizing response. The diversity and scope of the reforms carried out in society during evolutionary periods are clearly visible. Macro-level reforms - a set of economic reforms carried out simultaneously or in stages; reforms that change the political regime, political structure or public policy; legal reforms that change the processes of implementation of socio-economic and political legal relations; social reforms that help realize the basic interests of social strata. Such reforms cover the entire economic, political, social or spiritual sphere, change the entire system of society by changing its institutions[6].

“Meso and micro-level reforms cover systemic components within a certain subsystem of society and are called systemic. They are aimed at changing the structure of social institutions, economic or socio-political relations, relations in a certain area of society and are of a highly specialized nature (for example: educational reform, pension or judicial reform, etc.)”[7].

Also, in accordance with the above law on the reform of education, by the decisions of the President, state higher, secondary special, vocational educational institutions and their branches, as well as state higher, secondary special, vocational educational organizations and their branches or the Government were created. The establishment of non-state educational institutions was determined to be carried out by their founders. Licenses for non-state educational organizations were issued by the State Inspectorate for Supervision of the Quality of Education.

The law defines the provisions on dual education, which is aimed at acquiring the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities by students, the theoretical part of which is carried out on the basis of an educational organization, and the practical part - at the student's place of work. In addition, the law includes provisions on inclusive education, according to which inclusive education is aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for education in educational institutions for all students, taking into account the diversity of individual educational needs and opportunities. Provides inclusive education in educational institutions for children (persons) with physical, mental, sensory or mental disabilities.

This Law is fundamentally different from the Law “On Education”, adopted on August 29, 1997, in its wide scope and specifics of regulating relations in the field of education based on the requirements of world standards.

Analyzing the reforms carried out in the education system of our society, we see that special attention is paid to the issues of mastering professions by young people and patriotic education of students. It is worth noting that special attention is paid to the knowledge of the heritage of our great ancestors by young people and the education of mature personnel suitable for them. The creation of a specialized school of advanced education in the field of information and communication technologies named after our great ancestor Muhammad al-Khwarizmi was the first step in realizing this task. The creation of this school creates the basis for training personnel from a young age, training mature personnel in the field and meeting the requirements of the times.

A resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the establishment of a specialized state boarding school named after Mirzo Ulugbek and the Astronomy and Aeronautics Park” was also adopted. By

this decision, a specialized state boarding school named after Mirzo Ulugbek will be created at the Institute of Astronomy, specializing in advanced education in mathematics, astronomy, physics and computer science.

One of the requirements for schools is the teaching of a foreign language in schools, along with the formation of a base of highly qualified, knowledgeable teachers. The creation of such specialized schools serves to educate young people in the spirit of patriotism.

Also, much attention is paid to the issue of sending 8-9 graders to the profession after studying the possibilities and potential of the regions. This opens up new opportunities for students to acquire skills in the next stage of learning. For example, the training of graduates of general education schools in about fifty professions has begun. To this end, modernly equipped training and production centers were created on the basis of vocational colleges and secondary schools. Also, some professional colleges are assigned to enterprises and organizations of relevant ministries and departments.

An important factor in this regard is the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 14, 2017 “On measures to further improve the activities of institutions of secondary specialized vocational education”.

This will increase the share of these institutions in the training of personnel and create guaranteed jobs. Only then can high results be achieved from education reforms.

Undoubtedly, reforms in the system of higher education constitute a certain part of the reforms carried out in the field of education. Measures to be implemented in educational institutions were constantly discussed in the government. Improving educational processes in higher educational institutions, providing education for young people based on modern requirements is one of the main issues of today. In this regard, it is important to ensure the open and transparent nature of tests for higher education institutions. Also, proposals are being developed to improve tests for bachelors of higher educational institutions, the introduction of best practices tested in developed foreign countries, and reforms to ensure the transparency of tests.

In particular, in order to determine the priorities of the systemic reform of higher education in the Republic of Uzbekistan, to raise the process of training independently thinking highly qualified personnel to a new qualitative level, to modernize higher education, to develop the social sphere and economic sectors based on advanced educational technologies, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 8, 2019 The Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, approved by Decree No. PF-5847, serves as a prelude to new reforms in this area.

Thanks to large-scale reforms that are being carried out in order to raise the development of the new Uzbekistan to a new level, cardinal changes are taking place in all aspects, the worldview and self-awareness of our people are improving. The signing of the Decree "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" and the State Program for the implementation of 2022 – “The Year of Human Dignity and Active Good Neighborliness”, which were adopted at the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and as a result of discussions with the participation of the general public and initiates new approaches in the development of society.

This historical document embodies the important fundamental foundations for the development of our country and is significant in that it is aimed at creating the political, legal, socio-economic, scientific and educational foundations for the reforms to be carried out in our country in the next five years based on the principle of “Strategy movement is a development strategy”[1].

In the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022, the important idea of “a society with human dignity and a human-friendly state” was set as a priority criterion. The strategy aims to please every citizen who looks to the future

with firm confidence and hope. It is important to note that the new development strategy of Uzbekistan includes seven priority areas based on today's globalization processes, as well as one hundred goals aimed at fulfilling the tasks set for each area. Each priority area is also important because it is focused on the glorification of human value.

In particular, a number of tasks have been identified, such as pursuing a fair social policy, training young people in higher educational institutions capable of professionally fulfilling priority tasks for the further development of our country, providing the economic industry and the social sphere with highly qualified personnel in the fourth priority area aimed at developing human capital:

- to increase the level of enrollment in higher education up to 50% and improve the quality of education, and to do this, create admission quotas taking into account the capabilities of higher educational institutions, introduce the procedure for setting the parameters for admission to higher education institutions on a fee-based contract basis, introduce a form of distance learning into the system of higher education training, further expansion of access to higher education without disengaging young people from work through the introduction;
- granting academic and financial independence to state higher education institutions, including the establishment by them of the practice of independently determining wages, the number of employees, the amount of wage contracts and the form of education;
- Targeted preparation of 10 promising universities for entry into the international rankings QS and THE by 2026, and in this regard, the development and approval of 5-year targeted programs for inclusion in international rankings, taking into account their potential and characteristics;
- construction of student dormitories for almost 100,000 places, including the construction of 47 dormitories for 18,800 places in 2022 with the creation of comprehensive amenities for students living in them;
- By 2026, increase the number of non-state organizations of higher education to at least 50 and the total number of higher educational institutions to 200, create non-state higher educational institutions in areas remote from Tashkent. This will serve as the basis for the financial independence of universities and institutions in the future;
- By 2026, educational programs and textbooks will be completely revised and implemented taking into account the best foreign experience;
- by 2025, paying special attention to teachers and trainers, professors-educators, the monthly salary of high-class teachers will be equal to \$1,000.

The priorities, main principles and criteria of the “New Uzbekistan” strategy are as follows:

- ✓ firstly, the full implementation of the planned strategy for the development of the construction process of New Uzbekistan serves to increase the sense of belonging to the reforms and the socio-political activity of members of society;
- ✓ secondly, the idea of building a New Uzbekistan, the foundation of the Third Renaissance, based on such paradigms as conducting reforms and renewals in the country, creating a competitive and open pragmatic space, ensuring development in harmony with the goals of sustainable development, and consolidating the nation;
- ✓ thirdly, the main goal of the reforms being carried out in the country is focused on a person, his values, needs and interests, and their becoming a real value is the fundamental nature of changes and updates;

- ✓ fourthly, efforts are being made to turn Uzbekistan into a powerful and promising country, to ensure a high standard of living for the population of the whole country with the involvement of modern technologies, to join the ranks of competitive democratic states with high human capital;
- ✓ fifthly, the country's rapid movement along the path of innovative development is becoming one of the most important areas of reform[8].

The following comments of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev should be noted: "Today's rapidly changing world opens up new and great opportunities for humanity and youth. At the same time, they are exposed to various evil dangers that have never been seen before. Evil forces incite simple, gullible children against their parents, their country, deprive them of their lives. In such a tense and dangerous situation, we, parents, teacher-trainers, the public, neighbors must increase our vigilance and awareness in this matter. We must raise our children ourselves, and not leave them in the hands of others[9].

Thus, the fifth priority area, aimed at ensuring spiritual development, radical reform of this sphere and bringing it to a new level, is aimed at the educational process, the rich history of the legal and educational activities of our people to transform a healthy worldview and creativity into a national movement through the widespread promotion of the idea "From an action strategy to a development strategy", the formation of a legal culture among the general population and young people, to form their immunity to various informational and ideological threats, a number of goals have been defined aimed at organizing scientific and cultural heritage in harmony with the teaching of national and religious values.

The tasks set by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev open up wide opportunities and impose certain responsibilities on each of us. The priorities and goals presented in the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy are of great importance to all of us. Therefore, it is time to continue reforms in this area on a larger scale.

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