

MECHANISMS FOR EXPANDING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article examines modern approaches to the implementation of youth policy in the country. It has been discovered that, in recent years, Uzbekistan has adopted a number of legal and regulatory acts aimed at comprehensive support for youth. It has been established that youth policy holds a priority position in the national development strategy, as evidenced by the inclusion of relevant provisions in the Constitution. It has been clarified that mechanisms for involving young people in public and political life are actively being developed through the creation of institutional platforms, support programs, and initiatives promoting social engagement. The patterns of state youth policy, its institutional framework, forms, and methods of implementation have been characterized. The impact of the ongoing reforms on the development of civic engagement, patriotism, and political culture among youth has been considered. The article concludes that strengthening cooperation between the state, society, and youth organizations is essential for the sustainable development of civil society.

Keywords: Youth policy, civic engagement, public life, youth participation, Uzbekistan, youth organizations, reforms, Constitution, political culture.

INTRODUCTION

Today, one of the strategic and priority tasks of our country is to educate a comprehensively healthy and well-rounded generation and turn them into active and direct participants in the political, social, and economic reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan—making them the real support and pillar of society.

Over the past seven years, nearly 100 legislative and regulatory documents have been adopted to improve the effectiveness of youth policy. These include the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On State Youth Policy” adopted on September 14, 2016, and the Presidential Decree dated June 30, 2020, “On Measures to Radically Reform and Bring to a New Stage the State Youth Policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan.” Other key documents include the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution of March 11, 2021, “On Additional Measures for Social Support of Youth,” the Regulation on the Interdepartmental Council on Youth Affairs, and the Model Regulation on Regional Interdepartmental Councils on Youth Affairs approved on September 29, 2017.

The Cabinet's Resolution dated November 14, 2017, on providing privileges to active members of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan for admission to higher educational institutions, among other normative acts, also plays a significant role.

On June 30, 2017, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan was established with the primary goal of supporting and implementing youth initiatives. At the initiative of the President, June 30 was officially declared "Youth Day" in Uzbekistan.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that "a new generation of society is emerging— young people who possess civic responsibility and a modern worldview—and broad opportunities and decent living conditions are being created for them."

LITERATURE REVIEW

Since gaining independence, scientific and practical research in Uzbekistan related to youth policy and increasing youth participation in society has entered a new phase. Numerous local and international scholars, political scientists, sociologists, and education experts have written articles, monographs, and policy papers on this topic.

Notable contributions have been made by scholars such as Saidov A., Saifnazarov I., Qirg'izboev M., Teshaboev T., Qudratov U., Rahimov A., and Karimov F., who studied youth political engagement, the formation of political literacy and culture, and mechanisms of youth involvement in political parties, government institutions, and public organizations.

Other researchers, such as Abdullaeva N., Burkhanov U., and Safarov I., analyzed youth rights, participation in civil society, and legal guarantees under the Constitution and laws. In the field of youth employment, entrepreneurship, education, innovation, and vocational training, the works of Sodiqov A., Mirzaev H., and Sobirov J. are notable. They examined state programs like "Youth is Our Future." Issues such as youth unemployment, social protection, and government support were analyzed in depth by Yunusova Sh., Saidova M., and Norqobilov E. Tojiboeva D., Kholiqova Z., and Islomov F. explored youth education, intellectual and moral development, and patriotism in the context of national values.

Mo'minova M., Tursunov Q., and Otakhonova S. conducted research on youth's moral and aesthetic development, social environment in educational institutions, and globalization. Karimov B., Mirzaeva L., and Hamidova D. provided comparative analyses of youth policies in Europe and Asia. Additionally, international organizations such as the UN, UNESCO, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have released reports—such as *Youth 2030* and the *Global Youth Development Index*—that serve as key sources in domestic research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses political-legal analysis, institutional and comparative approaches, and scientific-theoretical methods:

— Political-legal analysis was used to study constitutional and legal documents, presidential decrees, government programs, and youth policy concepts.

— Institutional analysis examined the activities and mechanisms of state agencies and civil society organizations working with youth.

— Comparative analysis identified similarities and differences between youth policy in Uzbekistan and international practices.

— Scientific-theoretical analysis was based on the works of national and foreign scholars, focusing on the challenges and opportunities of youth participation in social life. Additional methods included document analysis, synthesis, content analysis, and in-depth analytical review of youth policy implementation, its practical impact, and future development directions.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

A separate chapter—Chapter XIV titled *Family, Children, and Youth*—was added to the new Constitution of Uzbekistan, reflecting the prioritization of youth policy in the New Uzbekistan. The revised Constitution guarantees state protection of youth rights and promotes their active participation in public and political life. According to Article 79, Clause 1: “The state ensures the protection of the personal, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of youth and encourages their active participation in the life of society and the state.” Additionally, Article 78, Clause 4 emphasizes:

“The state and society foster in children and youth a commitment to national and universal values, pride in the country’s rich cultural heritage, patriotism, and love for the Motherland.”

Another important development is the constitutional obligation of the state to create conditions for youth education, social and medical protection, housing, and employment. As stated in Article 79, Clause 2:

“The state creates conditions for the intellectual, creative, physical, and moral development of youth, and for exercising their rights to education, health, housing, employment, and leisure.”

For the first time, the new Constitution defines the continuous education system—including its various forms and institutions, both public and private—as a state responsibility (Articles 50–52).

Given these constitutional guarantees, it is essential to ensure youth participation in democratic reforms, open society initiatives, and civil institutions.

Modern youth, well-versed in digital technologies and global processes, bring innovative approaches to politics. Involving them in civic life helps cultivate patriotism and a sense of responsibility. Otherwise, disengaged youth may become vulnerable to radical and destructive ideologies.

Their participation in neighborhood councils, educational institutions, political parties, and NGOs strengthens civil society and fosters cooperation between the state and the public.

Internationally, Uzbekistan’s youth policy has gained recognition. The United Nations has included Uzbekistan among the top 10 countries actively implementing the *Youth 2030* strategy.

DISCUSSION

Comprehensive reforms are being carried out in Uzbekistan to protect the rights and interests of youth, integrate them into the political, economic, and cultural life of the country, and enhance their knowledge and potential. These reforms are being implemented under the

Concept for the Development of State Youth Policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2025, which includes four key areas:

1. Protection of youth rights and interests

- Youth-focused projects and programs are led by the Youth Affairs Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- Legal advisory centers and the “Youth Register” system provide targeted assistance to vulnerable youth.
- Preventive measures have been strengthened to reduce youth crime and promote legal literacy.

2. Education and capacity building

- Modern education systems and vocational-technical training programs aim to prepare competitive professionals.
- The “Youth is Our Future” program provides financial and advisory support to young entrepreneurs.
- Courses in information technology, foreign languages, entrepreneurship, and innovation are being promoted among youth.

3. Youth participation in socio-political processes

- Mechanisms have been created to involve youth in governance and politics (“Youth Parliament,” “Youth Roundtables”).
- Grants and competitions support youth initiatives and social activism.
- Campaigns promote patriotism, civic responsibility, and social engagement among youth.

4. International cooperation and global engagement

- International educational programs, internships, and youth exchanges are organized in collaboration with foreign countries and organizations.
- Conditions are created for youth participation in international scientific, cultural, and economic forums.

In conclusion, increasing the social and political activity of youth is not only about shaping their future but also about strengthening the democratic and civil

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