

# HIGHER EDUCATION: THE EXPERIENCE OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE CONDITIONS OF DIGITALIZATION OF SOCIETY

**Khakimov Nazar Khakimovich**

*Head of the Department of Social Humanitarian and  
Exact Sciences TSEU, Doctor of Philosophy Professor*

## ***Annotation***

*The author of the article explored innovative aspects of the development of higher education in the context of the formation of a digital society. The article emphasizes the role of higher education in the successful implementation of democratic reforms and a new stage in the development of society. The author of the article made an attempt to reveal the social mission of higher education in society. The role of universities in the training of competitive personnel using innovative forms and intellectual capabilities of higher education in fulfilling the requirements and objectives of the strategy for further socio-economic progress of the country is considered. An integrated approach to the process of preparing bachelors in public and private universities shows that this work is closely related to the innovative reforms carried out in educational and scientific work in the field of training competitive personnel.*

## ***Keywords***

*higher education; personnel; strategy; reform; the science; development; innovation; university; society.*

## **Introduction**

The modern society of Uzbekistan lives and develops in a rapidly changing world, the reality is that the constant improvement of economic sectors and the social sector has become a necessary condition for the country's progress. The Republic of Uzbekistan is confidently and dynamically moving towards achieving its main goal - joining the ranks of developed democratic states. The main mechanism of such aspiration is the system of higher education, built on the processes of systematization, creative processing and use of the experience of previous generations. In the conditions of a new stage of development, the quality of personnel training must meet the current needs of civil society. Under the new conditions, higher education is one of the priority tasks of the state. In the context of improving all spheres of socio-economic life, the formation of civil society institutions in the country, an important factor is the further development of higher educational institutions, which provide an innovative breakthrough in all areas of activity, through the training of qualified personnel. A necessary condition was the introduction into the activities of higher education institutions of the main provisions of the Strategy for Innovative Development of the Country for 2022-2026, which determined that "bringing the level of enrollment in higher education to 50 percent and improving the quality of education. Increasing the

recruitment parameters in 2022 based on the proposals of the personnel customers. Bringing the level of enrollment in higher education of young people in 2022 to 38 percent.” [1, 2] During the formation of civil society in Uzbekistan, significant socio-economic and cultural transformations took place that require highly qualified personnel. In the context of a new stage of development, the main objectives of the Strategy to achieve the main goal is the entry of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2030 into the top 50 countries of the world according to the Global Innovation Index.[2,1] The need to improve the quality and coverage of education at all levels, the development of a system of continuous education , ensuring the flexibility of the training system, based on the needs of the economy, strengthening the scientific potential and the effectiveness of research and development. The accelerated development of society requires the creation of effective mechanisms for the integration of education, science and entrepreneurship for the widespread introduction of the results of research, development and technological work. The analysis shows that the current state of higher education in Uzbekistan does not always meet the requirements for the training of competitive personnel. First of all, this happened due to the fact that the system of personnel training did not take into account the changes regarding the process of deepening the market economy. Considering the profound changes taking place in society, the state has set a difficult task for the higher education system - to reach the international level and meet the challenges of globalization.

#### **Literature analysis and methods**

In the period of a new stage in the development of society, it becomes relevant to provide decent higher education to graduates of secondary schools, academic lyceums and professional colleges. The problems of higher education in the conditions of a new stage of development in the Republic of Uzbekistan are considered in the works of social scientists of the Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov (Russian Federation), Harvard University (USA), University of Oxford (Great Britain), University of Paris (France), Nagoya University (Japan), National University of Uzbekistan named after M. Ulugbek (Uzbekistan), Tashkent State University of Economics, (Uzbekistan), Samarkand State University (Uzbekistan), Fergana State University (Uzbekistan), Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A large amount of information is provided by studies conducted by international organizations: The World Bank presented the World Development Report 2018: Learning as a means of realizing educational prospects, and the measures necessary for the development of the education and training sector in Uzbekistan were discussed. (2018), report Uzbekistan - education sector analysis (English) (2018). The World Bank specialists analyzed the state and modernization of the education system. The works of scientists included in the international program provide a deep, scientific overview of the educational system of Uzbekistan. The results of the scientific review are published on the resource exclusive.kz (Kazakhstan 30 мая 2019d ). The significance of modern innovations in teaching the humanities and social sciences at a modern university is considered in the works of the following scientists: Khakimov N.Kh. Zulfikarov Sh.Kh., Kadirov N.N. [3,223], Khakimov N.Kh. [4,3], Khalmuradov R.I. [ 5, 135], Umarova D.Z. [6,47], Abdullaeva D.K. [7,143].

It should be noted the significant work of the authors who have made a worthy contribution to the study of this problem and published scientific articles in foreign publications over the past three years ("Theoretical & Applied Science", "European science review", "Europäische Fachhochschule", "Eastern European Scientific Journal" , "Sciences of Europe").

Higher education of the country is intended for the training of highly qualified personnel with subsequent employment in various areas of socio-economic activity, as well as managerial service areas, scientific, economic, technical, and so on. The system of modern higher education is responsible for the skills and special knowledge provided for future specialists, orients student youth towards the disclosure of theoretical or practical aspects, in the vectors of the chosen profession, taking into account the creative use of the latest achievements of science and technology. In modern conditions, the role and importance of highly qualified personnel in ensuring the sustainable development of the country, security, production of competitive goods, and equal admission to universities of young people from various strata of society is becoming increasingly relevant. This task strongly dictates the need to increase the prestige of the universities of Uzbekistan, increase the number of non-state educational institutions, and attract highly qualified personnel to the sphere. One of the innovations in organizing the preparation and conduct of the process of admission to higher educational institutions for graduates of secondary schools, academic lyceums and professional colleges is the provision of the opportunity to enter several higher educational institutions at the same time. The next important event in the country was the introduction of a system that allows universities to independently determine the admission of students to the first year, taking into account their real capabilities, the opening of evening and correspondence faculties. The conditions created during the new stage of development in the country for expanding the opportunities of the private sector impose even more new requirements on the quality of training of bachelors and masters. However, in the process of structural transformations, it became clear that most of the specialists are not ready for them, their knowledge, qualifications and skills do not meet modern requirements.

Measures are being taken to increase opportunities for students to study at foreign universities. In the context of the deepening of the market economy and the development of the digital society, the system of higher educational institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan includes the following educational institutions:

- universities specializing in academic and professional programs, in accordance with state standards. At the same time, all of them do not have a direct dependence on departmental subordination or form of ownership;
- institutions engaged in scientific and pedagogical activities, as well as research activities necessary for the functioning of universities;
- structures that carry out state management of higher education.

During the years of democratic reforms, the personnel training system has been improved in Uzbekistan. There is a two-stage system of higher education: bachelor's and master's degrees, and the number of higher educational institutions is growing. Branches of a number of leading universities in Europe and Asia, the United States of America successfully operate in the country. Personnel training has been organized in

more than 100 new areas of undergraduate studies , 94 specialties of the magistracy. In 2018, Tashkent State University of Economics and Ural State University of Economics signed an agreement on the creation of a joint international educational program. In addition, in order to fill the shortage of teachers in preschool institutions, a branch of Bucheon University and a branch of Sojong University (South Korea) began their activities in the 2018-2019 academic year. Yeosu Technical Institute (South Korea) became the first private university in Uzbekistan, and Webster University became the first American university to open its representative office in Uzbekistan. In 2019, the Kokand Non-State University began its work. The university began its activities from the 2019/2020 academic year. Admission parameters for undergraduate and graduate specializations are determined by the educational institution itself, based on the needs of the labor market and its material and technical capabilities. The procedure and rules for admission are also developed by the university itself. In addition, he was granted the right to open new directions and specializations. [8,1]

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “ On the development strategy of the new Uzbekistan for 2022-2026” outlines specific measures to develop the higher education sector. “ Increasing the number of non-state higher educational institutions to at least 50 by 2026 . Bringing the number of non-state higher educational organizations in 2022 to 34 by creating at least one non-state higher educational institution in Navoi, Samarkand, Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya regions and the city of Tashkent" [9,2]. In modern conditions, the issues of stimulating research and innovation activities, creating mechanisms for introducing its achievements into practice are of particular necessity. To achieve these goals, a two-level system of postgraduate education has been introduced, which includes basic doctoral studies (with the defense of a thesis and the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy - PhD in the relevant field of science) and doctoral studies (with the defense of a dissertation and the award of the degree of Doctor of Science - ScD ). In order to raise the system of organization of research activities to a qualitatively new level, measures were taken to further improve the activities of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the main tasks and priority areas of the Academy of Sciences were determined based on modern requirements, and special attention was paid to stimulating effective scientific activity.

### **Results of the study**

The country has begun the development and phased introduction of new curricula, programs of new specialties, internships are being introduced at joint ventures for the teaching staff of specialized departments of universities, the introduction of systematic qualification practice for students and practical training in production. Each university introduces stage-by-stage teaching of specialty disciplines in English, internships in developed countries are introduced for promising scientific and pedagogical personnel, and the system of training in the magistracy is critically analyzed. It is important to raise the status of university departments with the strengthening of their responsibility for ensuring the quality of education. “ Targeted preparation of 10 potential higher educational institutions for inclusion in the international QS and THE rankings until 2026. Development of a targeted program for the inclusion of higher educational institutions in the international rankings QS and

THE. Selection of 10 potential higher educational institutions. Development and approval of a target program for 5 years for inclusion in international rankings of higher educational institutions based on the potential and specifics.” [ 10.2] Based on the needs of customers, base universities will independently develop curricula, programs of academic disciplines. To prevent wasting working time on work that is not characteristic of the educational process, new mechanisms for the time norms of professors and teachers are introduced, taking into account teaching loads, the principle "the level of student progress is the main criterion for evaluating the activities of professors and teachers" will be introduced, modern methods of monitoring and evaluating knowledge are being introduced students. The study of the social sciences occupies an exceptionally important place in the process of the revival and growth of national self-consciousness and a sense of national pride.

Turning to the history of the native land, it must be remembered that this is the “memory of the people” and therefore requires a careful and respectful attitude. The social sciences require a serious approach and make you think about the social, political and economic motives of what is happening, behind which are the joys and sufferings of the human race. Therefore, a look at the unbroken chain of centuries must remain clear, inquisitive and intent, in order to see the trends in the development of society. Thus, the social sciences form the worldview, improve the intellect and spiritual culture in general of the future economist. A specialist with a high moral, political culture, a competitive modern economist is distinguished by conscious service to the Fatherland - the land on which he was born and raised.

In the context of a new stage in the development of society, it is necessary “to develop the national idea, which is a source of inspiration and strength for us in achieving our lofty goals. We need to strengthen national self-consciousness, study the ancient and rich history of our Motherland in more depth, intensify research work in this direction, and support the activities of humanitarian scientists in every possible way. The evaluation of the past must be objective, most importantly, free from any ideological dogma" [11,4]

### **Discussion**

The main tasks of teaching social sciences in higher education in the context of the digitalization of society are:

- deep and comprehensive assimilation by students of the richest historical experience of the peoples of Uzbekistan, saturated with complex, dramatic, and often tragic events, based on the principles of science, objectivity, creative analysis of the development of the social process, multifaceted and controversial historical events;

- raising the moral and political culture of student youth, which is especially important in the current conditions of building a democratic, rule-of-law state and developing civil society, further strengthening strategic relations between developed countries and Uzbekistan, especially in the humanitarian and economic spheres;

- educating the younger generation, future bachelors of a sense of responsibility to society, the state, civic duty, high patriotism, deep respect for the pages of the history of the peoples of Uzbekistan.

- Respect for national and universal values, the state system, the Constitution, the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main goal of the social sciences is to help students master the content of the development of society on the basis of modern philosophical scientific and theoretical methods for analyzing the historical past. In our opinion, in order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to define the following specific tasks:

- structure the educational material in a logic that will provide the most productive understanding of the main patterns, directions for the development of modern relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and foreign countries in the context of world politics;

- to give future highly qualified bachelors methodological recommendations on materials of modern history, philosophy, history of economic doctrines, English and Russian languages and other social and human sciences to prepare for lectures and seminars, innovative forms of independent work;

- characterize the content of the main material on the academic discipline, specify the list of primary sources, monographs, scientific collections, textbooks and teaching aids;

- provide students with tests, a list of basic and additional new literature, information network resources necessary for the study of social and humanities.

It should be noted that the study of the social and humanities is based on the pluralistic nature of assessments of the most significant historical events in science, which contributes to the development of ideological and political pluralism among students, as well as the ability to debate, discuss the socio-political problems of social disciplines at seminars. Thus, the content of subjects in the social sciences suggests focusing on key moments in the development of civil society, revealing the presence in it of global trends, national-state and ethno-cultural specifics.

### **Conclusions**

In the process of mastering the social sciences, future bachelors will learn and master the following skills:

- patterns and trends in the development of the modern history of Uzbekistan;
- the main stages of the heroic history of peoples, their direct contribution to the progress of human civilization, the development of philosophical thought, the activities of scientists, cultural figures in Uzbekistan;

- features of historical processes in the context of globalization, events and directions of the country's domestic foreign policy, the formation of pluralistic thinking skills;

- owns the basics of scientific philosophical dialogue, is capable of generalizing the analysis, the perception of scientific information regarding the processes taking place in the bowels of a democratic society, the role of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the world economy and politics;

- identify problems of a historical nature in the analysis of specific political, economic situations, their possible social consequences;- to form personnel on the basis of studying the essence of social development, independent scientifically based theoretical conclusions in the context of the digitalization of society.

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