

The youth of Uzbekistan

Today the youth accounts for the most significant part of the Uzbek society. As our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said in his speech «Today, the pivotal appeal, namely «Our children must be stronger, more knowledgeable, smarter and certainly happier than us!» took a solid place in the minds and hearts of each of us, the parents and broad public. At present, the youth up to 30 years of age make up 32 percent of our country's population, or 10 million people. The fact that our youth is turning into a decisive force of our today and tomorrow capable of rightfully assuming the responsibility for the future of our Homeland makes all of us proud and pleased»^{81 82 83}.

Uzbekistan was the first in the CIS area to have adopted the Law «State youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan» (September 14, 2016)² The country has defined the care about the youth, support of its initiatives and protection of personal rights and freedoms as the priority directions of the law. The law provided for the legal and social protection of the young people, direct participation of the youth in shaping and implementing the policy of development of society.

The strategically important tasks have been consistently realized in the Uzbek society for over the past 25 years of the country's independence. They have played a significant role in ensuring so that the youth gains the deep knowledge, forms the professional skills, and fully manifests its talents.

In the framework of on-going reforms in the educational sphere the Law «On education» (July 2, 1992) and the National Program for Cadres Training (August 29, 1997) have been adopted in the country. According to the experts, the Program does not have analogs in terms of its significance and scale.

The Program, unique both on its essence and substance, which envisages the transition onto a 12-year education, makes up an integral continuous system of education. It imbibes the nine-year general secondary school and a three-year secondary special professional training at colleges and academic lyceums.

* ИИБ Академияси 4-ўқув курси тингловчиси.

⁸² Address by Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the joint session of the chambers of Oliy Majlis dedicated to a solemn ceremony of assuming the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. T. December 14, 2016. www.press-service.uz

⁸³ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan-406 «On State youth policy». Announced in «Xalq so'zi» on September 15, 2016. №182 (6617).

The academic lyceums, which are established at the higher educational institutions, give the young people an opportunity to obtain the deeper knowledge to gain the higher education on the chosen majors, and the colleges, along with continuing the education on special subjects, allow to acquire the medium-qualification profession on two to three subjects so that each and every person joining the mature life could realize his abilities and find his own place in society.

The radical reforms were carried out in the sphere of higher special education. The country undertook the transition onto a European system of training the bachelor's and master's students. At the moment, about 350 thousand students attend the 69 higher educational institutions nationwide on 850 directions and majors.

At the early years of independence the «Umid» Foundation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to support the study of talented youth abroad, as well as the «Ustoz» Republican Foundation have been established in Uzbekistan to assist the young talented scientists, pedagogues, and students to step onto the level of advanced scientific research and high technologies. Later, those foundations were brought together into the «Istedod» Foundation of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to raise the qualification of perspective young pedagogues and scientific cadres.

The issues of social protection of the young people receive a special attention in Uzbekistan. The law provides for the minimum level of social care of the youth. It guarantees the free medical services and education, attendance of recreational and cultural facilities on easy terms, the soft loans for the construction or procurement of housing and other privileges.

The Decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On additional measures to materially and morally stimulate the young families»⁸⁴ of May 18, 2007 became the basis to shape the new stage in the youth policy. At the moment, there are more than 995 thousand young families in Uzbekistan, which accounts for about 16% of all families in the country.

In line with this document, the young families are receiving assistance in building the housing, procuring the construction materials, and equipping the household. For such purposes they are receiving the mortgage, consumer and micro credits. Those funds were channeled to establish the small business and private entrepreneurship, construction, procurement and rent

⁸⁴ Decree of the President of Uzbekistan «On additional measures to materially and morally stimulate the young families». T. May 18, 2007. PD-3878.

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of housing, purchase of furniture and expensive household technique.

The care about the health of young generation is an important priority of the state youth policy. The Ministry of Health and the country's medical workers have accomplished a profound work in this direction. The protection of motherhood and childhood remains at the focus of attention. At the moment, the network of screening centers successfully operates in Uzbekistan. They provide for the health of young mothers and babies.

The solid and time-honored system of bringing up the healthy generation has been established in the country. In 2002 on the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan the Fund for development the children's sports of Uzbekistan was established. It has become the organizer of popular physical culture and sports engagement with children and young men and women in the country. For over the period since the Fund has been established more than 720 children's sports facilities have been built and repaired. For those purposes the state has allocated over UZS 140 billion.

Uzbekistan Special Olympics aims to hold the year-round trainings and sports competitions on various Olympic types of sports for the children and grown-ups with mental disabilities, while rendering permanent support for them to physically develop, experience joy and share with their achievements, talents, abilities and friendship with their families, other athletes of the Special Olympics and society.

The athletes from Uzbekistan secured 4 gold and 2 silver, as well as 7 bronze medals at the Olympics Games that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 5 August to 21 August 2016 with participation of 11,237 athletes from 207 countries.

Yet the youngest talents are also under the care of «Kamolot». The Republican children's organization of «Kamalak» ('Rainbow') is one of active wings of the movement. It has the vast structure, which unites over 4 million schoolchildren.

The upbringing of the harmonically developed young generation in Uzbekistan is of the most significant priorities. At the same time, it is important that upbringing and education of the forthcoming generation are based both on the national traditions and values, and advanced international experience.

The state promotes the unveiling of talented youth. Thus, the nationwide prize «Nikhol» which was instituted in 2000 has become an important step in supporting the youth in the sphere of arts and developing the national variety arts.

Thanks to the State prize after the name of Zulfia instituted in honor of the people's poetess of Uzbekistan thousands of girls successfully start off and realize themselves in the sphere of education, science, literature, culture and arts.

As the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov put it in his speech «The youth is not only our hope and future, but it is a decisive force of our today and tomorrow». Such definition will serve as the basis of the country's youth policy.

References:

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