

THE YOUTH AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. YOUTH POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN

*Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan
named after Mirzo Ulugbek*

*The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign languages
Philology and teaching languages*

*Scientific advisor: Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi
nafisateshaboyeva@jbnuu.uz*

Student of group 402-22: Juraboyeva Iroda Qahramon qizi

Annotation: This article provides a comprehensive overview of the achievements of the youth in Uzbekistan and the youth policy initiatives implemented by the government to support their growth and success. It highlights the significant contributions of young people in entrepreneurship, social and cultural initiatives, and education, showcasing their talent, creativity, and determination. The article also emphasizes the importance of empowering the youth and involving them in decision-making processes to shape the future of the country. Overall, it offers valuable insights into the positive impact of youth empowerment and government support on the development of Uzbekistan.

Key words: Enhancement, youth policy, methodology, international, contribute, generation, effective, responsibility, political, communication, experience, professional life, implementation, qualitative.

Executive Summary

In present-day Uzbekistan, children and young people below 30 years of age constitute 60 per cent of the population. In 15-20 years, they will become the largest labour force Uzbekistan has ever had, presenting a unique opportunity to take the country to a new level of socioeconomic development. Grasping this opportunity entails the development of a strategic long-term vision on youth development, informed by evidence and the opinions of young people. The study 'The Youth of Uzbekistan: Challenges and Prospects' is a joint effort by UNICEF, the Nationwide Movement Yuksalish and the Youth Union of Uzbekistan that aims to strengthen youth policy development and implementation by providing in-depth findings and actionable recommendations from the perspective of young people and in their own voices. Conducted between 2018-2020, the study targeted youth between 14 and 30 years of age across Uzbekistan's 12 provinces, the capital city Tashkent and the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. It employed a mixed methods-approach

composed of a quantitative survey with 4,458 respondents and a qualitative survey with a total of 24 Focus Group Discussions

Findings

Education & Learning Across Uzbekistan, students from different educational institutions indicate far-reaching satisfaction with the present educational infrastructure (e.g. built environment, instruction, learning materials). However, they depict the situation to be less favorable in rural areas than in urban centres. As to their learning environments, students express a wish for these to be more positively motivating, more practice-oriented and to provide better-quality education. In particular, students want better training in language skills, to increase their business literacy and to be better prepared for the transition into professional life. For many students the costs of education cause personal stress and frustration. These include the need to pay for private tutoring, to pay bribes and to pay high tuition fees in order to enroll into institutions of higher education. Professional Life & Economic Opportunities Among 19-30-year-old respondents, the rate of those not transferring to further education, training, or the labour market after secondary education (NEET) is an alarming 54.6 per cent. For young women, the NEET-rate is consistently higher than for young men, reaching 74.0 per cent as compared to 24.8 per cent. When it comes to their future work, it is important for young people in Uzbekistan that their particular professional field is their ‘own choice’ (and not that of their parents). In addition, working should lead to a ‘decent income’ and allow the individual to be surrounded by a positive ‘collective’ of colleagues who are supportive to youth and enable continuous learning

The factors impeding the ambition of young women to generate own income are household and family-care responsibilities, and lower mobility in regards to being able to relocate towards economic opportunities. As compared to their contemporaries residing in urban centres, youths in rural areas enjoy fewer opportunities for continuing their education or securing employment, and therefore show an interest in pursuing entrepreneurship. More generally, young people critically assess the role of preexisting networks (and nepotism) and the family’s individual economic capability of advancing their social mobility

. Social Embedding

Uzbekistan’s youth almost exclusively trusts and relies on their parents. In contrast, many perceive their friendships to be at risk from a lack of support, breaches of secrecy and social stigmatization. In relation to the elder generation, young people point to the expectation that they should be ‘obedient’, especially within their neighbourhood communities (mahalla). A sense of independence increases among young people once they start to generate their own income or after they get married, but this applies more for males than for females. The present and future of gender

relations is assessed by youth along the lines of a continued conservative patriarchy (which was more the male position) versus a change towards equal rights (which was more the female position). When it comes to marriage, the new partner is depicted as a source of moral, practical and financial support. At the same time, married youth acknowledges that the transition to living as a married couple with the extended family (usually the husband's parents) is a difficult one

Residency & Mobility

Young people in Uzbekistan show an exceptional sense of belonging to their home villages and cities, and their motivation not to migrate is high, both in-country (80.3 per cent) and abroad (77.3 per cent). The comfort of residing in familiar geographical and social environments seems to be inspired by a dislike of change, a fear of the unknown, or negative migration experiences. There is widespread agreement among youth that 'a good place to live' can be either a rural or an urban setting, as long as it fulfils the essential condition that one's family can lead a quiet, healthy and peaceful life there. Societal Impact The younger generation indicate a strong interest in 'political news' and also feel 'free' to express their opinions publicly. However, only a few young people are active in public or political organizations. Young people widely share the opinion that they are excluded from decisionmaking and activities at the local (mahalla) level, based on the societal perception that 'adults know better'. They therefore advocate for a change to communication between themselves and the elder generation, and it is essential to them that a serious interest in the life-experience of young people emerges, and a proactive engagement with them. As far as youth organizations are concerned, in particular the Youth Union, it is generally suggested that these should focus their activities more on skills-development and on improving information flow on topics relevant to educational and professional success.

Digital Life & the Internet

While young people in Uzbekistan express a very strong interest in learning more about computers (86.9 per cent), there still is a significant group (37.8 per cent), composed particularly of females and rural youth, who do not have any computer skills. Furthermore, the gap is noticeable between the large number (53.9 per cent) who 'never' use the Internet (primarily youth in rural areas and females) and the smaller number using it 'daily' (25.4 per cent) (primarily urban residents and males). The Internet itself is equally represented as a 'useful' instrument, for maintaining social contact and for study or work purposes, but also a potentially dangerous place for 'wasting time' or being exposed to 'bad influences' (which is disproportionately a constraint for females, who fear stigmatization). **Concerns, Leisure & the End of Youth**

While young people in Uzbekistan generally consider themselves ‘happy’, there is also a significant number who admit to ‘feeling sad or depressed’ regularly (26.5 per cent at least once a week). While self-reported health satisfaction is generally high (79.7 per cent at least ‘good’), there are critical voices about the public health system that point to inadequate conditions in rural areas and the overall high costs of good-quality treatment or medicine. The major areas that youth identifies for improvement are better-quality education and training, effective measures against youth unemployment and low incomes, as well as addressing the societal issues of early marriage/divorce and the disconnect between the older and younger generations. When it comes leisure time, the potential is lower in rural areas and among females, due to increased farm, household and care-work responsibilities. Finally, the perception of when youth comes to an end is varied, with explanations ranging from specific ages (up to 60), to the status of being married or becoming a parent.

Uzbekistan is at an important demographic juncture with 60% of population under 30 years of age. Over the next two decades, today’s large child and youth population will move into the labour force, making it the largest Uzbekistan has ever had. With the right investments now, today’s bulging youth population can be the generation that takes Uzbekistan to the next level of socio-economic development.

Alternatively, a failure to adequately invest in the well-being of today’s children and young people may lead to greater disenfranchisement and higher level of youth unemployment. This in turn could create a breeding ground for political and religious extremism and intensify labour emigration, thereby leading to a loss of the precious “demographic dividend”.

The way forward

The President and the Government of Uzbekistan are giving high priority to youth to ensure they can realize their full potential and contribute to the future prosperity of the country. UNICEF supports the Government in ensuring that ongoing reforms and initiatives reflect the rights, interests and aspirations of children and young people and that no young person is left behind.

UNICEF is co-leading the UN Task Team on Youth and the development of the UN Joint Programme on Youth. Given the alarming rate of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET Youth), the joint programme will focus on empowering and expanding opportunities of these young people.

Activities

National study “Youth of Uzbekistan: aspirations, needs and risks”

The main objective of the national youth study is to collect data on the aspirations, needs and risks faced by the youth on issues that matter in their lives and for the realization of their rights. The findings of the study are intended to inform youth policy enhancement and its implementation, from the perspective of young people.

The targeted population is youth of 14-30 years old nationwide, including vulnerable groups.

Given the specificity of meaningfully involving young people in research, leading international experts in youth policy elaborated the methodology and tools in close collaboration with national partners, including the Youth Union, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ministry of Public Education, and Ministry of Health.

In conclusion, the achievements of the youth in Uzbekistan are a testament to their talent, creativity, and determination. With the support of government policies and programs, young people in Uzbekistan are thriving in various fields and playing a crucial role in the country's development. By continuing to invest in the youth and empowering them to reach their full potential, Uzbekistan is paving the way for a brighter future for generations to come.

THE LIST OF USED LITERATURE

1. YOUTH POLICY OF UZBEKISTAN IN GLOBAL STAGE
2. THE ISSUE OF YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN IS THE TOP PRIORITY OF STATE POLICY
3. Youth of Uzbekistan: Challenges and Prospects | UNICEF
4. STATE YOUTH POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN: ITS GOALS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES - Zenodo
5. Teshaboyeva, N., & Mamayoqubova, S. (2020). COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH TO LANGUAGE TEACHING. In МОЛОДОЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬ: ВЫЗОВЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ (pp. 409-414).
6. Teshaboyeva, N. (2020). LINGUISTIC PERSONALITY, ITS STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE NEW PERSPECTIVE DIRECTIONS. In МОЛОДОЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬ: ВЫЗОВЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ (pp. 415-420).
7. Teshaboyeva, N. Z. (2019). TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH LITERATURE INTESL AND TEFL CLASSROOMS. In СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ ТЕХНОЛОГИИ: АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ, ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ И ИННОВАЦИИ (pp. 82-84).
8. Teshaboyeva, N. (2023). THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM IN PRESENT DAY. Журнал иностранных языков и лингвистики, 5(5).
9. Teshaboyeva, N. (2023). THE MODERN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES. Журнал иностранных языков и лингвистики, 5(5).
10. Teshaboyeva, N. Z. (2023, November). Adjective word group and its types. In "Conference on Universal Science Research 2023" (Vol. 1, No. 11, pp. 59-61).

11. Teshaboyeva, N. Z. (2023, November). Modifications of Consonants in Connected speech. In " Conference on Universal Science Research 2023" (Vol. 1, No. 11, pp. 7-9).
12. Teshaboyeva, N., & Rayimberdiyev, S. (2023, May). THE IMPORTANCE OF USING MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING ENGLISH CLASSES. In Academic International Conference on Multi-Disciplinary Studies and Education (Vol. 1, No. 8, pp. 149-153).
13. Nafisa, T., & Marina, S. (2023). TEACHING AND LEARNING OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY IN TESL AND TEFL CLASSROOMS. International Journal of Contemporary Scientific and Technical Research, 465-469.