



THE UZBEKISTAN-2030 STRATEGY: PRIORITY DIRECTIONS AND PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the principal directions of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy – its orientation toward human dignity and the interests of the people, and its coverage of the questions of education and science, youth policy, economic development, public administration, and spirituality. The methodological significance of the strategy for educators in higher-education institutions, and the possibilities of linking it with the teaching process and scholarly research, are elucidated. The article also puts forward practical proposals for promoting the content of the strategy more widely.*

Keywords: *Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy; New Uzbekistan; human dignity; education reform; youth policy; economic development; public administration; spirituality; higher education; civil society.*

INTRODUCTION

Today, the processes of globalization, geopolitical competition, sharp changes in the information space, and economic transformation require every state to define its own path of development clearly. According to World Bank data, long-term strategic planning is a key factor in ensuring the sustainable economic growth of countries (World Bank, 2023:14). In particular, protecting national interests, ensuring the welfare of the people, exalting human dignity, and establishing the principles of justice in society are among the priority tasks of state policy. The large-scale reforms carried out in Uzbekistan in recent years are significant precisely because they are directed toward these aims.

The idea of “New Uzbekistan” has today become an important concept defining the political, economic, legal, social, and spiritual foundations of our country’s development (Mirziyoyev, 2022:5). At its core lie noble aims such as ensuring human interests, strengthening dialogue with the people, establishing openness and justice in public administration, developing education and science, and creating broad opportunities for young people. Research conducted on the basis of the UN Human Development Index



shows that countries which have defined human capital as a priority direction of their state development strategy achieve sustainable growth (UNDP, 2022:3).

From this point of view, the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy is an important programmatic document defining the country's future directions of development (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). The strategy establishes five priority directions aimed at developing all the important spheres of state and social life in the period up to 2030. It has been noted in the scholarly literature that this approach is in harmony with the experience of world practice – in particular, with the long-term national development strategies of Singapore, South Korea, and Finland (Fukuda-Parr & Hulme, 2011:17).

The relevance of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy is determined, above all, by its orientation toward human dignity and the interests of the people. In the present era, a country's development is assessed not only by indicators of GDP growth but also by the quality of human life, access to education and medicine, social justice, legal guarantees, the potential of young people, and the spiritual atmosphere in society. As emphasized within the framework of the capability approach of Sen and Nussbaum, the center of the measure of development must be not income but the opportunity for a person to live a life worthy of a human being (Sen, 1999:75).

For educators working in higher-education institutions, this strategy is not only a political-legal document but also an important methodological resource that enriches the teaching and upbringing process. The aim of this article is to analyze the principal directions of the strategy and to demonstrate its practical significance in the higher-education system.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employed analytical-comparative, documentary, and interdisciplinary approach methods. The official text of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy (Decree No. PF-158, 2023), the speeches and reports of President Mirziyoyev (Mirziyoyev, 2022; 2023), and the materials of the Lex.uz national database of legislation were used as the principal primary sources. As secondary sources, the reports of the UN Development Programme (UNDP, 2022), World Bank data (World Bank, 2023), and foreign scholarly research on education reform (Fullan, 2007), economic development (Fukuda-Parr & Hulme, 2011), human development (Sen, 1999), and public administration (Acemoğlu & Robinson, 2012) were drawn upon. Generalization was carried out on the basis of the author's



pedagogical observations across the principal directions of the strategy – human dignity, education, youth policy, economic development, public administration, and spirituality.

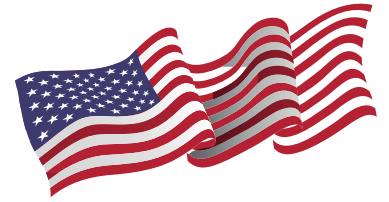
RESULTS

Content and goals of the strategy. The Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy is a comprehensive document that has defined the priority directions of the development of New Uzbekistan (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). In it, directions such as developing human potential, ensuring sustainable economic growth, conserving water resources and protecting the environment, ensuring the rule of law and strengthening people-oriented public administration, and continuing a policy of security and an open foreign policy acquire special importance. As Acemoğlu has emphasized (Acemoğlu & Robinson, 2012:430), the quality of institutions is the main factor in the development of countries, and inclusive institutions ensure development – the approach defined in the strategy rests precisely on this principle.

The main goal of the strategy is to create decent conditions for every citizen to realize his potential, to raise the welfare of the people, and to build a strong economy and a just society (Mirziyoyev, 2023:12). These goals are organically interconnected: quality education develops human capital, and human capital, in turn, is the main foundation of an innovative economy and effective public administration (UNDP, 2022:45). In this sense, the strategy defines the country’s development not merely in terms of separate spheres but as a unified system of national goals.

Human dignity and social justice. One of the most important aspects of the strategy is the exaltation of human dignity and the ensuring of social justice. It is not by chance that the principle “For the sake of human dignity” has become the chief criterion of state policy (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). As Amartya Sen has elaborated in his theory of human development, the true measure of human development is the citizen’s ability to realize his own capabilities freely (Sen, 1999:18). It is precisely from this point of view that the principle of “human dignity” defined in the strategy is scientifically well-grounded.

Ensuring social justice, supporting the needy strata of the population, reducing poverty, and creating decent conditions for women and young people further enhance the practical significance of the strategy (Mirziyoyev, 2022:47). Within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, too, it is precisely the



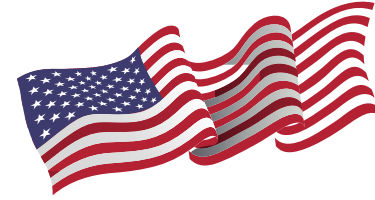
eradication of poverty, equality, and the creation of opportunities that stand in first place; the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy consistently continues these goals in the national context (UNDP, 2022:12).

Education, science, and youth policy. Education and science are a decisive factor in the sustainable development of any state. The strategy defines the modernization of the education system, teaching young people modern knowledge and professions, supporting research activity, and educating an innovatively thinking generation as among its important tasks (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). As Fullan has emphasized (Fullan, 2007:9), for systemic education reforms to be effective they must be carried out not merely by changing curricula but through raising the qualifications of educators, improving the organizational culture of the school, and strengthening society's involvement in education.

Young people make up a large part of the population of Uzbekistan; for this reason, youth policy is one of the strategic directions determining the country's future. The strategy defines as an important task the creation of broad opportunities for young people to receive an education, acquire a profession, engage in entrepreneurship, and be involved in innovation (Mirziyoyev, 2022:63). According to the World Bank's 2023 report, states with a large share of young people in their population must place investment in youth first in order to make productive use of the "demographic dividend" (World Bank, 2023:88).

Economic development and the welfare of the people. In the strategy, the question of economic development is organically linked with ensuring the welfare of the people. Sustainable economic growth, supporting entrepreneurship, improving the investment climate, creating new jobs, and reducing poverty are among the basic conditions of the country's development (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). The ultimate goal of economic reforms is not merely to improve statistical indicators but to raise the ordinary citizen's living conditions and confidence in the future. As Fukuda-Parr and Hulme have emphasized (Fukuda-Parr & Hulme, 2011:28), economic growth does not automatically lead to social results – it is effective when carried out together with targeted policy and mechanisms ensuring equality.

Public administration and the rule of law. In the strategy, tasks such as bringing state services closer to the people, reducing bureaucratic obstacles, and strengthening openness and accountability acquire pressing importance (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). As Acemoğlu and Robinson have demonstrated in their work "Why Nations Fail"



(Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012:79), inclusive political institutions and the rule of law are the main factors ensuring the long-term economic and social development of countries. Uzbekistan's reforms in this direction are being positively assessed by international experts (World Bank, 2023:22).

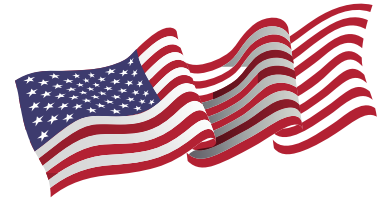
Spiritual foundations and national values. Development is not limited to economic or legal reforms alone. In the strategy, national values, spirituality, historical memory, and patriotic upbringing appear as important factors in the development of society (Mirziyoyev, 2022:89). In conditions where various ideological threats are increasing in the global information space, the preservation by the young generation of their national identity is of great importance; in this regard, the cooperation of the family, the mahalla, the school, and higher-education institutions must be strengthened.

DISCUSSION

The methodological significance of the strategy in higher education. As an educator working in the higher-education system, one may regard the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy not merely as a state program but as an important methodological resource that enriches the content of the teaching and upbringing process. The goals and tasks defined in this document serve to broaden students' worldview, to form in them an analytical approach to social-political processes, and to strengthen their sense of involvement in the development of the Homeland (Mirziyoyev, 2023:34).

In the work of departments, it is expedient to elucidate the content of the strategy through academic classes, seminars, scholarly circles, and conferences. In particular, analyzing the scholarly-theoretical and practical aspects of the strategy in the directions of the social-humanitarian sciences, political science, international relations, economics, and pedagogy is of great importance for students. As Fullan has emphasized (Fullan, 2007:41), strategic changes achieve real effect when they are implemented not only at the level of policy but at the level of the institution and the classroom.

The task of the teacher consists in forming in students the skills of independent thinking, logical analysis, impartial assessment of state policy, and active participation in the life of society. Likewise, it is important to expand themes related to the strategy in research work and to involve students in preparing articles, theses, projects, and analytical works. This process raises the scholarly potential of young people and prompts them to understand the content of the reforms deeply (UNDP, 2022:67).



CONCLUSION

To conclude, the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy is an important programmatic document of the development of New Uzbekistan that defines, in a comprehensive manner, the country's political, economic, social, spiritual, and intellectual development (Decree No. PF-158, 2023). At the center of the strategy stand priority goals such as human dignity, a just society, a strong economy, quality education, spiritual elevation, and people-oriented public administration. Its practical significance lies in the fact that this document serves to implement reforms on the basis of clear goals, tasks, and results (Mirziyoyev, 2023:58).

Putting the tasks defined in the strategy into practice depends on the active participation of state bodies, educational institutions, the institutions of civil society, young people, and every citizen. From the standpoint of a department's teacher, explaining the content of the strategy to students in depth and linking it with the educational process and research activity is of great importance. Research has confirmed that educational institutions play a decisive role in instilling national development strategies in the minds of young people (Fukuda-Parr & Hulme, 2011:44).

On this basis, the following proposals are put forward:

– First, it is necessary to organize regularly, in higher-education institutions, special seminars, open lessons, and round-table discussions aimed at explaining the essence of the strategy to students.

– Second, it is expedient to strengthen, at the level of departments, the practice of preparing scholarly articles, theses, analytical briefs, and student projects along the directions of the strategy.

– Third, in order to involve young people actively in the reform process, it is necessary to support their initiatives, start-ups, social projects, and research.

– Fourth, the aspects of the strategy connected with education, spirituality, youth policy, and the economy should be widely promoted through social networks and educational platforms.

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