

STATE YOUTH POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN: ITS GOALS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract: Uzbekistan is one of the most youthful countries in the world, with around 60% of its population aged under 30. Therefore, it is no surprise that the government attaches great importance to youth issues. Since gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has developed a comprehensive system of state youth policy, which aims to ensure the well-being, education, and participation of young people in the country's socio-economic and political life. In this article, we will take a closer look at the goals, achievements, and challenges of state youth policy in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: "State policy towards youth", decision, decree, reading culture, talents, creativity, education.

The state youth policy in Uzbekistan is implemented through various significant institutions and structures. A resolution called "On Measures for the Implementation of State Youth Policy in Tashkent City" is issued by the Prime Minister of Tashkent city in collaboration with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This resolution outlines the working processes with youth, their information, events, and collaboration with different organizations.

The goals of state youth policy

State youth policy in Uzbekistan is based on the principle of the "Three Pillars" approach, which encompasses the following areas:

1. Protection and promotion of youth rights and interests. This pillar aims to ensure that young people are protected from discrimination, exploitation, and abuse, and that their rights to education, healthcare, employment, and participation in public life are respected.

2. Development of youth potential and talents. This pillar focuses on providing young people with opportunities to develop their skills, talents, and creativity through education, training, leisure activities, and participation in cultural and sports events.

3. Integration of youth into society and governance. This pillar seeks to enhance the active participation of young people in decision-making processes, promote their civic engagement, and foster their sense of belonging to Uzbekistan's diverse and multicultural society.

The achievements of state youth policy

State youth policy in Uzbekistan has accomplished much in the past three decades. Here are some of the most significant achievements:

1. Improved access to education. Uzbekistan has made great strides in expanding access to education for young people. The country has achieved universal primary education, and secondary education is also free and compulsory. The number of universities and colleges has grown, and the government offers scholarships and grants to support talented students.

2. Promotion of youth entrepreneurship. The government has launched several initiatives to support youth entrepreneurship and self-employment. For example, the "Youth Entrepreneurship Support Fund" provides loans and training to young people who want to start their businesses. There are also startup accelerators, innovation centers, and business incubators that offer mentorship, networking, and funding opportunities.

3. Protecting youth from harmful influences. The government has taken measures to protect young people from harmful influences such as drug addiction, extremism, and radicalization. The country has a robust legal framework for youth protection, and there are dedicated institutions such as the Department of Juvenile Affairs and the Center for Prevention of Extremism.

4. Greater youth participation in governance. The government has recognized the importance of involving young people in decision-making processes at all levels. There are youth councils in municipalities, regions, and at the national level, which enable young people to express their opinions and proposals on issues that affect them directly. Moreover, there are youth representatives in the parliament, and several young people hold high-ranking positions in the government.

The challenges of state youth policy

Despite the achievements of state youth policy in Uzbekistan, there are also some challenges that need to be addressed. Here are some of the most pressing ones:

1. Unemployment. Youth unemployment remains a significant challenge in Uzbekistan, with many young people struggling to find decent jobs after graduation. According to the World Bank, the youth unemployment rate stands at around 20%. The government has launched several initiatives to create jobs, such as the "Youth Guarantee" program, which provides subsidies to companies that hire young people. However, more needs to be done to ensure the employability of young people and the creation of decent jobs.

2. Gender inequalities. Although Uzbekistan has made progress in promoting gender equality, women and girls still face many barriers, including limited access to education, employment, and political participation. Young women, in particular, face intersecting forms of discrimination based on their age and gender. The government needs to develop targeted programs to address gender biases and empower young women to realize their full potential.

3. Migration. Many young people leave Uzbekistan in search of better opportunities abroad, which poses a risk of brain drain and talent flight. The government needs to create conditions that encourage young people to stay and contribute to the country's development, such as improving the quality of education, creating diverse job opportunities, and promoting entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

State youth policy in Uzbekistan has made significant progress in ensuring the well-being, education, and participation of young people in the country's socio-economic and political life. The government has developed a comprehensive system of youth policy, based on the "Three Pillars" approach, which has resulted in improved access to education, promotion of youth entrepreneurship, protection of youth from harmful influences, and greater youth participation in governance. However, there are still challenges to be addressed, such as youth unemployment, gender inequalities, and migration. Addressing these challenges will require continued efforts and targeted policies from the government, civil society, and the private sector. Ultimately, a vibrant and empowered youth population is crucial for Uzbekistan's sustainable development and social stability.

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