

Problems and Reforms in the Training of Higher Education Personnel in the Years of Independence

(On the example of the Fergana Valley regions of Uzbekistan)

Utkirjon Khoshimov PhD

Doctor of Philosophy in Historical Sciences,

University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the reforms of the higher education system carried out during the years of independence in the republic and regions of the Fergana Valley, aimed at training highly qualified personnel meeting the requirements of modern times. The study also reflects the existing problems in this area and the measures taken by the government to eliminate them.

KEYWORDS: Republic of Uzbekistan, Fergana Valley, higher education system, reforms, regulations

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important stages of the education system is the higher education system, which is aimed at training highly educated personnel. At this stage, the training of personnel who can have a significant impact on the rapid development of the economy. In the early years of independence, as in all stages of the education system of the republic, the priority was to develop the system of higher education, to raise it to a new level, to train personnel that meet modern requirements. In this regard, great importance was attached to the adaptation of this sector to the market economy, the radical reform of the higher education system.

One of the main reasons for the beginning of the reform of the higher education system in the early 1990s was the shortage of modern staff in the country. According to the data, the percentage of university graduates trained for industrial and construction enterprises in the Union is 34%, in Uzbekistan - 17%, plus 27-30 people per ten thousand people in the Union, and in Uzbekistan - 16-21 people with higher education. The need for higher education in the country is twice as high as in the Union, and even higher in Fergana region [1. p 3].

MAIN PART

It was in this context that the reform of the higher education system began. The main emphasis in the implementation of the initial reforms was based on the requirements of the time and the needs of the republic: first, the sustainability of university education; secondly, the division and specialization of higher education institutions; thirdly, it is aimed at regionalization and expansion of higher education [2. p 301].

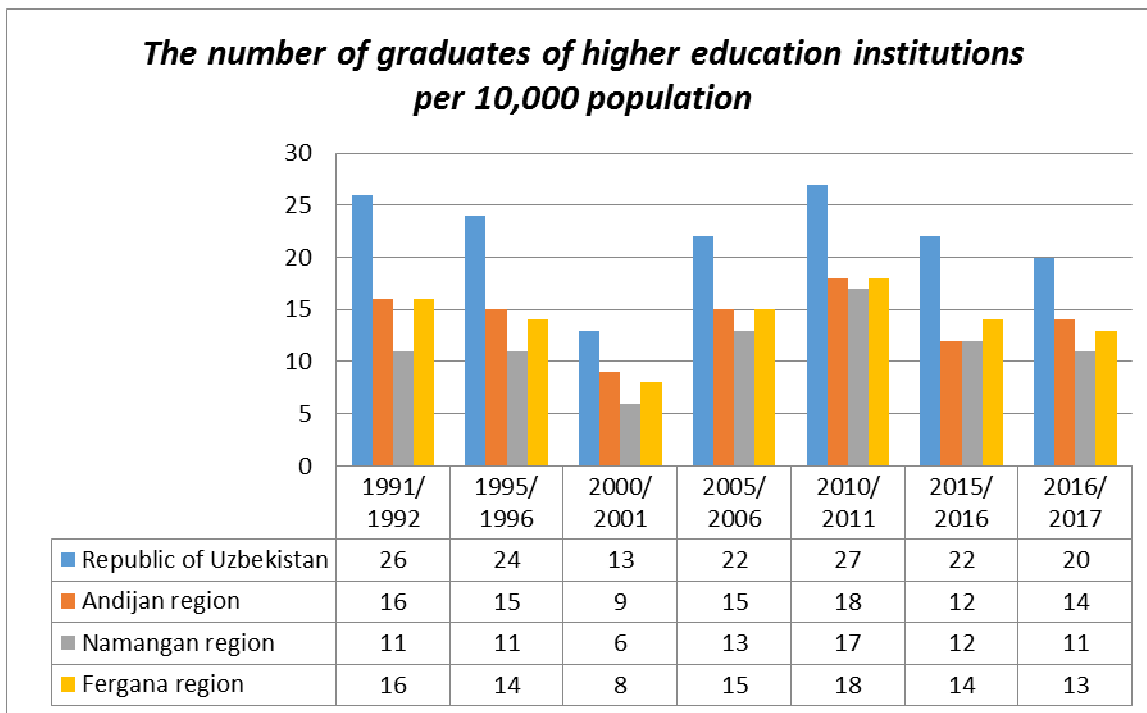
In order to meet the needs of the Republic in higher education, meeting the requirements of the times, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the establishment of new higher education institutions of the Republic" dated February 28, 1992, PF-356. In order to further improve the system of higher education, improve the training of highly qualified specialists and researchers, as well as to provide all regions of the country with them more fully and evenly, a number of higher education institutions have been established in the country [3. p 60-61].

If in the pre-independence 1991/1992 academic year, there were 52 higher education institutions in the country [4. p 3] In the 2016/2017 academic year, there were 76 higher education institutions in the country, including 20 universities, 36 institutes, 2 academies, 11 branches, and 7 branches of foreign OTMs [5]. At the opening of foreign higher education institutions and branches, special attention was paid to the cooperation of the republic with the developed countries of the world, the United Kingdom, Russia, Singapore, Italy and Korea.

It should be noted that in the first twenty-five years of independence, the coverage of young people with higher education has not increased, in line with the growth of the number of higher education institutions in the country. This has created problems in the training of highly educated personnel in various fields. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, in his address to the Oliy Majlis on the results of 2018, touched upon this issue, emphasizing the following. "In the past, the coverage of graduates of higher and secondary special education institutions in Uzbekistan with higher education was 9-10%. Thanks to the measures taken over the past two years, we have managed to increase this figure by more than 15%. But that is not enough. Because if we look at the experience of developed countries in the world, this figure is 60-70% of them "[6].

Despite the increase in the number of higher education institutions in the country, the quotas for the enrollment of young people in higher education, ie admission to higher educational institutions, have not been increased in line with the growing population. This, in turn, has led to a reduction in the number of highly educated people among the population. The following table provides detailed information.

Table 1



From the above table we can see that in 1991, 26 specialists with higher education were trained per 10,000 population in the country, and by 2000 this figure was 13, which is 50% less than in 1991. In 2016, this figure was 20. As we noted above, in 1991 the Republic was lagging behind the All-Union level in terms of training more highly educated personnel per 10,000 population, while in 2016 the figure was even lower than in 1991. The number of higher education in Andijan region was 16 in 1991, 14 in 2016, 11 in Namangan in 1991, 11 in 2016, 16 in 1991 and 13 in 2016 in Fergana region. In the Fergana Valley, we can see that the number of highly educated personnel per 10,000 population is much lower than the number of staff. If we take into account the fact that the population increased by more than 30% compared to 1991, this, of course, is a matter of concern.

The decrease in the number of people with higher education among the population has led to a shortage of people with higher education in a number of areas of society. For example, out of about 60,000 educators working in the field of preschool education, only 21% had higher education and 79% had secondary special education [7]. It was time to find a solution to this and many other problems in the education system, to develop this area at the level of modern requirements.

It should be noted that in 2017, as in all areas of our society, a lot of attention is paid to the implementation of a number of reforms in the higher education system. Many important decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic on the development and reform of higher education have been adopted. Particular attention is paid to the effective implementation of decrees and decisions. For example, if we look at the quotas for admission of young people to higher education institutions, in the 2018 academic year, the enrollment of students in higher education institutions increased by 30% compared to 2017 and by 62.4% compared to 2016 [8. p 1]. At the same time, the number of students studying in higher educational institutions of the republic has increased. For example, in the 2016/2017

academic year it was 264095, in the 2017/2018 academic year it was 279674, and in the 2018/2019 academic year it was 344790 [9]. It is no exaggeration to say that the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 8, 2019 "On approval of the Concept for the development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" marked the beginning of a new reform of higher education in the country. According to the decree, by 2030, the level of higher education coverage will be increased by 50% on the basis of the development of public-private partnership in the field of higher education, the organization of public and private higher education institutions in the regions.

Great attention is paid to the consistent implementation of reforms in the higher education system in the regions of the Fergana Valley. For example, in Fergana region in 2018, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 26, 2018 No PP-3952 "On the establishment of a branch of the Latvian Higher School of Information Systems Management in Fergana" and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 22, 2018 VMQ-754 In accordance with the Resolution "On the establishment of the Kokand branch of the Tashkent State Technical University named after Karimov", branches of leading higher educational institutions of the republic and foreign countries were opened in Fergana region. At the same time, it is no exaggeration to say that the establishment of the first non-governmental Kokand University in the country in 2019 is the result of the attention paid today to the development of the non-governmental education system in the country.

The effectiveness of the work aimed at developing the system of continuing education in the Fergana region, as well as in the country, is highly valued by international organizations. In particular, the inclusion of Fergana, the only city in Uzbekistan in the UNESCO World Network of Educational Cities, is one of the most educated cities in the world. Two years ago, there were 5 universities in Fergana

region, today there are 11. These factors also played an important role in making Fergana the most educated city in the world.

In recent years, the state has paid great attention to the development of higher education, training in modern advanced areas and specialties, the opening of new higher education institutions. In particular, in 2019, 19 new universities, including 9 branches of prestigious foreign universities, were opened to promote higher education. In cooperation with leading foreign universities, training on 141 joint curricula has been launched. A total of 146,500 students were admitted to higher education institutions, which is twice as many as in 2016 [11].

As a result of reforms in the sector, over the past three years, new educational institutions and new ELPs have been opened in the country in cooperation with advanced foreign countries. In particular, in 2018-2020, 43 OTMs were established, including 28 local and 15 foreign OTM branches. To date, the number of OTMs in Uzbekistan has reached 125 [12]. As a result of the opening of branches of foreign ETCs in the country and the attention paid to the development of the non-governmental education system, today there are 22 branches of foreign ETCs and 9 non-governmental ETCs in the country. The positive changes that are taking place as a result of the reforms in this area will help young people to acquire knowledge at the level of modern requirements and become competitive professionals.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that during the years of independence, a number of achievements have been made in the field of higher education in the country. But it should be noted that along with the successes, there were also some of the problems we mentioned above. In recent years, our government has been paying great attention to the development of higher education at the level of modern requirements, increasing the quality and quantity of training and providing them with all sectors of our economy.

Based on these, we want to put forward some suggestions;

- It is necessary to set quotas for admission to universities by universities, as well as to allocate targeted quotas in areas with high demand for personnel in some areas of socio-economic spheres.
- It is necessary to further simplify the entrance exams to universities and strengthen knowledge control over the results of courses.
- It is expedient to develop joint faculties in each department of higher education.
- Innovative technologies should be widely introduced into the system of higher education.

- By increasing the attractiveness of the country's universities, it is necessary to create ample opportunities for foreign youth, including young people from Central Asia, to study in the country's universities.
- It is necessary to widely introduce information technology in the system of higher education in the exchange of documents, as well as to create an environment of free movement and communication for professors and students to work more on themselves.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1] Butaboev M., Yuldoshev B., Juraev Zh. Problems of the past or market considerations // Life and economy. 1991 №9. – P. 3
- [2] Responsible editor Alimova DA History and historiography of the development of education in Uzbekistan. Essays II. Our "Sparks of Literature" Tashkent, 2017. – P.301
- [3] Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 1992, No. 4, pp. 60–61.
- [4] Resolution of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan 30.08. Reference number №01 / 4-01-19-991 for 2018.
- [5] <http://www.edu.uz/uz/otm/index#> (March 29, 2017)
- [6] People's Word newspaper. Dec. 29, 2018, – P. 271–272
- [7] http://www.uza.uz/oz/politics/prezident-maktabgacha-talim-tizimini-islo-ilishga-ba-ishlang-14-02-2018?sphrase_id=3473987 (20.02.2018)
- [8] Current archive of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 12.12.2018 y. Letter No. 89-02-3735 Page 1.
- [9] Current archive of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (Reforms in the higher education system. Electronic resource.)
- [10] <http://uza.uz/oz/society/far-ona-yuneskoning-a-olisi-eng-imishli-sha-arlar-r-ykhatiga-23-09-2020> (25.09.2020)
- [11] Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoev to the Oliy Majlis (<http://uza.uz/oz/politics/zbekiston-respublikasi-prezidenti-shavkat-mirziyeevning-oliy-25-01-2020>)
- [12] Official telegram channel of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (Edu.uz. 24.09.2020).