

Changes in the System of Higher Education in the New Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

The article reflects on the existing problems in the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the positive changes that have taken place in recent years as a result of measures aimed at developing this area. In particular, the analysis focuses on reforms aimed at realizing the aspirations of the country's youth to higher education.

KEYWORDS: Republic of Uzbekistan, higher education system, decree, concept, limited quota

INTRODUCTION

The assessment of the state and development of the countries of the world in the XXI century is based not on the natural resources of these countries, but on the share of investment in human capital and the correct organization of this work. The most reliable way to do this is to create the right conditions for young people to receive a quality education. One of the main tasks of the higher education system, which is the highest level of the education system, is to develop the country socially and economically, to provide various sectors of the economy with highly qualified specialists who meet modern requirements. Because in our society, the more highly educated, highly qualified specialists, the faster and more effective the development [1].

Main part

Since the introduction of independence, Uzbekistan has undergone a series of changes and development in its own system of higher education, as in all other aspects of public life. The normative and legal foundations of the national education system have been established. The financing of the higher education system has been implemented in a new way, that is, at the expense of the budget and personal funds. A national test system has been introduced to enroll applicants in higher education institutions, which will objectively assess their knowledge. In order to bring the training of highly educated specialists to a qualitatively new level, training was started on the basis of a two-stage system consisting of bachelor's and master's degrees.

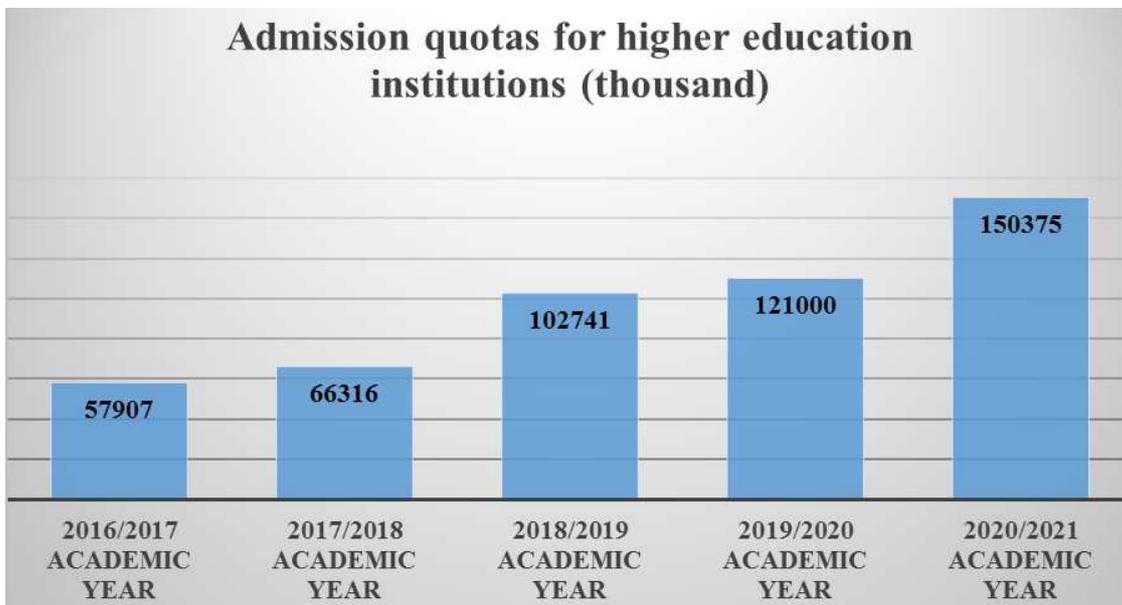
In the first 25 years of independence, along with the positive changes in the system of higher education in the country, there were some problems that need to be addressed in this area. One of the main problems is that young people's aspirations for higher education are limited and the practice of admitting them to higher education on the basis of quotas set by the government on a fixed basis has been observed for years. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev in his address to the Oliy Majlis on the results of 2018 and

priorities for 2019 said: "In the past, the coverage of graduates of higher and secondary special education institutions in Uzbekistan was 9-10%. Thanks to the measures taken in the last two years, we have managed to increase this figure by more than 15%. But this is not enough. Because if we look at the experience of developed countries in the world, this figure is 60-70% of them "[2].

Indeed, the number of people with higher education in Uzbekistan has declined due to low enrollment in higher education. In 1991, the population of the republic was 20 million, and by 2016 it had grown to 30 million. Accordingly, the number of people with higher education should have increased. However, this did not happen, on the contrary, the number of people with higher education in the country decreased. For example, in 1991, there were 26 highly educated specialists per 10,000 population in the country, while in 2000 this figure was 13 and decreased by 50% compared to 1991. In 2016, this figure was 20 [3. p 115]. If we pay attention to the above figures, we can see that from 1991 to 2016, the number of specialists with higher education in the country decreased by 23.0%. This decrease can be attributed to the fact that the coverage of young people with higher education has not increased. The decline in the number of specialists with higher education in Uzbekistan, in turn, has led to a shortage of specialists with higher education in various fields.

By 2017, as in all spheres of public life, great attention has been paid to the implementation of comprehensive reforms in the higher education system. At the same time, one of the main tasks was to develop a plan of measures to address the existing problems in the higher education system of the country and to implement them step by step. One of the main tasks in this area is to realize the aspirations of graduates to higher education by increasing the coverage of these young people in higher education, on the other hand, to accelerate economic development while meeting the demand for higher education in socio-economic spheres.

In particular, if we pay attention to the reforms carried out in this area in recent years, it is possible to witness the gradual increase in the quotas of admission to higher education in order to realize the aspirations of graduates of general secondary education, vocational education, academic lyceums to receive higher education. For example, if we pay attention to the quotas for the admission of young people to universities in the country, in the 2018 academic year, the enrollment of students increased by 30% compared to 2017 and by 62.4% compared to 2016 [4. p 1]. Details are given in the table below.



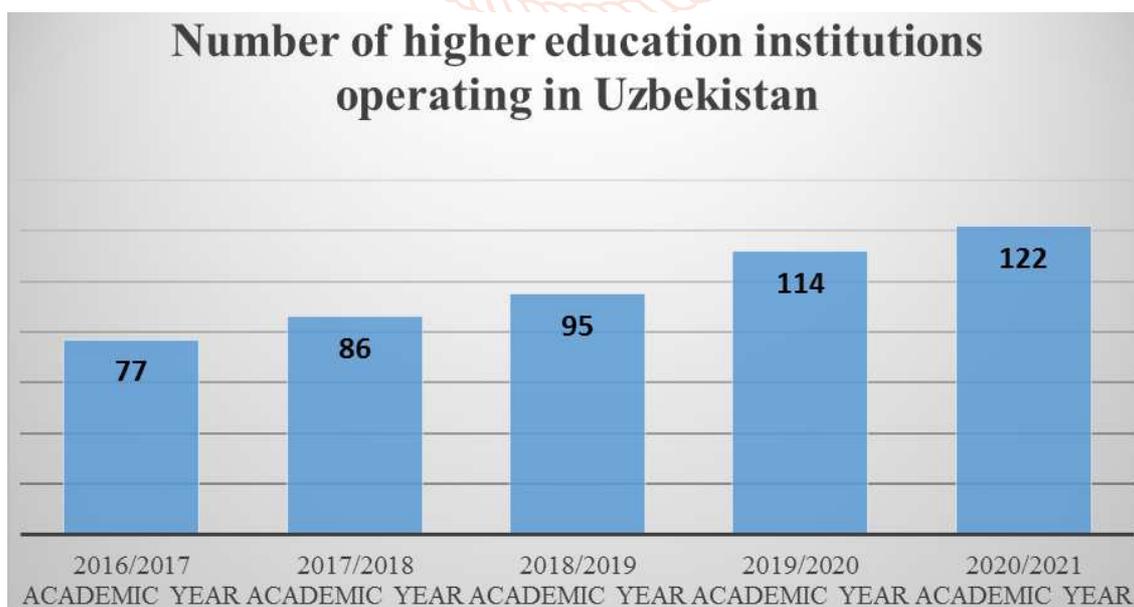
Note: Official website of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (<https://www.edu.uz/uz/pages/enrollment-plan>) 9.12.2020 y.

<http://www.erasmusplus.uz/images/shared/file/TAM%2014/4%20MHSSE%20Ulugbek%20Khodiev.pdf> (10.12.2020).

It can be seen from the table above that if 57907 students are admitted to higher education institutions in the 2016/2017 academic year, the number will be 150,375 by the 2020/2021 academic year. This figure increased by 159.6% in 2020 compared to 2016. This, in turn, has allowed students to increase their enrollment in higher education from 9-10% to 25%.

In this regard, it is necessary to pay special attention to one aspect of the ongoing reforms in the field of higher education, namely, the material and technical base of existing higher education institutions in the country in the 2016/2017 academic year, the number of students in higher education institutions in the 2020/2021 academic year. As a result, along with the introduction of training in new specialties in the higher education system of the republic, new higher education institutions and branches of the country's leading higher education institutions, as well as foreign universities, have been established not only in the capital but also in the regions.

In particular, in the early years of independence, that is, in 1991, 52 higher education institutions were operating in Uzbekistan, and by 2017 their number had dropped to 77 [5]. In other words, in the last 26 years, the number of higher education institutions in the country has increased by 25 times. However, this was not in line with population growth and the aspirations of young people for higher education. As a result, the inclusion of young people in higher education has been limited. In recent years, measures aimed at expanding the opportunities for graduates to pursue higher education have been taken not only by increasing the admission quotas for existing higher education institutions in the country, but also by opening new branches and opening branches in their places. As a result, the number of higher education institutions in the country has grown significantly. This is detailed in the table below.



Note: <http://www.erasmusplus.uz/images/shared/file/TAM%2014/4%20MHSSE%20Ulugbek%20Khodiev.pdf> (10.12.2020), <https://edu.uz/uz#universs> (9.12.2020). Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 8, 2019 No. PF-5847 "On approval of the Concept of development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030". <https://edu.uz/uz#universs> (9.12.2020)

As can be seen from the table above, in the 2016/2017 academic year, there were 77 higher education institutions in the country, while in December 2020, the number of higher education institutions increased to 122. In other words, the number of higher education institutions in Uzbekistan will increase by 45 during these years. For comparison, between 1991 and 2016, the number of higher education institutions in the country increased by 48% (25), while during 2017-2020, the number of higher education institutions in Uzbekistan increased by 58.4% (45). The increase in the number of higher education institutions in the country is due not only to local institutes, universities and their local branches, but also to the establishment of leading higher education institutions and their branches in the developed countries.

In particular, until 2017, the number of foreign higher education institutions and their branches in the country was 7, and by 2020 their number increased to 22. This, in turn, serves to integrate the higher education system of the republic to international standards, as well as a wide range of opportunities for young people to become highly educated professionals who meet world standards. In conclusion, it should be noted that in recent years, as a result of reforms at every stage of the education system of the republic, significant changes have taken place. Such positive changes can also be observed in the higher education system. A number of measures are being taken to meet the aspirations of the youth of the republic to higher education. In particular, on October 8, 2019, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5847 "On approval of the Concept of development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" was adopted. According to the decree, a number of priorities have been set in the higher education system of the republic. One of the

most important of these is the goal of reaching 50% of young people who want to pursue higher education by 2030. And efforts have been made to make this happen.

Conclusion

Therefore, in order to further develop the system of higher education, we propose the following:

- To simplify as much as possible the examinations for young people to enter higher education institutions and to organize the transition from one course to another in higher education institutions on the basis of international standards;
- Creation of an electronic system of quality education;
- Creating conditions for the free movement of students and professors.

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