

COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CENTRAL ASIA IN THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the state and issues of cooperation between the republics of Central Asia in the field of education and enlightenment. Attention is paid to the education of student youth in the spirit of patriotism, international and interreligious tolerance, and given the direction of the specialty; it is proposed to introduce new educational special courses into the system of teaching social and humanitarian sciences. It is noted that in the process of reforming the education system, inter-republican cooperation is a priority and a necessary condition for the equal entry of the Central Asian states into the world community.

KEYWORDS: *Republics Of Central Asia, Culture, Education, Enlightenment, Higher Educational Institutions Of Uzbekistan, Social And Humanitarian Disciplines, Interethnic Tolerance.*

INTRODUCTION

The education system is the basis of any civilization, a decisive factor in progress and successful socio-economic advancement. Economic growth and a high level of people's well-being are achieved where the problems of education are given priority attention.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev repeatedly notes that "...peace and tranquility of people, friendship and harmony in our multinational state, respect for a working person, creation for all people, regardless of their nationality and faith, an absolutely equal position in our society has always been and will certainly remain the most important, decisive condition for achieving the goals that we have set for ourselves.

Therefore, deeply interrelated tasks – the successful reform of all spheres of life and sustainable development, on the one hand, and the preservation of socio-political stability, on the other, form the core of the policy pursued in the republic.

After the formation of new independent states in the Central Asian region, one of the topical issues was the formation of equal and mutually beneficial relations between them on the basis of generally recognized norms and principles. The peoples of this region felt the need to work together to build their future, to establish good-neighborly interstate relations, mutually beneficial economic and cultural ties in the new conditions.

The geographical location of Uzbekistan at the crossroads of important trade routes, economic and cultural cooperation with many states had a great impact on the religious and cultural life of local peoples. Such feelings as reverence for a person and respect for others, respect for elders, regardless of the nationality of religious views, have become the highest qualities of the peoples of Central Asia. It is these factors that form not only the spiritual and educational, but also the spiritual foundations of the tolerance of our people.

The national character, age-old ethno-cultural and ethno-social ties of the peoples of Central Asia took shape over a long course of development of social relations. For many centuries, the peoples of Central Asia have been internationalizing an ethno-cultural tradition, which indicates the deep antiquity of the friendship of peoples, the dialectical relationship and interdependence of the national in the customs of neighboring peoples.

In the conditions of Central Asia, the importance of the desire to live in society is great, and this confirms that the concepts of "friendliness" and "consent" have become a national custom that has historical, national and religious roots. For more than 30 years of independent development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, neighbor with neighbor, relative with relative, with each other live in respect and harmony. And these high qualities are invariably maintained and developed.

In order to study and promote the basic concepts and principles of spiritual development, interethnic and interreligious tolerance, an order was adopted to introduce into the higher education system of Uzbekistan such disciplines as "Fundamentals of Spirituality and Enlightenment", "Theory and Practice of Building a Democratic Society in Uzbekistan", "Religious Studies", "Education" and others.

One of the main tasks of the teaching staff working in this field of education is the high-quality teaching of these disciplines, the cornerstone of which should be the process of educating young people in the spirit of tolerance towards representatives of other nations and nationalities, as well as patriotism and love for their homeland.

To date, one may encounter the problem of motivation among students in the study of these disciplines; this is due to the fact that such items are not specialized and are perceived as "useless". And in this situation, a lot depends on how competently the system of social and humanitarian education is organized, and teachers can show students the importance of obtaining humanitarian knowledge for their personal and professional life, as well as being in demand not only in the present, but also in the future.

To this end, the higher educational institutions of the republic and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, developing international relations in the field of higher education and, comprehensively studying the experience of the developed countries of the world, set themselves the following tasks:

- Improving the qualifications of the teaching staff of universities;
- Creation of new curricula, modern educational and methodical literature for various areas of education;
- Wide participation of the teaching staff of universities in foreign scientific and practical seminars, symposiums and conferences;

- Participation of the faculty and students of higher education institutions of the republic in foreign exchange programs and trainings;
- Invitation of foreign teachers and professors to work in the universities of the republic in order to improve the educational process and exchange experience.

Today, the main task of the development of any university is the training of highly qualified specialists who are in demand in the modern labor market, and the construction of a new education strategy should contribute to the socialization of a person in the broadest sense.

The socialization of students is carried out not only in preparation for the effective manifestation of oneself in professional activities, but also in public and social life. Despite the fact that the reform of higher education has led to a reduction in social and humanitarian disciplines and a decrease in the hours taught, the requirements enshrined in educational standards provide for the formation of a wide range of general cultural competencies in future specialists. In this regard, one of the urgent problems today is the search and implementation of a new concept of humanization of higher education.

We must understand that the active life position of students in solving the issues of their own destiny and professional career is formed in the process of studying at universities not only special disciplines - this task can be largely helped to solve social and humanitarian disciplines. Therefore, the task of enhancing the role of liberal arts education is especially acute for universities.

In order to educate the youth of the republics of Central Asia in the spirit of patriotism, interethnic tolerance, it is proposed, taking into account the direction of the specialty, to introduce into the system of teaching the social and humanitarian sciences educational special courses such as "History of the development of the states of Central Asia", "Culture, national customs and traditions of the peoples of Central Asia", "Islamic culture and art of Central Asia: past and present", "Interethnic and interreligious tolerance in Central Asia", "Enlightenment movement in Central Asia at the beginning of the 20th century".

Thus, social and humanitarian disciplines will contribute to:

1. Raising the general cultural level of development;
2. The formation of students' civil, moral and other professionally significant qualities, due to the peculiarities of professional activity;
3. Active public position, social and professional responsibility;
4. Professional and communicative competence;
5. Needs for a healthy lifestyle, readiness and ability to endure great psychological stress.

It should be noted that historical, cultural and ethnographic scientific disciplines have a decisive influence on the development of the intellectual potential of the individual and the nation as a whole, and contribute to the sustainable development of society.

In the vector of integration of the Central Asian republics, according to an intergovernmental agreement in the field of education, an annual exchange of students of universities of the two countries takes place. Intercultural interaction on the Internet promotes the establishment of

contacts for cooperation and the creation of new joint projects in the field of education and enlightenment.

International cooperation of Uzbekistan in the field of higher education is carried out within the framework of intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements with the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, India, Malaysia, Egypt, the Sultanate of Oman and a number of other countries.

Today, the universities of Uzbekistan maintain direct cooperation with leading universities in the USA, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, India, the Russian Federation within the framework of direct interuniversity agreements.

Of particular note is the active participation of the universities of Uzbekistan in the educational programs of the European Union Tempus and Erasmus Mundus.

Tempus projects are mostly devoted to the development of curricula for master's and undergraduate programs in the field of technical disciplines and applied technologies. Higher education institutions of the republic in cooperation with European universities are working on developing new and improving existing curricula in various disciplines.

It should be especially noted that Tempus projects are also aimed at improving the qualifications of the teaching staff of universities. Within the framework of the projects, short-term seminars, scientific and practical conferences, advanced training courses in European universities are held.

Universities of Uzbekistan also participate in the EU Erasmus Mundus program, a program aimed at supporting the academic mobility of students, teachers, as well as strengthening cooperation between universities. Within the framework of the program, university teachers and students get the opportunity to study and participate in scientific internships in European universities.

Important forms of cooperation in the field of science, education and enlightenment are scientific and practical international conferences and symposiums. So, for example, in order to deepen cooperation in the field of education and literature, a competition was held among students of universities in Uzbekistan "The world of Abai is my world", dedicated to the study of the creative heritage of the great Kazakh educator and poet AbayKunanbayev. Another competition for the best essay on the topic "Century-old friendship between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan: history and modernity" aroused great and genuine interest among students of Uzbekistan.

In October 2021, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan organized an international conference called "Culture, religion, customs and traditions of the peoples of Central Asia".

Studies show that at present, bilateral agreements with stable economic and peaceful development of states are a real tool for the integration process in the field of education. The development of international cooperation is an important component of reforming educational policy, taking into account global trends in the educational field and generally accepted standards of education.

The cooperation of the Central Asian republics in the field of education cannot be considered only within the framework of modernity. Their cultural interaction is rooted in the distant past,

back in the periods of Turkic civilization. However, after independence, educational contacts between these states did not stop and developed on an equal footing.

The relations of these republics in the field of education have undergone significant changes in their essence, in terms of the tasks, goals pursued and organizational and legal norms. Cooperation in the process of reforming the education system is a priority and a necessary condition for the equal entry of the Central Asian republics into the world community, since it contributes to the definition of ultimate goals and objectives of reforms in the field of science, culture and education.

Thus, it can be assumed that cooperation between Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan in the field of education in the future will be even closer. This is due, first of all, to the fact that the political problems of international relations and the global development of these states are interested in the stable interaction of cultural values.

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