



## Cultural And Educational Infrastructure Of The Southern Regions Of Uzbekistan During The Years Of Independence

**Kadirova Yakitjan  
Buvabayevna**

Independent Researcher at Termez State University,  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor  
[xgodiroya@bk.ru](mailto:xgodiroya@bk.ru)

### ABSTRACT

Based on archival sources and statistical data, this article analyzes the formation, development, and systemic problems faced by the cultural and educational infrastructure of the southern regions of Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The study highlights the shrinking trends of club institutions and the library network, the condition of the material and technical base, as well as the problems of personnel potential and their education levels in rural areas. Furthermore, the measures implemented by the state to finance the sector and provide social protection for its employees are outlined.

### Keywords:

cultural infrastructure, Southern Uzbekistan, Kashkadarya, Surxandarya, club institutions, libraries, cultural and educational reforms

### Introduction.

The spiritual renewal, intellectual potential, and sustainable development of any society directly depend on the condition of its cultural and educational infrastructure. From the very first days of Uzbekistan's independence, restoring national values, elevating the cultural worldview of the population, and deepening spiritual and educational reforms became primary priorities of state policy. Particularly under the complex socio-economic conditions of the transition period, satisfying the cultural needs of the rural population, as well as preserving and developing the network of theaters, clubs, libraries, and cultural centers in the regions, was designated as an urgent task.

### Discussion.

In order to revitalize the work of cultural and educational institutions, certain measures were implemented to provide material support for the employees in this sector. For instance, in 1996, additional measures were taken regarding the social protection of employees in more than 30 libraries in the Kashkadarya region. As an example, the homes of 5 employees from the central library in the Kasbi district were privatized free of charge.

Additionally, library staff in the "T. Malik," "Sh. Rashidov," and "Navro'z" cooperative (shirkat) farms of the same district received a 30 percent salary bonus funded by the farms' own accounts [1].

During this period, mobile libraries were also established to satisfy the rural population's demand for books. For example, in 1996, 8 mobile clubs (auto-clubs) provided services to the rural population of the Surxandarya region [2].

To improve the operation of cultural and educational institutions in every region, the allocation of local budget funds was increased. For example, in 1998, 38 percent of total expenditures in the Kashkadarya region was directed toward implementing socio-cultural activities [3].

On July 24, 1998, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 311, "On Further Deepening Spiritual and Educational Reforms and Increasing Their Effectiveness" [4]. Based on this resolution, cultural and educational institutions, particularly libraries, were expected to become the main promotional centers for the reforms being carried out in the country. To ensure the

implementation of this resolution, a series of measures were developed in the southern regions as well [5]. Specifically, one of the primary measures was to improve the activities of libraries and meet their personnel needs. Alongside the shortage of specialists in the field, a high rate of staff turnover was also observable in libraries. The main reasons for this were low salaries and the lack of access to benefits.

In 1995, a total of 3,710 club institutions operated across Uzbekistan, of which 2,956 were located in rural settlements. By 2004, these figures dropped respectively to 2,444 and 2,021 [6]. Thus, relying on statistical data, the number of club institutions in the republic showed a steady decline.

The majority of clubs located in Uzbekistan operated in repurposed or adapted buildings. For instance, 119 club institutions in Bukhara, 84 in Navoiy, 241 in Samarkand, 74 in Surxandarya, and 112 in the Kashkadarya region functioned in adapted facilities. Most of these buildings were in need of repair [7].

In subsequent years, the number of cultural and educational institutions in the rural areas of the southern regions declined further. For example, by 2008, the number of rural cultural centers in the Surxandarya region fell to 25, while the number of clubs dropped to 62. In the same year, 78 rural cultural centers and 14 rural club institutions operated in the Kashkadarya region [8]. According to inspections conducted that year, there was not a single palace of culture in the villages of the Surxandarya region. Meanwhile, only 1 palace of culture operated in the Kashkadarya and Bukhara regions respectively [9].

During that period, the majority of club members in the districts consisted of participants in artistic ensembles and hobby groups (circles). For instance, in the villages of the Bukhara region in 2008, 664 club associations were registered with 12,859 members. Of these, 9,813 participated in artistic groups. In Navoiy, there were 317 associations with 4,078 members, including 3,408 in artistic groups. In Samarkand, there were 1,183 associations with 20,123 members, including 17,393 in artistic groups. In Surxandarya, there were 510 associations with 7,730 members,

including 6,759 in artistic groups. In the villages of the Kashkadarya region, the total number of associations stood at 363 with 3,971 members, including 3,282 participants in artistic groups [9]. In their activities, the clubs effectively utilized all vital types of cultural and educational work, performing their assigned duties with dedication and integrity.

There were also considerable shortcomings regarding the provision of specialists to clubs and cultural institutions. For example, in 2008, in the villages of the Bukhara region, the number of personnel with higher education in culture and arts was 36, those with specialized secondary education numbered 229, and those with general secondary education numbered 11. In the Navoiy region, there were 24 with higher education, 9 with specialized secondary education in culture and arts, and 25 with general secondary education. In the Samarkand region, there were 165 with higher education, 273 with specialized secondary education in culture and arts, and 245 with general secondary education. In the Surxandarya region, there were 32 with higher education, 73 with specialized secondary education in culture and arts, and 88 with general secondary education. In the Kashkadarya region, the numbers stood at 67 with higher education, 85 with specialized secondary education in culture and arts, and 93 with general secondary education [9].

To further improve cultural and sports activities in Uzbekistan, the amount of allocated funds was increased year by year. Specifically, in 2006, 32,591.3 million soums were allocated from the republic's budget for culture and sports activities. Out of this, 7,292.3 million soums were allocated to theater and performance organizations, 1,538.9 million soums for the restoration of cultural monuments, and 1,144.1 million soums for the maintenance of cultural-educational institutions and other expenses [9].

### **Conclusion.**

An analysis of the performance of the cultural and educational infrastructure in the southern regions of Uzbekistan shows that although specific measures were taken during the years of independence regarding the legal regulation of the sector, increasing its funding, and

providing social protection for employees, serious structural problems persisted within the system. In particular, archival and statistical data confirm a sharp reduction in the network of club institutions and cultural centers in the rural areas of the Kashkadarya and Surxandarya regions, with most existing venues operating in adapted buildings that required repair. Alongside infrastructure weaknesses, high staff turnover caused by low wages and a shortage of specialists with higher education in the field served as the main limiting factors. Nevertheless, the artistic ensembles and hobby groups under the existing clubs played an important role in satisfying the spiritual and cultural needs of the rural population during their time. This historical experience serves as a vital scientific foundation today for developing strategies to modernize regional cultural systems.

#### References:

1. National Archives of Uzbekistan (O'zMA), Fund M-7, Inventory 1, File 394, Page 27.
2. O'zMA, Fund M-7, Inventory 1, File 409, Page 41.
3. State Archive of Kashkadarya Region, Fund 108, Inventory 1, File 416, Page 96.
4. O'zMA, Fund M-7, Inventory 1, File 1040, Page 36.
5. O'zMA, Fund M-7, Inventory 1, File 643, Page 17.
6. State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Annual Statistical Collection – 2004. – Tashkent, 2005. – P. 137.
7. Current Archive of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Reports of 2005.
8. O'zMA, Fund M-38, Inventory 1, File 199, Page 28.
9. Current Archive of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Reports of 2008.