



Transformation of Higher Education in Uzbekistan and The Importance of Academic Independence in it

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ABSTRACT

This article describes the researcher's opinion on the issue of academic independence of higher education institutions in our country and the fact that it plays an important role in the transformation of higher education today, which allows to test the new model of education in practice, evaluate the existing opportunities and make future plans.

Keywords:

Transformation, academic independence, Finnish education, attribution, internet, social consciousness, innovation.

The issue of academic independence of a higher education institution is one of the topics that requires deep analysis. In response to periods of economic stability and, in some cases, recession, higher education has seen very slow changes. Now, the need for personnel is changing radically. The number of students in demand in all fields is changing. If knowledge of foreign languages and mastering of information technologies are mandatory, openness to knowledge acquisition and mental stability are among additional competencies. Of course, this generalization has a conditional nature and can change in a specific way for a particular profession. An academic independent higher education institution should also be able to change its curriculum according to customer requirements. In general, academic independence and the opportunity to independently conduct various experiments have caused such phenomenal phenomena as Finnish education.[1]

Such priorities are playing an important role in the transformation of higher education today. The process of transformation is a complex and multifaceted process. Changes are influenced by political will, existing social situation and a number of other factors. Of course, it may be

difficult to fully achieve the intended goal, but the achievements made over a certain period of time will also be noticeable.

In Uzbekistan, it is set as a priority task to reach 50% coverage with higher education. To date, serious efforts are being made to achieve this indicator. Higher education is not only certain statistical numbers, but also social capital, a factor of raising the level of education of society members. Higher education is a unity of social structures that includes not only traditional universities, but also various professional centers, communities of scientists and students. For this reason, its expansion has a positive effect on the growth of social consciousness.

If we take into account that cheaper and more convenient forms of education are becoming popular in the context of rapidly developing information and communication technologies, it can be clearly imagined that the traditional higher education system may face unfair competition [2]. Based on this, starting from 2022, the distance education system was introduced in 12 higher education institutions in the higher education system. This will allow you to test the new model of education in practice, evaluate the existing opportunities

and make future plans. The issue of energy continuity and the Internet as indispensable attributes of distance education is becoming more and more important in the conditions of Uzbekistan. At the same time, in the social consciousness, there are cases of limiting yourself to the possession of a diploma, looking at learning from a window, and being a student of a prestigious higher education institution. Of course, such negative trends are not typical for the entire social olng, but such indicators are not rare. In this regard, there is a need to conduct deep sociological research and assess the current situation.

Gradually, the capabilities of competent authorities in the field of higher education management are limited at the expense of higher education institutions. For example, starting from the 2023-2024 academic year, it was decided to publish quotas for state grants only, and higher education institutions could independently set quotas for teaching on the basis of a contract [3].

If we take into account that not only the members of the society, but also the state authorities are not satisfied with the higher education system in such conditions, the situation becomes more complicated. This is an important issue, which means that the processes of higher education transformation have already covered higher education institutions in Uzbekistan, and it is necessary to take certain measures to improve the current situation.

The project method of teaching is a didactic category, which implies the inclusion of a certain complex of knowledge, skills and competencies that must be acquired independently by the student. The traditional task of higher education - the paradigm of imparting lifelong knowledge to the student - is losing its importance today. Innovations in the real sector of the economy have gone beyond the scope of both higher education institutions and research institutes. Now, it is less observed that national economy sectors absorb any innovations from scientific institutions, and it is recognized that scientific innovations created by large production enterprises ensure rapid development. This requires the student to be

ready for new realities, not to lose professional and scientific orientations in the changing conjuncture. The lack of project thinking led to the emergence of an army of millions of unemployed as a result of drastic changes in the economic sector at the end of the last century. The members of the society, who have worked in the factories and factories as narrow specialists or ordinary workers for many years, have shown their powerlessness in the face of uncertainties after the closure of these production enterprises.

For many years, higher education has been preparing personnel for the current needs of the state and society. For example, as many physics teachers as are needed at the national level, quotas for this specialty are allocated to HEIs in each region. On the positive side, unemployment among highly educated personnel is somewhat lower, and generally there are shortages in most occupations. At the same time, this model has created a major social problem in the society - corruption in access to higher education, and has led hundreds of thousands of young people to lose their dream of higher education. Now the state policy in this regard has changed, and issues of developing entrepreneurship skills are being included among the subjects in the curriculum. Because in today's rapidly changing economic conditions, it is not possible to work with one profession all your life. Entrepreneurs can adapt to any conditions and meet the needs of society.

Another important issue is to strengthen the role of the scientific community in decision-making in the system of local government bodies. Mechanisms for commercialization of innovations created in higher education institutions in the regions and thereby solving local problems are not functioning effectively. The first reason for this is the fact that valuable innovations are not being introduced in local HEIs, and the second is the lack of creative cooperation skills among scientists in local authorities.

In general, this decision of the government has determined the local measures for the implementation of the transformation of higher education, and through their implementation, it

is intended to strengthen the real impact of the system on economic development.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has been very highly evaluating the role of higher education in changing the life of the state and society. It should be noted that the leader who worked in the higher education system, as a scientist with a scientific degree, set the development of the system as a priority task. The head of our state says about this: "We consider pre-school education and school education, higher and secondary special education system, and scientific and cultural institutions as four integral links of the future Renaissance. We consider kindergarten teachers, school teachers, professors and scientific and creative intellectuals to be the four pillars of the new Renaissance" [4].

The idea of "from national revival to national rise" should ensure national unity and development. The generator of this stage of development should be education, especially higher education. In this case, it is necessary to abandon the mechanisms of higher education that are not working at the moment, to introduce new management methods and methods. Otherwise, a number of negative situations may occur.

From this point of view, on February 24, 2021, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan announced an open competition and invited higher education institutions claiming to transform in cooperation with foreign higher education institutions to participate in this event [5].

According to the conditions of the competition, it is determined to study the scientific activity of professors and teachers, the quality of the educational process, cooperation with international HEIs, and the digitization of the educational process. At the same time, the applicant HEIs must have reached an agreement with the partner HEI on transformation.

The successful implementation of this pilot project will pave the way for the future transformation of all state HEIs in Uzbekistan.

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