

## Uzbekistan-2030: Prospects for the Development of the Sector of Higher Education

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**Abstract:** In this article, the issues of the development of higher education until 2030, which is a part of the ongoing administrative reforms in our country, the scientific works of national and foreign scientists and the analysis of statistical data, the essence of the administrative reforms, the specific features of the implementation of management are analyzed. Along with the study of the national legislation, the development of higher education organizations and the issues that should be done in order to achieve the goals and tasks set by the state in this field were highlighted. Also, cases of improving the organizational and management of higher education in the conditions of the age of information and digitization, regulation and coordination of interaction between state bodies and higher education organizations were analyzed. The issue of management organization based on foreign experience was raised, commonalities, similarities and peculiarities were studied using comparative methods, relevant conclusions were drawn, and suggestions were made about the directions of scientific research work to be carried out in the future. Also, by analyzing some aspects of internal and external management of higher education organizations, focusing on public-private partnership relations, positive cases of creating educational hubs are revealed.

**Keywords:** higher education, administrative reforms, governance, digitization, financial freedom, academic independence, organization.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, education is one of the priority directions in which large-scale reforms are being implemented. In his address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan stated that "Education and training, development of science and innovation, formation of a healthy lifestyle are the most important factors and integral parts of our national idea"[1, 16-b.].

It is our top priority to create opportunities for young people to set ambitious goals and achieve them. Only then will our children become a real force capable of realizing the eternal dreams of our nation. Therefore, we are carrying out large-scale reforms under the slogan "New Uzbekistan - it starts from the threshold of the school, from the education and training system".

For this purpose, during the period of administrative reforms, a number of regulatory documents defining the main directions in the field of higher education were adopted.

In particular, Decree No. PF-5847 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 8, 2019 "On approval of the concept of the development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" defined the main priorities for the development of the sector until 2030.

Today, as a result of administrative reforms in the field of higher education, the number of higher education organizations has increased to 210, including 114 state, 67 non-state and 29 foreign higher education institutions, which has increased to 133 compared to 77 in 2017, and in recent years their number has increased almost It can be seen that it has increased by 3 times.

As a result, according to the edu.uz website of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, 37,704 professors and teachers are working in higher education institutions, while 1,315,100 bachelor's and 24.1000 master's students and 2.2 students are studying at the residency level.

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Based on the development of public-private partnership in the field, the organization of the activities of state and non-state higher education institutions in the regions, the level of coverage with higher education has increased from 9 percent in 2016 to 42 percent today.

This indicator has increased from 279.7 thousand in 2017 to 1061.7 thousand today, or almost 4 times. It leads to the training of deeply knowledgeable and qualified personnel in 306 fields of study at the bachelor's level, and 625 specialties at the master's level.

Based on international experience, in order to introduce advanced standards of higher education, to combine acquired theoretical knowledge with practical skills, senior students studying in higher education organizations were given the opportunity to work during their free time.

At the same time, as a result of the expansion of the post-higher education educational institute, raising the scientific potential to a new level, the number of basic doctoral students is 5322, doctoral students are 283, and the number of independent researchers is 6347. With the defense of scientific dissertations in 289 scientific councils, the total scientific potential is increased from 7 percent to 41 percent by 2024.

As a result of the administrative reforms carried out to adapt the field of higher education to world standards, to include at least 10 of the organizations in the system in the list of the first 1,000 higher education organizations of internationally recognized organizations (Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Times Nearer Education or Academic Ranking of World Universities) for the first time, the national research university "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers" (Top-547) and the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek (Top-781-790) from our country entered the world ranking of higher education organizations.

This, in turn, fully corresponds to the principles of Uzbekistan being a social state stated in Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 50 stating that everyone has the right to education, and Article 51 stating that citizens have the right to receive higher education at the expense of the state on the basis of selection in state educational institutions.

**Literature analysis.** In the period of administrative reforms, scientific research was carried out not only by foreign scientists, but also by our national scientists, and relevant recommendations were made to reveal the importance of the implementation of the goals and tasks of development by the state until 2030 in the management and organization of the higher education sector.

Regarding the importance of the development of the field of higher education and higher education organizations in the period of administrative reforms, scientific articles of foreign scientists and a number of developments of our national scientists have been published, and we will analyze some of them.

B.B. Kadirov, improvement of personnel training in the higher education system [2, 227-b.], I.B. Jurayev, improvement of the prosecutor's control over the implementation of legislation in higher education institutions [3, 220-b.], M.U. Tursunova, improving the organizational and legal foundations of the education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of international legal standards [4, 50-b.], J.N. Boqiyev, Improving the organizational and legal foundations of education in the context of digitization in Uzbekistan (in the example of higher education) [5, 48-b.], E.Sh. Elmurodov, issues of applying the Japanese experience in the state policy in the field of higher education of Uzbekistan [6, 25-b.], Alberto Amaral [7, 431-b.] studied the effect of specific aspects of regulating the interaction of educational organizations with state bodies in countries such as the USA, Canada, and Switzerland.

**Material and methods.** Scientific, objectivity, systematic, determinism principles, chronological method, statistical, comparative analysis, formal-legal, induction, deduction and other scientific methods, which are important for all legal sciences, were used in the research.

**Research results.** Based on the object of our article, we will focus on the development of higher education organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 during the period of administrative



reforms, the prospects of improving existing problems and ways to solve them, the relations that arise in the field based on national and foreign experience, as well as the approval of regulatory documents.

In the decision PQ-200 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 3, 2023 "On measures for the effective organization of state management in the field of higher education, science and innovation within the framework of administrative reforms", bachelor's education courses and master's specialties have advanced foreign experience and the field of economics and networks are set to be revised based on the need for personnel.

Based on this, together with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and related agencies, they will form a forecast for 4 years after studying the demand for highly educated personnel in the fields of education and specialties in the real sectors and areas of the economy.

In the process of admission to state higher education institutions, 66.9 percent of full-time, 25.8 percent of part-time, 5.8 percent of evening, and 1.5 percent of distance education are used for the bachelor's degree. It is clear from this that higher education organizations do not agree on the demand for the necessary personnel for the state to fulfill its tasks and functions, but due to the fact that the same quota is allocated to all specialties, it has a negative effect on the employment of graduates.

For example, in the 2022-2023 academic year, a total of 176,312 people graduated, including 23,304 masters, their employment, as of this year, 94,224 (53.4%) of which 18,038 (77.4%) master's degrees, employment remains low.

This has a negative impact on the international ranking of the higher education sector (QS World ranking takes into account the employment indicator when entering top universities) and the national ranking of higher education organizations.

Scientific research institutes studying the need for personnel in foreign countries make recommendations to higher education organizations based on the orders of regions and sectors, based on real needs. For example, the need for personnel in the USA is estimated for 10-15 years by the manual developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1997 and updated every two years. It will be submitted to the federal government, which will determine the areas in which personnel are needed, and on the basis of this, various grants will be allocated to higher education institutions [8, 747-b.].

In order to solve the existing problems and achieve the goals set in the above-mentioned regulatory documents;

- development of 5-10-year forecasts based on the real state of the economy by the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment based on international experience together with scientific research institutes using a specific method;
- by reducing the orders based on the state grant and admission privileges, setting the admission parameters in the cross-section of the routes;
- in order to ensure the quality of education, it will be necessary to reduce admission to extramural education courses, and instead to gradually increase admission to this course in order to develop the industrial sector.

This guarantees the effective organization of state administration in the field of education, the training of highly qualified and educated personnel, and the increase of the population with higher education. And it will help the country to reach a new stage of development, where personnel will be competitive not only within the state borders, but also in the international arena.

In the field of higher education, the introduction of digital technologies and modern methods into the educational process, thereby ensuring the right to higher education, digitalization of curricula, content, internal management processes, and document exchange is of particular importance.

In the field of higher education, by connecting to the Internet, the processes of admission to educational organizations were digitized, the created information systems were integrated into digital government systems, and the exchange of information with ministries and agencies was made possible.



For example, at the Tashkent State Law University, the educational platform is fully digitized, and the circulation of documents between employees is carried out through the smart.adliya system.

Also, in the field of higher education, there is a HEMIS information system for student payment contracts, re-study and student accommodation contracts, online payments, online library, faculty and student information, etc.

Also, one of the other steps towards digitalization of educational processes is the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 21, 2024 No. PQ-228 and the launch of the electronic platform "Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy" aimed at continuously improving the knowledge of civil servants in the field of fighting corruption was decided.

Training in this virtual academy for basic and special training courses in the field of anti-corruption will be launched by January 1, 2025.

It is true that this platform can be first of all for improving the qualifications and skills of civil servants, and then it can be introduced in other higher education organizations.

Because in the world experience, virtual universities provide the right to higher education in all areas of education, especially the USA and South Korea are among the leaders in this regard [10, 125-b.].

Although there have been positive aspects regarding the digitization of the higher education system and educational organizations, there are still a number of problematic issues that are awaiting resolution.

For example, it is explained by the fact that financial processes are not fully digitized, that higher education organizations do not have all lines in the tax base in the process of disposing of their funds, and that content and educational programs for distance and inclusive learners are not fully electronic.

The implementation of the following series of activities by the industry and partner organizations to overcome these problems will increase the possibility of using digital technologies. These are:

- to provide the possibility of independent entry of relevant lines by the tax base in the process of disposal of cash flows for higher education organizations in the process of education;
- development of specific regulations on the use of the HEMIS information system;
- it is necessary to introduce a procedure for paying high-level bonuses to professors and teachers who prepare content for distance and inclusive learners in higher education organizations.

In Uzbekistan-2030 and other legal documents related to administrative reforms in the field of higher education, the goal is to increase the coverage of higher education to 50% and to establish non-state higher education organizations for this purpose.

It is a proven reality in the world experience that the main purpose of higher education organizations, regardless of whether they are state or non-state, should be education rather than profit.

According to statistics, as of 2024, there are 324,476 (state OTT 994,795) students in 67 non-state higher education institutions, of which 79,484 or 25% of the total number of students are full-time (state OTT 564,200, 57%) and 244,893 are part-time, 75% of the current science students are studying by correspondence (state OTT 387,590, 39%) and 7424 professors are teaching them.

In the aforementioned legislative documents, the establishment of non-governmental higher education organizations is aimed at creating healthy competition in the educational market, expanding the coverage by ensuring the right to higher education, and training specialists with high-quality and qualified, deep scientific potential for the domestic and foreign markets.

In the experience of the world, it can be seen that most of the world's leading and recognized higher organizations operate not in the state, but in a public and private way [11, 123-b.].

Decision No. 80 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 21, 2022 "On approval of the unified regulation on the procedure for licensing certain types of activities through



a special electronic system" stipulates that the number of students studying will not exceed twice the number of educational buildings. However, according to studies conducted by state bodies, 28 out of 67 non-governmental higher education organizations have 2-3 times higher than the specified requirement, 10 have more than 90 percent of part-time education, and the main reason is that the main reason is to reduce costs and make higher income rather than the quality of education.

Because part-time students usually come to universities twice a year, and the contract sums paid by them mainly serve as a profit for the founders.

In the USA and a number of European countries, the requirements and conditions for licensing of higher education organizations are studied by non-governmental organizations from 6 months to 1 year (in Uzbekistan, 30 days), the mandatory condition of service is defined as providing quality education, and the license is issued for up to 10 years (unlimited in Uzbekistan) [12-14, 120 -p.].

At the same time, while admission of students to state higher education organizations is done on the basis of specific criteria and requirements, there is no single procedure for admission of students to non-state higher education organizations.

Taking into account the experience of Japan, it is necessary to introduce a department of private education. In the Japanese management system [15, p. 52]. the main purpose of the department of private education is to issue licenses for the establishment and opening of private educational organizations, to develop a management system for them, and to form a teaching staff.

A special unit within the department supports private education and a group of consultants manage private education entrepreneurship. The introduction of a separate executive body responsible only for the private education sector will help to increase the efficiency of management and reduce the burden on the existing government agencies. For this purpose, not only to achieve results in the field of higher education in terms of administrative reforms, but also to guarantee quality education:

- introduction of certain quotas for non-state higher education organizations for part-time education;
- on the basis of license requirements, determining the spending of cash flows on education or other needs of a higher education organization without transferring them as aid to other enterprises and firms;
- since non-state higher education organizations are business entities, the benefits provided to them in the tax field should be regulated by revising.

As a result, the action that clearly ensures the mechanism of influence of the norms, clearly and clearly defines the rights and obligations of the subjects of legal relations, and clearly forms the measures to ensure them will be effective and effective [16, 120-b.].

The development of mechanisms for attracting non-state sources of educational services leads to increased competition within the system and increased opportunities for higher education. The role of the state should be limited to legal coordination. The undoubted advantage of the development of the private sector in higher education is that private educational organizations can interact with client companies, which increases the rating of the private educational organization and its reputation in the educational services market.

The gradual implementation of the "University 3.0" concept, which implies the inextricable connection between the activities of education, science, innovation and commercialization of research results, will protect the rights, honor, dignity and business reputation of the professors and teachers of educational organizations by the state.

The reform in this Concept covers several aspects, in our opinion, one of the most important is the introduction of the "University 3.0" model.

The emergence of this concept is explained by economic changes. The economic superiority of the industrial production sector is becoming a thing of the past. The key driver of growth is now the



economy's ability to create and manage intellectual property, and the university is a key link in this new reality.

According to experts, all universities in the world are moving to the 3.0 format, where only the scientific basis for teaching is not enough. The modern model is interconnected with: learning process, research and analysis, design development and innovation. Based on this, it can be concluded that the need for economy will become a decisive criterion for changing the legal status of higher educational institutions in the country.

A university that demonstrates entrepreneurial activity - diversifies sources of funding, is less dependent on society and state institutions, and supports creativity. It prepares competitive specialists capable of implementing innovative projects in various fields of activity, creates new knowledge and capitalizes it. It has a flexible organizational structure that can quickly adapt to changing requirements, encourages the establishment of new enterprises by teachers and students in order to commercialize the results of scientific research, implements a full cycle of increasing new knowledge. Helps the integration of education, science, business and thereby creates the necessary conditions for the innovative development of the company, the country becomes the center of the development of an innovative regional cluster.

In our opinion, the state should create innovative, creative and networking universities based on private education. The difference between these universities is as follows;

- an innovative university, where the university acts as a knowledge-producing enterprise aimed at ensuring the economic growth of the country. It helps to educate the economic leader by involving the students in the economic activities of the country. As a result of the creation of such a university, a business will be created, which will be the basis for attracting direct investments to the country, and thus international and scientific interaction will be established;
- creative university, the main goal of which is to educate the future person, where the basis of education is based on creative methods of education through the formation of individual educational programs and conducting scientific activities. As a result of the emergence of such a university, it is possible to train mobile personnel, as well as to implement civil and social functions of the state.

But it is also worth noting that the 4.0 university, which fulfills the task of providing knowledge about the future in the world, is also developing rapidly. This format is becoming a leader in the development of high-tech industry, the main task of which is capitalization of knowledge. Collective thinking is becoming a priority object of technologization efforts.

University 4.0 reflects the dynamics of the labor market demand for labor resources with new quality parameters, so routine skills are less in demand and qualifications, motivation, interest and constructive interpersonal skills are more in demand.

The main characteristic of this model is the gradual replacement of classical models of education and the linear method of information transmission, as well as the widespread use of digital technologies, which leads to the creation of favorable conditions for the realization of the talents of students and professors.

**Conclusion:** By strengthening the status of higher education organizations, they gain special importance in administrative-legal relations and administrative reforms, and allow to reveal them as social institutions operating primarily in the public sphere in the modern concept of development. Their role is determined by revealing the importance of the tasks assigned to them by the state education policy.

In the Uzbekistan-2030 strategy and in the period of administrative reforms, reforming the sphere of higher education, improving the organizational management of higher education organizations, creating suitable conditions for each person to realize his potential, ensuring the well-being of the population through stable economic growth, ensuring the rule of law, organizing public administration



in the service of the people, also provides an opportunity to continue the policy based on the principle of "safe and peaceful state".

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