

## YOUTH AND DEMOCRACY

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### ABSTRACT

This scientific article analyzes modern democratic trends and their impact on the worldview of young people. Democracy is an important factor in the development of the state and society, as it includes principles such as political activity, strong social ties and participation. The state policy towards youth in Uzbekistan and democratic mechanisms in its main direction are also revealed.

**Keywords:** youth, democracy, Uzbekistan, political reforms, social trends.

The connections between human rights and democracy are deep and also bidirectional: one depends to a certain extent on the other and is incomplete without the other.

First of all, the values of equality and independence are also the values of human rights, and the right to take part in governance is a human right in itself. Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government”: thus, democracy is, in fact, the only form of government that is consistent with human rights.

However, “democracy” is incomplete without careful respect for human rights. True participation in governance is virtually impossible without respect for people's fundamental rights. Consider the following as examples:

1. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18 UDHR). This is one of the first rights that is essential in a democracy: people need to be able to think freely, hold whatever views are important to them, without being punished for it. Throughout history, governments have sought to limit this right because they fear that if people consider other forms of government, it will jeopardize the existing system. Thus, they threw people into prison simply because they had “wrong” thoughts. (Such people are known as “prisoners of conscience.”) However, a society without pluralism is not only intolerant; it limits its own opportunities to develop in new and possibly better directions.

2. Freedom of expression (Article 19 UDHR). It is important not only to be able to think what you want, but also to loudly express your opinion, regardless of what it may be. If people are prevented from discussing their views with others or from presenting them in the media, how can they “participate” in governing the country? Their opinion will simply be excluded from the possible alternatives considered.

3. Freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Article 20 UDHR). This right allows you to discuss ideas with others who wish to do so, form interest groups or lobbying groups, or gather to protest decisions with which you disagree. Perhaps such activities are often inconvenient for governments; however, it is extremely important that different points of view are made known and taken into account. And this is part of the very essence of democracy.

These are just three human rights that are inextricably linked to the idea of democracy, but any violation of other human rights will also affect the extent to which different people can take part in governing the country. Poverty, poor health or homelessness can all make it difficult for a person to have their voice heard and reduce the impact of their choices compared to others. Such rights violations will almost certainly result in the person concerned being unable to hold an elected seat.

Young people often don't even have the right to vote, so how can they participate in the process of democracy? Many people will answer this question by saying that young people are not ready to be part of such a process and that only when young people turn 18 (or reach the voting age in their country) will they be able to participate in life of society[1].

In reality, many young people are politically active long before they can vote, and in some ways the impact of such activity may be even greater than the one vote they will receive later - and may decide to use it or not – in order to vote every four or five years. Politicians are very often keen to appeal to young people and are therefore likely to listen more to the concerns of young people.

Many young people are involved in environmental groups or other protest groups that campaign against war, against exploitation by large corporations, or against child labor[2]. Perhaps one of the most important ways for youth to become involved in community life and political action is through local activism: this is where youth can become more aware of the specific issues that concern them and those with which they directly experience, and where youth can achieve direct results.

On the initiative of the President, in order to train personnel with deep knowledge, thinking, and the achievements of modern science, the number of universities in our country has exceeded 140. Almost 30 of them are branches of prestigious higher educational institutions. In 2016, this figure at the republican level was only half of the above number, which was the reason that young people who wanted to get an education went to study at higher educational institutions in other countries of the world. This is no secret to anyone. We must not forget that today's successes are an important step towards increasing the intellectual potential of our youth, their acquisition of modern knowledge and professions[3]. At the same time, over the past five years, the quota for admission to higher educational institutions has been increased 3 times. It should be noted that the President in his speeches especially emphasized that this year 182 thousand young people had the opportunity to become students. Thus, the total coverage reached 28%.

Thus, in Uzbekistan, on the basis of comprehensive measures, the implementation of state youth policy consistently continues, which pursues specific goals, which proves its effectiveness and efficiency. It should be noted that the 5 important initiatives put forward by the head of state Shavkat Mirziyoyev to establish systematic efforts in the social, spiritual and educational spheres created a new strategy for the upbringing and education of youth in the history of Uzbekistan. We believe that the attention paid to youth today will produce effective results in the future.

Problems with youth employment are being resolved. As practical measures, programs for vocational training and support for youth entrepreneurial initiatives have been approved and are in operation. There are vocational training centers throughout the country, where over 50 types of vocational training are provided, including for representatives of the younger generation. State grants and subsidies in the form of social orders to support the activities of NGOs in the field of youth, as well as to finance programs, projects and research in the field of state youth policy, including targeted ones, are also of great help to the boys and girls of Uzbekistan.

Goal 70 of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 defines further improvement of the state youth policy, in particular, ensuring the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of youth; protecting her life and health, improving conditions for using qualified medical care, increasing medical literacy and strengthening a healthy lifestyle; assistance in spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral development.

Thus, over the past few years, the youth policy of Uzbekistan has begun to focus directly on the needs of the younger generation, based on the proposals of the boys and girls themselves. Large-scale reforms are being implemented aimed at improving the quality of life of children and youth through the recognition and implementation of their rights and interests. At the same time, the state allocates enormous resources to provide youth with education, employment, housing and social support. As a result, the main goal is achieved - to ensure that the younger generation has the opportunity to find a worthy place in society, to develop taking into account modern trends, without losing such important qualities as devotion to the Motherland, respect for national and universal values.

Democracy is not only about national and international issues: it must begin in our immediate environment. Youth organizations are one of the opportunities through which young people gain experience and practice democracy, and therefore these organizations play an important role in it, provided, of course, that they are independent and democratic in their activities.

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