

THE ROLE OF THE MAHALLA INSTITUTE IN IMPLEMENTING THE STATE POLICY AIMED AT EDUCATING YOUTH IN THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.


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Annotation: *The mahalla has remained and continues to remain for the wise Uzbek people, who have gone through many trials, being their support and support. Even in the most complex periods of history, the mahalla, while preserving its significance and centuries-old values, as well as its national identity, has transformed into a new social structure during the years of independence. Today, mahallas serve as a unique institution in educating young people with high spirituality and a sense of patriotism. This article attempts to reveal the role of the mahalla institution in implementing state policy aimed at educating well-rounded youth during the years of independence.*

Keywords: *Mahalla, youth education, "Mahalla" charitable foundation, state policy.*

During the years of independence, fundamental changes have been taking place in all spheres of our country's life, aimed at improving the living conditions and ensuring a decent lifestyle for our compatriots. An important link in the process of implementing reforms is the state policy aimed at educating harmoniously developed youth. The matter of raising a harmoniously developed generation, which is considered the main wealth and future of our country, has been elevated to the level of state policy. Especially at a time when the process of globalization is taking place in the world, it is necessary to combine economic transformations with spiritual and educational work. The development and education in the minds of young people of the ideas of independence, spiritual values, awakening and moral national identity are considered an important condition and guarantee of the stable development of our society. In the process of elevating spiritual life, the role and place of the mahalla institute as a socio-territorial unit based on local self-governance, professional association, and dynastic kinship are invaluable. The mahalla institute is currently considered not only as an important link ensuring citizens' participation in political decision-making, but also as a school and management system that provides society with highly spiritual youth and their active participation in the social life of our country. Regarding the Mahalla Institute and its Role in Youth Education, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, speaks as follows: "In the years of independence, values, traditions, and customs are being enriched with the demands of the time. At the same time, the rights and powers of the mahalla are expanding, today it is a self-governing body and, as a democratic school, is carrying out large-scale activities. For the first time in the history of our statehood, the concept of "mahalla" was enshrined in the Constitution, and



its place and status in the management of society were clearly defined. Such great attention to the mahalla form of government testifies to the people's policy being pursued in our country. At this point, the mahalla is a practical expression of the principle "from a strong state to a strong society," which is being implemented in our country, acquiring important significance in strengthening our spiritual life, as well as in shaping the consciousness of the younger generation on a modern basis" [1, p. 60]. It is known that since ancient times, Uzbek mahallas have truly been and still remain a center for preserving national values. Mutual kindness and friendship, unity, systematic visits to the sick and elderly, as well as those in need, caring for orphans, holding weddings, communal hashars and memorial services, spiritual and moral support, and other customs and traditions unique to our people were initially formed and developed in the mahalla environment. Mahallas perform the function of educational schools and, in the spirit of respect for centuries-old traditions and customs, educate young people in the ideas of devotion to the Motherland, as well as play an important role in the formation of a harmoniously developed generation. There are many proverbs and sayings among the people, the most famous of which is "One child is responsible for 7 mahallas." During the years of independence, profound reforms have been carried out to strengthen its organizational, social, and legal status. First, the concept of "mahalla," as a kind of self-governing body of citizens, was enshrined in the Constitution for the first time. In Article 105 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, self-government bodies are defined as follows: "Cities, villages and auls, as well as mahallas within their composition, are bodies of citizens' self-government, they elect a chairperson and their advisors for a term of 2.5 years. The procedure for electing citizens to self-government bodies, the organization of their activities, and the scope of their authority are established by law" [2]. The mahalla has existed since ancient times and, being considered a unique structure that embodies the traditions and values of the Uzbek people, has great significance in the upbringing of the younger generation, thereby expressing the Eastern model of governance. These issues are especially relevant now, when the elements of globalization are infiltrating all spheres of life. From the first days of independence, great attention has been paid to providing comprehensive support to the mahalla institute, namely practical and methodological assistance in their organization. On September 12, 1992, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 472 "On the Establishment of the Republican "Mahalla" Charitable Foundation" was adopted and this is considered an important event in the history of our country.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the following were defined as the main functions of the "Mahalla" Charitable Foundation:

providing comprehensive assistance in preserving and enriching the historically established traditions and customs of the Uzbek people;

promoting the ideas of humane treatment of low-income families, orphans, elderly people, and those left without a breadwinner, providing them with moral and material support;



to promote the social, economic, and cultural development of mahalla committees in a market economy.

In order to ensure the implementation of the Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 472, on October 17, 1992, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a resolution "On the Issues of Organizing the Activities of the Republican Charitable Fund "Mahalla." In the sphere of educating the younger generation in Uzbekistan, the mahalla performs the following important functions:

based on humanism and compassion, contributes to the formation of the principle of mutual respect and good neighborly relations among young people, as well as the development and implementation of methods for promoting the idea of national independence, peace, and prosperity;

directly participates in the upbringing of the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism and humanism, national and spiritual values;

widely promotes in citizens' assemblies the ideas of humane and merciful treatment of low-income and breadwinner-less families, lonely elderly people, veterans, disabled people and orphans, provides them with material and moral support; \

provides theoretical and practical assistance in creating the necessary conditions for increasing the social activity of young people, guiding them towards their professions, based on the accurate direction of social support for the population, developing private entrepreneurship and family businesses, and expanding its powers in the system of public control over government bodies.

On March 30, 2012, the "Mahalla" fund was registered with the Ministry of Justice under number 44p, acquired a new Charter, and its organizational and legal status was defined as the "Public Fund." In order to expand the role and significance of the mahalla as a body of citizen self-government, enhance its prestige in strengthening national values and customs, feelings of mutual mercy, and strengthen material and moral support for the population, 2003 was declared the "Year of Mahalla" in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and on February 7 of this year, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a state program. It consists of 102 points, focusing on educating young people in the spirit of patriotism and national values, their social protection, creating broad opportunities for home-based and entrepreneurial activities, and strengthening spiritual and educational work to prevent them from falling under the influence of alien ideologies and trends.

Every year, events and various campaigns are regularly held in mahallas among young people, including "21st Century Mahalla," "What Have I Done for the Development of My Mahalla," "Mahalla History - History of Statehood" among lyceum and college students, as well as "Heroes of Our Mahalla" sports competitions. The purpose of these events is to educate a spiritually and harmoniously developed generation. It can be concluded that it is difficult to overestimate the role of the mahalla in the upbringing of modern youth. The great attention paid to the mahalla institution stems from its functions in society, in particular, the upbringing of a harmoniously developed generation in the spirit of





national and universal values, love for the Motherland. The mahalla is not only a school for assimilating national values, but also a self-governing body that has a strong influence and, based on spiritual criteria and the opinion of the general public, regulates the behavior of young people and their relationships.

In the context of building a New Uzbekistan, the comprehensive development of youth, increasing their social activity and involvement in reforms has become a crucial direction of state policy. In this regard, the institute of mahalla as a body of citizen self-government, possessing high trust among the population and the best opportunity for direct interaction with young people, acquires special significance.

It must be admitted that in the first years after independence, youth policy did not have a clear systemic direction. The approaches were declarative and often reduced to mass cultural and sports events that did not solve the deep problems of young people. As noted by the Uzbek scholar I. Yunusxodjayev, "in the absence of effective mechanisms for involving young people in economic and political processes, state policy in this area was largely formal"[3].

Moreover, the mahalla, being largely administratively dependent, did not possess real independence, which limited its opportunities in the field of youth education. During this period, the mahalla institution primarily performed the functions of social control rather than a platform for development.


Since 2016, with the coming to power of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the attitude towards youth policy and the mahalla institution has changed dramatically. The concept of "strategic investment in youth" has been introduced as the foundation of national development. Special attention was paid to strengthening the role of the mahalla in ensuring employment, education, legal support, and the spiritual and moral education of young people.

The creation of the Youth Affairs Agency, the introduction of the "Youth - the Future of the Country" system, the implementation of projects within the framework of mahalla interaction - all this has brought work with young people to a fundamentally new level. In particular, the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026 emphasizes that "the mahalla institution will become a key link in providing targeted support to young people and identifying their problems locally"[4].

In addition, by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 19, 2021, No. PP-5197 "On Measures to Further Enhance the Efficiency of Mahallas," the positions of Assistant to the Hokim for Youth Affairs were introduced, creating a new vertical of interaction between the government and youth through the mahalla.

Recent years have shown that efforts to enhance the role of the mahalla are yielding tangible results. In 2022 alone, thanks to the activities of assistant khokims and youth leaders at the mahalla level, more than 200 thousand young people were employed, of which 48% lived in rural areas[5].





Nevertheless, certain problems remain. In particular, there is a shortage of trained personnel in the mahalla system itself, limited resources at the local level, and the need to improve the legal literacy of both the employees themselves and the youth. According to political scientist S.Rakhmonov, "the mahalla institution should evolve from a mediator to a full-fledged youth policy entity with access to budget and organizational tools"[6].

Conclusion

Thus, in the context of New Uzbekistan, the mahalla institution is transforming into a full-fledged partner of the state in implementing the state youth policy. A critical analysis of past mistakes has allowed for the development of new effective approaches based on the principles of openness, responsibility, and targeting. In the coming years, it is the mahalla that can become the main link in building the "Youth Care Society," which has been declared one of the priorities of national development.

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