

## THE YOUTH AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS: YOUTH POLICY IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi**

*Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek  
The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign languages Philology and teaching  
languages nafisateshaboyeva@gmail.com*

**Xatamova Sojida Sobir qizi**

*Student of group 203-24:*

**Abstract:** *This scientific article provides an in-depth study of the youth and their achievements in the context of the state youth policy in Uzbekistan. It explores the legal, institutional, and social foundations of youth development, along with the government's efforts to empower the younger generation through education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and civic engagement. The paper highlights concrete results achieved by young Uzbeks in science, technology, sports, and culture. It also discusses ongoing challenges and proposes ways to further improve youth policy in line with global sustainable development goals. The research emphasizes that Uzbekistan's youth policy plays a vital role in shaping the nation's modernization process, ensuring that the energy, creativity, and potential of young people are directed toward building a just and prosperous society. By analyzing state initiatives such as the "Youth Notebook," "Youth – Our Future," and the "El-Yurt Umidi" Foundation, the article reveals how systematic state support contributes to the formation of a new generation of educated, responsible, and socially active citizens. Furthermore, the study situates Uzbekistan's youth development model within the broader framework of international experience and the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, demonstrating the country's growing alignment with global standards of human capital advancement.*

**Key words:** *youth, achievements, Uzbekistan, youth policy, education, innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainable development, civic engagement.*

In the modern era of globalization and rapid digital transformation, youth represent the most dynamic and creative segment of any nation. Uzbekistan, with over 60% of its population under 30, views the younger generation as a decisive force in shaping the country's future. The idea of the "New Uzbekistan", introduced by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, is deeply connected with empowering youth and unlocking their potential. The government has taken a strategic approach to create favorable conditions for education, innovation, and social participation. Youth are not merely the future of the nation—they are its active builders today. Uzbekistan's youth policy has evolved significantly since independence. In the early years, the focus was mainly on education and patriotism. However, from 2016 onwards, the policy gained a

systemic and innovative dimension—integrating education, employment, entrepreneurship, and civic participation within one unified framework.

#### The Legal and Institutional Framework of Youth Policy

The cornerstone of Uzbekistan’s modern youth policy is the Law “On State Youth Policy” adopted on September 14, 2016. This law defines youth as individuals aged 14 to 30 and sets forth state obligations to ensure their rights, development, and social protection.

The law outlines key directions, including:

equal access to quality education;

youth employment and entrepreneurship;

moral and patriotic upbringing;

protection of health and interests;

participation in decision-making and state governance.

The Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (established in 2017) coordinates nationwide initiatives. Its regional branches, youth councils, and volunteer organizations implement dozens of projects annually. Other vital institutions include the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, the Youth Parliament under the Oliy Majlis, and youth offices within local governments (khokimiyats). In addition, the National Strategy “Youth – 2030”, adopted in harmony with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides a long-term vision for developing a well-educated, creative, and socially responsible generation.

#### Major Programs and Initiatives. “Yoshlar Daftari” (Youth Notebook)

Introduced to support socially vulnerable youth, this system identifies unemployed and low-income young citizens and provides targeted assistance. As of 2024, over 390,000 young people were registered, of whom 94,000 found employment, 56,000 underwent vocational training, and more than 30,000 received startup funding or housing support.

#### “Yoshlar – Kelajagimiz” (Youth are Our Future)

This program provides preferential loans to young entrepreneurs. With its financial and mentoring support, more than 100,000 youth have successfully launched their own businesses. The share of youth in entrepreneurship has tripled since 2018.

#### “1 Million Coders” and IT Development

To prepare youth for the digital economy, Uzbekistan joined international programs aimed at improving technological literacy. Over 250,000 participants have obtained IT certificates, and new IT Parks in Tashkent and regions have nurtured youth-led startups in programming, robotics, and fintech.

#### “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation

This foundation plays a vital role in supporting talented youth to study abroad and return to contribute to the nation’s progress. More than 1,200 graduates of this program currently serve in government, education, and research institutions.

#### “Leaders of the New Generation” Program

Started in 2022, it identifies young professionals with leadership potential and prepares them for public administration roles. Many graduates have already been appointed to government positions.

#### Achievements of Youth in Uzbekistan

##### Education and Science

Uzbekistan's youth have demonstrated exceptional results in education: Over 150,000 youth have earned international English proficiency certificates (IELTS, CEFR). Students from 10 regions won 166 medals at international Olympiads in 2025. Young researchers have received patents for innovations in energy, IT, and biotechnology.

##### Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Fund and IT parks have enabled thousands of startups. Many young innovators have presented projects at international exhibitions such as "InnoWeek" and "Startup Summit Uzbekistan", contributing to the national economy and digitalization.

##### Sports and Culture

Uzbek youth are making significant achievements in sports and culture: Athletes won over 120 medals in Asian and world championships (2024–2025). The "Young Artists of Uzbekistan" initiative promotes creative talents in music, film, and literature. International recognition of Uzbek youth athletes and artists strengthens the country's cultural diplomacy.

##### Civic Engagement and Global Presence

Young Uzbeks actively participate in governance and global forums. The Youth Parliament gives them a voice in shaping legislation, while youth ambassadors represent Uzbekistan in international organizations such as the UN, SCO, and OIC.

##### Achievements in Figures

Recent data illustrate the positive impact of youth policy: Youth unemployment decreased by 50% in five years. The number of small businesses led by young entrepreneurs grew by three times. More than 40% of new business owners are under 30. Youth participation in local councils increased by 35% since 2020. Challenges and Future Directions. While Uzbekistan's youth policy has achieved substantial progress, certain areas still require improvement: Quality of education must align more closely with labor market needs. Rural-urban inequality remains a problem in access to resources and technology. Youth employment requires greater long-term sustainability and social protection. Global competitiveness needs enhancement through foreign language skills, innovation culture, and academic exchange. The future of youth policy must emphasize digital transformation, green economy skills, entrepreneurship in the creative industries, and inclusive participation for all youth groups—including women, rural, and disabled youth.

In conclusion, the youth of Uzbekistan embody the strength, creativity, and hope of the nation. Through targeted reforms and comprehensive policy initiatives, the

government has successfully built a foundation that supports youth education, employment, entrepreneurship, and civic participation. Youth achievements in science, technology, culture, and sports have become a source of national pride and an indicator of Uzbekistan's global progress. The continuation of these policies ensures that every young citizen will play a meaningful role in building the "New Uzbekistan" — a modern, just, and innovative state. As the country advances toward 2030, the emphasis must remain on equipping youth with 21st-century skills, fostering innovation, and nurturing moral integrity. The combination of state support, civic responsibility, and personal initiative will ensure that Uzbekistan's youth remain both the present builders and future leaders of the nation.

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