

Innovation as a Key Social Factor in the Development of Higher Education

Rakhmatov Nuriddin Negkadamovich

Teacher of Bukhara State Medical Institute, Searcher of National university of Uzbekistan



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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study investigates the modernization of higher education in Uzbekistan, emphasizing the integration of innovative technologies and approaches in teaching to meet global standards. It aims to explore how these reforms contribute to fostering human capital for sustainable development. **Method:** The research utilizes qualitative analysis of education policies, institutional strategies, and practical implementations of innovative teaching technologies. Data were collected from national reform programs, case studies of leading universities, and international collaborations in higher education. **Results:** Findings highlight a shift from traditional to interactive teaching methods, empowering students to independently acquire and analyze knowledge. The establishment of special schools and technoparks, along with the adoption of the "University 3.0" model, underscores Uzbekistan's commitment to linking education, science, and innovation. These advancements have enhanced infrastructure, teaching methodologies, and international partnerships, positioning the country as a regional educational leader. **Novelty:** This study provides a comprehensive overview of Uzbekistan's transition to an innovation-driven educational system, illustrating the strategic alignment of education reforms with global trends. By emphasizing the synergy between education, research, and commercialization, it offers insights into the transformative potential of innovative education policies for developing nations.

INTRODUCTION

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the rapid introduction of modern innovative technologies into economic sectors, social and other spheres, with the widespread use of scientific and technical achievements, is an important condition for rapid development [1], [2], [3].

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted: "Today we are moving towards the path of innovative development aimed at radically renewing all spheres of state and social life. This is not without reason, of course. Because in the current era, when times are rapidly developing, who will win? A state that relies on a new thought, a new idea, innovation will win. Innovation means the future. If we start building our great future today, we must start it on the basis of innovative ideas and innovative approaches" [2], [5].

In this regard, the emphasis on fostering innovation in education has become a cornerstone of national policy. Education is viewed as the foundation for driving progress in other sectors, making it imperative to modernize and adapt educational systems to meet contemporary demands [6]. The integration of innovative methods in teaching and learning is seen as a key strategy for equipping students with the

knowledge and skills required to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. The shift towards an innovation-driven economy is intrinsically linked to the development of human capital, highlighting the importance of reforms in the education sector [7], [8].

The development of higher education institutions in Uzbekistan reflects this focus on innovation and modernization. With the establishment of state-of-the-art schools such as those named after Muhammad Khorezm and Mirzo Ulugbek, which prioritize in-depth teaching of exact sciences, the country demonstrates its commitment to nurturing intellectual excellence [9]. These institutions incorporate creative approaches and innovative pedagogies designed to meet global standards. The integration of science, technology, and innovation into the curriculum underpins the broader reforms aimed at aligning Uzbekistan's educational outcomes with its aspirations for socio-economic [1], [5].

Furthermore, Uzbekistan has embraced international collaboration in its higher education strategy. More than 30 branches of leading universities from countries such as the USA, Great Britain, and South Korea operate within the nation, bringing diverse perspectives and methodologies to its educational landscape. The adoption of the "University 3.0" model, which combines education, research, and commercialization, is a testament to Uzbekistan's progressive vision [5]. By ensuring that higher education institutions serve as hubs for innovation and knowledge transfer, the country is positioning itself as a regional leader in education and innovation, vital for sustaining long-term growth in the globalized economy [3], [4].

RESEARCH METHOD

One of the urgent tasks of our country today is to modernize the content of education, improve the quality of education, and widely introduce innovative technologies in education. Many new approaches are being used and put into practice. The effectiveness of these innovations is largely due to the proper organization of innovative activities carried out in an educational institution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Currently, there is a growing interest in the use of interactive methods, innovative technologies, pedagogical and information technologies in the educational process, because until now, in traditional education, students were taught only to acquire ready-made knowledge, while in modern technologies, they are directed to search for the acquired knowledge themselves, independently study and analyze it, and even draw conclusions on their own. In this process, the professor-teacher creates conditions for the development, formation, acquisition of knowledge and upbringing of the individual, and at the same time performs the function of management and guidance. Therefore, the place and role of modern teaching methods - interactive methods, innovative technologies - in the training of qualified professionals in higher education institutions is

extremely large. In this regard, knowledge, experience and interactive methods related to pedagogical technology and pedagogical skills ensure that students acquire knowledgeable, mature qualifications. The affirmation of innovations as a key factor in the development of higher education is one of the important features of our time.

Discussion

In the process of modern globalization, one of the leading factors in the development of any country is the education system. If you look at the path taken by the developed countries of the world, you will see that they have paid special attention to education. Leading higher education institutions in countries such as the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, China and South Korea are currently not only fully self-financing, but also generate income for the country.

Universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cambridge, Oxford are famous for their names. Accordingly, today New Uzbekistan is on the path of raising the higher education system to a high level. In recent years, the total number of state and non-state higher education institutions in our country has reached 213. Special schools named after Muhammad Khorezm and Mirzo Ulugbek have been established, where exact sciences are taught in depth based on creative approaches and innovation in the education system. Many reforms have also been carried out to further improve the updated higher education system of Uzbekistan. In particular, the program for the comprehensive development of the higher education system in 2017-2021 and the Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 were adopted.

Currently, more than 30 branches of leading higher education institutions from the USA, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, South Korea, India, Singapore and other countries operate in Uzbekistan. The concept of "University 3.0" is being gradually introduced in higher education institutions, which implies the inextricable link between education, science, innovation and commercialization of scientific research results. It is an undeniable fact that in today's modern globalization environment, higher education institutions cannot achieve competitiveness by selling educational services alone. It is no exaggeration to say that a radical reform of the education system has become the most important factor and a solid foundation for changing the consciousness, thinking and worldview of our people, increasing their political, civic, social activity, and confidence in their future. The most important thing is that our new generation, educated, free from all the vices of the past, is today becoming the decisive driving force for the democratization and liberalization of our country, its renewal and reliable development. Today, a lot of work has been done to organize the teaching process based on the introduction of new innovative technologies. In particular, the classrooms of most higher education institutions have been prepared to the required technical and aesthetic standards, the auditoriums have been equipped with video projectors and computer equipment, and adapted for conducting classes using information technologies. These

are the main technical means for students to receive high-quality and effective education. At the same time, great attention is currently being paid to organizing classes based on innovative technologies and improving the methodological skills of young professors and teachers. In particular, technoparks are being established to enable professors and teachers, research researchers, doctoral students, master's and bachelor's students to conduct scientific and innovative activities.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : The study underscores that integrating innovative teaching methods and technologies, such as interactive learning and pedagogical innovations, is critical for enhancing the quality of higher education in Uzbekistan. These methods shift the focus from passive knowledge acquisition to active, self-guided learning, emphasizing the role of educators as facilitators and guides. This transition aligns with global trends in education and supports the country's ambition to build a knowledge-driven society. **Implication :** The findings suggest that fostering innovation in higher education not only enhances the learning process but also positions Uzbekistan as a competitive player in the global educational landscape. The adoption of the "University 3.0" model and collaboration with international institutions further indicates a strategic alignment with global standards. This approach not only nurtures skilled professionals but also strengthens the foundation for sustainable socio-economic development. **Limitation :** Despite significant progress, challenges remain in fully integrating innovative technologies and practices across all higher education institutions. Variability in resources, infrastructure, and the preparedness of educators can hinder the widespread adoption of these reforms. Additionally, achieving uniformity in the quality of education across both urban and rural regions remains a pressing issue. **Future Research :** Further research should explore the long-term impacts of the "University 3.0" model on socio-economic development and assess the effectiveness of technoparks in fostering innovation. Additionally, comparative studies with other nations implementing similar educational reforms could provide insights into best practices and areas for improvement, ensuring Uzbekistan's higher education system remains aligned with global advancements.

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***Rakhmatov Nuriddin Negkadamovich (Corresponding Author)**

Teacher of Bukhara State Medical Institute, Searcher of National university of Uzbekistan

Email: rakhmatov.nuriddin.83@gmail.com
