

YOUTH PROBLEMS IN MODERN SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MECHANISMS FOR THEIR RESOLUTION

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Abstract

This article analyzes the key problems faced by youth in modern society, their underlying causes, and the social mechanisms for addressing them from a scientific perspective. In particular, issues such as youth employment, moral and ethical education, the development of legal awareness and culture, and the role of cooperation among social institutions are examined. The study substantiates the importance of innovative pedagogical, psychological, and legal approaches in solving youth-related problems based on a comprehensive and systematic framework.

Keywords: youth problems, social mechanisms, youth employment, legal culture, socialization, moral and ethical education, legal clinic, social protection, innovative approaches, youth policy.

Introduction

In the context of contemporary globalization, the potential of youth constitutes one of the most significant determinants of societal development. Youth represent a strategic resource for any state, and their level of social activity, legal consciousness, and moral-ethical values play a decisive role in ensuring social stability. Within this framework, the effective participation of young people in the system of social relations is of critical importance. This process is characterized by the progressive development of youth perspectives, interests, and levels of social engagement, alongside the strengthening of cohesion within youth communities.

In socially and politically stable, as well as spiritually sound societies, the social consciousness and worldview of young people demonstrate continuous development, thereby serving as a fundamental factor in sustaining social stability. Healthy and well-developed youth emerge as a key driving force contributing to social progress.

In his Address to the Oliy Majlis, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that, under modern conditions, enhancing youth participation in social life, as well as increasing their civic responsibility and innovative initiative, is essential for the effective implementation of reforms. He stated: “In general, the development of any society is decisively influenced by a healthy and harmoniously developed younger generation that ensures its future. Therefore, in further expanding the scope and effectiveness of our reforms, we rely on our youth who are well-rounded, possess modern knowledge and professional skills, and are energetic, determined, and proactive.”¹ At the same time, in contemporary society, young people are confronted with a range of social challenges. This article examines the key dimensions of youth-related problems and analyzes effective mechanisms for addressing them. Currently, young people face the following major social issues:

¹ Мирзиёев Ш. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Олий Мажлисига мурожаатнома. 29 декабрь, 2020 й. www.uza.uz

- **Unemployment and labor market integration** – the lack of competitiveness of youth in the labor market and insufficient professional experience;
- **Inequality in the quality of education** – disparities in access to educational opportunities between urban and rural areas;
- **Moral and ethical transformation** – shifts in value systems under the influence of the internet and mass culture;
- **Low level of legal literacy** – insufficient awareness among youth regarding their rights and legal responsibilities;
- **Problems of socially vulnerable groups** – including crime, drug addiction, and deviant behavior.

These issues complicate the process of youth adaptation to society and reduce their level of social activity. The socio-psychological development of young people does not always proceed in a linear or harmonious manner. While development contributes to physical growth, increased interest in life, and the enhancement of intellectual and spiritual capacities, the lack of adequate moral and psychological preparedness, combined with insufficient life experience, may lead to negative outcomes. According to S. Jo‘raev, “Young people constitute approximately 33–35% of the population of our republic and account for more than half of its labor resources.”². Youth constitute the inheritors of society, assimilating its spiritual-cultural and social values from the older generation and ensuring the continuity of generational succession. Observations of the socio-political status of young people indicate that a significant proportion of them have not yet fully realized the extent of their potential to become active and competent participants in political processes. At present, many young individuals tend to perceive participation in political life as relatively insignificant for their personal development and for establishing their position within society.

In this context, B. X. Jo‘raev, B. X. Jo‘raev emphasizes that “democratic processes in society and youth activity are inherently interconnected. Political thought has increasingly come to recognize that they constitute integral components of two fundamental systems of social relations.”³

In contemporary society, young people are confronted with a wide range of challenges that stem from social, economic, psychological, and cultural factors. Addressing these issues requires the effective functioning of social mechanisms, which play a crucial role in mitigating their impact. One of the primary dimensions of youth-related problems is economic instability. High levels of unemployment significantly limit the economic independence of young people. Issues within the education system are also of considerable importance; the low quality of education and its insufficient alignment with modern requirements and students’ needs create additional barriers for youth development. Health and psychological problems, including stress and depression, are increasingly prevalent among young people. Furthermore, social isolation constitutes a significant concern, reflecting the lack of social interaction and cooperation among youth. A

² Жўраев С.А. Ўзбекистон Республикасининг ўтиш даврида шаклланадиган давлат ёшлар сиёсатининг ўзига хос хусусиятлари: Дис. ... политология фан. д-ри/ - Т., 1994. – Б.5.

³ Жўраев Б.Х. Ўзбекистонда жамиятнинг демократиялашуви жараёнида ёшлар сиёсий фаоллиги муаммоси: Дис. ... Сиёсий фан. номзоди: ЎзР Президенти ҳузуридаги Давлат ва жамият қурилиши академияси. - Т., 2004. – Б.13.

range of social mechanisms exists to address these challenges. Education and vocational training systems contribute to preparing young people for contemporary professions and enhancing their competencies. Social programs are aimed at ensuring active youth participation in social life and are implemented through various projects and initiatives. Psychological support services play a vital role in maintaining and strengthening the mental well-being of young people. In addition, economic programs include initiatives focused on youth employment and the promotion of entrepreneurship.

Youth-related issues remain a pressing concern in modern society. Their effective resolution requires the further development and efficient organization of social mechanisms. Active participation of young people in social life is essential for their future development. Proposed measures include the design and implementation of innovative youth-oriented programs, the strengthening of social partnerships, and the establishment of active and continuous dialogue with young people.

Enhancing the quality of social life and increasing the socio-economic potential of a country necessitate the improvement of the education and training system, the organization of the educational process in accordance with modern standards, and the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical skills among youth. This is because achieving constructive societal development and national progress is possible only through the active participation, initiative, independent thinking, and strong sense of responsibility of young people-those who have attained high levels of scientific knowledge, possess a deep sense of patriotism, remain committed to the ideals of independence, and demonstrate firm confidence in the prosperous future of their country.⁴ Therefore, the upbringing of young people, the formation of their renewed worldview, and the development of an ideology grounded in the principles of constructivism and creativity are of paramount importance for the future of society. National development and economic stability are, first and foremost, directly linked to social harmony, as well as to the extent to which young people-who are entering the threshold of independent life-have thoroughly mastered modern knowledge, developed a well-formed worldview, and benefited from the legacy of their ancestors. Moreover, their determination to rely on this heritage and contribute to strengthening the scientific, economic, and cultural-educational potential of the country is of critical significance. In this context, social activity can be defined as “an integral system of an individual’s attitudes toward the surrounding environment and the processes occurring within society, characterized by individual-typological features and socially conditioned traits that develop throughout the course of life.”⁵

One of the essential characteristics in the formation of social activity is the high level of responsibility among young people. The manifestation of youth activity in addressing socially significant issues within society is determined by their level of thinking, innovative knowledge, spiritual perspectives, moral conduct, and awareness of national interests.

⁴ Джержен (Герген) К. Дж. Социальный конструкционизм: знание и практика Минск, 2003.

⁵ Рахманова М.К. Олий таълим муассасалари талабаларида ижтимоий фаолликни ривожлантириш. Педагогика фанлари бўйича фалсафа доктори (PhD) диссертацияси автореферати. – Самарқанд, 2019. – Б.11.

According to B. Mamatyusupov, “social activity should be understood as patterns of behavior and actions associated with the acceptance, transformation, or reinterpretation of socially significant tasks.”⁶.

The key characteristics of enhancing the innovative activity of youth in ensuring social stability in society include the following:

- The social and political activity of youth, along with their moral and legal responsibility, constitute essential factors connected to social life;
- The role and significance of socio-political institutions are substantial in increasing youth social activity;
- Youth social activity plays a crucial role in ensuring social stability and implementing modernization processes within society;
- It is important to continuously study the theoretical and practical aspects of forming youth responsibility across various sectors of society, as well as to conduct sociological research in this field.

Conclusion

In modern society, youth-related problems are multidimensional and systemic in nature, primarily associated with socio-economic inequality, employment challenges, the transformation of moral and ethical values, the rapid expansion of the information space, and the processes of globalization. These factors significantly influence the socialization of young people, their development as individuals, and their role within society.

Scientific analysis demonstrates that effective solutions to youth-related issues require a comprehensive, systematic, and institutional approach. In this regard, it is essential to modernize the education system, ensure youth employment, enhance legal culture, develop mechanisms of psychological support, and establish effective cooperation among social institutions (family, educational institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations).

Furthermore, preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of youth falling into socially vulnerable groups are of particular importance. These include the development of legal clinic activities, the introduction of innovative pedagogical and psychological technologies, and the enhancement of digital literacy. In conclusion, addressing youth-related issues in contemporary society cannot be achieved through isolated measures alone; rather, it requires the implementation of continuous and integrated systems of social mechanisms. This, in turn, serves as a key factor in increasing youth social activity, protecting their rights and interests, and fostering the development of mature human capital that contributes to sustainable development.

⁶ Маматюсупов Б. Ҳуқуқий маданият эндоген хусусиятларининг шахс ижтимоий фаоллигига таъсири. Фалсафа фанлари бўйича фалсафа доктори (PhD) диссертацияси автореферати. Тошкент, 2018. 13-14 бетлар.

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