

**FORMATION OF THE LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF YOUTH POLICY DURING
THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

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Abstract

This article provides a historical analysis of how the legal foundations of state youth policy were formed and developed in the Republic of Uzbekistan after gaining independence. The study examines the adoption of laws, decrees, resolutions, and state programs related to the youth sector, revealing their essence and practical significance. In addition, it analyzes legal guarantees aimed at protecting the rights and interests of young people, increasing their socio-political activity, and ensuring their opportunities in education, employment, and moral upbringing. The article highlights, from a scholarly perspective, the stages of improvement of the legal framework of youth policy during the years of independence and its role in the development of society.

Keywords: youth policy, legal foundations, years of independence, state policy, legislation, normative legal acts, youth rights, socio-political activity, state programs.

From the first years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan elevated the support of young people as a strategic social group and the protection of their rights and interests to the level of state policy. This is because the country's future development, the construction of a democratic society, and the maintenance of a stable socio-political environment are closely linked to the consciousness, activity, and legal protection of the younger generation. Therefore, during the years of independence, special attention was paid to the formation of state youth policy and to strengthening its legal foundations.

Over the past period, a number of laws, presidential decrees, government resolutions, and state programs regulating the youth sphere have been adopted in Uzbekistan. These legal acts created legal guarantees for young people to receive education, engage in labor, enjoy social protection, pursue entrepreneurial activities, and actively participate in public life. In particular, the step-by-step improvement of the legislative framework on youth policy has contributed to the development of human capital and to increasing the socio-political activity of young people in the country.

From this perspective, conducting a historical analysis of the process of forming the legal foundations of youth policy during the years of independence, and revealing their essence and socio-political significance, is considered one of the most relevant scholarly issues. This study aims to assess the role of the legal foundations of state youth policy in the overall development of society.

In the second paragraph of this chapter, entitled "**Legal Foundations of State Youth Policy**," the process of establishing the legal foundations of state youth policy in Uzbekistan and the stages of its development are analyzed in chronological order. In this context, the legal impact of laws, resolutions, and decrees adopted during the years of independence on the lives of young people is revealed.

The years **1991–1996** are characterized as the initial stage in the formation of the normative and legal foundations of state youth policy in Uzbekistan. This period is marked by the process of restructuring the socio-political system of society after independence and by the formation of a state-level approach to human capital, particularly to issues related to the younger generation. During these years, the first laws, decrees, and normative legal acts defining the goals and objectives of state youth policy were developed and put into practice.

These legal foundations were aimed at guaranteeing young people's rights to social protection, education, employment, moral and educational development, and active participation in public life, and they served as a basis for subsequent reforms carried out in this sphere. In this regard, it is scientifically justified to assess the years **1991–1996** as the period of normative and legal formation of state youth policy in Uzbekistan [1].

The year **1996** can be assessed as a period marking the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the implementation of state youth policy in Uzbekistan. This is because it was precisely in that year that important institutional decisions adopted in the field of youth policy served to ensure the practical realization of this direction. In particular, the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-1425 dated April 17, 1996, "*On the 'Kamolot' Youth Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan*," became an important legal and organizational basis for the systematic and targeted implementation of state youth policy.

On the basis of this decree, a new institutional mechanism for working with youth was formed, and issues such as increasing the socio-political activity of young people, involving them in the process of democratic reforms, providing moral and educational upbringing, and ensuring social support were elevated to the level of state policy. As a result, a transition was ensured from the initial normative-legal foundations of youth policy to a concrete organizational and practical stage of its implementation [2].

This decree clearly defined the goals and objectives of the newly established youth organization and strengthened the institutional foundations for implementing state youth policy. At the subsequent stage, reforms in this direction were systematically continued through state programs. In particular, the declaration of **2008 as the "Year of Youth"** led to the implementation of large-scale measures aimed at the timely resolution of accumulated problems in the field of protecting the rights and interests of young people. Within this state program, special priority was given to further deepening reforms in the system of continuous education and expanding opportunities for young people to receive quality education.

In addition, in order to implement targeted measures aimed at fully realizing the creative and intellectual potential of youth, **2010 was declared the "Year of the Harmoniously Developed Generation."** The approval of the *State Program "Year of the Harmoniously Developed Generation"* by the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 1271 dated January 27, 2010, served to further strengthen state policy aimed at the comprehensive development of young people, including their moral, ethical, physical, and intellectual maturity.

Of particular importance as a document that elevated state youth policy to a new legal stage was the adoption on September 14, 2016, of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "*On State Youth Policy*." This law stipulates that state, regional, and other targeted programs may be adopted in order to ensure the implementation of state youth policy and to comprehensively support young people. At the same time, the responsibilities, powers, and obligations of state bodies and organizations involved in the implementation of state youth policy were clearly defined. As a result, practical mechanisms for protecting and supporting youth were consolidated at the legislative level, creating a stable legal foundation for ongoing reforms in this sphere [3].

At the same time, the priority directions of state youth policy were also reflected in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017, *“On the Action Strategy for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.”* This Action Strategy for the period 2017–2021, as a comprehensive program aimed at the comprehensive modernization and sustainable development of the country, envisaged improving the social protection system of the population, developing the healthcare sector, qualitatively renewing the system of science and education, and consistently implementing state youth policy.

Within the framework of the Strategy, measures aimed at ensuring the rights and interests of young people, increasing their employment and social activity, and developing their moral, educational, and innovative potential were defined as priority tasks. This demonstrates that state youth policy has been recognized as a strategically important direction in the country’s development and that stable institutional and legal foundations have been created for its implementation [4].

Furthermore, the adoption on July 5, 2017, of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan *“On Increasing the Effectiveness of State Youth Policy and Supporting the Activities of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan”* marked an important stage in further improving the organizational and institutional mechanisms for implementing state youth policy. Through this decree, measures were defined to modernize the youth engagement system, enhance young people’s socio-political activity, and expand their participation in state and public life.

In addition, in accordance with the decree, **June 30** was designated nationwide as **“Youth Day.”** This decision symbolically and practically emphasized the increasing role and status of young people in society and the special attention paid by the state to their rights and interests, thereby further strengthening the social significance of state youth policy.

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