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## **REFORMS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AT A NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Abstract**

The article examines the issues of deepening ongoing reforms in the field of education, organizing the activities of educational institutions based on advanced international experience, improving the system of teacher training, and supporting the activities of non-state educational organizations. It also analyzes measures aimed at enhancing human resource potential in education, organizing educational processes and service delivery in educational institutions based on new principles, bringing the quality of educational services up to international standards, and accelerating the pace of reforms.

**Keywords:** Modernization, state scholarships, information analysis, digital government, hemis, electronic library, diplom.edu.uz, researcher.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Due to the large-scale reforms launched in the process of building a New Uzbekistan, the socio-political landscape of our society has undergone profound changes. In particular, as a result of the reforms in the field of education, the coverage of preschool education has increased from 27 percent in 2017 to 77 percent at present, while higher education coverage has risen from 9 percent to 42 percent. The emergence of new types of educational institutions such as creative schools, specialized schools, and Presidential schools serves as a vivid example of this progress [1].



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## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

In our country, special attention has been given to the development of science and education. By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan approving the “Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030,” the main priorities for the systematic reform of higher education were determined. The Concept aims to bring the process of training highly qualified specialists—individuals with modern knowledge, high moral and ethical values, and independent thinking—to a qualitatively new level; to modernize higher education; and to develop the social sphere and economic sectors on the basis of advanced educational technologies [2].

Furthermore, it is planned to expand public-private partnerships in the field of higher education, to organize the activities of public and non-state higher education institutions in the regions, and to increase the coverage of higher education to more than 50 percent. The Concept emphasizes the creation of a healthy competitive environment, the gradual transition of the educational process in higher education institutions to a credit-module system, and the introduction of advanced international standards of higher education.

It also seeks to ensure academic independence, to commercialize the results of education, science, innovation, and research, to attract foreign investments, and to expand the range of paid services and extra-budgetary sources. Within these frameworks, the establishment of technology parks, foresight and technology transfer centers, start-up and accelerator centers at higher education institutions is planned, elevating them to the level of research and applied institutions that study and forecast the socio-economic development of relevant sectors and regions.

Moreover, the Concept pays attention to increasing the publication of scientific articles by professors, researchers, doctoral students, and undergraduate and graduate students of higher education institutions in prestigious international journals with high impact factors; to raising citation indicators; and to gradually including national scientific journals in international scientific and technical databases. It also aims to transform Uzbekistan’s higher education system into a regional “hub” for implementing international educational programs in Central



## *Modern American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*

ISSN (E): 3067-8153

Volume 01, Issue 07, October, 2025

Website: usajournals.org

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Asia, to enhance the investment attractiveness of higher education, to attract foreign educational and scientific technologies, and to create additional opportunities for the education and upbringing of young people.

The Concept includes the implementation of five practical initiatives focused on improving the infrastructure and material-technical base of higher education institutions through concessional funds from international financial institutions, transferring universities to a self-financing system, ensuring their financial stability, establishing mutually beneficial cooperation between education, production enterprises, and research institutes, and increasing the level of higher education coverage for socially vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, while improving accessibility and infrastructure conditions for them.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

As a result of the reforms, by 2023, the number of higher education institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan increased from 199 to 213, that is, by 14 new institutions, including three non-state higher education institutions [3]. More than 193,000 applicants were admitted as students, and the total number of students exceeded 1.3 million. The coverage of youth in higher education increased from 38 percent to 42 percent. A total of 663 students participated in academic mobility programs — 226 studied abroad, while 273 foreign students studied in Uzbekistan. The 25 students with the highest entrance exam scores received the Presidential Scholarship. Additionally, 695 students became winners of the Presidential and state-named scholarships, and 18 master's degree students received the Presidential scholarship [4].

A unified electronic library platform was created between universities, hosting more than 324,000 electronic resources. The national database of higher, secondary special, and vocational education diplomas — diplom.edu.uz — was established, and 84 percent of diplomas issued between 1991 and 2020 were digitized. The digitization of tuition contracts and student record books saved approximately 3.34 billion soums. Information systems were integrated with the Digital Government system, enabling ministries and agencies to utilize these data. Twenty-two types of public services were digitized and launched through the Unified Interactive Public Services Portal.



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Website: [usajournals.org](http://usajournals.org)

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The scientific potential of higher education institutions increased to 41 percent. The number of state-funded doctoral program quotas reached 4,307. As a result of reforms in the attestation system for highly qualified scientific and pedagogical personnel, 3,348 researchers were awarded scientific degrees, including 2,887 Doctors of Philosophy (PhD) and 461 Doctors of Science (DSc). In addition, 2,289 researchers obtained academic titles [5].

In recent years, several electronic platforms have been launched to digitalize higher education processes, including [kontrakt.edu.uz](http://kontrakt.edu.uz), [prof-kontrakt.edu.uz](http://prof-kontrakt.edu.uz), [magistr.edu.uz](http://magistr.edu.uz), [stipendiya.edu.uz](http://stipendiya.edu.uz), [diplom.edu.uz](http://diplom.edu.uz), [adabiyot.edu.uz](http://adabiyot.edu.uz), [kasb.edu.uz](http://kasb.edu.uz), and [unilibrary.uz](http://unilibrary.uz). Furthermore, the HEMIS (Higher Education Management Information System) program was introduced in all higher education institutions to digitalize administrative, educational, scientific, and financial processes. Consequently, nearly 35 types of reporting tables are now maintained electronically. Students can now obtain tuition contracts online without queues, as well as access their diplomas and duplicates in electronic format. Student records, transcripts, academic certificates, class schedules, attendance, academic performance, and tuition contracts are fully managed online. Integration with the Unified Interdepartmental Network of the Electronic Government has eliminated the need for students to request certificates confirming their place of study, while interactive e-government services for citizens have expanded significantly.

A unified “Electronic Library” platform was launched under the Ministry to further improve the information and library services provided to students, doctoral candidates, researchers, faculty members, and the general public. This platform provides access to modern, high-quality library resources across the entire country, enabling students, teachers, staff, and citizens to use academic, scientific, and literary materials from any region. This initiative removes barriers of time and space, making independent and distance learning more accessible. In addition, all state higher education institutions have been connected to leading international scientific and educational databases, such as Science Direct, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global, Springer Nature, PressReader, JSTOR, East View, EBSCO Information Services, and the Web of Science Core Collection.



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Currently, the collections of information-resource centers at state higher education institutions contain more than 4 million titles. Importantly, 14 universities have a total of 22,256 rare publications in their libraries, including 4,832 manuscripts, 8,291 lithographed editions, and 9,133 works related to historical, scientific, and cultural heritage. Today, the information-resource centers of higher education institutions serve over 800,000 students, 32,000 professors and teachers, and more than 2,000 researchers, staff, and citizens, offering 14 types of services. These include registering readers, issuing and returning books, providing reading room access, offering access to periodicals and electronic resources, searching and supplying literature, sharing requested books via Telegram channels, introducing readers to new publications, restoring and digitizing books, and providing services for users with disabilities.

### **CONCLUSION**

A strong legal foundation and increased attention to the sector have significantly enhanced the efficiency of higher education institutions. The introduction of international best practices has elevated the training of highly qualified and internationally competitive professionals to a new level. Consequently, this has proven effective in meeting the growing demand for modern, knowledgeable, and skilled specialists with higher education.

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