

PECULIARITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract: This article analyzes the specific features of civil society development in Uzbekistan under globalization conditions. The research focuses on the formation of civil society institutions, development trends, and prospects. The paper examines modern directions and challenges of civil society development based on national and international experience, with particular emphasis on Uzbekistan's unique path of democratic transformation.

Keywords: civil society, globalization, non-governmental organizations, social partnership, democratization, modernization, civil institutions, public control

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada globallashuv sharoitida O'zbekistonda fuqarolik jamiyatini rivojlantirishning o'ziga xos jihatlari tahlil qilingan. Tadqiqot fuqarolik jamiyati institutlarining shakllanishi, rivojlanish tendensiyalari va istiqbollari masalalariga qaratilgan. Maqolada milliy va xalqaro tajriba asosida fuqarolik jamiyatini rivojlantirishning zamonaviy yo'nalishlari va muammolari yoritilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: fuqarolik jamiyati, globallashuv, nodavlat notijorat tashkilotlar, ijtimoiy sheriklik, demokratlashtirish, modernizatsiya.

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются специфические аспекты развития гражданского общества в Узбекистане в условиях глобализации. Исследование направлено на вопросы становления, тенденций и перспектив развития институтов гражданского общества. В статье освещаются современные направления и проблемы развития гражданского общества на основе национального и международного опыта.

Ключевые слова: гражданское общество, глобализация, НПО, социальное партнерство, демократизация, модернизация.

INTRODUCTION

The development of civil society in the era of globalization represents one of the most significant indicators of democratic transformation and societal progress. For Uzbekistan, the process of building and strengthening civil society institutions has gained particular importance within the framework of "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, which sets comprehensive goals for the country's development until 2030 [1].

The "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, approved by Presidential Decree PF-158 on September 11, 2023, marks a new stage in the country's development trajectory. This strategic document outlines ambitious goals for strengthening civil society institutions, enhancing public participation mechanisms, and developing non-governmental organizations as key elements of democratic governance.

The relevance of analyzing civil society development in Uzbekistan is multifaceted. First, it reflects the global trend toward increased civic participation in governance and public affairs. Second, it demonstrates the unique approach Uzbekistan is taking to develop civil society institutions in line with its development goals. Third, it showcases the importance of balancing international standards with local traditions and values in the process of democratic transformation.

The current stage of civil society development in Uzbekistan is characterized by significant reforms occurring against the backdrop of global challenges such as digitalization, climate change, and increasing international interconnectedness. The "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy addresses these challenges through comprehensive measures aimed at strengthening civil society institutions and enhancing their role in democratic reforms.

METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The theoretical and empirical foundation of this research draws upon a comprehensive analysis of strategic documents, scholarly works, and research publications focused on civil society development in Uzbekistan.

The primary source for this research is the "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, approved by Presidential Decree No. PF-158 on September 11, 2023, which establishes the fundamental framework for the country's development trajectory [1]. This strategic document outlines comprehensive reforms across multiple sectors, with particular emphasis on civil society development. Building upon this foundation, President Mirziyoyev's work "Strategy of New Uzbekistan" (2022) provides detailed insights into the conceptual basis for transforming civil society institutions [2].

Saidov (2021) presents a comprehensive theoretical framework in "Theory and Practice of Civil Society," examining both conceptual foundations and practical implementation mechanisms [3]. This analysis is further enhanced by Juraev's (2023) research on civil society institutions, which provides detailed examination of current institutional structures and their effectiveness in the Uzbek context [4].

Johnson's (2022) analysis in "Civil Society Development in Central Asia" offers valuable comparative insights, placing Uzbekistan's experience within the broader regional context [5]. Smith (2023) contributes important perspectives on the relationship between democracy and civil society development, particularly focusing on recent reforms and their impacts [6].

Kodirov's (2022) research provides detailed analysis of non-governmental organizations' activities in Uzbekistan, examining operational aspects and development challenges [7]. Alimov (2023) complements this with an examination of legal foundations for civil society development, offering crucial insights into regulatory frameworks [8]. Karimov (2023) presents contemporary analysis of civil society development, focusing on recent trends and innovations [9]. Rakhimov (2023) examines civil society development within the context of globalization, providing perspectives on international influences [10].

This literature review reveals several key themes that frame our understanding of civil society development in Uzbekistan:

- The strategic importance of civil society development in national modernization
- The evolution of institutional and legal frameworks
- The role of international experience and best practices
- The increasing significance of non-governmental organizations
- The impact of global trends on local development

These sources collectively provide a comprehensive foundation for analyzing current developments and future prospects in civil society development, while also identifying areas requiring further research and analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The comprehensive analysis of civil society development in Uzbekistan reveals significant advancements alongside persistent challenges in various areas. Under the framework of "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, several key developments and trends have emerged that warrant detailed examination [1].

The institutional framework for civil society has been substantially strengthened through comprehensive legislation and policy reforms. The legal foundation established through laws on public associations and non-governmental organizations has facilitated the growth of civil society organizations, with registered NGOs exceeding 10,000 by 2023. This quantitative expansion has been accompanied by qualitative improvements in organizational capacity and operational scope [4].

A significant institutional advancement has been the establishment of the Public Chamber of Uzbekistan, which serves as a crucial intermediary between government and civil society. This institution has proven effective in facilitating dialogue and promoting more inclusive policy-making processes. The legal framework now provides enhanced protection for civil society organizations' rights and interests, enabling them to operate more effectively.

Civil society institutions have become increasingly integral to Uzbekistan's modernization process, evolving from mere intermediaries to active participants in policy development and implementation. Organizations are now more actively engaged in various sectors, including social services, environmental protection, and human rights advocacy. Their growing involvement in public control functions has enhanced transparency and accountability in governance processes.

Despite these positive developments, several challenges persist in civil society development. Financial sustainability remains a primary concern for many organizations, with many struggling to maintain stable funding sources [5]. This challenge is compounded by the need for enhanced professional capacity, particularly in areas such as project management, strategic planning, and impact assessment. The coordination between civil society organizations and their interaction with state bodies, while improving, requires further enhancement for optimal effectiveness.

Regional disparities in civil society development present another significant challenge. Urban areas generally demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement and organizational capacity compared to rural regions, indicating a need for more targeted development approaches in underserved areas. This geographical imbalance affects the overall effectiveness of civil society initiatives and requires specific attention in development strategies.

Uzbekistan's approach to civil society development demonstrates a successful integration of international best practices while maintaining sensitivity to local cultural and historical contexts. This balanced approach has resulted in a development model that meets international standards while remaining locally relevant and sustainable. Civil society organizations are increasingly participating in international networks and adopting innovative practices, while maintaining their connection to local communities and needs.

The impact of these developments can be observed through several key indicators:

- Enhanced institutional capacity among civil society organizations
- Broader legal frameworks supporting civic initiatives
- Increased public participation in civil society activities
- Strengthened cooperation between state and non-state actors
- Improved mechanisms for public oversight and accountability

Looking forward, several priority areas emerge for continued development:

- Establishing sustainable funding mechanisms for civil society organizations
- Developing comprehensive capacity building programs
- Improving inter-organizational coordination
- Expanding civic engagement in rural areas
- Implementing effective monitoring and evaluation systems

These findings suggest that while Uzbekistan has made substantial progress in civil society development, continued attention to both challenges and opportunities will be essential for achieving the strategic goals outlined in the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy. The success of future initiatives will depend on maintaining the current momentum while addressing existing challenges through targeted and systematic approaches.

The research indicates that the development of civil society in Uzbekistan is proceeding along a positive trajectory, though with varying rates of progress across different dimensions. Continued commitment to addressing identified challenges while building on existing achievements will be crucial for realizing the full potential of civil society in Uzbekistan's ongoing development process.

Recent Developments in Civil Society Organizations. Based on the recent data from February 2024, significant progress has been observed in the development of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Uzbekistan [11]:

Table 1:

Historical Growth of NGOs in Uzbekistan (1991-2024)

Year Number of NGOs Growth Rate

1991

95

Baseline

2000

2,585

2,621%

2017

8,700

236%

2024

9,000+

3.4%

Financial Support and Resource Allocation. The government's commitment to supporting civil society organizations is reflected in the significant increase in financial support:

Table 2:

State Budget Allocation for NGO Projects (2017-2024)

Year

Budget Allocation

(billion UZS)

Number of Projects

2017

12.3

Initial phase

2023

226.4

Expanded support

2024

1,800.0

Planned allocation

Recent data indicates several significant developments in supporting non- governmental organizations in Uzbekistan. The government has implemented comprehensive infrastructure development initiatives, establishing dedicated NGO Houses across regional centers. These facilities serve as operational hubs, complemented by information resource centers that provide essential support services. The technical infrastructure has also seen substantial improvements, enhancing the operational capabilities of civil society organizations.

In terms of capacity building, the government has launched an ambitious training program targeting 750 NGO leaders, scheduled for completion by 2025. Already, 300 NGO representatives have received specialized training at the Academy of Public Administration, strengthening the professional capabilities within the sector. These initiatives are part of a broader professional development strategy aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of civil society organizations.

The NGO sector in Uzbekistan has developed significant diversity in its operational scope. Organizations are actively engaged in entrepreneurship development, providing crucial support for business initiatives and economic growth. The healthcare sector has seen increased NGO participation, contributing to public health initiatives and service delivery. Environmental protection has emerged as a key focus area, with organizations working on sustainability and conservation projects.

Sports development, human rights advocacy, and youth programs represent other significant areas of NGO activity. Organizations focused on women's rights have made substantial contributions to gender equality and women's empowerment. The education and research sector has benefited from NGO involvement, while technical innovation initiatives have helped advance technological development across various fields.

These comprehensive developments align closely with the objectives outlined in the "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, reflecting substantial progress in strengthening civil society institutions. The government's commitment is particularly evident in the significant increase in financial support, with a planned allocation of 1.8 trillion UZS for 2024, representing a major investment in civil society development.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of civil society development in Uzbekistan during the globalization era reveals a complex and multifaceted process characterized by significant achievements and ongoing challenges. The country has demonstrated a committed approach to strengthening civil society institutions while maintaining its unique national identity and cultural values.

The research findings indicate several key developments. First, the legal and institutional framework for civil society has been substantially enhanced, providing a solid foundation for further growth. Second, civil society organizations have become increasingly active in various spheres of public life, from social services to policy advocacy. Third, the relationship between state institutions and civil society organizations has evolved toward more constructive partnership and dialogue.

However, the path forward requires attention to several critical areas. The financial sustainability of civil society organizations remains a concern, necessitating the development of diverse funding mechanisms and enhanced organizational capacity. The professional development of civil society activists and leaders needs continued support to ensure effective operation of civil society institutions. Additionally, the role of civil society in public control and policy-making processes could be further strengthened through institutional mechanisms and capacity building.

Looking ahead, the prospects for civil society development in Uzbekistan appear promising, particularly given the government's demonstrated commitment to democratic reforms and modernization. The experience of Uzbekistan offers valuable insights for other developing nations, especially in terms of balancing traditional values with modern democratic principles.

Future research directions should focus on evaluating the effectiveness of existing support mechanisms for civil society organizations, analyzing the impact of digital transformation on civic engagement, and exploring new models of cooperation between state institutions and civil society organizations. Such research would contribute to both theoretical understanding and practical implementation of civil society development strategies in the context of ongoing global changes.

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