

FIVE INITIATIVES – OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVE YOUTH

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Annotation: The article analyzes the significance of the five initiatives in the activities of creative youth. The importance of the five key initiatives being implemented in our country to support youth and create new opportunities for them is extremely high. These initiatives focus on education, professional development, sports, culture, and the involvement of women in various fields. Additionally, the five initiatives have provided great opportunities to enhance the intellectual and creative potential of youth and create new opportunities for them. Especially, the implementation of initiatives in the field of culture and arts has led to the discovery of new creative youth, playing a major role in the development of the sector.

Keywords: five initiatives, creative youth, education, culture, youth activity, arts, creativity, opportunities.

In our country, large-scale work is being carried out in the field of state policy concerning the youth. In recent years, a special system has been established for the education and training of young people who are capable of taking responsibility for the future of our country, supporting them in all aspects, protecting their rights and legal interests, and raising initiative and determined youth. The knowledge we provide to the younger generation is considered a foundation for the future of our country. The stronger the foundation we build, the more resilient it will be, remaining unshaken in any situation and leaving a lasting impression even as years pass. In today's world, only youth who are independent, firm, and physically and morally strong can withstand the dangerous global processes happening around us.

From the very first days of President Sh. Mirziyoyev's leadership, issues related to education, training, science, healthcare, culture and art, and the development of sports, as well as ensuring that our youth acquire deep knowledge, master foreign languages and modern information and communication technologies, have always been prioritized, and these have been emphasized as ongoing and urgent tasks[1].

Modern conditions and opportunities are being created for their education and vocational training. In developed, democratic countries, youth organizations focus not on holding extravagant, grandiose events, but on working directly with young people, engaging in practical communication with them, and addressing the life issues that concern them[2]. It is important to note that, from this perspective, our country has set its own path in the state youth policy. The issue of ensuring the meaningful use of free time for young people aged 14 to 30, who make up 30% of our population, remains a pressing concern for our government.

In this regard, under the leadership of President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev, during a video conference held on March 19, 2019, it was emphasized that attention to our youth should be further strengthened. Efforts were focused on engaging them more widely in culture, art, physical education, and sports, developing skills in the use of information technology, promoting reading among the youth, and increasing women's employment. As a result, 5 important initiatives were introduced[3]. Currently, the implementation of these 5 important initiatives is being carried out in all regions of our republic. In particular, several hundred thousand copies of literary works have been delivered to district and city libraries, and 80 types of sports equipment and musical instruments have been provided to all educational institutions where students are studying.

Additionally, cultural centers and general education schools in the districts and cities have established over 1,500 various clubs based on the interests of young people.

Moreover, with the involvement of proactive, talented youth and local sponsors, art amateur groups, youth theater studios, and "Youth Clubs" have been organized at cultural centers. Our country has more than 12,000 sports facilities, and large-scale national and international competitions are regularly organized with the aim of involving youth in physical education and mass sports. Furthermore, new sports halls and artificial turf fields have been built in remote and rural areas and made available for young people. In order to develop information technologies and communications, Digital Technology Training Centers have been built in every city and district center, and free courses in e-commerce and programming have been introduced. In addition, "startup" projects are being implemented in the field of information technology to develop innovative business skills. In regions with high population density and abundant labor resources, garment and knitting factories have been established to provide employment for unemployed women, creating permanent jobs for women.

It is encouraging to note that the responsible leaders have been assigned to ensure the broad implementation of the 5 key initiatives at the local level, and positive results in the state youth policy have been recorded by relevant organizations. On June 30, 2020, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the establishment of the Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted, and regional and local offices of the agency were set up in all regions of our republic[4]. The newly established Agency is continuously analyzing the activities being carried out within the framework of the 5 key initiatives. Looking at the analysis of the measures implemented under the 5 key initiatives over the past period, in the first direction of the initiative, 826 cultural centers have been established, and 4,522 clubs have been organized to engage youth in culture and art. The number of musical instruments provided to educational institutions is 1,762, and the number of clubs organized in general education schools has reached 36,503, with a total of 1.1 million (18%) young people involved in these activities[5].

Under the second initiative, over 100,000 sports clubs have been established in 51,651 sports facilities, involving 1.5 million young people in these clubs. Additionally, 308 Children and Youth Sports Schools and specialized schools have attracted 360,000 young people to sports, with sports equipment worth 25 billion som being delivered.

Moreover, in general education schools, 49,196 sports clubs have been organized in 10 different sports, providing 1.2 million students with opportunities to engage in sports. Seven years ago, in the new Uzbekistan, rapid reforms began in the cultural and educational sectors, based on a new worldview. In the fields of culture and art, the issues of creativity and the freedom of creators were thoroughly reviewed. Our President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, paid great attention to the establishment of a fundamentally new state and educational society in Uzbekistan and to creating a system of values and relations corresponding to it, based on the principle of human dignity. Specifically, over the past 5 years, 4 laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of culture and art, 35 decrees and decisions of the President of Uzbekistan, and 98 resolutions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers were adopted. For the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, on January 20, 2021, the law on “Cultural Activities and Cultural Organizations” was adopted. Additionally, to elevate the status of sector employees, April 15 was designated as the Day of Culture and Art Workers. By the end of 2023, 11 new museums, 2 theaters, 28 children's music and art schools, and 5 universities were established. The volume of state support for the culture and art sector has increased fivefold compared to 2017, and in 2023, more than 712 billion som was allocated for these purposes, reflecting the wide-scale reforms being implemented in the management of the culture and art sector[6].

Under the third initiative, 72 “Digital Technology Training Centers” have been established in our republic. In general education schools, 14,940 computer classrooms have been organized. In the field of information technology, 14,765 clubs have been created, involving nearly 510,000 (8%) students. By the end of the year, 14,972 clubs are planned to be established, and they will be equipped with 951 computer devices. Under the fourth initiative, there are currently 201 information library centers across the republic, with a total of 16,319,587 books in their collections. Of these, 8,468,593 are literary works. Currently, the number of members in these centers is 1,196,233, and among them, over 565,000 young people are involved in book reading competitions and events organized in these centers.

Over 150,000 books worth 400 million som have been delivered to regional information-library centers, and more than 210,000 works of 20 different types of literature have been distributed to the libraries of educational institutions. In addition, 165,800 literary works have been delivered to the library collections of ministries, departments, organizations, and educational institutions. Under the fifth initiative, there are 3,596,406 women aged 18 to 30 in our republic.

Out of them, 12,186 young women participated in training courses aimed at strengthening their professional skills. More than 31,000 women have been employed through vocational training at entrepreneurship centers, 3,364 new job positions have been created, and 68 billion som in loans have been allocated for 3,282 women's small business projects[7]. By the end of the year, 109 sewing and textile enterprises are planned to be established, and 30,451 women are scheduled to receive vocational training. In order to ensure the implementation of these five important initiatives at the local level, numerous decrees, decisions, and action plans have been approved by our esteemed President. Specifically, to ensure the large-scale execution of these five initiatives in the regions, on October 23, 2020, a report on “Organizing measures to spread the essence and importance of the reforms being implemented in our country to the public” was approved by the Presidential Administration of Uzbekistan. According to this decree, annual

promotional plans have been approved for every neighborhood across the country, under the theme "New Uzbekistan – a new worldview." Currently, under this initiative, large-scale events and sports competitions are being organized on various topics, including "Accountability," "New Year, New Plans, New Horizons," "The Brave Spirit of Ancestors Will Guide You," "Women – the Unmatched Miracle of Creation," "Let Every Day Be Navruz," "The Power of the Great Nation is the Strength of the Time," "Youth – the Driver of the Sixth Renaissance," "Five Initiatives – Five Opportunities," "Independence – a Great and Priceless Blessing," "Education is Life – a Matter of Vital Importance," "There Is No Salvation Except Knowledge," and "Intelligence and Knowledge are the Greatest Wealth, Good Education is the Greatest Heritage".

In conclusion, it can be said that the main foundation for ensuring the sustainable development of any country is closely linked to the human factor, particularly its intellectual capacity. Given that a large portion of the population consists of youth equipped with modern knowledge and skills, the protection of their interests in social, economic, and other spheres, and finding solutions to pressing issues from theoretical and practical perspectives, has become a key priority in our country's policies today. In particular, through the large projects and initiatives being carried out under the five important initiatives, the engagement of youth has expanded, bringing forth the talents and potentials of our youth.

In the speech given at the joint session of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) following the inauguration of the newly elected President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, he emphasized the continuation of democratic reforms in line with the "New Uzbekistan Development Strategy".

He highlighted the priorities for the coming five years, focusing on raising healthy, well-rounded youth, particularly girls, nurturing their abilities and talents, and fostering love and loyalty to the homeland, while also promoting national and universal values[8]. Thus, the issues related to youth will continue to be a priority in the development path of our country for the next five years.

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