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### ANALYSIS OF THE REFORMS IMPLEMENTED IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC



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**Abstract:** The article analyzed the main directions of the reforms implemented in the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan in recent years and their economic and social aspects. Radical changes in higher education, as a result of the implemented reforms, positive changes such as the increase in the number of higher education institutions and admission quotas have been shown. In addition, the article examines the problems and deficiencies encountered in the higher education system, as well as ways to solve them. Suggestions for the continuation and improvement of these reforms are given by the author.

**Key words:** higher education, reforms, quality of education, innovations, material and technical base, international standards, admission quotas.

### РЕСПУБЛИКА ОЛИЙ ТАЪЛИМ ТИЗИМИДА АМАЛГА ОШИРИЛАЁТГАН ИСЛОҲОТЛАР ТАҲЛИЛИ

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#### Аннотация

Мақолада Ўзбекистон Республикаси олий таълим тизимида сўнгги йилларда амалга оширилган ислоҳотларнинг асосий йўналишлари ва уларнинг иқтисодий, ижтимоий жиҳатлари таҳлил қилинди. Олий таълимда бўлаётган туб ўзгаришлар, амалга оширилган ислоҳотлар натижасида олий таълим муассасалари сони ва қабул квоталарининг ошиши каби ижобий ўзгаришлар кўрсатиб берилган. Бундан ташқари, мақолада олий таълим тизимида дуч келинаётган муаммо ва камчиликлар, уларни ҳал этиш йўллари ҳам кўриб чиқилган. Ушбу ислоҳотларни давом эттириш ва такомиллаштириш бўйича муаллиф томонидан таклифлар берилган.

**Калит сўзлар:** олий таълим, ислоҳотлар, таълим сифати, инновациялар, моддий-техник база, халқаро стандартлар, қабул квоталари.

## АНАЛИЗ РЕФОРМ, РЕАЛИЗОВАННЫХ В СИСТЕМЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

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### Аннотация

В статье проанализированы основные направления реформ, реализуемых в системе высшего образования Республики Узбекистан за последние годы, их экономические и социальные аспекты. Показаны радикальные изменения в высшем образовании, в результате реализованных реформ, такие положительные изменения, как увеличение количества высших учебных заведений и квот приема. Кроме того, в статье рассматриваются проблемы и недостатки, возникающие в системе высшего образования, а также пути их решения. Автором даются предложения по продолжению и совершенствованию этих реформ.

**Ключевые слова:** высшее образование, реформы, качество образования, инновации, материально-техническая база, международные стандарты, квоты приема.

### Introduction

In recent years, the processes of globalization and technological development have caused extensive and deep changes in our society. These changes are reflected especially in the field of education, especially in the higher education system. Sustainable development of society and economy, increasing requirements for competitive personnel training require the implementation of important reforms in the higher education system. These reforms, in turn, are aimed at increasing the quality and efficiency of education, updating the teaching methodology and adapting educational programs to modern world standards.

The reforms implemented in the higher education system of our republic are strategic steps towards the socio-economic development of our country and strengthening its position in the global educational arena. These reforms include all areas of education, strengthening the material and technical base of educational institutions, enriching the educational process with modern pedagogical and information technologies, as well as introducing a system for evaluating the quality of education based on international standards, and providing globally competitive educational services. includes

Over the past 8 years, 12 Presidential decrees, 65 Presidential decisions, 169 Cabinet decisions, 66 departmental documents, 1 law, and a total of 313 regulatory legal documents have been adopted to improve the higher education system.

of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 was approved in order to define the priorities of the reform of the higher education system in the country, raise the process of personnel training to a new level in terms of quality, modernize higher education, develop the social sphere and economic sectors based on

advanced educational technologies, and it is currently being implemented. is being increased.

In this article, we will analyze the main directions of the reforms implemented in the higher education system of the Republic, the process of their implementation, the achieved results, and the problems and shortcomings encountered. At the same time, we think about the future development prospects of these reforms and ways to further improve the education system.

### **Literature review**

A number of scholars have conducted various studies on the reforms implemented in the higher education system.

U. Nodirkhanov's scientific article discusses the international and local experience of higher education, introduction of various forms of education and their analysis.[1] At the same time, the article states that there is an urgent need to improve the existing educational process management system in the context of new changes, with special attention being paid to the use of financial independence given to universities. Granting financial independence to universities is aimed at ensuring their economic development and competitiveness in the international market, and these changes allow universities to diversify their educational services and achieve financial stability.

The article highlights the shortcomings of technical support and the lack of ICT skills of some teachers. These factors can have a negative impact on the quality of education. Financial statements of universities show their total income and expenses, but this data requires more in-depth analysis and transparency for some universities.

N. Temirov's scientific works analyzed the reforms implemented today in the higher education system of Uzbekistan, as well as its place and role in society. Also, the regulatory legal documents adopted in the higher education system and extensive foreign experience in its improvement were analyzed.[2]

Continuous assessment of the quality of education and indicators of its improvement is considered one of the most important trends today , the trend of introducing the optimal aspects of foreign experience into the education system of our country in the implementation of reforms of the higher education system has been in practice for several years, achievements and shortcomings in this way have been considered.

However, problems such as the organization of the educational process, the system of knowledge evaluation, cases of corruption, the activity of higher education institutions and lack of communication with the public have not been thoroughly studied.

O.Uralov in his research, emphasizes the importance of the process of internationalization in the development of higher education in Uzbekistan and shows the priority of internationalization as a strategy for the development of higher education.[3] The article examines the processes of internationalization of higher education in Uzbekistan, the reforms being implemented.

The article focuses on highlighting the importance and role of internationalization of higher education in Uzbekistan, but the research is of a general nature, and each of its features is not considered separately.

In the scientific research of R. Massirova and her colleagues, the authors analyze the various stages of the reform of the higher education system in Kazakhstan and the impact

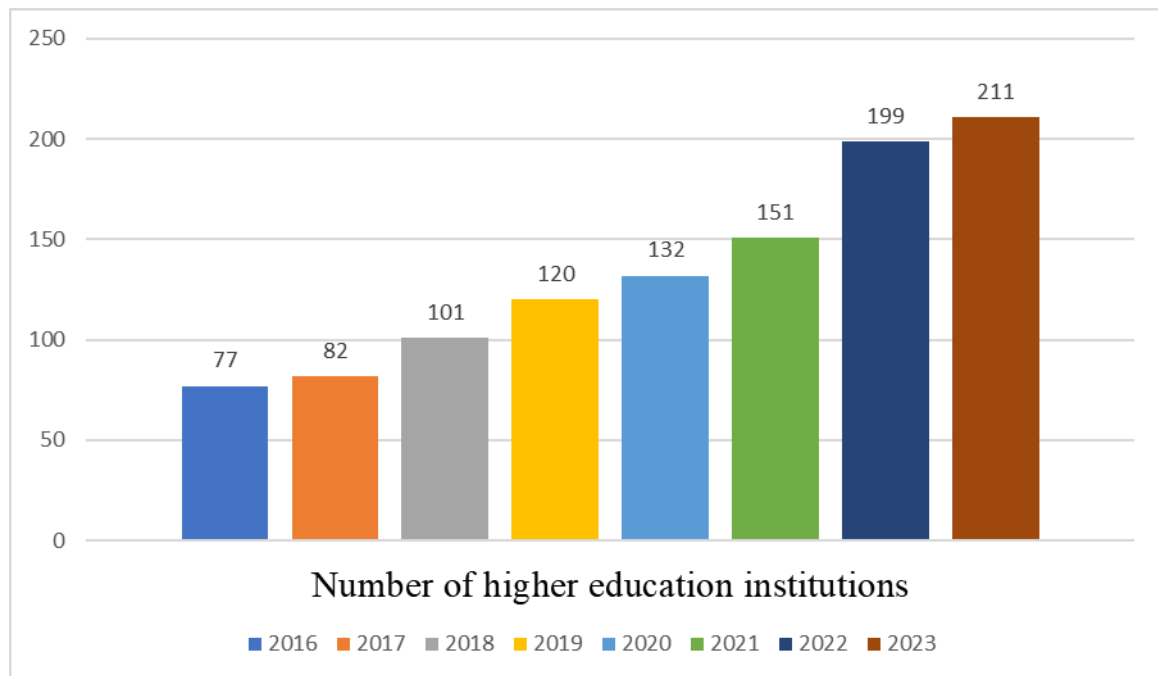
of these reforms on higher education.[4] The main goal of the reforms is to bring Kazakhstan to a leading position in the world, to develop the country's human capital and to reform the higher education system based on international experience to meet the needs of a modern competitive economy. The article examines the current state of higher education in Kazakhstan and its problems, including the quality of education, the increase in the number of educational institutions, the development of private higher education institutions, and access to higher education. It has been studied that the increase in the number of educational institutions has led to a decrease in quality, as well as problems in the financing of higher education.

### Analysis and results

In recent years, large-scale work has been carried out in our country to create a higher education system that meets the priority directions of socio-economic development and the requirements of international standards.

The establishment of new higher education institutions in the regions, the opening of modern educational directions and specialties of personnel training, part-time and evening departments, and the increase of admission quotas to higher education institutions are important reforms in this direction.

As a result of the implemented reforms, the number of higher education institutions in the republic increased to 211, of which 116 are state, 69 are non-state, and 26 are foreign higher education institutions and their branches.

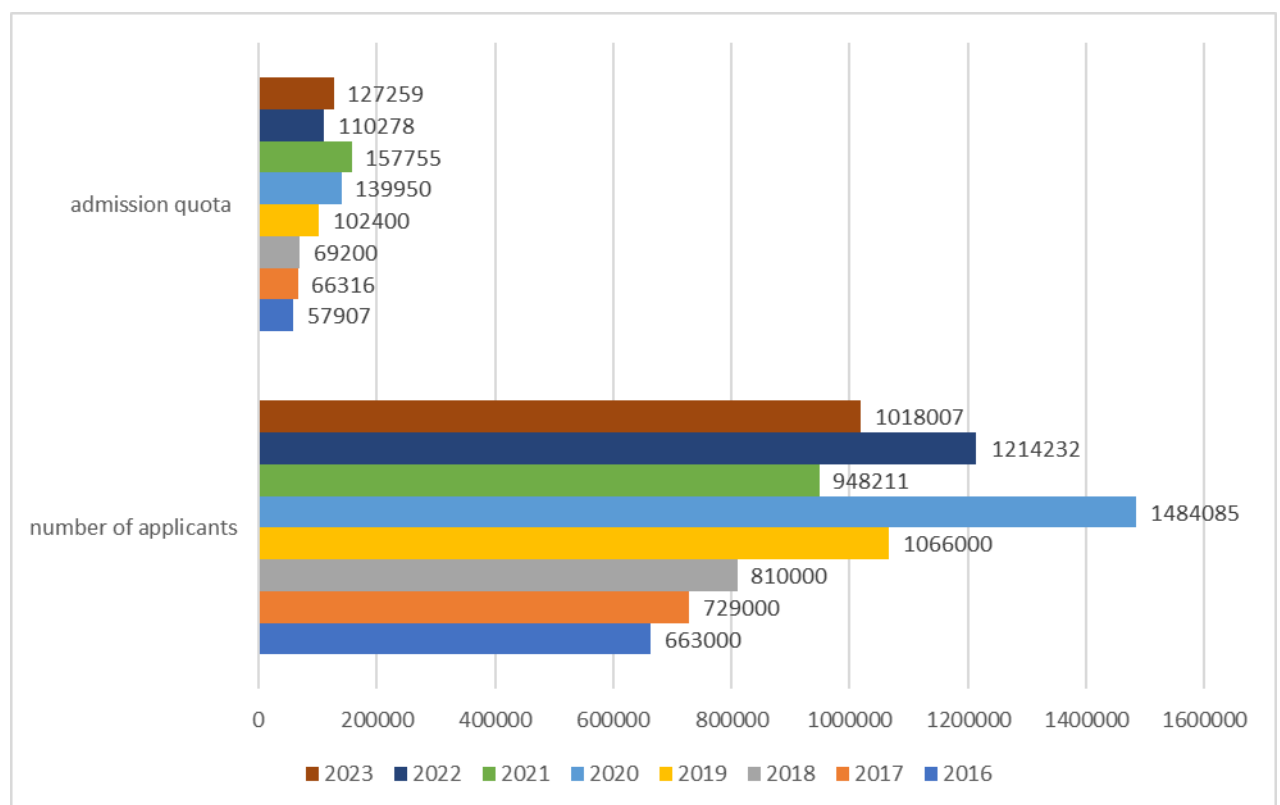


**Figure 1. Number of higher education institutions**

It can be seen from the given picture that in 2023, the number of higher education institutions increased by 2.7 times compared to 2016. Of course, the increase in the number of higher education institutions creates a competitive environment in the country. One of the reasons for such a rapid increase in the number of HEIs is explained by the increase in demand in this market. Until 2018, the quota was limited in the state higher education institutions, and the number of applicants who could not enter the higher education

institutions increased year by year. This, in turn, led to the expansion of educational forms.

of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 930 dated 21.11.2017, the procedure for organizing part-time (special part-time) and evening (shift) education in the higher educational institution was approved. The implementation of this decision and the establishment of non-state higher education institutions and foreign higher educational institutions branches solved the problem related to the restrictions on the admission quota for applicants who are taking the exam to join the ranks of students. Now, students' education in higher education institutions depends on the capacity of higher education institutions, based on this, it can be concluded that in the near future, the competitive market of higher education institutions will become stronger and the shortage of personnel will increase.



**Figure 2. The dynamics of changes in the number of applicants and admission quota to higher education institutions**

Figure 2 shows the dynamics of changes in the number of entrants to higher education institutions and the admission quota in 2016-2023. It can be seen from the table that the highest number of applicants corresponds to 2020. The reason for this is that due to the pandemic that started in 2019, most applicants had the opportunity to sit at home and prepare, and it was during this period that non-state higher education institutions increased in addition to public higher education institutions.

At the same time, there are still a number of problems that hinder the improvement of the quality of education in higher education institutions, the wide-ranging reforms

implemented in the republic, and the active participation of these institutions in social and economic reforms, in particular:

firstly, the process of organizing teaching in the higher education system, the system of evaluating the knowledge of students receiving education does not meet today's requirements;

secondly, the absence of a modern system for evaluating the activity, knowledge and pedagogical skills of professors has a negative impact on the quality of education;

thirdly, with the increase in the number of non-state higher education institutions, the demand for professors is increasing, and the shortage of personnel is faced;

fourthly, the lack of effective public control over the educational process in higher education institutions causes many problems in this area to persist, primarily cases of corruption;

fifthly, due to the difference in the monthly salary paid to professors of state and non-state and foreign higher education institutions, most of the qualified personnel of state educational institutions (except for personnel in leadership positions) are moving to non-state and foreign higher education institutions;

sixthly, the content and essence of the fundamental reforms carried out in our republic are aimed at forming the ranking of higher education institutions, taking a place in the rankings at the international level, and increasing their competitiveness. However, in order to achieve this rating, professors and teachers in higher educational institutions are not sufficiently supported financially;

Seventhly, higher education institutions have not become communication centers where innovative and technological ideas can be exchanged, the necessary conditions have not been created for professors, teachers, young scientists and students to take initiative in order to systematically study and analyze existing problems and shortcomings in relevant fields and make proposals for their solutions.

### **Conclusions and suggestions**

The reforms implemented in the higher education system in Uzbekistan in recent years are aimed at training competitive personnel that meets the economic and social requirements of our society. These reforms serve the purposes of improving the quality of education, strengthening the material and technical base of educational institutions, enriching the educational process with modern pedagogical and information technologies, and introducing a system for evaluating the quality of education based on international standards. The concept of the development of the higher education system until 2030 is one of the strategic documents in this direction.

As a result of the reforms considered in this article, measures aimed at the increase in the number of higher education institutions, the expansion of admission quotas, the change in the number of entrants and the quality of education were separately analyzed. At the same time, problems and shortcomings arising in the education system were studied in detail.

However, despite the reforms in the system, there are still problems waiting to be solved. More in-depth work is required on issues such as knowledge and skills of professors, quality of education, public control and educational process management

system. At the same time, great work should be done to strengthen the material and technical base of educational institutions and improve their innovative activities.

The main areas that should be paid attention to in the future development of the educational system are the improvement of the qualifications of professors, the improvement of the assessment of the quality of education based on international standards, as well as the provision of the necessary resources to increase the rating of higher education institutions.

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