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EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN REFORMS IN EDUCATION AND TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract: This article provides an overview of the education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan, focusing on its structure, key features, and recent reforms. It highlights the compulsory education period, options for secondary education and vocational training, and the availability of higher education programs. The article also discusses the language of instruction, curriculum reforms, and efforts to improve education infrastructure. Additionally, it explores the types of educational institutions commonly found in Uzbekistan and their roles in the education system.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, education system, compulsory education, secondary education, vocational education, higher education, curriculum reforms, language of instruction, educational institutions.

The education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan has undergone significant reforms in recent years, aiming to modernize and enhance the quality of education across the country. These reforms have brought about changes in curriculum, teaching methodologies, and the structure of educational institutions, reflecting a commitment to meet the evolving needs of society and the globalized world. The education system in Uzbekistan follows a 12-year compulsory schooling structure, consisting of primary, basic secondary, and upper secondary education levels. It is overseen by the Ministry of Public Education (MPE) and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education (MHSE) at the national level, with regional education departments responsible for implementing policies and managing schools at the local level. Compulsory Education: Education is compulsory for children aged 6 to 16, covering primary (grades 1-4), basic secondary (grades 5-9), and upper secondary (grades 10-11) levels. Language of Instruction: Uzbek is the primary language of instruction in schools, although efforts have been made to promote multilingualism and preserve the languages of minority ethnic groups. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev said: "... we need to logically complete our national programs on education. To this end, the most important task of the Government, relevant ministries and departments and the entire education system, our esteemed teachers and professors is to thoroughly educate the younger generation, to bring them up as physically and

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spiritually mature people. It is time to take our work to a new level, to create modern jobs for our children, to ensure that they take their rightful place in life "[1]¹

The reforms in Uzbekistan's education system have been multi-faceted, targeting various aspects of the educational process. One of the key areas of reform has been the revision of the curriculum to align it with international standards while preserving the cultural heritage and values of the nation. This has involved updating textbooks, introducing new subjects such as technology and entrepreneurship, and promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Another significant aspect of the reforms is the modernization of teaching methodologies. Traditional rote learning approaches are being replaced with interactive and student-centered methods that encourage active participation and independent thinking. Teachers are being provided with training and professional development opportunities to support them in implementing these new approaches effectively. Furthermore, efforts have been made to improve access to education, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Infrastructure development projects have been undertaken to build new schools and upgrade existing facilities, ensuring that all children have access to quality education regardless of their location. In Uzbekistan, educational institutions are diverse, catering to students of different ages and academic levels. The following are some of the main types of educational institutions in the country:

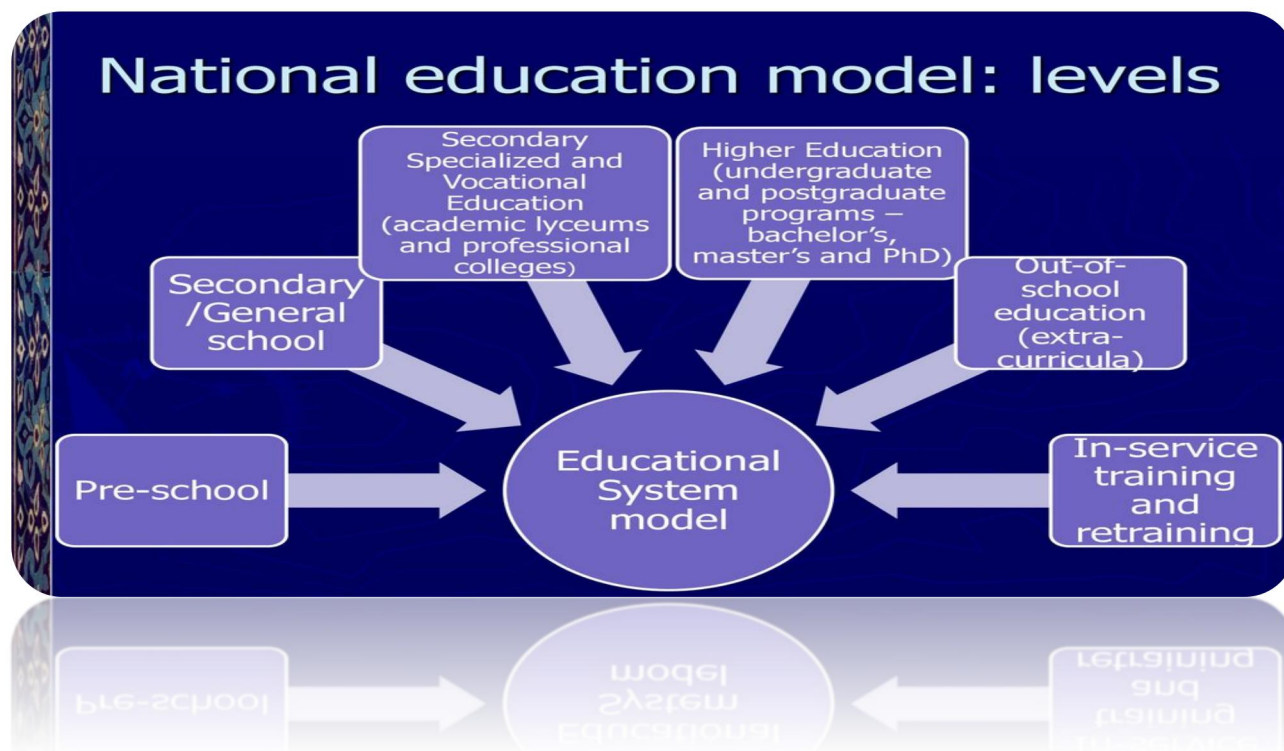
Preschool Education: Preschools provide early childhood education and care for children up to the age of six. These institutions focus on developing social, cognitive, and motor skills through play-based activities. ²As our president noted: "the more educated our children come out of school, the faster the sectors of high-tech economy develop, the more social problems are possible to solve. So if I say that the threshold of a new Uzbekistan begins with school, I think that our whole people will support this idea." The main part of the reforms carried out in the field of education, of course, are reforms in the higher education system. In particular, to set priorities for the systematic reform of higher education in the Republic of Uzbekistan, to qualitatively take the process of training highly qualified personnel with independent thinking to a new level, to modernize higher education, we can safely say that the concept of the development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, approved by the decree of the head of our state of October 8, 2019, in order to develop the social sphere and economic sectors based on advanced educational technologies, fulfills the duty of debocha for new reforms in the field.

Primary and Secondary Schools: Primary education typically covers grades one through four, while secondary education encompasses grades five through eleven. Both public and private schools operate across the country, offering a range of academic programs and extracurricular activities.

Vocational Schools: Vocational schools offer specialized training in various trades and professions, preparing students for careers in fields such as agriculture, construction, healthcare,

and tourism. These institutions provide hands-on learning experiences and often collaborate with industry partners to ensure that their programs are relevant to the needs of the workforce.

Higher Education Institutions: Uzbekistan is home to several universities, institutes, and colleges that offer undergraduate and graduate programs in a wide range of disciplines. These institutions play a vital role in producing skilled professionals and driving innovation and research in various fields.



National Testing System: Students undergo standardized testing at various stages of their education, including entrance exams for upper secondary education and university admissions.

Tertiary Education: Higher education institutions offer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in diverse fields, with admission based on academic performance and competitive entrance exams.

The education system of Uzbekistan is undergoing a period of transformation, driven by a commitment to providing quality education that equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. Through curriculum reforms, modern teaching methodologies, and investment in infrastructure, the country is striving to create an inclusive and dynamic learning environment that empowers individuals and contributes to national development.

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