



THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY IS IN MY HANDS. HOW TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

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Annotation:

This article describes education measures taken in the Republic of Uzbekistan in recent years from the view of the author. There can be observed existing problems of the public education sphere, improvement of the private sector, actions taken on overcoming the problems and the effectiveness of solutions.

Key words:

Education, accessibility, school, university, higher education establishments, learning center, consulting agencies, tutor, teacher, quality education, goal 4.

Introduction

Sustainable development goals are adopted by the United Nations Organization to set 17 prior aims in the world community and totally change the quality of life of nations to the good side. Goal 4 aims at implementation of Quality Education in all nations and increasing intelligence of the people. Thousands of projects, new regulations, etc. were introduced in order to increase the quality of education in the world.

Having a research based on my 1.5 years of teaching experience, numbers of projects for youth related to education and Currently, working as a Manager on supporting students on University and Major choice at one of the biggest school of English language of Tashkent city named "Cambridge", I would like to describe problems in Higher education system and give solutions which I come up with.

Main body. Problems and Solutions

Problem: Higher Education inaccessibility. University should not be a dream.

It is not a secret that demand for higher education in Uzbekistan is at a high level. Almost every student in High School dreams of getting accepted at University. In the 2019 and 2020 national exams, there were more than 1 million and 1.5 million applicants respectively. Unfortunately, nearly 10% of them only got enrolled at universities. In my point of view, this situation causes many bad consequences:

- The level of not enrolled applicants raises year-by-year. Higher education remains to be a dream for them and they stop thinking of their future career after all;
- Numbers of not successful applicants go study abroad and build up their career there. This is a brain drain and lose of them potential prospective employees of the country;
- It affects the education level of the population. Because of inaccessibility, many people cannot obtain good knowledge and which is why the level of people without higher education

A big sub-problem regarding getting enrolled at a higher educational establishment is that some students choose a university not based on their interest, but based on their

preparation. For example, a student who wants to study international relations and build up a career may not apply there because of enormous competition. There are 2-3 national universities, which teach this program, while quota is few. And there are many faculties with the same situation. The applicant who had not been preparing at private learning centers for years almost has no chance to pass the test, which is based on a school program established the same in all schools of Uzbekistan.

Problem: Teaching Quality. Fail of High School organization system

Learning centers have become very popular and good business in Uzbekistan. Undoubtedly, this is a common consequence of public schools' quality failure and high competition of national exams and inaccessibility of higher education in the country. Because of low funding of public schools' system in the past and the national exam competition which still remains very high, the private education sector, namely private universities, professional courses and the most spread – learning centers are getting more and more popular.

One of the most popular courses is an IELTS course. Here are the top reasons why school boys attend this type of courses:

- Need for getting the maximum result of English section during national exams;
- Minimal requirement for most of higher education establishments in foreign countries;
- Minimal requirement for most of international higher education establishments in Uzbekistan and others;

When it comes to other subjects, it also bears the same popularity as an English course. But the saddest part of it is that these courses are based on the same program which are taught in schools. For example, biology courses use the same books as schools do. The reason for that is information on the website of the Ministry of higher education that all tests are made up based on school handouts. Consequently, the learning centers' tutors, unlike the English tutors who develop language skills, simply make students learn all the school books by heart. They don't do some laboratory experiments, projects, research or something else.

Problem: Unnecessary subjects

Some people may say higher education quality is a very good one, since it is hard to access. However, there are a number of problems to be solved. In many summits, conferences and other places of discussion I attended, I and participants always came up with one big problem – unnecessary subjects at Universities. Recently, I got admitted to the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and found some subjects in the curriculum, which I would not spend time on. Although, there is not only one subject which can be considered not needed, I will explain why particularly one subject should be definitely eliminated from schedule to prove that this kind of subject exists.

There is a PE course almost in every university's at least 1st year. I have no hate for this subject, since I am an athlete and I love sport. But, I am convinced that it should not be taught at universities:

- To save more time in schedule for major subjects;
- To give more freedom to the student. They are mature enough to attend sport centers on their own and do sport they enjoy;

It obviously can be seen that most disciplines of first course are a continuation of disciplines taught at schools. Basics! As a person with teaching experience, I can say that freshmen are not happy to continue school at University. They want a new level, new methods and learn practical knowledge of the major they have chosen.

Problem: Controlling students too much. Limiting their freedom

There are many rules and regulations dictated by the Ministry of higher education for students. They are adopted aiming to raise discipline and intelligence among students. For example, there are strict rules to wear classic style suits, tie, not wear sneakers, jeans, etc. As student surveys

show, these limits make students feel inconvenient rather than teach discipline. One more bad part is that, other students have to hear teachers swearing at students, which do not want to follow the rules (there are many of them) on a daily basis, what is the waste of time and of course not something they pay for.

Attendance. Very sad part of Attendance is that it affects marks and enrolment too. If student does know the subject and he does know the topic of that particular day, why cannot he miss the class? Even if he/she missed the class because of reasons, but learnt by self-study and has done the assessment, why should he/she be expelled in case of not attending more than 25% of total hours of lectures? To me, it is not logical.

Solutions

Taking into account experience of the countries with high educational rankings in the world and my personal research, I would like to suggest followings as solutions:

First of all, there should be taken big steps on increasing the quantity of Higher Educational Establishments in the country. That can be accomplished by:

- Creating more projects regarding support ideas of opening a new University;
- Opening bachelor programs at former colleges' buildings or giving the right of providing bachelor degree diplomas to colleges.

In order to not lose quality of education, Universities should not be controlled by the ministry too much. They should set tuition fees, quota, etc. on their own. There is almost no competition among universities in Uzbekistan. That is why they are not developing fast. If one program is taught in different universities, they will try to develop by themselves not to lose students. After graduation there will be high competition among graduates to find a job, which means productivity of employees will rise in all organizations. More people will hold bachelor's degrees, which means the education level of the whole population will be high. When there will not be big problems with getting enrolled at university and there will not be a need for years to cram the whole book from cover to cover, students will be thinking about the program they want to study and their career more. It also goodly prevents corruption. There may be some cases at prestigious universities, but this kind of universities will lose reputation and lose future flow of students.

Secondly, I think, it is a high time to move on. Basics should be finished at schools. At universities, there should be a special curriculum which does not include basic subjects and becomes more specific course by course. For example, in the first course of a history program, there might be taught something like historical analyzes or methodology of learning history, etc. I think that practice will be handful enough.

Thirdly, I want universities and organizations to consider students more mature and independent. They are not school boys anymore. They can organize some training for themselves, if they want to be fit, they attend university to study the subject they pay for, not to listen to the wrongness of their actions during the lesson time...

Instead of that, it would be good to implement followings in our system:

- "Teachers only teach!" rule. Teachers should be responsible for their lessons only. There should not be any attendance responsibility, working with parents of the student, working with students' behavior, etc. In that case, there will be more respect to teachers from the students' side and there will be more time for teacher to prepare for lessons fully dedicated him/herself to the job;
- There should not be strict rules on the uniform of students. It might be advisable to wear a smart casual for example. Or try to make merchandising university logo products on trend. When I studied at law college, administration always used to say "Start getting used to wearing suits! Your profession requires this style" and something same I have heard recently at university too. Honorable people who say that, we are not in the conference or office now! Let us wear what is comfortable for us while studying. When we attend conferences or start work at the office,

undoubtedly we will be wearing suits and we will get used to it. This is not something you need to spend 4 years to get used to;

· One more thing, students do not come to university to listen to teachers dictating the information and writing it in their copybooks, they are there for teachers to explain something new. They will take some notes for themselves if they need it.

Conclusion

All in all, there are many aspects to work on. Hopefully, educational reforms which are going now in Uzbekistan and planned to be fulfilled in the future will show obvious results very soon. Some of the solutions, which I have described in this essay, is the view from the side of young people and students. I believe, fulfillment of them will guarantee positive changes and the attitude of students. Poverty is not a solution; we can do it in a better way.

Also hope that by 2030, Uzbekistan will reach not only Goal 4, but also all the 16 more Sustainable development Goals.

Resources:

1. Law of the republic of Uzbekistan on August 29, 1997 No. 464-I "About education" (as amended on 18-04-2018) <https://lex.uz/docs/-16188>
2. Cabinet of ministers of the republic of uzbekistan decision on retraining of teachers and their system of training <https://www.lex.uz/docs/-973504>
3. <http://info.ziyonet.uz/uz/post/view/education/common>