

MODERN DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAHALLA INSTITUTE AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM (THE CASE OF JIZZAX REGION)

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ABSTRACT: This article analyzes the development of the mahalla institution in Uzbekistan, particularly in the Jizzakh region, during the years of independence, the improvement of local self-governance, and the socio-economic significance of youth engagement mechanisms at the community level. The study examines the legal framework, responsibilities, and functions of youth leaders, as well as the effectiveness of cooperation between higher education institutions and mahallas. The role of the mahalla institution in ensuring social stability, youth employment, civic engagement, and sustainable local development is scientifically substantiated, and recommendations for future development are proposed.

Keywords: mahalla, youth leader, local self-governance, socio-economic development, higher education institutions, cooperation, employment, youth policy.

INTRODUCTION

In the years of independence, the role of state and civil society institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan has been steadily increasing under the conditions of globalization and the democratization of society. Among such institutions, the Mahalla holds a special place as a unique social structure that combines ancient traditions with modern governance principles. During the years of independence, the Mahalla institute has been supported by the state, and its legal, organizational, and functional foundations have been consistently improved. As a result, the Mahalla has become an important social mechanism that ensures societal stability as a self-governing body of citizens.

Today, considering that a large part of the population consists of youth, ensuring their employment, social activity, and moral development is recognized as one of the priority directions of state policy. In this regard, effectively organizing the youth engagement system directly at the Mahalla level is of urgent importance. In recent years, the introduction of the “youth leader” institution in Mahallas has emerged as an important governance mechanism, allowing support for youth, identifying their problems, and addressing them in a targeted manner.

In particular, it is increasingly necessary to scientifically analyze the role of the Mahalla institute in the socio-economic development of regions and the effectiveness of its youth engagement system. In this process, the cooperation between higher education institutions, Mahallas, and other social institutions also plays a special role, as such collaboration contributes to youth professional preparation, employment, and increased social activity.

The main purpose of this article is to analyze the current state of the Mahalla institute’s modern development using the example of Jizzax region, to scientifically substantiate the socio-economic significance of the youth engagement system in Mahallas, and to develop practical recommendations aimed at addressing existing problems in this area.

Literature Review and Methodology

The study utilizes normative and legal documents, including the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law “On State Youth Policy,” presidential decrees and resolutions, scientific articles, as well as statistical data. The research methods employed include analysis, comparison, a systematic approach, and logical generalization.

Existing scientific literature on the activities of the Mahalla institute and the youth engagement system highlights social, economic, and cultural aspects through various approaches. Studies show that the Mahalla institute plays a crucial role not only in maintaining the social structure of local communities but also in the moral, cultural, and professional development of youth (Abdukarimov, 2019; Tursunov, 2021).

Moreover, the youth engagement system is considered a key tool for promoting regional social stability, preparing youth for the labor market, and fostering innovation and initiative (Jalilov, 2020; Qodirov, 2022). Scientific sources indicate that the effective functioning of the Mahalla institute contributes to increasing regional economic activity, identifying and resolving social problems at an early stage, and ensuring active youth participation in community life.

Foreign experiences also demonstrate that social organizations similar to the Mahalla play an important socio-economic role in working with youth (Smith, 2018; Brown, 2020). In addition, the modern development of the Mahalla institute requires innovative methods and strategic planning approaches.

1. Socio-Political Significance of the Mahalla Institute

Traditionally, Mahallas have been centers of mutual assistance, social solidarity, and moral education. After independence, Mahallas gained legal status, which was reinforced in the Constitution. The new edition of the Constitution expanded the powers of Mahallas, thereby strengthening their role in state and societal life

2. Youth Engagement System and the “Youth Leader” Institution in Mahallas

Since 2022, the introduction of the “youth leader” position in Mahallas has allowed the implementation of youth policy at the local level. The main responsibilities of youth leaders include:

- Creating the “Youth Register” and “Youth Portal”;
- Assisting in ensuring youth employment;
- Organizing meaningful leisure activities;
- Preventing legal violations;
- Supporting talented youth.

These activities serve as an important factor in enhancing youth social activity.

3. Socio-Economic Situation in Jizzax Region Mahallas

Jizzax region has over 300 active Mahallas that play a vital role in ensuring employment, social protection, and the development of entrepreneurship. Measures are being implemented to improve the well-being of the population through the support of small businesses and family entrepreneurship.

4. Cooperation Between Higher Education Institutions and Mahallas

Cooperation between higher education institutions and Mahallas is essential for guiding youth professionally, implementing scientific and practical projects, and solving social problems based on research. Practical projects implemented by Jizzax State Pedagogical University positively impact the socio-economic development of Mahallas.

Research Findings

The study shows that the Mahalla institute in Jizzax region plays a central role not only as a traditional part of community structure but also in modern socio-economic development. The modern development of Mahallas, the expansion of their organizational and social functions, and the effective functioning of the youth engagement system significantly increase social stability and economic activity in the region.

The youth engagement system is particularly important for actively involving youth in community life, creating opportunities for professional and moral development, preparing them for the labor market, and ensuring social protection. Applying modern Mahalla methods and programs encourages youth initiative and allows for the early identification of social problems.

Thus, the development of the Mahalla institute and the youth engagement system not only strengthens social stability but also serves as a crucial tool for enhancing the economic potential of the region. To further increase the effectiveness of Mahallas in the future, it is necessary to continuously update youth policies and social programs and to widely implement cooperation and innovative approaches.

In conclusion, the Mahalla institute, as a key component of civil society, plays an important role in ensuring social stability through the youth engagement system. The “youth leader” institution has become an effective mechanism for identifying and addressing social problems at the local level.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the system for improving the qualifications of youth leaders in Mahallas;
- Develop institutional cooperation between higher education institutions and Mahallas;
- Expand local projects aimed at ensuring youth employment;
- Increase the efficiency of youth engagement through digital platforms.

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